

# *The National High School Climate Forum*



## **March 2022 Newsletter**

**“Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world.”**

**- Howard Zinn, American Historian**

### **What is the National High School Climate Forum?**

The National High School Climate Forum was established in 2020 to foster an exchange of ideas between student environmental leaders at high schools across the country. We accomplish our mission through our communications, speaker events, and our annual NHSCF Youth Summit which takes place in May of each year. Our monthly newsletters represent our primary communications related to fostering an exchange of ideas. Each NHSCF newsletter contains sustainability tips, information related to extracurricular environmental programs, links to interesting environmental articles, and, most importantly, written descriptions of the various initiatives taking place at our member schools. In addition to these newsletters, we host monthly Delegation Meetings dedicated to discussing environmental issues in a live setting. The National High School Climate Forum is committed to climate education, as well, and, as such, we host speaker events on different topics twice a year. Our two 2020-2021 events were dedicated to wildfires and sustainability on college campuses, respectively. Finally, our annual youth summit provides students with the opportunity to present their work for the rest of the forum and concludes each NHSCF year. With this in mind, we are excited to have you and your school in the forum this year and can't wait to see what we can accomplish!



# Outside Environmental Programs



<https://www.gooverseas.com/volunteer-abroad/environmental-conservation>

## Environmental Volunteering: Go Overseas

Go Overseas offers hundreds of environmental conservation programs worldwide, striving to protect the environment and help disadvantaged parts of the world. Programs cover many different topics such as education, forestry, eco reserves/national parks, and marine. Many projects include food and board, but flights, in-country travel, and other costs are required. Training for projects is provided. Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia are all popular destinations.

Education: teach in schools and run workshops with local communities about the importance of protecting the environment. Forestry: plant trees, maintain trails, gather seeds, catalog flora and fauna, and prepare soil. Eco reserves/national parks: requires volunteers to perform research, help run reserves, conduct field research, track animals and birds, and help with plant cultivation. Marine: includes beach cleanups, on-shore research, and monitoring.

## Establish Pollinator-Friendly Habitats: Pollinator Pathway

Pollinator Pathway brings together volunteers from local conservation organizations to work together to establish "pollinator-friendly habitat and food sources for bees, butterflies, and other pollinating insects and wildlife." Pollinator Pathway offers many resources on native plants, pollinators, native garden designs, creating a pollinator friendly lawn, and much more. One way to get involved is to start a pathway in your community by adding native pollinator-friendly plants, avoiding the use of pesticides and other chemicals, and cutting unmaintained lawns. Pathways have been established in 200+ towns in Connecticut, New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.



<https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/>

## NHSCF Announcements

1. The deadline for submissions to the NHSCF 2021-2022 Sustainability Competition will be Wednesday, April 13th, at 8pm ET. Winners will have the opportunity to be Co-Presidents of the NHSCF in the 2022-2023 school year, and win a pizza party for their club/organization! As always, you can find the competition booklet on the Delegate Dashboard of our website.
2. The NHSCF 2022 Summit will be on Sunday, April 24th, from 4pm - 5:45pm ET and will be required for all delegates to attend. Please mark the date off on your calendars now!

If you are not a member of the Writing Subcommittee but are interested in contributing something to our March Newsletter, please reach out to Alex at

[abnoviello23@lawrenceville.org](mailto:abnoviello23@lawrenceville.org).



# Sustainability Initiative Spotlights

Thank you to all of those who contributed!

## **Myles J. '23 - The Wheeler School**

"The Environmental Action Club at The Wheeler School is working with TreePlenish to host an event where community members buy trees and our volunteers help to plant them. We are planning to run the event in a different way than neighboring schools, asking our volunteers to either only instruct the buyer/owner of the tree to plant, or to carpool with the tree's new owner, reducing the carbon emissions that come with driving the volunteers to the household."

## **Chiara M. '23 - The Quarry Lane School**

"Currently our school's Roots and Shoots club is collecting the students' compost during lunch and tumbling it into usable soil for the school gardens. Each week we take down a new collection of compost which will hopefully turn into soft and nutrient rich soil in a few months. Our club is also giving presentations about trash/recycling/compost and helping to sort the waste bins during school lunch times. Finally, we are preparing to finish off the school year by producing at least 100 reusable metal BPA free water bottles with our club's logo on them to distribute to our school community."

## **Aster G. '23 - Boston University Academy**

"We have a couple of initiatives going right now. On a smaller scale, we have a monthly newsletter with eco-tips, global news regarding climate change, and petitions people can sign. On a larger scale, we are currently putting more plants into the school building to both absorb CO2 and promote sustainable lifestyles at home. On the largest scale, we are converting a formerly 'dead zone' near the parking lot into a large green space to absorb CO2 emissions from the parking lots and absorb runoff from the top of the hill to protect the infrastructure below"

## **Carson B. '25 - The Hawken School**

"Hawken is interested in adjusting our lunch and school patterns. We have seen how much plastic waste and other materials have been thrown away and disregarded. We wanted to target our environmental efforts towards this problem by reducing plastic waste. This would mean finding new ways to reduce plastic waste in our lunchroom and other areas in the school. We can do this by educating people about the right way to get rid of their plastic, having areas where they can discard it, and promoting trash etiquette."

## **Jason M. '22 - Princeton Day School**

"Our school's environmental club, EnAct, is planning a series of sales and events in celebration of Earth Day. For one, we are hosting a vegan bake sale to share with our upper school some environmentally friendly baked treats. We're also hosting a succulents sale for students to buy small, cute succulent plants in small handmade ceramic pots (courtesy of our school ceramics studio). Finally, we're also hoping to educate the upper school on topics such as fast fashion and responsible purchasing!"



# Sustainability Initiative Spotlights Continued...

The NHSCF hopes that these initiatives will inspire you to emulate them with similar projects at your schools!

## Alex N. '23 - The Lawrenceville School

"Lawrenceville's Sustainability Council has a lot planned for this Spring, including a variety of Earth Day events. For one, we are hosting a capstone lecture series throughout the Spring with a variety of speakers, either in-person or virtual. These speakers will cover topics ranging from oceanography and new climate weather patterns to climate justice and more. We are also hoping to coordinate some sort of trail maintenance project on our campus to protect some of the pre-existing ecosystems and prevent future erosion. Lastly, we are currently in the process of setting up some school-wide events related to sustainability, as well, including potentially create an environmental-themed geocache."

## Aana S. '23 - The Seven Hills School

"This year our goal has been to implement a permanent composting system in our Upper school. After a trash audit from November showed that more than two thirds of our waste could have been composted, we have had several meetings with our Head of School as well as our administrators to create a realistic composting program. This has included researching where bins should be located, creating schedules to collect the compost, and starting social media initiatives to increase awareness of composting. We hope to start this plan during our fourth quarter of the school year and improve our school's sustainability accordingly. In addition to this project we also have had campus clean-ups and plan to have a textbook change during our exam week."

## Pearl L. '25 - Trinity School

"Currently, we're working on getting more NYC-area schools to take part in our Instagram account (@green.link.nyc), which comprises of private schools around the area. We also implemented indoor garden towers around the school building. We have also worked with local gardens and gathered members of the student body to help them replant/clean their gardens. Finally, we made and showed a video about composting and recycling during Community Time to the Upper School Community. "

## Eli B. '23 - The Cambridge School of Weston

"We are collaborating with another club at our school called the Zora Foundation, as well as another local high school's sustainability club on an art exhibition event with the theme of environmental justice. We are also working on bringing back composting to our dining hall after the school had to shut it down due to Covid. Other projects we are working on include proposing a hydroponic farm at our school and working to make our school's reunion more sustainable."

## Julia N. '23 - Montclair Kimberley Academy

"During the week of Earth Day, we are planning to show a documentary called The Sacrifice Zone about environmental justice in the Ironbound District in New Jersey. Students will then participate in "conversation circles," where they'll talk about what they learned in smaller groups. Also during that week, we'll be showing WALL-E after school and collecting plastic bags to take to ShopRite to be recycled. Outside of Earth Day week, we are planning to open up club meetings and invite anyone from our school to participate in discussions about climate-related issues. We're planning for discussions about climate anxiety, technology, and more."



# Interesting Articles and Important Environmental Topic Links:

COVID-19 and Climate Change Interactive:

<https://edition.cnn.com/interactive/2020/09/world/climate-covid-money-intl/>

Articles on Sea Ice and Arctic High Temperatures:

<https://climate.nasa.gov/news/3155/arctic-sea-ice-maximum-at-tenth-lowest-in-satellite-record/>

<https://www.npr.org/2022/03/19/1087752486/antarctica-record-heat-arctic>

Hope you enjoy these articles and find them interesting!



# Thanks for Reading!

- *The National High School Climate Forum*