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Bloomington High School South

### Day 24 Greenest

While walking around, a few things drew my attention that I had not focused on before. For one, surrounding my school on all sides are parking lots and big roads. This indicates a dependence on cars and other transportation mechanisms that emit greenhouse gases. This is not a direct harm to me and my community in the sense of it goes right into the community, but these high levels of greenhouse gas emissions are adding to the already prevalent effects of climate change, which affects everyone in my school, community, and world. I am at direct risk, along with all others who are around the school, because there are large concentrations of young, inexperienced drivers who just began driving to school.

A solution to this could be to implement the use of bike paths around our school to make it more accessible and safe for bikers to get to school. There are areas coming from smaller, safer streets where bike paths could be installed. Biking also has many health benefits that could be helpful for students. I can talk to the city representatives in the transportation department to see if we can get this done. See the call to action below.

Another problem is that there is a lack of natural land that is available to animals, specifically insects. We were going to run an experiment in our AP Environmental Science class examining the insects that we have around our school, but when we used the collecting traps, there were no variation of species and very few insects in general. There is a crisis in the world, as the insect population is having a DRASTIC decline. This shows a lack of biodiversity in more urban areas, which could be the downfall of our society one day as urban areas take over even more. We need to make a better environment for the plants and animals living near our school/

Lastly, a big problem at our school is always freezing cold. They blast the air conditioning all year long, at least it feels as though they do. I am in my school's orchestra which has its own large room for all of the students to play in. This room isn't used by anyone else at our school besides us for one hour a day. Yet, they still keep the air conditioning on in that room all day. This not only affects individuals, as colder temperatures can often lead to sickness, but it is also a huge energy and greenhouse gas emitter, which affects the whole world and biodiversity through the effects of climate change. A solution would be to simply turn it off.

**WE CAN  
MAKE  
CHANGE**

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BIKING...  
IS GREAT FOR STRESS RELIEF AND  
MENTAL HEALTH  
HELPS YOUR HEALTH  
REDUCES GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS  
AND IN TURN SUPPORTS BIODIVERSITY  
IS SAFER THAN DRIVING A CAR



Lack of Bike Paths



Lack of Natural Habitats and Land



Large Open Space in Classrooms



