

Lara Breithaupt  
larabreithaupt  
[laracbreithaupt@gmail.com](mailto:laracbreithaupt@gmail.com)  
Bloomington High School South


## Day 26 Greenest

Over the past month, I have learned so much more than I ever could have dreamed of. From managing food waste, to voter registration, to personal wellness, to fashion, we truly have covered a vast spectrum of topics. These are not just things that we should know about, but we should use the ideas we learned from each day that we completed in our everyday life. In my life, a very relevant issue is that of environmental education in secondary schools. In primary school, we learned all about how to recycle, compost, and even implement the zero waste initiative in schools. However, once we entered secondary school, that all stopped.

Environmental education became a thing of the past, and was instead replaced with an emphasis on excelling in Core 40 classes. The abundance of recycling bins disappeared in the cafeteria, and composting was deemed “too difficult” for a larger school. Students forgot about being expected to practice sustainability and know how to limit their carbon footprint. This downward spiral then continues into college life and adulthood. If we can change this abrupt stop of the importance of environmental education, it could potentially change the future of the world. All of the challenges that we have done this month have shown me how important and life changing simply educating students and getting them excited about these issues is. The main point of the challenges all revolve on education, and that is exactly what we should focus on when addressing environmental problems.

In order to address this issue of the lack of sustainability culture in secondary schools, there are a few solutions that I could work on to change the future of our earth. One of these is reaching out to local businesses and potentially partnering with them and bringing engaging environmental and sustainability education to the secondary schools, which not only would educate students, but would also connect them to the issue, as the speakers would be from within the community. Along with this, getting students excited about being more sustainable and wasting less, I would propose doing a public waste audit of our cafeteria trash bins. We could separate all of the things that people have simply thrown away into a few piles: recyclables, compostables, reusables, and actual trash that would go to a landfill. This way, students would see a true visual of their impact on the planet. With ideas like this, we can help not only the Earth, but also the issue of food security in our community as well. If students reduce the amount of food waste that they produce, they will be saving more of it. I would like to begin working on these two projects within the environmental club that I am in charge of. I truly believe that we could make a difference in our community.

← Photo

 laraprojectgreen



📷 🗨️ 📍 📌

laraprojectgreen PGC Day 26: "Away, away, from men and towns,  
To the wild wood and the downs, —  
To the silent wilderness,  
Where the soul need not repress its music."  
—Percy Bysshe Shelley

#PGC2018 #ecohero @turninggreenorg @natracare @5gyres @EnvironHealthnews

11 SECONDS AGO