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PGC - Day 28
Greener

I am a very political science oriented person aside from my environmental interests, and so my ideas come mainly in the form of legal action. I wish to try evolutionary change in politics before I consider the revolutionary.

For my ideas, then I look back to my changes if I were to be president for a day. Firstly, I would implement, or seek to implement, a mandatory environmental science class for all elected officials. Such education could be limited to the state level at first, in the Maryland State Congress or even smaller, in my township with the commissioners, or with the county seats. Upon seeing it's inevitable success, this would move to be implemented at the national level. Granted, this may take a while to see any change from, with legal anything needing a few years to be passed and effectively lobbied to be passed (I can hardly imagine any elected officials wanting to give themselves more work). And, even with the knowledge of the environment and its systems and the fast approaching consequences of climate change, our representatives may choose still to ignore all that in favor of corporations or money or what have you.

It isn't a perfect solution, but none are. Just an idea.

Next up, on a perhaps more feasible scale, I've recognized how the federal government subsidizes the use of fossil fuels through artificially lowering prices. This needs to stop. As my friend Alix said yesterday, "Nobody would drive if gasoline was \$12!" That's exactly the point. While this subsidization may make gasoline affordable for

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consumers now, when our planet is polluted and our air unbreathable, our lands unusable, we'll realize the true cost. But why wait until then?

I propose first, to educate people. Get other people informed, become an expert in the topic myself, and get other people just as angry about this as I am. Start a movement to hold the government accountable. Speak to my elected officials and if they don't listen vote them out. Maybe I'll run for office if need be. However I need, I'll get the word out, and ask for help in spreading this knowledge to those who are in charge of federal regulation and subsidies, encouraging proposals to reduce them, instead supporting public transportation infrastructure and renewable energy sources.

I think I tend to overthink, to let potential consequences silence my ideas before I can even get them out. Maybe we need some chaos to jumpstart a massive shift in our habits and political system and existence as Americans. We don't have the time to ease in, like a pool when the water's just a tad too chilly. We need to cannonball in, cause not just a ripple but a *splash*.