

Lena Lin

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Bloomington High School South

Day 3 Greenest

Wasteful Practices:

- single use styrofoam trays used occasionally for lunch
- no composting program implemented for cafeteria (but our environmental club is working on fixing that!)
- fruits wrapped in unnecessary/excessive packaging
- toilets have low power/high power flush but the low power option rarely even works
- no hand dryers in bathrooms, only paper towels
- extremely cold air conditioning year round

I would want to implement a plan to stop the unnecessary air conditioning at my school, especially the excessive cooling that happens year round.

Steps:

- 1.) Contact SAGE (our school's environmental club) about implementing a plan and gathering a team to work on it with me.
- 2.) Make a survey to see how many people dislike the cold temperature at my school.

- 3.) Conduct the survey in the atrium, where the most amount of random students will be walking through.
- 4.) Conduct the survey with teachers too, and contact those who's rooms have specific issues with air conditioning (the chemistry/science department's air conditioning often malfunctions)
- 5.) Collect the data, graph it into easily readable tables, and research other schools who are more energy efficient with their air conditioning/have better air conditioning schedules (when they are heating, when they are cooling, etc.)
- 6.) Contact the administrators at my school about the issue and present my findings to them.
- 7.) If they agree to change the air conditioning, great! If they do not, conduct more research on schools who have successfully lessened their air conditioning and saved money without sacrificing student satisfaction.
- 8.) Start a petition to lessen the air conditioning.
- 9.) Present findings to administration.

People Involved:

- SAGE (environmental club) members and officers
- Mrs. Figolah, our school's AP environmental science teacher
- Mr. True, our school's assistant principal and other school administrators
- Administrators at other schools who may have information about their air conditioning systems and if they also have issues
- Maintenance or who is in charge of our school's air conditioning system

- Students and teachers who may or may not agree that the air conditioning at our school is an issue

Logistical Details:

- Figure out how air conditioning systems at schools actually work and who is involved/in charge of them
- Contact those who work with the air conditioning and figure out the issues with our air conditioning system and why they don't just turn the cooling down
- Figure out if this project is large enough to even involve a team or if it is small enough to do by myself
- Contact attendance and my teachers to see if I (or a group) can skip a class to survey people in the atrium during a passing period
- Potentially organize an after-school survey as well, during the period of time when students leave school to go to their buses
- Potentially organize a school-wide petition and figure out which platform to have it on

Potential Barriers:

- Administrators may not want to talk to me about the issue
- Students/teachers may not care enough about the issue to participate
- Those I contact may be very slow at responding to my inquiries, which might lengthen the project

- The problem with our air conditioning may be in the system itself (it is outdated and thus, inefficient, unreliable and too cold), which would complicate the matter
- I may not have enough time in the next few months to truly commit to this project, and I may have to move it back until after I take the SAT

This is a project I would be willing to implement at our school because it is relatively small! We are also organizing a composting program, so I think this would definitely be doable considering the composting program is much more complex but is still getting done. Additionally, this project will be much easier to implement on a high school campus than a college campus, so I will definitely take the opportunity to do it!