

The National High School Climate Forum



2021 Holiday Newsletter

“We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.”

- Native American Proverb

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!

NHSCF December Sustainability Tips

1. Avoid Batteries!

Since corroding batteries are an environmental danger, try to avoid giving gifts containing batteries! The chemicals from batteries can contaminate ground and surface water, compromise aquatic life, and even make their way into our water supply. During the holiday season, 40% of battery sales occur, so try to purchase battery-free gifts and avoid batteries altogether. If you have any old batteries, try to dispose of them properly by familiarizing yourself with your local recycling guidelines. Recycle rechargeable batteries, lead-acid batteries, and single-use alkaline batteries (make sure to check for any local recycling programs) or bring your batteries to national recycling programs such as Call2Recycle.



2. Re-Gift!

Instead of buying a new gift, regift something that might not work for you but is perfect for a friend. This can avoid unwanted gifts from being returned which leads to the annual 15 million metric tons of carbon emissions released from the transportation of returns in the US. Regifting will also prevent unwanted gifts from being thrown out, adding to the 292.4 million tons of waste, and also reduce the plastic waste coming from plastic gifts and plastic packaging. So this year, instead of throwing out or simply keeping and abandoning any unnecessary gift, reuse and give the gift to someone who can benefit from it.



Outside Environmental Program Spotlight

Sierra Club: “Explore, Enjoy, and Protect the Planet”

Sierra Club strives to work towards land protection, cleaner air, and safer water. They fight for climate crisis solutions and environmental and social justice. Through the Sierra website, learn about relevant climate issues, initiatives and current protests. Take action by signing pledges and sending letters to politicians or even learn ways to get involved locally such as participating in local outings.



SIERRA CLUB

Happy Holidays from the National High School Climate Forum!

The National High School Climate Forum wishes all of our delegates a happy holiday season and a fantastic Winter Break! Whatever holiday you celebrate, we hope that you enjoy spending time with family/friends, relaxing on a break from school, and reflecting on the year. We'll see you all in 2022!!



Thanks for Reading!

- *The National High School Climate Forum*