

The National High School Climate Forum



October 2021 Newsletter

“The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it.”

- Robert Swan, Polar Explorer

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 October Sustainability Tips

1. How to have a Sustainable Halloween!

As the Halloween season is upon us, there are ways to remain sustainable during Halloween. Try reusing materials from around your house to make decorations as a way to reduce your waste. Furthermore, make your own costumes! A lot of costumes are only worn once so turning old clothing into costumes or even thrifting for costumes can combat excess waste. When buying candies, make sure that they do not contain palm oil which causes significant deforestation in many biodiverse forests. Use buckets or pillowcases from home as trick-or-treat bags and reuse them for future years. Buy pumpkins from farmers' markets or local farms and make sure to save the pumpkins for pumpkin pies, muffins, or even toast the seeds.



2. Buy Local Produce!

Buying local and organic produce from farmers markets not only avoids the use of additional pesticides and herbicides but also provides environmental benefits as well! Locally grown food preserves farmland which creates biodiversity and also reduces food miles, decreasing carbon emissions and preventing additional air pollution. Visit a local Farmers' Market to find and purchase locally grown foods, opt into a Community Supported Agriculture program (CSA) to pay for a share of harvested produce, support your local grocers, eat seasonal fruits and veggies, and grow your own food!

3. Weatherize your Windows and Doors!

As the temperature starts dropping, consider using weatherstripping or other insulation to keep the heat in. Weatherstripping is made to cover the gap between your door or window and its frame, preventing any air leaks. Avoid using the inexpensive foam weatherstripping which doesn't last long, but use a more durable wool felt, vinyl which resists moisture, or affordable metals such as bronze, copper, stainless steel, or aluminum, instead. Try adding a film to your window to keep the heat in and provide extra protection for your windows during cold periods of the year. However, make sure to place the film on windows you do not plan to use frequently in the winter! Another easy way to weather your windows or glass doors is to



Outside Environmental Programs



The High Mountain Institute - Colorado, U.S.A.

The High Mountain Institute offers a wonderful opportunity for high school students and students who just graduated high school to explore the canyons, lakes, mountains, and forests of Colorado, while learning traditional school subjects at the same time! HMI offers semester school, summer, and gap year programs. Students are able to do activities such as rock climbing, skiing, backpacking, and hiking, while at the same time learning in a completely new setting and way, becoming leaders, taking risks, and coming to know themselves better. HMI's motto is "When nature and minds meet, extraordinary academic and personal achievement follows." Check out the link below for more info: <https://www.hminet.org/>

The Island School - Eleuthera, The Bahamas

The Island School offers semester and summer terms for high school students in their sophomore and junior years. Students are able to learn outside the walls of a classroom, using their campus and the ocean in Eleuthera, The Bahamas as their teachers and learning environment. Coming together from all over the world, students are able to learn about living sustainably in the 21st century, improve their critical thinking and problem solving skills, and engage in college-level marine biology courses with researchers in the field. The Island School aims to create students who will inspire change and be the future leaders of tomorrow. The program is an amazing educational and fun opportunity. Find out more here: <http://www.islandschool.org/the-island-school>



NHSCF Announcements

1. Make sure to attend our Fall Speaker Event, *Storm Surge: Attributing Natural Disasters to Climate Change*, featuring Mr. Craig McLean, Acting Chief Scientist of NOAA, and Dr. Greg Holland, Emeritus Director of the Capacity Center for Climate and Weather Extremes. The event will be held on November 10th, from 7-8pm ET.
2. Make sure to join the NHSCF Slack Channel! We will be posting new items on the channel everyday starting next week!
3. If you are not a member of the Writing Subcommittee but are interested in contributing something to our November Newsletter, please reach out to Alex at abnoviello23@lawrenceville.org. Also, please send along any sustainability-related publications your school writes so that we can share them with the forum!

Interesting Articles and Important Environmental Topic Links:

Learn about the upcoming COP26 Summit in Glasgow:

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/climate-change-cop26-glasgow-summit/>

Here's some news related to Biden's climate policy:

<https://www.usnews.com/news/politics/articles/2021-10-26/white-house-eyes-new-climate-change-strategies-in-biden-bill>

And finally... 5 New Cheetah Cubs were born at the Smithsonian!:

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/10/13/us/five-cheetah-cubs-birth-smithsonian-scn/>

Hope you enjoy these articles and find them interesting!



Thanks for Reading!

- *The National High School Climate Forum*