**School**: MIT

**Prompt**: At MIT, we bring people together to better the lives of others. MIT students work to improve their communities in different ways, from tackling the world’s biggest challenges to being a good friend. Describe one way in which you have contributed to your community, whether in your family, the classroom, your neighborhood, etc.

**Word limit**: 250 words

# Version 1

After reading Bill Gates’ How to Avoid Climate Disaster, I realized how far behind we are to reaching emission and waste reduction targets, which could result in the collapse of society as we know it.

With a sense of urgency to do something to help build a greener future, I registered for all the math classes I needed to understand energy grid simulation and optimization software. However, that wasn’t enough.

I wanted to get others at Rice involved. I thought of starting an organization, but most clubs suffer the same problem: people join but then don’t attend most meetings, and little progress is actually made. My friend and I, therefore, decided to start a hedge fund focused on energy transition companies. Students would be attracted to the opportunity to research and manage investments in public stocks, and throughout the process, they would learn about different subindustries within energy transition and possible career paths.

Furthermore, we decided that half of the annual profits would be reinvested into the fund and half would go towards scholarships for students who want to pursue unpaid internships in the energy transition sector.

Our initial idea panned out. We raised $150k from City bankers during the fall semester, and 18 students from all years and majors joined as analysts for the fund. Some of the upper-class students will be joining energy transition investment bank groups, renewables companies, and green tech firms this summer.

I contributed to both my immediate college community and the larger Earth community.