

Center for Climate Protection Youth Scholarship Application

First Name: Angelina

Last Name: Espinoza

Grade: 12

School: Santa Rosa High School

Teammates (if applicable): Not Applicable

Project Overview: Eco2School Challenge Week and School Activities

Length of Project:

- **Project Start Date: February 2016**
- **Project End Date: April 2018**
- **Number of Hours Spent: 50+**

Number of pounds (or tons) of greenhouse gases reduced: 3,101

Number of People Reached: 2,000+ (SRHS population)

Project Summary:

Over the past three years, I have implemented the Eco2School Challenge Week at my school, along with other events such as Cookies 4 Carpools. As you know, we organize different events each day at lunch, such as the Bike Blender or Slow Races. We charted students' commute lengths and transportation methods in their home room classes, and Eco2School compiled this data to estimate the carbon saved- an astonishing 3,101 lbs!

Photo Essay: Five Pictures with a 100 word (or 660 character) or less description for each.

1. What was your climate solution?

My freshman year of high school, I became increasingly concerned about the fate of our planet. I decided to join my school's Eco Club, which led me to the Santa Rosa Center for Climate Protection Youth Advisory Board. During my time on the board I have become far more educated and engaged about climate issues, and for the past three years I have engaged in many events such as Green Teen, The Y.E.S. Conference, and Eco2School Challenge Weeks. Challenge Weeks are particularly important to me because I know transportation is Sonoma County's largest source of climate emissions.

2. Who are the people you engaged and the people you impacted?

I engaged the 2000+ students at Santa Rosa High School, along with hundreds of other students at Green Teen and the Y.E.S. Conference. Through my love of public speaking, I was in a position where sharing the impact of Eco2School's work was easy. Unfortunately, I don't have any pictures of my school so I have included a picture of the nature I love and I am trying to protect!

3. How did you do it?

The basis of my Challenge Week began with a strong Eco Club at my school. When I joined Eco Club as a freshman, there were 4 members, myself included. During my two years as President, I have grown the club to a steady membership of approximately 25. I attribute this to a supportive and excited group of friends who are happy to help out in the name of our planet. With such a strong and steady group, implementing different activities each day at lunch and recording results was both fun and easy.

4. How did you share your results with your community?

I shared my results with my community at the Green Teen Conference and at the Y.E.S. Conference, as described in #5. I love public speaking, so I was happy to espouse the benefits of Eco2School and Youth Advisory Board Programs to just about anyone who would listen, from friends, to family, and audiences at these two conferences.

5. Where did you demonstrate your leadership?

I demonstrated my leadership as not only the president of my school's Eco Club and a Youth Advisory Board member, but as the Keynote Speaker and Master of Ceremonies for the 2017 Y.E.S. Conference. The Youth for Environmental Sustainability Conference attracted 300+ attendees and was a wonderful platform for me to share the impact of my work at SRHS, and inspire others to do the same. I had a great time planning and speaking at the event, and I definitely owe the opportunity to my connections on the Youth Advisory Board. I could not be more grateful.

Conclusion

Leave us with an interesting final impression. Address the questions:

Rather than bore you with the details of my involvement with Eco2School that you already know, I would like to include an updated excerpt from my 2016 Green Teen

Keynote Speech. I feel that it truly embodies my feelings on both the immense problem that faces us, and my limitless optimism that we will find a solution.

“It’s easy to hear statistics, and read accounts of disastrous storms and sinking islands, but it’s all very removed from our daily lives here in the Bay Area. We all know climate change is happening, but it feels like it’s not happening to us. We feel relatively safe in our happy little bubble, a place where recycling is the norm, a place that might as well be called “home of the prius.”

However, let us not forget that the hottest 15 years on record have happened during the majority of our lives, and that we haven’t known a world other than this hot earth.

Let us not forget that six of the top seven regions with the worst air pollution in the US are in California, nor the 9320 people a year who lose their lives simply trying to breath.

Let us not forget the fires that ravaged the town we love so dearly, claiming thousands of homes and 43 lives.

Let us not forget the 63 trillion gallons of water lost to the drought, an equivalent of 95 billion olympic swimming pools, and the 1 million Californians who lack access to clean water. Let us not forget.

But also...

Let us remember that California boasts more EV vehicles than any other state.

Let us remember that the first carbon neutral water agency in the world is right here in Sonoma County.

Let us remember that the first solar panel was sold in Mendocino, and curbside recycling originated in Berkeley.

Let us remember that the whole world looks to California- for fashion, movies, music, and most importantly, solutions.

Let us remember that we are in the right place, maybe at the wrong time, but the right place.

Let us remember that our planet needs us, just as much as we need it.”