

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CLIMATE FORUM

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY

2023



nhsclimateforum.org



Extreme Weather Across USA Spotlight

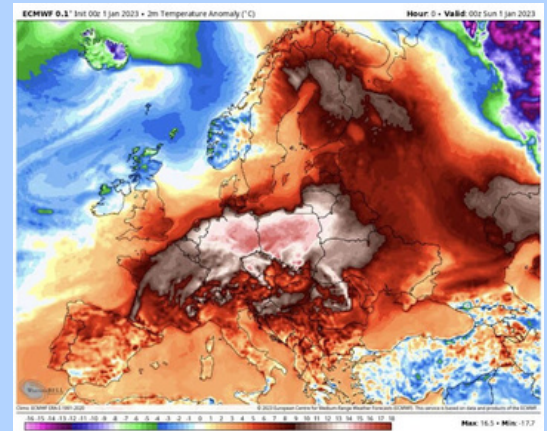
While California is experiencing unprecedented and deadly floods, Europe kicked off 2023 with a record setting heat wave. Though extreme weather events are normally characteristic of some locations, continued research has shown that climate change is making these events far more dramatic, and in some cases, fatal.

January 2022 in California was the driest one recorded in over 100 years. January 2023 was the exact opposite. On New Year's Eve, a three week episode of torrential rain and heavy snow began triggered by incoming tropical moisture from the pacific ocean. The weather left 21 people dead, and demolished drought-stressed landscapes of vegetation. Runoff from flash flooding turned into mud avalanches that devastated towns and vehicles.

Climate scientist Shradda Dhungel explains how human-caused climate change exacerbates an already extreme weather pattern: **“Rising summer temperatures make the soil and vegetation drier, increasing the chance of drought and wildfires. Then in the winter, when California gets most of its precipitation, warmer air with massive amounts of moisture unleashes these big storms that are wetter and more intense. Because of these two sets of conditions, it’s possible to have more intense droughts and more intense storms and flooding.”**

The cost to repair the damage in California is estimated to be greater than \$1 billion. Research done by the Center for Climate Sciences at NASA has found that with every 1.8 degree fahrenheit increase in sea surface temperatures, the number of extreme storms has risen by 21%.

In Europe, eight countries (Belarus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lituania, the Netherlands, and Poland) set all-time heat records for January simultaneously. Temperatures have risen to an average of 36 degrees fahrenheit above average for this time of year. Climate research has determined an undisputable link between human-caused emissions from the burning of fossil fuels and unseasonable and extreme temperatures.



Sources:
<https://www.edf.org/article/what-has-californias-flooding-and-drought-got-to-do-climate-change>
<https://grist.org/climate/europe-kicks-off-2023-with-a-record-setting-heat-wave/>
<https://drought.ca.gov>
<https://www.dailymail.com/stories/2023/1/4/2146284/-Europe-s-heatwave-is-the-most-extreme-event-ever-seen-in-European-climatology>

Personal Sustainability Tips

Sustainable Practices with Your Oven – There are many ways to use your oven, and other cooking appliances, more efficiently. With the bulk of the energy used in baking spent on warming the oven up from scratch, one easy way to do so is to bake multiple meals at the same time. Furthermore, after you are done baking, try to leave your oven open - this can help to heat your home, particularly in colder regions, and offset the massive energy consumption of traditional home heating systems.



Use Audio and E-Books – These electronic forms of reading material help to reduce paper consumption, decrease shipping emissions, and eliminate manufacturing waste. Nowadays, almost all books have online versions available, so reading sustainably won't be detrimental to your content options. In fact, try recommending your English teachers to utilize e-books in class and encourage their students to follow suit!



Environmental Summer Programs

Environmental Studies Summer Youth Institute 2023, Hobart and William Smith Colleges

<http://essyi.hws.edu/>

“The Environmental Studies Summer Youth Institute (ESSYI) is a two-week, college-level interdisciplinary summer program for talented high-school students entering their junior and senior years, or soon to be graduates. ESSYI introduces students to environmental issues and interdisciplinary techniques for addressing environmental problems. The on-campus program is a one credit (4 semester hours) course that serves as an introduction to environmental studies. summer program for talented high-school students entering their junior and senior years, or soon to be graduates.”

Sustainable Summer Programs

<https://sustainablesummer.org/>

Sustainable Summer offers a number of programs for high school students interested in environmental science and sustainability. Programs for 2023 will take place at Cornell University, Dartmouth College, Brooklyn, and at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC).

School Initiative Spotlights

As part of our mission, the NHSCF hopes to highlight ongoing initiatives in our member schools each month. We hope that you will contribute to this newsletter section in the future!

Connor E. '24 - Durham Academy, NC

We will be having a "Sustain-In" in mid-February. It is essentially a Sustainability Hackathon coupled with a fun lock-in, where various people can come together to brainstorm how to make our school greener while having a good time at school after hours. We have several rooms prepared, for people to discuss issues like transportation, electricity use, waste, and biodiversity, to name a few. It will be great to put some heads together and enjoy school after hours!

Kieu H. '25 - Twentynine Palms High School, CA

Being in a rural area, it is hard to find opportunity amongst my peers and collectively do things to help our community. Regarding sustainability, I've helped sell reusable tote bags in our school's environmental club. Also, I've made sure to attend our school trash clean ups and around the community.

Christopher M. '24 - Culver Academies, IN

We are currently working to eliminate single use plastics and styrofoam from our Dining Hall. The school is pretty conservative, and changes like these can become controversial to alumni and we get a lot of challenges from our board, but we are continuing to work forward and present on the importance of building a sustainable future and presenting a green school community.

Jayden L. '25 - Thacher School, CA

I would say that our school's most unique sustainability initiative is our compost program, which uses horse manure that comes from our 130-ish horses on campus. The site is on-campus and we compost it along with our food waste to use as mulch for our pastures, fruit trees, and improve plant health.

Another sustainability initiative that we have is the green cup challenge, where all students on campus compete against other dorms in electricity and water conservation. Students shorten showers, dim lights, lower thermostats, and recycle more trash as they compete against their peers to win the title. This friendly competition empowers students, builds community, and raises awareness about climate change and the importance of resource conservation.

Nick R. '25 - Isidore Newman School, LA

In New Orleans, Mardi Gras is a huge deal, but it also produces a lot of waste. During the first semester, we partnered with an organization to help put together sustainable Mardi Gras throws that can be used for different purposes, rather than being thrown away. This semester, we are currently organizing a Mardi Gras bead drive to allow students to bring in their Mardi Gras beads so that they do not end up in the trash. These beads are recycled and reused instead of ending up in landfills. We also have been organizing tree plantings and rain barrel painting.

NHSCF Announcements

Our Winter 2023 Speaker Event, titled *Rewilding: Conservation in Action*, will be taking place on Thursday, February 16th, at 7pm EST. We hope to see you there!



Thanks for Reading!

Thank you for reading the NHSCF January 2023 Newsletter! We hope you've enjoyed and learned! Here are a few more interesting article recommendations, from our leaders. Click the title to take you to the page:

[**Microscopic Dust in Atmosphere**](#)

[**Extracting Rare Earth Elements**](#)

[**Davos Recap**](#)

[**Chemicals in Freshwater Fish**](#)

NHSCF 2022-23 EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Don't hesitate to reach out with questions, comments, or suggestions.
We love to hear from delegates!

Alex Noviello

Co-Founder & Co-President
The Lawrenceville School, NJ
abnoviello23@lawrenceville.org

Andrew Noviello

Co-Founder & Co-President
The Lawrenceville School, NJ
acnoviello23@lawrenceville.org

Elise Picard

Co-President & Senior Advisor
Indian Springs School, AL
elise.picard@indiansprings.org

Chiara Melchor

Co-President, Sustainability
The Quarry Lane School, CA
chiarahoku@gmail.com

Lily McGraw

Co-President, Sustainability
The Quarry Lane School, CA
lily.mm00123@gmail.com

Vir Goel

Co-President, Sustainability
The Quarry Lane School, CA
vir.awesome@gmail.com

Emily Ma

Vice President, Social Media & Outreach
North Cedar Academy, WI
maemily39@outlook.com

Abby Stark

Vice President, Northeast Region
The Derryfield School, NH
23astark@derryfield.org

Rosa Sabel

Vice President, South Region
Indian Springs School, AL
rosa.sabel@indiansprings.org

Aana Shenai

Vice President, Midwest Region
Seven Hills School, OH
shenaaan23@7hills.org

Audrey Tomlin

Vice President, West Region
Polytechnic School, CA
atomlin24@students.polytechnic.org

Sophia Zhou

Technical Advisor
Princeton Day School, NJ
sopzho25@pds.org

Michelle Xu

Political Advisor
Princeton Day School, NJ
micxu25@pds.org