

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CLIMATE FORUM



NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2022



nhscclimateforum.org



Thoughts on COP27

NHSCF Political Advisor, Michelle Xu, reflects on the significance and shortcomings of COP27.

From November 6th to November 18th, delegates from across the world met in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, for the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference, more commonly known as COP27. Throughout the conference, the urgent necessity of climate reforms was abundantly clear, with scientists continuing to remind global leaders of the potential dire consequences of inaction. The conference also highlighted key differences between nations' opinions, approaches, and demands related to tackling this global problem. While poorer nations directly impacted by sea level rise and natural disasters, worsened by the climate crisis, sought payment and reparations for damages, wealthier nations pushed back, at least temporarily. Eventually an agreement was reached, however, leading to a historic victory for climate reparations around the world, helping to at least partially alleviate inequities brought on by current environmental issues. This breakthrough was unprecedented, largely due to prevalent overrepresentation of wealthier nations in previous Conference of Parties (COP) installments, focused on addressing climate change.

Although COP27 reached a consensus about funding for climate reparations, properly implementing these plans and improving conditions in developing nations most affected by climate change will continue to be challenging. Technical assistance for loss and damage will continue to be provided by the Santiago Network, an institution established in COP25 to aid developing countries in identifying their most pressing issues and allocate aid to sufficiently meet humanitarian needs.

Despite these successes, COP27 unfortunately did little to address the root of the problem: GHG emissions from burning fossil fuels. The conference failed to establish strong plans to move the global economy away from dependence on greenhouse gas emitters and did not develop concrete action steps toward mitigating the increasing emissions of developing nations. COP27 therefore developed damage control solutions, instead of focusing on core issues: band-aid fixes will not solve climate change and more work will be necessary to create sustainable, lasting solutions.

At-Home Conservation: Sustainability Tips

Small changes in our routines can do wonders for the planet over time. Consider implementing some of these ideas:



Everyday Waste!

Many natural resources that have fueled life on our planet are now in danger. Water, energy, and even vegetation are necessary resources for life and have become less abundant and more vulnerable. Although we as individual citizens can not directly stop larger organizations, corporations, and governments from destroying natural resources, there are many opportunities for all of us to make a lasting positive impact on the environment.

Waste represents a critical threat to conservation efforts, yet large volumes of food and other natural resources are wasted on a daily basis. In 2017, the U.S. alone contributed to 206 billion pounds of food waste!

Waste can arise through many everyday activities, including overwatering a yard, wasting water, or leaving lights on in unoccupied rooms. Keeping unused appliances plugged in can be even more detrimental toward wasted energy consumption. Other important steps include decreasing usage of heating and cooling systems according to outdoor temperatures, watering yard plants with recycled water or collected rainwater, and doing laundry in larger loads at a lower frequency with cold water, or even setting up your own home composting process.

Sourcing Goods!

Sourcing everyday goods sustainably can make a huge impact. Try to focus on ethically sourced food items when shopping, buying more durable and reusable products, purchasing clothes second hand, and decreasing your online shopping, so as to conserve material that packages arrive in. You can even try making your own natural cleaning products, like using baking soda and lemon juice for cleaning, rather than harmful chemical products.

Many important products can actually be made at home, using less plastic and other harmful materials generated in mass producing certain items. This also applies to gardening! Although the harmful chemical DDT was banned in the United States, fertilizers still contain other chemical compounds that are potentially detrimental to surrounding ecosystems. Try ditching fertilizers and using the compost from your food waste to fertilize gardens and protect neighboring land.

You can also source food from your garden that will not have plastic packaging or require harmful materials to produce. You can also dump the coffee grounds from your morning coffee or egg shells into your compost instead of into the garbage. These everyday items can be used to help grow food and cause less waste in your home.



Highlighted Environmental Organizations

These are a few outstanding organizations that the NHSCF would like to highlight this month.



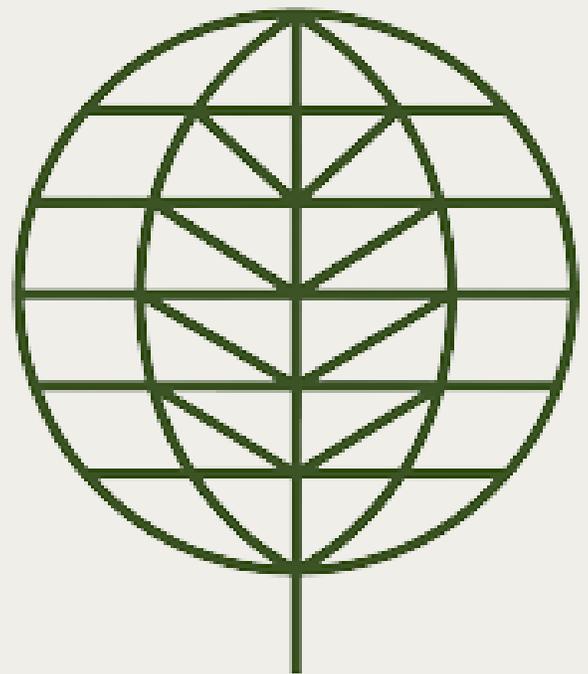
**The Climate
Reality Project**

The Climate Reality Project

The Climate Reality Project was formed after the merge of the Alliance for Climate Protection and the Climate Project. The Climate Reality Project works to improve the climate through hands-on projects and environmental policy. They work with over 19,000 climate leaders worldwide in 150 countries and have over 100 activist chapters. The project also hosts 24 Hours of Reality, an annual event that seeks to focus the world on the climate crisis, and creates critical everyday tools like social media application Reality Drop.

Earthworks

Earthworks is a nonprofit dedicated to ending oil and gas mining pollution. They work to protect communities and local environments from mineral mining and oil drilling. They also partner with national and international advocates to work on environmental policies aimed at facilitating a clean energy transition. Earthworks also helped push the Obama administration to implement a methane emissions reduction plan and actively works to tackle problems with the earth's natural resources, including preserving clean water and biodiversity.



EARTHWORKS

NHSCF Announcements

Join us for National High School Climate Forum's COP27 Discussion Session on Wednesday, December 14th at 8:30 PM ET. The event will include discussions about both the recent COP27 United Nations summit in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt and about ongoing sustainability initiatives at each of our schools.



Click here to register!

Thanks for Reading!

Thank you for reading the NHSCF November 2022 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:

- **US to Pay Millions to Move Tribes Threatened by Climate Change**
- **Gas Stoves in the US Emit Methane Equivalent to the Greenhouse Gas Emissions of Half a Million Cars**
- **The Saudi Strategy to Keep the World Hooked on Oil**

NHSCF 2022-23 EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

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

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