

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CLIMATE FORUM

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER

2022



nhsclimateforum.org



Climate Change Current Events

Learn about key ongoing issues related to climate change in the U.S. and around the world.

Hurricane Ian

On September 28, 2022, Hurricane Ian struck Florida as a strong category 4 hurricane, wreaking havoc across much of the southeastern United States. Ian forced thousands of people to evacuate dangerous winds and storm surge, while rescues during and after the storm were made extremely challenging. Entire buildings and bridges were washed away, injuring many and causing billions of dollars in damage. Ian caused at least 114 deaths in Florida alone, more than any other hurricane has caused there in the past century. The hurricane also caused damage to the Cayman Islands, Cuba, South Carolina, and many other areas. Sustained wind speeds of 150 miles per hour and heavy downpours amplified the effects of Ian. Storm surge rising 12 to 18 feet crashed onto the coast of Florida, leading to devastating damages. The storm created a power outage for over 4 million people in Florida, and over 1.1 million people lost power in South Carolina. Insured losses in these two states are estimated to be over \$47 billion, a shocking setback for governments that need to ensure that their states rebuild with greater climate resilience.

As climate change continues to worsen, its effects provide ideal conditions for hurricane formation. According to the New York Times, warm waters and winds with little to no variation in speed and direction create perfect environments for hurricanes to gain strength. Climate change has also appeared to decrease the speed of these hurricanes and has also led to rising sea levels and more rainfall. Thus, storm surges have been higher than ever, downpours inundate vulnerable infrastructure, and hurricanes last longer in affected areas, hampering rescue efforts and other important functions. These combined conditions lead to mass destruction in communities, displacement for thousands of citizens, and even death. Though Ian dissipated near Virginia in early October, it is important to reflect on the damage that it caused, as well as the reasons for why this hurricane was more deadly than any other hurricane within the past few years. Hurricane Ian and other natural disasters across the world serve as a reminder that neglecting climate change has potentially terrifying effects for communities across the world.

Overview Sustainability Tips

Here are some sustainable, everyday habits that you may not know about. Small details can be incredibly impactful for the environment, especially when multiplying these impacts by over 7 billion people worldwide! Start by doing at least 3!

1. Bring your own reusable bags to the store!

a. The difference may seem negligible, but using reusable bags instead of plastic bags can have an enormous impact. Each year, millions of tons of plastic end up in landfills or as litter, taking centuries to break down. In several states, plastic bags have already been banned - try bringing tote or canvas bags on your next trip to the grocery store!

2. Unplug electronics or use smart plugs!

a. Save energy, reduce your carbon footprint, and save money on your family's energy bill! Even when electronics are turned off, many devices continue to draw power, known as phantom energy. Phantom energy can account for 5-10% of your total electricity use. By unplugging devices when you're not using them, you'll see a decrease in your energy usage. Even better, you can invest in smart plugs! They allow you to control devices remotely and on a schedule.

3. Buy locally grown food!

a. The average meal travels 1,500 miles to get to your table. Food transport accounts for 10% of the United States' total energy use. Buying locally grown food, or taking a fun trip to your local farmer's market, can reduce your carbon footprint by reducing the time food spends in transit. Even a monthly trip to the farmer's market will make a difference!

4. Recycle any plastic, glass, or metal!

a. It often seems like second nature to place plastic water bottles in the recycling bin. What happens when we forget? Or we don't remember that glass containers and soda cans can also be recycled? Recycling any of these materials helps minimize waste and pollution. Millions of tons of plastic are burned annually, releasing harmful toxins into the air. Glass can be remade endlessly without losing its quality, and recycling aluminum cans uses 95% less energy than making new ones from scratch!

5. Conserve water!

a. A variety of habits can help reduce water consumption at home. This conservation also saves energy, as water takes a tremendous amount of energy to distribute. Here are a few easy tips to start with:

- i. Turn the faucet off while brushing your teeth. This alone can save almost 4 gallons a day!
- ii. Don't let the water run too long while doing dishes.
- iii. Only wash full loads in the dishwasher and washing machine.
- iv. Shower for less time! Try to aim for 5-10 minutes max.
- v. Choose a lower water pressure faucet or use special aerators to increase pressure, while reducing use!

Source: <https://greenerideal.com/guides/green-living/everyday-sustainability-tips/>



Highlighted Environmental Organizations

These are a few organizations that the NHSCF would like to highlight this month. Starting in the Winter, this section will relate to summer environmental programs for high school students we recommend.

Round River Conservation Studies

Learn more at: <https://www.roundriver.org/>

Round River offers educational opportunities for students to engage in conservation initiatives around the world. In addition to offering student projects and educational volunteering opportunities in select global locations, Round River operates as a conservation non-profit, engaging in conservation science and community conservation initiatives, as well. Round River works with local “land guardians”, uniting resources in their possession to help preserve nature in all forms. Currently, Round River is conducting ongoing projects in Asia, North America, South America, and Africa.

American Forests

Learn more at: <https://www.americanforests.org/>

American Forest is a nonprofit organization that has been helping to conserve the forests of the United States and Canada for the last 140 years. American Forests has planted over 50 million trees across much of our continent and has a strong history of partnering with the government and other brands to make a strong impact on policy, forest restoration, and urban forests. American Forests offers donors the opportunity to plant trees in honor of individuals, as well.



ROUND RIVER
Conservation Studies



**American
Forests®**

NHSCF IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Dear NHSCF Delegates,

We hope you enjoyed our October 2022 National Workshop Session with climate activist and founder of ZeroHour, Jamie Margolin! Please remember to join us this **Thursday, November 10th, at 7pm ET**, for our NHSCF Fall 2022 Speaker Event, **ESG Investing: Financing the Future**, featuring Mr. Daniel Hochman, Head of Sustainability Research at Bridgewater Associates, and Dr. Jean Rogers, Global Head of ESG at Blackstone.

The forum truly only works with your participation and input, so please try to invite as many other students from your schools as possible to attend and let us know if you ever have any comments or suggestions for improving the organization!

Sincerely,

The NHSCF Executive Leadership Team

Thanks for Reading!

Thank you for reading the NHSCF October 2022 Newsletter! We hope you've enjoyed and learned! Here are a few more interesting article recommendations, from our leaders.

Global COP27 Conference

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/11/04/climate/united-states-climate-summit.html?searchResultPosition=5>

Stakes of Midterm Elections on Climate

<https://today.duke.edu/2022/10/scholars-midterm-elections-critical-progress-climate-change>

Hurricane Ian Relief Updates

<https://www.redcross.org/about-us/our-work/disaster-relief/hurricane-relief/hurricane-ian-relief.html>

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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