

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CLIMATE FORUM

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2022



nhsclimateforum.org



WELCOME TO THE NHSCF 2022-23 YEAR!

Dear NHSCF Delegates,

We hope you all had a restful, fulfilling, and exciting summer break this year and can't wait to welcome you back to NHSCF meetings and events this year! This summer, the NHSCF Executive Leadership Team was busy, reimagining the forum and what we could accomplish.

Perhaps the most significant change to the NHSCF this year was the creation of 4 regional divisions within the organization: Northeast, South, Midwest, and West. Some of you may have already attended your first regional meetings for the year and we hope that these meetings provide you the opportunity to get to know other delegates better and have more detailed conversations about your plans and initiatives for the year.

Additionally, we hope to better encourage offline communication this year and will be piloting the use of Discord. The Discord will be an open space for you to communicate with other leaders from across the country and we hope that you will take advantage of it as much as possible. That being said, we will continue to use GroupMe for NHSCF announcements, in addition to email.

We have several exciting new events in the works for this year, overhauling the national delegate meeting format, bringing in exciting activists, leaders, and others to engage in actual conversation with delegates, as opposed to simply giving a presentation via webinar. We also plan on hosting more frequent sustainability competitions throughout the year, providing national recognition for your efforts.

The forum is now closing in on 100 registered schools, but we need your participation more than ever. You all make the National High School Climate Forum run and we can't wait to see what you will do.

We hope you are as excited as we are for a fantastic year!

Sincerely,
The NHSCF Executive Leadership Team

Climate Change Current Events

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

Inflation Reduction Act

This summer, President Joe Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act to help fight climate change. The Inflation Reduction Act represents one of the largest legislative actions toward climate change mitigation Congress has ever passed, and seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout the United States. According to the Institute for Market Transformation, the IRA hopes to reduce carbon emissions in the US by 40% by 2030 and primarily focuses on promoting clean energy sources in communities, thereby reducing pollution to this end. In addition, the IRA includes \$3 billion in environmental justice grants and \$1 billion for efficient, clean energy housing, aiming to tackle the intersectional issue of climate change's impact on housing. Since the main obstacle to sustainable living for many Americans is simply cost, the IRA's aid breaks through the generational cycle of climate injustice by making sustainable living more affordable and therefore more accessible and equitable in society.

Although the goals of the IRA fall somewhat short of America's commitment to the Paris Climate Accords, it nonetheless demonstrates the willingness of our country to continue to lead on this century-defining issue.

Flooding in Pakistan

Millions of people worldwide are being affected by natural disasters caused by climate change. From floods destroying areas in Pakistan to heatwaves and droughts plaguing the Middle East, Africa, and Asia, many parts of the globe have been hit hard by the drastic consequences of climate change. For example, according to the United Nations, recent floods in Pakistan have displaced over 6.7 million people and killed at least 1500 people, 37% of which were vulnerable children. Even for those who survive, there are extremely scarce resources and basic necessities including food, water, shelter, and clothing are unavailable. Furthermore, healthcare remains inaccessible for the vast majority of people affected, and illnesses are rapidly spreading amongst the displaced. Many parts of the country still remain underwater, and it seems as if much of the water is not going anywhere. UNHCR spokesperson Babar Baloch stated that the floodwater could take up to six months to recede in the areas that have been most devastated.

Currently, the UN is finding ways to resolve this issue and send aid to those that need it. The UN has donated over one million relief items to areas that have been hit hardest in Pakistan and continues to find more ways to relieve suffering. The flooding in Pakistan serves as a critical wake-up call that climate change will only continue to have greater effects on communities across the world.

Overview Sustainability Tips

Here are some general sustainability tips, grouped into three categories. Generally, these will be more specific in future newsletters, although we wanted to cover a range of important topics this September!

Food Waste

Food waste represents a major impediment to sustainability, although we can reduce large amounts of waste through a few simple steps. Significant amounts of waste can be mitigated just by monitoring where and how we get our food. Eating overly processed food is not only bad for our health but may also exact a considerable toll on the environment. Try to integrate locally sourced food into your diet, thereby reducing chemicals and other industrial byproducts used in production, as well as emissions generated during transportation. Invest in multi-use non plastic or recycled plastic products, as well, to minimize waste from food/drink containers. These can include water bottles, take-out containers, utensils, grocery bags, and more. Finally, learn how to correctly sort trash, so items only go to the landfill if absolutely necessary.



Transportation Emissions

The burning of fossil fuels for energy is obviously the primary driver of global climate change, as we all use a tremendous amount of energy each and every day through transportation. That being said, switching to other energy alternatives and slightly tweaking our daily routines can have a significant impact. Carpooling, utilizing public transportation, or walking/biking to school if possible are all ways to make an individual impact. That being said, try asking an administrator at your school about other ways you can get involved in direct activities to reduce emissions and energy consumption on your campus.



Resource Conservation

Conserving water and energy are critical elements of making a direct, individual change on behalf of the environment. Like energy, vital resources like water are used in excess, stripping natural resources from the Earth. Unplugging appliances, including lamps, hair dryers, fans, toasters, chargers, and more, after use, is an easy way to start living more sustainably. Similarly, to conserve water, try taking shorter showers, reduce irrigation/sprinkler use, and equip your home with technology like faucet aerators and low-flow toilets, if possible. You can encourage administrators at your school to make these same changes and more, including reducing the amount of paper waste on assignments and buying back used school supplies, including binders, backpacks, folders, and more. Remember: it is up to you to drive change at your schools!

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.

Friends of the Earth

Friends of the Earth is an environmental activist organization that raises awareness surrounding the impact and toll that humans are having on the Earth. Friends of the Earth supports the environmental movement by educating, raising money, and protesting many environmental issues, and puts direct action first.



Friends of the Earth



Wild Earth Allies

Wild Earth Allies actively protects wildlife, ecosystems, and habitats. They conduct detailed research on not only specific habitats, but also specific animal species that are most at threat and explore conservation strategies.

WeForest

WeForest was founded on the idea that growing trees may represent the ultimate solution to containing CO2 levels in the atmosphere. Their hands-on initiative to solve climate change by planting trees demonstrates the necessity of action-focused thinking and leadership. WeForest directly interacts with forests and communities around them, to positively impact both, taking donations, sponsorships, and providing informative resources to educate people about their mission.



Navigating the NHSCF Website

The NHSCF website provides delegates with an interactive platform, on which to view announcements, events, newsletters, and other important information. Upon navigating to the site at <https://nhsclimateforum.org/>, select the “Log In” button from the top menu bar. This will take you to a login screen, where you can enter your username and password for the site.



Home Events Newsletters Log In Sign Up Join

Upon logging into the website, you will be redirected to the “National High School Climate Forum Committee Member Dashboard”, on which you will find both announcements and other important information, by toggling between two buttons.

Announcements

Important Resources

Welcome to the National High School Climate Forum 2022-23 Year!!

Wednesday, September 7th, 2022, 8:43 AM

Dear NHSCF Delegates,

Welcome to the National High School Climate Forum 2022-23 Year!

We hope you all had fantastic summers and are either off to a great start already this school year.



NHSCF 2022 Annual Youth Summit

The NHSCF's 2022 Youth Summit will feature opening remarks from Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ), presentations by World Wildlife Fund Senior Vice President for Climate, Ms. Marcene Mitchell, and Founder and President of ecoAmerica, Mr. Robert Perkowitz. Additionally, there will be featured presentations from collegiate student leaders at MIT, UCLA, Yale, and UPenn, in addition to presentations by NHSCF Delegates from around the country. The annual NHSCF Youth Summit marks the end of each forum year. We hope to see you all there!

Event Date: Sunday, April 24th 4:00 PM ET



Climate Intelligence: AI and Technology in Action

On February 9, 2022, at 7PM ET, the National High School Climate Forum is hosting a virtual speaker event, titled Climate Intelligence: AI and Technology in Action. The event will feature Ms. Bonnie Lei, Founding Member of Microsoft's AI for Earth Program (and current Head of Environmental Justice at Microsoft), in addition to Dr. Stacey Gifford, Managing Director of IBM's Future of Climate Initiative. The event will focus on some of the most cutting-edge technological innovation in climate change and conservation.

Event Date: 2/9/2022, 7:00 PM ET

Click the “Events” button in the top menu bar to navigate to a list of all recent NHSCF events. If the event is open for registration on our site, you may click the register button to the right in order to sign up accordingly. Clicking on an event picture will download its PDF flier, for distribution at your schools prior to public events.

Finally, click the “Newsletters” button in the top menu bar to navigate to a list of all NHSCF newsletters from 2022 onwards. By clicking on an item in the list, you can download the PDF of any given newsletter.



Announcements will mostly be sent through email or GroupMe, but we do highly recommend that you take time to review the website each week, to ensure that you have not missed any important information.

*Thank you and please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions!
Alex Noviello and Sophia Zhou
NHSCF Website Managers*

Thanks for Reading!

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

The Guardian view on Pakistan's floods: life in the aftermath

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/sep/20/the-guardian-view-on-pakistans-floods-life-in-the-aftermath>

Billionaire No More: Founder Gives Away the Company

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/09/14/climate/patagonia-climate-philanthropy-chouinard.html>

Wetter and stronger: Hurricane Fiona and two typhoons drive home climate concerns

<https://www.nbcnews.com/science/environment/climate-change-hurricane-fiona-stronger-storms-rcna48327>

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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