

Heads in the Sand

The place where I feel most alive is in nature. For all it does for us, I try to dedicate a thanks back to it in any way I can. The environmental causes I support have to do with climate change globally but also with paying attention to the local and focusing on clean waterways and recycling/composting. Being a member and treasurer of my school's environmental club is one way I can begin to give back. I remember visiting the ecological fair the club put on as a child. I realized the people I met there had the same perspective on our environment and community as me. From then on I was ecstatic because I knew I had somewhere to channel my love for the environment while making a change in my community. Once I joined the club I spent time helping to plan and partake in club and community events including outdoor cleanups, local habitat restoration, outdoor community events and more. One of the most rewarding events I was a part of was the mission to get composting implemented in our school. The planning started when I was a freshman but due to many bumps along the road as well as the COVID pandemic, we didn't get a working compost system till the close of my junior year. Although it was frustrating at times, I feel so happy knowing that the club was able to make a positive difference in the time I was a part of it. Being involved in the environmental club helped me to make connections in my community, become more confident in my leadership skills and most importantly to help my local ecosystem.

Many young people are also concerned about the environment and that is because we feel let down by the generations ahead of us. When I was younger I remember seeing Greta Thunberg protest for climate change and saw how she was bullied. Adults, or should I say, people in government as well as corporations, want to keep their heads in the sand and keep making big money while our globe is dying. One thing I've researched is the Massie Effect. I heard about it on Seth Godin's blog recently. Seth Godin is in charge of *The Carbon Almanac* project. The Massie Effect is the tendency of people who support good causes to believe they are in the minority. A study at Princeton showed that almost 80% of Americans believe we should take action on the climate, but those people believe that only 37% of their fellow Americans agree with them. Because of this they feel like they are an overlooked minority on this cause and they are then let off the hook to do anything and take action. I plan on continuing to study global studies, political science and environmental studies. At college, I will choose to live in the sustainable dorms and make it a lifestyle and surround myself with like minded people.