

High School Students Making a Difference in the Environment and for the Planet

Stephanie S, the author of this article, is a senior at Fairfax High School (<http://www.fairfaxhs.org/>) in Los Angeles, California. She is the current Secretary of the school's environmental club, the Planeteers. Stephanie was instrumental in getting the California Department of Water Resources to participate in the club's Earth Day event in April 2011.

We, the Planeteers, are an environmental club at Fairfax High School. As a club we help educate students about being environmentally friendly. We participate in various projects like beach cleanups with Heal the Bay, taking care of trees with Tree People, and conducting our own E-waste events in the community. Along with other issues, we also address the conservation of water. As a way to educate students about the conservation of water, we held an Earth Day event in which the California Department of Water Resources was a participant. We also help the school as a whole get involved in recycling to reduce the amount of plastic thrown away when it can be recycled. Another project in which we participated was the Water Project. In that event we fundraised and donated money to help provide water pumps to third world countries. Individually, we are also committed to conserving water at home by spending less time in the showers and turning off faucets that are left running. As a group, our mission is to educate others about being eco-friendly while making changes that benefit our community. Our goal is to motivate the younger generation into taking actions against pollution by bringing them opportunities where they can help. We also bring them information to make them aware of climate change and how pollution has affected us. For the future, our plan is to extend our club into middle schools and other schools to get younger children involved. We also look forward to organizing more activities to make students more active in being environmentally friendly. Most recently in this school year, we completed a beach cleanup and are planning for the next Earth Day event. Our greatest motivation is our knowing that everything that we do will help create changes as we bring more awareness and as we participate in projects that are meant to help our environment.

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