

SUSTAINABILITY CLUB

By: Chloe Hawkes, Grace Webb, Lyra Grandy, Sophia Duyon, & Nori Sandin

Introduction

Welcome to the first sustainability newsletter of the 2022-2023 school year! My name is Nori Sandin, and this is my third—and final—year overseeing and co-writing this newsletter. The Oyster River High School sustainability club has an overarching mission of shifting the school and surrounding community away from the negligent, inefficient, and harmful culture surrounding environmental issues. It is our mission to provide alternative, eco-friendly ways of thinking about the world, and helping every individual determine their role in the climate crisis.

Here, we hope to provide you with new ideas, a “personal mission,” or even just some reading material. Some topics that I would like to address this year are the facets of inequality surrounding environmental justice, the humane stories of the climate crisis, and miscellaneous segments that revolve around the interests and passions of myself and my peers.

We hope you enjoy this month’s content—a slightly shorter letter than usual—and, as always, feel free to reach out with any inquiries. Thank you for supporting the first of many newsletters!



Monthly Book: Consumed by Aja Barber

We are starting a new monthly segment this year—due to the length and frequency of our newsletters, we will never be able to fully delve into the intricate worlds and topics surrounding sustainability.

So, every month, we will be giving a sustainable book recommendation in this newsletter. This issue, the book is Consumed by Aja Barber. Her opinions, thoughts, and rundown on the book are listed below.

“Aja Barber’s debut novel Consumed details the environmental, societal, and economic issues with consumerism. Barber closely examines the fast fashion industry’s long and complicated history with colonialism and exploitation of countries in the Global South and East, and discusses how race plays a major role in the systems at play and the industry at large. Consumed provides action based solutions on becoming conscious consumers, which readers can implement in their own day-to-day to lives. If you are interested in reading, consider choosing to loan Consumed from your local library, buying secondhand, or borrow a copy from a friend or someone you know!”



project green

CHALLENGE

This year, environmental non-profit Turning Green is putting on the Project Green Challenge. Project Green is a month-long call to action taking place this October. It presents daily challenges, such as calculating personal carbon footprints, tracking daily household food waste, or investigating local environmental practices, to those who sign up. It asks participants to submit evidence of completion and sends out on-theme prizes as incentive to those with the best submissions. The program also shares large sums of information on environmental issues as optional readings to supplement the daily challenges! This project is based on the knowledge that it takes 30 days to rewire habits, so if everyone participating challenges themselves to be more thoughtful regarding environmental issues, then they will have all improved their behaviors not only for the day or month but for times to come.

We at the ORHS Sustainability Club are working this month to get the high school involved and participating in the Project Green Challenge, mainly through the advisory program. While the challenge targets students and only enrolled students in high school, college, or undergraduate programs are eligible to receive prizes, the purpose of Project Green is to reach and benefit as many minds and communities as possible, so participation is open to all. No environmental expertise is needed to complete the challenges, and there are ranges of the daily challenge from “green” to “greenest”, so anyone can select whichever level they have the time and energy to complete on the given day. Additionally, even once signed up for the challenge, daily participation is not mandatory, and participants can choose to complete however many they would like.

Signing up for the Project Green Challenge is very easy! You can either scan the QR code featured on this page or go to projectgreenchallenge.com and click the “Sign Up” button to give your name and contact information.

Project Green hopes to show that small actions can accumulate to make a great difference in our environment! Spread the word, get informed, be inspired, and take action this coming October.

