

April 2024 Earth Day Competition Impact Report

Human Nature
Projects Ontario



Land Acknowledgement

Our team at Human Nature Projects Ontario would like to acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, Anishinabek, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Ojibway-Chippewa peoples. For thousands of years, Indigenous Peoples have protected this land and today, we are here to ensure that the ecosystems remain healthy. This acknowledgement reminds us of our responsibility to keep our communities clean and to honour the Treaty we live on by giving our respect to First Nations groups, Inuit, and Métis; past, present, and future.

About This Report

This report is a summary of the Earth Day Competition event hosted and organized by Human Nature Projects (HNP) Ontario. This report utilizes numbers, testimonials and biographies to quantify the impact of this initiative.

All testimonials, headshots, biographies, and names included in this report have been included after obtaining consent from all those who are featured. Furthermore, our team obtained parental consent from those who were under the age of 18 before including any of their identifying information within this report.

All participants featured in this report are aware that this report will be put up on HNP Ontario's social media platforms and that it will be shared with external stakeholders as needed.

For any questions regarding this report, please contact the corresponding author, Muhammad Ansar, who is the Co-Founder and also currently serves as Co-Executive Director. Muhammad can be reached at muhammad.ansar@hnpontario.org.



Table of Contents

Introduction

About Human Nature Projects (HNP) Ontario 4

Earth Day Competition (EDC) 2024..... 5

Earth Day Competition Streams

 Community Cleanup Stream..... 6

 Pledge to Go Green Stream 8

 Carbon Reduction Challenge Stream10

Resources and Supports Provided To Participants12

Partnership with TakingITGlobal..... 14

Advertisement Strategy.....15

Project Impact

Impact: High Level Summary..... 16

Impact: School Features for Community Cleanup Stream

 David Suzuki Secondary School.....20

 Abbey Park High School..... 21

 St. Robert Catholic High School..... 22

 Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School..... 23

 Bracebridge and Muskoka Lakes Secondary School..... 24

 Erindale Secondary School.....25

 Canterbury High School26

Table of Contents

Impact: School Features for Pledge To Go Green Stream

Agincourt Collegiate Institute27

Bayview Secondary School28

Student Leader Testimonials

Adisya Gnaneswaren29

Zainab Chisti29

Kurumi Takjika30

Ahmad Hassam30

Harshini Hariganesh31

Alexander Pui-Li Gaudet31

Jasmine Su32

Audy Noor32

Scythe Jayamohanaraja.....33

Vraj Shah33

Adil Mukhi34

Kesika Anushalingam.....34

Fraser Roberts.....35

Jason Lee.....35

Conclusion

References..... 36

Acknowledgements..... 37

About Human Nature Projects (HNP) Ontario



Human Nature Projects (HNP) Ontario is a federally registered, youth-led not-for-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness about current environmental issues to inspire meaningful environmental action. HNP Ontario uses various events and initiatives to further this goal, all with the long-term purpose of an environmentally sustainable future. HNP Ontario's programming can be divided into two distinct categories.

DRIVING
CHANGE

CONNECTING
YOUTH

SPARKING
ACTION

Community Events

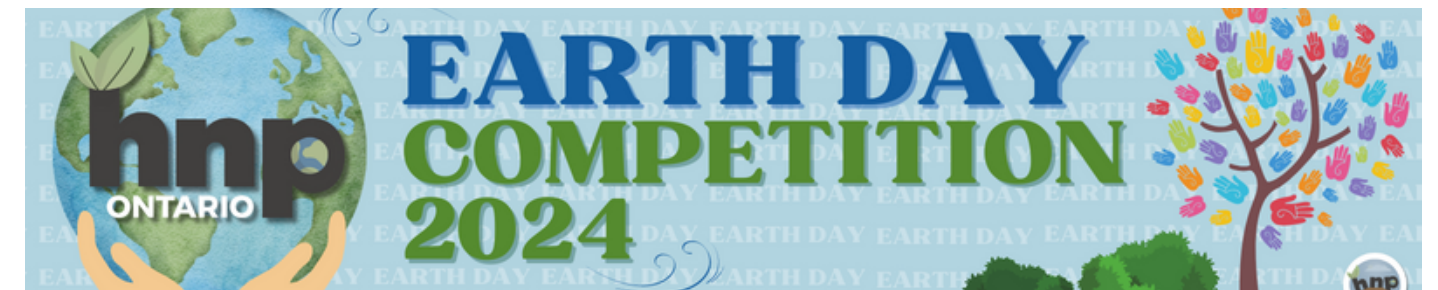
HNP Ontario hosts numerous stewardship events within various communities throughout the year to give youth an opportunity to create a direct, positive and meaningful impact within their communities. These events are usually one of three types: community cleanups, tree planting, and invasive species removal events.

Educational Initiatives

HNP Ontario organizes various different virtual webinars, drives, challenges, and panels to educate youth about different environmental topics, as well as solutions on how mitigate these challenges. These events are often facilitated by various experts who share their unique insights and knowledge with students. To date, HNP Ontario has educated 1500+ volunteers globally.

Earth Day Competition (EDC) 2024

HNP Ontario's Earth Day Competition was a multi-school, Ontario-wide educational initiative that took place from April-June 2024, striving to challenge youth to drive meaningful environmental change within their local school communities. As part of this competition, environmental committees, councils, clubs or student leaders from Ontario high schools registered their schools to compete against each other for a chance to win amazing prizes, while advocating and taking action for the environment.



The Three Streams

Schools who registered to compete were asked to engage their school's student population through one of three environmental streams:

1. **Community Cleanup:** Run a student-led community clean up within or around their school community.
2. **Pledge To Go Green:** Educate their school's student body and have them pledge to commit to making their school more eco-friendly.
3. **Carbon Reduction Challenge:** Engage the student body to collectively reduce their school's carbon emissions and track their progress using the Commit2Act platform.

Community Cleanup Stream

The community cleanup stream asked students to run a local, student-led community cleanup within or around their school community. Research has shown that almost 10,000 tonnes of plastic debris enter Ontario’s lakes and rivers each year (City of Mississauga, 2022). As such, community cleanups were our way of bringing together diverse groups of people, strengthening social bonds, and fostering community pride.



10

Schools Participated

7

School Boards Reached

195+

Full Bags of Garbage Collected

635+

Pounds of Garbage Collected

2815+

Attendees and Volunteers in Total

20+

Total Hours of Clean-up Durations

Pledge to Go Green Stream

The Pledge to Go Green steam asked students to educate their school’s student body on environmental issues, then, as a school, pledge to make their school’s actions more eco-friendly. This stream was created with the knowledge that individuals who publicly commit to pro-environmental behaviors, such as signing pledges, advocating at rallies, and engaging in petitions, are more likely to follow through with those behaviors. (Journal of Environmental Psychology, 2021).



Carbon Reduction Challenge Stream

The carbon reduction challenge asked students to engage their student body in collectively reducing their school’s carbon emissions, their progress being tracked with the Commit2Act platform. On Commit2Act, participants could log their eco-friendly activities (i.e., walking to school, using a reusable water bottle, washing in cold water etc.) to track the amount of carbon they had saved.

Canada is amongst the top emitters of greenhouse gases globally, with emissions primarily coming from the energy secretary, industry and transportation (Government of Canada, 2023). As such, this challenge aimed to leverage collective action by mobilizing as many students to reduce their carbon footprint as possible.



120+
Participants

61
School Participated

10
School Boards Reached

9.2
Average Actions Logged Per Person

1,100+
Actions Logged

269,710+
Kilograms of CO2 Saved

Resources and Supports Provided To Participants

Orientation Information Session

HNP Ontario hosted an orientation and information session for all student leaders who registered their high schools to compete in the Earth Day Competition. Held on April 5th 2024, this session gave students more insight into the three streams of the competition. HNP Ontario provided examples of how each stream can be completed, suggested various advertisement strategies, and discussed how winners will be determined.

Joint Communication Platform

HNP Ontario invited all secondary schools participating in the Earth Day Competition to join a discord server where they were able to ask questions and communicate with other participating schools. The server created a sense of community and solidarity for student leaders working towards advancing a common goal: increased environmental action.

Competition Support Coordinator

Students who participated in HNP Ontario’s Earth Day Competition were given an opportunity to be paired with an executive member from the HNP Ontario team to address any of their concerns and questions. Students were able to set up meetings with their competition support coordinator to ask for additional support and mentorship as needed. All communications between students and their competition support coordinator took place on Discord, Zoom, or via Email.

Partnership with TakingITGlobal

TakingITGlobal is a Canadian registered charity that aims to empower and support youth projects around the globe. HNP Ontario partnered with TakingITGlobal who provided high schools across Ontario with the following two resources as part of HNP Ontario’s Earth Day Competition.

Green My Classrom Grants

\$350

microgrants to support environmental projects across Canada

Student leaders who participated in the Community Cleanup stream of the Earth Day Competition were able to apply for a Green My Classroom grant of \$350 to buy equipment to organize the cleanup and assist their school in adopting greener behaviours.

Commit2Act Platform

121

people joined HNP Ontario’s group on the Commmit2Act platform

Commit2Act is a platform where students were able to log climate-friendly actions that reduce their carbon emissions. Students were then able to see how much CO2 they saved over the duration of the Earth Day Competition.

Advertisement Strategy



Unique posts on Instagram



Number of platforms promoted on



Guidance counselors reached



High school environmental clubs contacted

Impact: High Level Summary

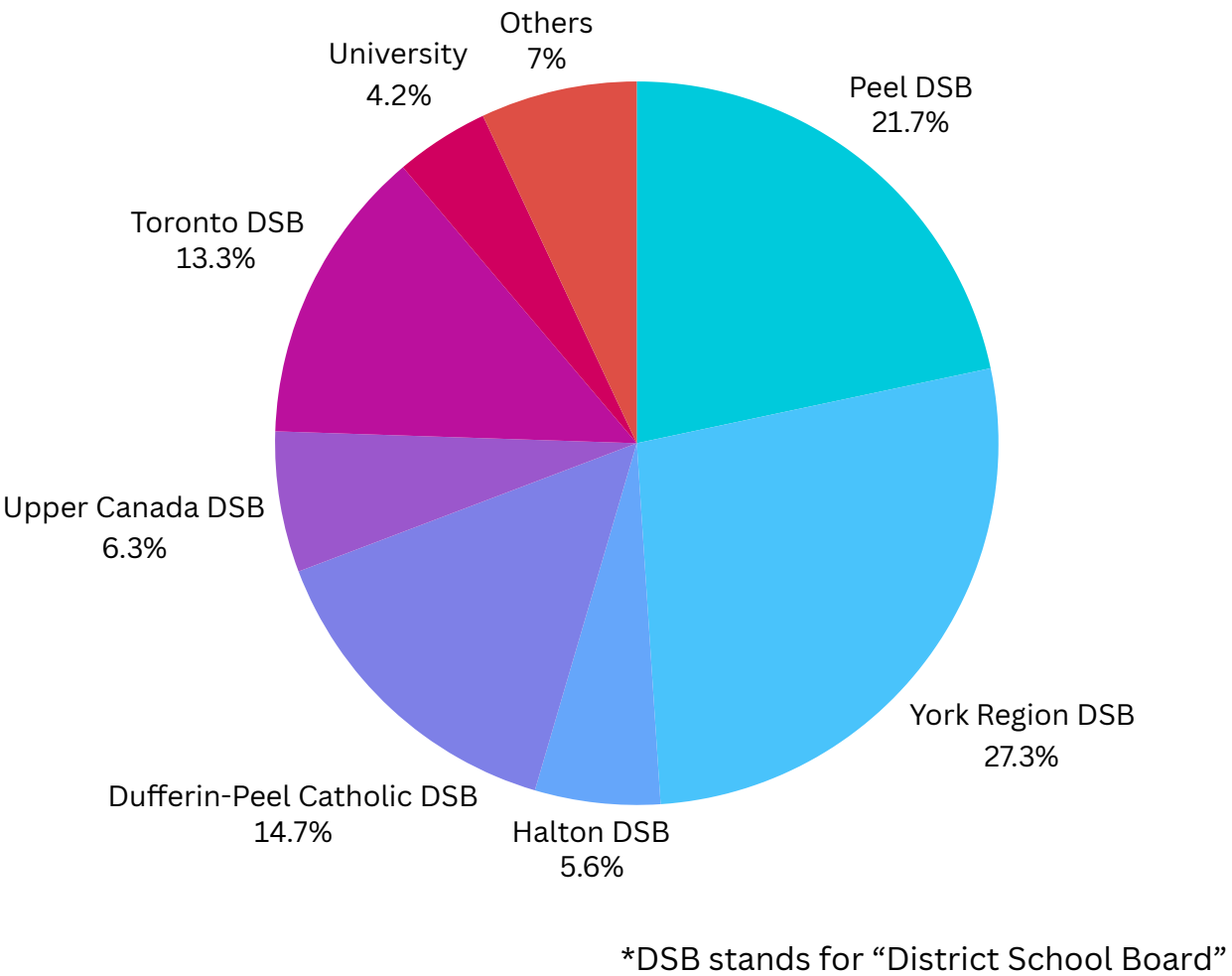


Figure 1. High schools categorized by school boards as a percentage of total schools involved in the Earth Day Competition.

Through the Earth Day Competition 2024, HNP Ontario managed to stretch its usual reach and engage with many schools and school boards for the very first time, including schools in Ajax, Muskoka, Iroquois, King City, St. Catherines and Kingston.

Impact: High Level Summary

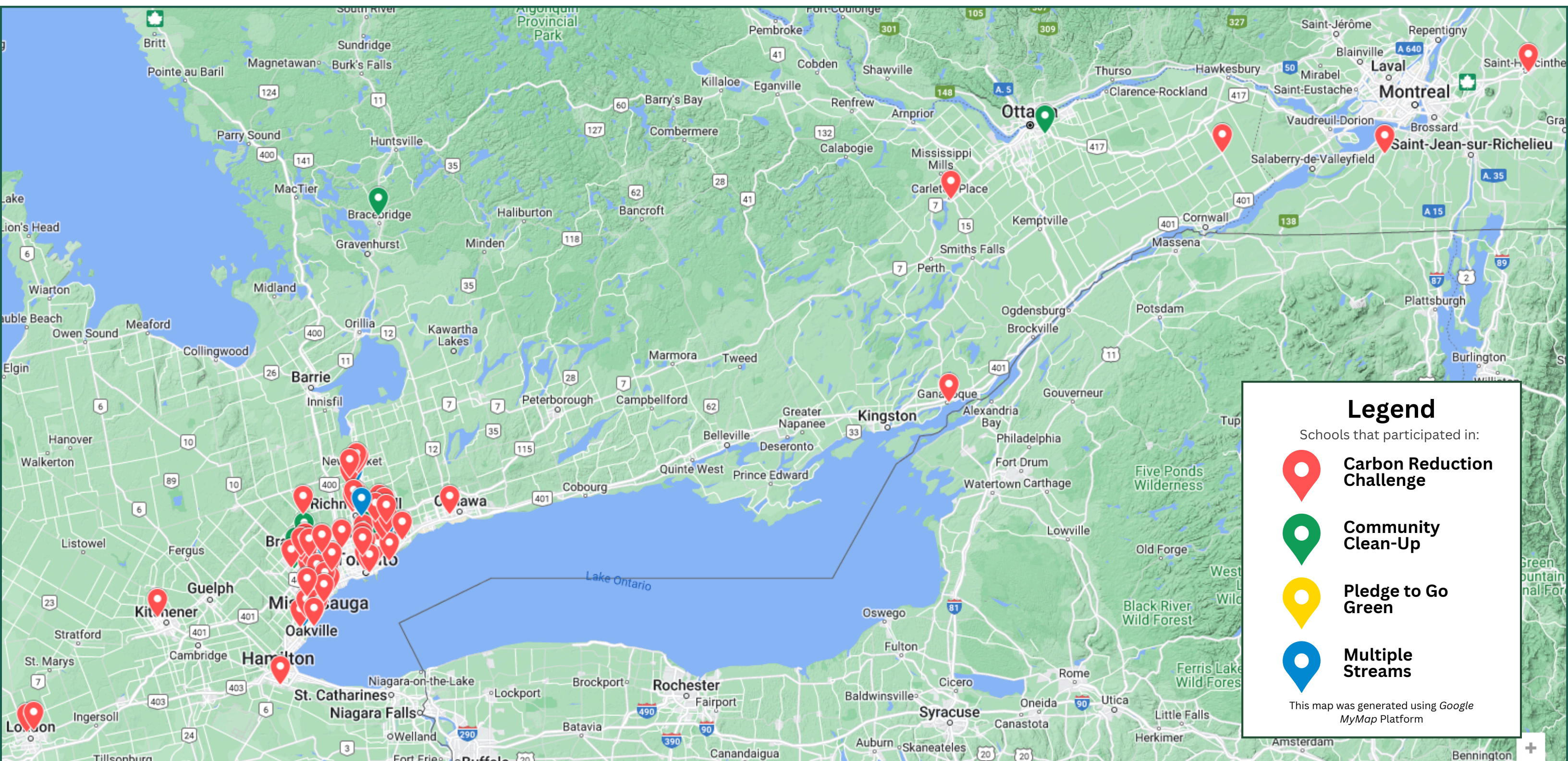
69
Different Schools Involved in Total

15
School Boards Reached in Total

3638+
Total Number of Students Engaged

620+
Total Hours Spent on the Competition

Impact: High Level Summary



Impact: School Features for Community Cleanup Stream

David Suzuki Secondary School

Attending David Suzuki Secondary School in the Peel District School Board, student leader Zainab Chishti, alongside 6-10 other students, competed in HNP Ontario’s Earth Day Competition as part of the community cleanup stream.

On Wednesday, April 24th 2024, Zainab and her team organized their clean-up with over 775 attendees, accounting for more than 15% of the school's student body. The cleanup lasted roughly 5+ hours and generated 70 full bags of trash, equivalent to over 50 pounds of garbage. These young environmental enthusiasts demonstrated their unwavering passion for making a tangible difference in their community.

To ensure that the cleanup would run smoothly, Zainab meticulously mapped out areas needing attention, coordinated with local authorities for waste disposal, and ensured all necessary supplies were available for cleanup day. Zainab and her team also organized educational sessions to raise awareness about the importance of maintaining a clean environment and motivated their peers to adopt sustainable practices. Their efforts extended beyond the mere clean-up; instead, instilling a sense of responsibility and environmental consciousness within their school community.

To advertise this event, Zainab used the school’s announcement system to share eco-themed fun facts with the student body. As well, to kick off the clean-up, a large calendar displaying the tentative schedule of the event and follow-up activities, such as eco trivia and a garbage sorting game, was used. This calendar served as a constant reminder to everyone about upcoming events.

According to Zainab, the Earth Day Competition was extremely eye-opening and informative. She states, “Due to the heaps of garbage we collected, I realized that we are getting quite careless in terms of disposing our garbage and just throw it on the side of the road which is very disappointing; therefore I learned that we shouldn't think in a ‘1 wrapper isn't going to kill the earth’ way but consider that there might be hundreds of others thinking the same while throwing it on the road.”

Through their dedication, Zainab and her team not only contributed to the immediate improvement of their surroundings by removing trash, but also planted seeds for continued and ongoing community engagement, as well as environmental stewardship.



Impact: School Features for Community Cleanup Stream

Abbey Park High School

Attending Abbey Park High School, student leaders Harshini Hariganesh and Emma Purdie, competed in the community cleanup stream of HNP Ontario’s Earth Day Competition. Harshini and Emma, along with 11-20 other students, organized a cleanup for over 350 students and faculty members at their school, accounting for more than 15% of the schools population.

Under the guidance of Emma and Harshini, their team identified key areas around the school that required attention, coordinated logistics and secured the necessary resources and permissions to run the event on Thursday, April 25th 2024. Harshini and Emma’s organization skills and their ability to inspire others were critical in mobilizing such a large group of participants.

The clean-up lasted approximately one hour and participants filled roughly 10 bags of garbage, equivalent to about 41-50 pounds of garbage collected. Harshini says that the main obstacle was getting younger grades to attend the clean-up. She believes the reason for this is because many of the teachers involved with supervision of the cleanup were upper-grade teachers, which allowed those teachers to bring their classes out to the cleanup.



To advertise the cleanup, Harshini and Emma made school announcements, sent out detailed information in the school’s weekly email to reach a wide audience, put up vibrant flyers to catch the eye of students and staff alike and also utilized various social media platforms.

Harshini says she learned more about the local community and is now more aware of garbage and litter within her school community moving forward. Additionally, according to Harshini, she is now more conscious of what she buys and how to prevent it from ending up as litter.

Harshini, Emma and their team’s unwavering commitment to the environment and her ability to lead and inspire her team have made a significant difference at Abbey Park High School. Her efforts not only resulted in a successful clean-up event but also instilled a sense of responsibility and environmental consciousness in the school's community.



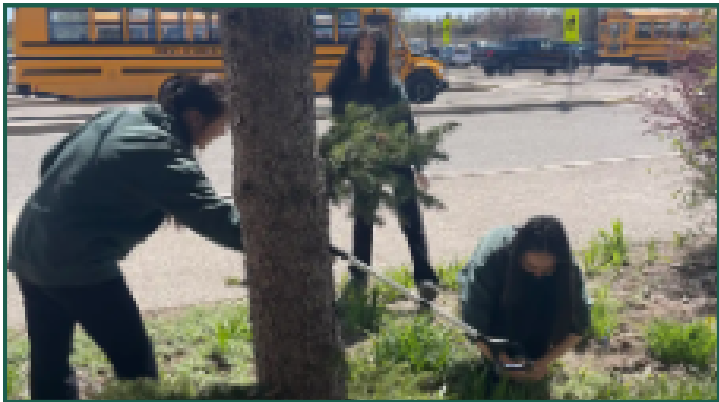
Impact: School Features for Community Cleanup Stream

St. Robert Catholic High School

From St. Robert, student leader Grace Luan, along with a small team, took part in HNP Ontario’s Earth Day Competition within the community cleanup stream. Grace's dedication to sustainability shone through her actions, as she understood that collective effort is key to environmental stewardship. By engaging the student body, Grace and her team made a substantial impact on the cleanliness and environmental responsibility of their school.

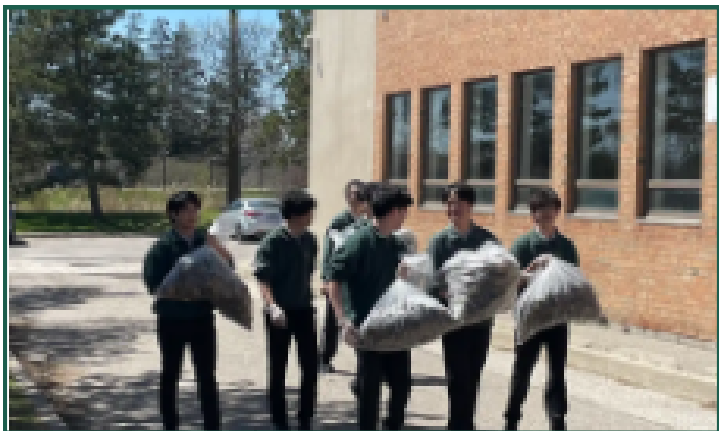
The cleanup took place on Thursday, April 25th 2024, and had over 100 participants in attendance, representing about 9-10% of the school's student body. Together, students from St. Robert Catholic High School collected over 16 full bags of garbage, weighing over 50 pounds.

Grace highlighted the challenge of encouraging participation and fostering gratitude for environmental sustainability among students. Despite this, the event served as an opportunity for education and inspiration and Grace was able to promote sustainable practices among her peers.



The success of the Earth Day Competition at St. Robert Catholic High School exemplified the influence of student leadership and community engagement. Grace's commitment to environmental stewardship set a precedent for future initiatives and inspired her peers to take action toward a more sustainable future.

According to Grace, she found satisfaction in the tangible impact of the competition, recognizing the significance of proper waste disposal practices in creating a cleaner environment. For her, the event symbolized a broader commitment to environmental stewardship and a better planet for future generations.



Impact: School Features for Community Cleanup Stream

Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School

From Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School, located in Durham District School Board, student leader Adsiya Gnaneswaran along with 1-5 other members of her school's environment committee participated in the Earth Day Competition as part of the community cleanup stream.

The cleanup took place on Monday, April 22nd 2024 and lasted approximately one hour and had over 240 participants. This accounted for more than 15% of the school's population. Together, Adsiya and her team collected over 48 bags of litter which is equivalent to over 200 pounds of garbage.

Adsiya recognizes that environmental stewardship starts with individual and collective efforts, and she strives to make a lasting impact within her school community. By participating in the Earth Day Competition, Adsiya and her team were able to engage a significant portion of the student body in activities that promote cleanliness and environmental responsibility.

When asked about challenges Adsiya faced, she states “Due to the amount of students [who attended], we almost ran low on materials. I think the most challenging part though was to get people to contribute, to encourage them to not walk around and talk but be grateful for the things we have and try to sustain in”.



Adsiya found immense satisfaction in the Earth Day Competition, particularly in its tangible impact on the environment. She appreciated how the event encouraged students to actively participate in cleaning up their surroundings, instilling a sense of responsibility for their actions. By collectively gathering and disposing of litter properly, Adsiya saw the competition as a meaningful step towards creating a cleaner, more sustainable planet. For her, the simple act of putting trash where it belongs symbolized a broader commitment to environmental stewardship and making the Earth a better place for future generations.

Adsiya’s story is a reminder that young people have the power to make significant changes in their communities. Her determination and proactive approach serve as an example for other students to follow. By taking small steps and working together, we can all contribute to a healthier planet.



Impact: School Features for Community Cleanup Stream

Bracebridge and Muskoka Lakes Secondary School

Student leader Kurumi Tajika, representing Bracebridge and Muskoka Lakes Secondary School in Trillium Lakelands District School Board, led their leadership class in organizing a community cleanup as part of HNP Ontario’s Earth Day Competition. With the help of 21-30 classmates, Kurumi embarked on a mission to raise environmental awareness within their school community.

The cleanup took place on Wednesday, April 24th 2024, with an impressive turnout of around 650 participants, accounting for more than 15% of the school's student body. Despite the scale of the event, it lasted just one hour, during which the team collected an astounding 16-20 full garbage bags, weighing over 50 pounds.

Reflecting on the experience, Kurumi shared her journey of discovering Earth Day upon arriving in Canada. Initially drawn to the competition through being a participant at one of HNP Ontario’s previous events, she saw this competition as an opportunity to explore her interest in environmental conservation and climate action.

However, Kurumi also encountered challenges in engaging students who were indifferent to environmental issues. Due to this reason, Kurumi and her team found it difficult to garner active participation from some students, despite her efforts in terms of advertising and reaching out to various school departments.



Despite the hurdles, Kurumi expressed her determination to continue her environmental advocacy journey. She plans to pursue studies in eco-friendly technology at the university-level, leveraging the confidence and social skills gained through this experience for this next adventure of her life. Kurumi hopes to utilize her newfound sociability and executive skills to engage in research and discussions with researchers worldwide.

Kurumi acknowledged the struggle to find cooperative individuals, noting the lack of receptiveness among peers. Nevertheless, she remained optimistic about the competition's impact and expressed her appreciation for HNP Ontario. She encouraged the continuation of Earth Day Competition in subsequent years, hoping to see its growth and increased participation in the future.

Impact: School Features for Community Cleanup Stream

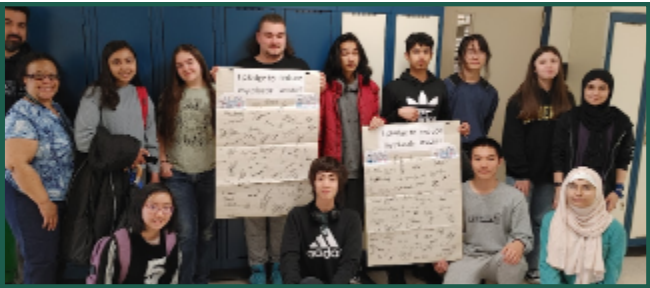
Erindale Secondary School

From Erindale Secondary School, student leader Ahmad Hassam participated in a community cleanup as part of HNP Ontario’s Earth Day Competition. Passionate for environmental advocacy and community engagement work, Ahmad, along with two other head teachers led the Erindale Secondary School Eco-club, which currently comprises 6-10 members to organize this cleanup.

In preparation for the event, Ahmad Hassam connected with the students from the environmental science course at Erindale Secondary school and put up flyers in various classrooms. Their team’s goal was to encourage the maximum number of people to lend a hand in this amazing cause. Ahmad saw the most interest in the cleanup from freshmen and sophomores as they were intrigued with the idea of this physical work and many were in need of volunteer hours. He believes that many juniors and seniors opted out of the event as they were busy with schoolwork.

The cleanup took place on Monday, April 22nd 2024, which had over 21 people in attendance, accounting for about 3-5% of the school population. In total, Ahmad and his team were able to collect 6-8 full bags of garbage, weighing over 50 pounds.

According to Ahmad, his biggest challenge in the Earth Day Competition was the timing as his team was not able to pick up as much garbage as they would have liked. He states, “I wanted everyone to stay longer so that we can collect more trash because if we have ~ 30 volunteers helping out, we should clean and gather up as much garbage we can to save our planet.”



Ahmad spoke of being very inspired from the group of individuals he managed as they all strove to create a positive change in the world for themselves as well as future generations to come. It is safe to say that Ahmad is nothing but proud of the team he led and the community he created within his school. He mentions, “The passion and enthusiasm that I see in some members of my Eco Club are fascinating; they are dedicated, committed, and devoted to this cause and they will do anything to push their limits for all to benefit from”.

Ahmad intends to utilize the collaboration tactics that he has learned from this experience leading the community clean up in order to inspire even more people to fight for a greener future. Furthermore, Ahmad wants to work on ensuring all voices and diverse opinions in his group are heard, and he strives towards creating an environment where each individual can feel the impact of their own voice.



Impact: School Features for Community Cleanup Stream

Canterbury High School

From Caterbury High School, Alexander Pui-Li Gaudet led a community cleanup as part of HNP Ontario’s Earth Day Competition. Committed to making a change, Alexander connected with his group of 5 friends to organize and lead a community cleanup at their school.

In order to get his school engaged, Alexander put up posters around the building, and then turned to social media to spread the word about this event to encourage others to sign up. He speaks on the challenges he faced when trying to foster enthusiasm for the clean up.

Alexander and the team struggled to achieve school wide attention as they did not have access to the school’s PA system which was down at the time of their advertising. He states, “Honestly, the biggest challenge was getting students engaged with the challenge. Almost everyone I talked to for help flat out rejected the idea and without having a PA system to reach out to students, it was difficult to get attention.”

The cleanup took place on Monday, April 22nd 2024, and had ten individuals in attendance ready to pick up garbage and clean the school community. This totaled to around 1-2% of the school’s student body.

Alexander’s team volunteered their time towards a common goal and had collected approximately 6-8 bags of garbage within one hour. In total, they picked up approximately 41-50 pounds of garbage, taking a progressive step in fighting for this important cause.

According to Alexander, he learned how to lead and be responsible for certain tasks through this experience as part of the Earth Day Competition. Alexander also learned the importance of empowering his team by delegating tasks to them. As a whole, Alexander believes the team learned how to work together towards a common cause and make time towards creating a difference in the world.

Moving forward, Alexander says that he is much more conscious of the amount of waste and litter that he sees in public and states, “The challenge made me think more about consumption and the wildlife/environment that can be affected”.



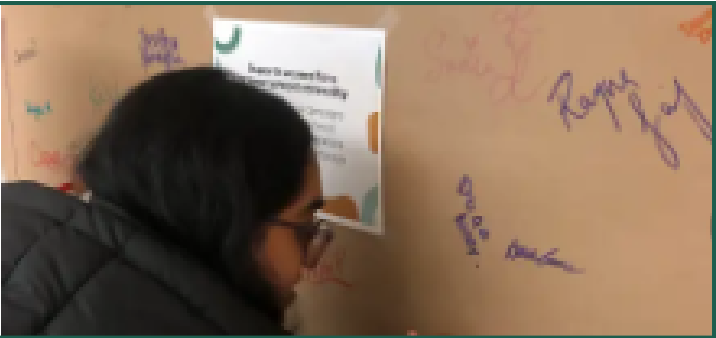
Impact: School Features for Pledge to Go Green Stream

Agincourt Collegiate Institute

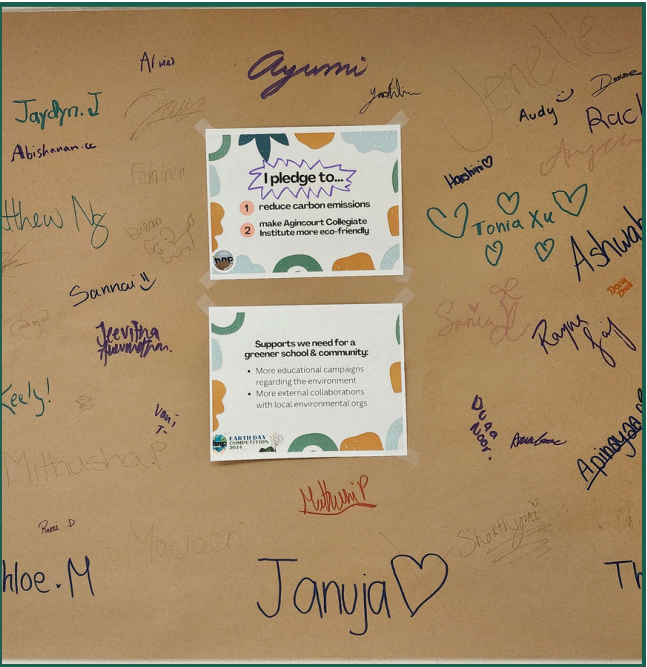
From Toronto District School Board, student leader Audy Noor, who attends Agincourt Collegiate Institute, along with her school’s environmental committee of around 5 passionate students competed in the Pledge to Go Green stream of HNP Ontario’s Earth Day Competition. In total, Audy and her team collected around 51-100 signatures from their school’s student body.

Audy states that the main focus of the pledge was to raise awareness for more educational campaigns about the environment and increase collaboration with local environmental organizations, expanding their social network. They were able to successfully encourage fellow students to reduce their carbon emissions by using other methods of transportation than cars, which was certainly a major challenge to tackle!

A week prior to the competition week, the Agincourt Environmental Council (AEC) media representatives created a graphic to promote their participation in the competition as well as details on how students can help. These graphics were promoted through social media (Instagram) and successfully reached several students who showed up during the week to sign the banner and take the pledge. The graphic entailed information about environmental actions the AEC believed the school needed to take to become more eco-friendly.



Audy mentions that as people visited the banner signing booth, the representatives from the AEC informed students and thanked them for supporting the cause. All of these efforts helped to engage more students as they drew a crowd around the banner with students who were interested in taking the pledge, or at least curious about the cause that the AEC was advocating for. In short, the Earth Day Competition taught Audy and her team the power of collective action and just how many students care about tackling the climate crisis, one pledge at a time.



Impact: School Features for Pledge to Go Green Stream

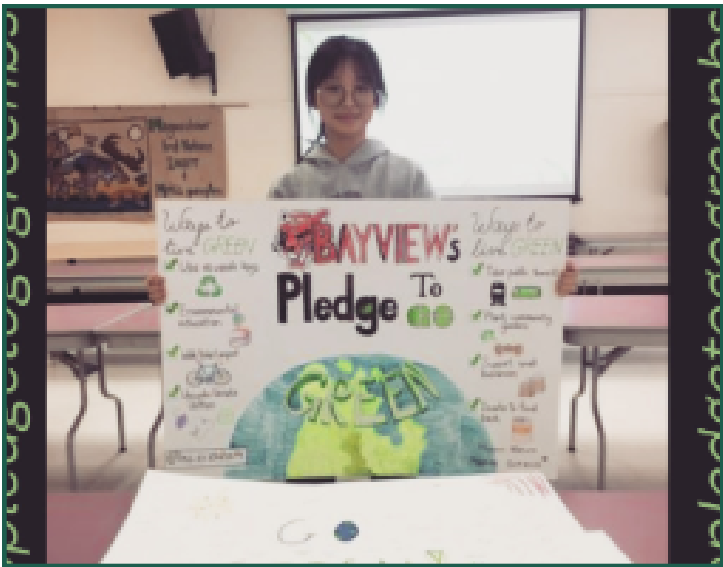
Bayview Secondary School

From York Region District School Board, student leader Jasmine Su, who currently attends Bayview Secondary School, led an environmental committee of 6-10 students to participate in the Pledge to Go Green Challenge as part of HNP Ontario’s Earth Day Competition.

In total, Jasmine and her team collected around 301-500 signatures where students pledged to make their high school more eco-friendly by individually reducing each of their carbon footprint. The number of signatures Jasmine and her team collected represented more than 10% of their school’s population.

According to Jasmine, she was encouraged to raise awareness about carbon emissions by connecting with like-minded individuals through this competition. She additionally mentions that this competition inspired her to take action and have the courage to reach out to many people.

To successfully participate in the Pledge to Go Green stream, Jasmine created a visually appealing board containing all the ways to live greener. This board was effective as it caught the eye of many students and made them eager to join. Jasmine and her team also had two boards for signatures so that their team members could efficiently gain signatures from two places at once.



Furthermore, Jasmine’s team made many Instagram posts and kept the engagement going online from the Instagram account of their school’s Eco-club. Another way they obtained so many signatures was by setting up a raffle system in which they gave out prizes so that each person who signs has the chance to win.

Other members of her team say that they enjoyed participating in this competition and were proud of their achievements. Meala Sang, another member of Jasmine’s team, mentioned that it was an amazing experience and that she was happy to see all the people willing to make a change. Overall, the Earth Day Competition inspired Jasmine and her team to continue making an impact at their school.

Student Testimonials: Community Cleanup Stream



Adsiya Gnaneswaran
(1st Place Winner)

“I strive to make an impact for the community to create a more sustainable and livable environment for the future. [...] By taking the initiative to contribute to events like this, our path to a greener future becomes more clear.”

240+ students involved

Over 15% of the student body involved

200 pounds of garbage collected



Zainab Chishti
(2nd Place Winner)

“Together with my friends, I competed in the Earth Day Competition in the Community Clean-up Stream. We used this opportunity to spread awareness regarding the importance of environmental responsibility by organizing a clean-up, eco trivia and garbage sorting game. [...] It felt meaningful to have people driven by a common goal and making a difference in the school community; I look forward to doing this again.”

770+ students involved

50% of the student body involved

50+ pounds of garbage collected

Student Testimonials: Community Cleanup Stream



Kurumi Tajika
(3rd Place Winner)

“I challenged myself to do something in a different country. I'm proud that I was able to contribute in some small way to change the way [other students] think about the environment.”

600+ students involved

Over 15% of the student body involved

50+ pounds of garbage collected



Ahmad Hassam

“My experience with the Earth Day Competition and clean-up was joy and excitement! I loved the challenge it brought forth for me, especially since I led my Eco Council for the first time! Being involved in the Earth Day Competition was a transformative experience. It was not just about who could collect the most trash in a given period; it was about taking responsibility in our communities for the environment and inspiring others to do the same.”

21-35 students involved

3-5% of the student body involved

50+ pounds of garbage collected

Student Testimonials: Community Cleanup Stream



Harshini Hariganesh

“We found [the Earth Day Competition] engaged a large part of our school community and brought our council together to clean up the local area. It was a very rewarding experience that we were able to share not only within our council but also the larger student body and staff!”

350+ students involved

15%+ of the student body involved

41-50 pounds of garbage collected



Alexander Pui-Li Gaudet

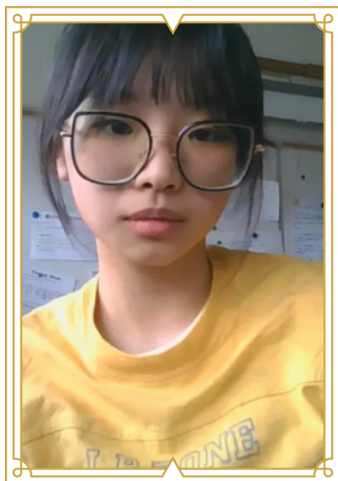
“We participated in the community clean-up, which consisted of picking up litter across the school ground. We were very grateful to have gotten an opportunity to connect with schools around Ontario in helping our environment!”

1-10 students involved

1-2% of the student body involved

41-50 pounds of garbage collected

Student Testimonials: Pledge To Go Green Stream



Jasmine Su
(1st Place Winner)

“My team and I participated in the Pledge to Go Green stream of the EDC and it was an amazing experience. It was super fun getting this chance to go out and get people of all grades to sign our boards while conversing about many environmental concerns.”

300+ Signatures

Over 10% of the student body involved



Audy Noor
(2nd Place Winner)

“My eco team and I hosted a banner signing booth where we collected over 50 signatures from students who were eager to pledge to reduce their carbon emissions. We also had many more students stop by to learn about our cause. Overall, participating in this activity allowed us as a student council to learn about the power of collective action in addressing the climate crisis.”

50-100 Signatures

1-2% of the student body involved

Student Testimonials: Carbon Reduction Challenge Stream



Scythe Jayamohanaraja
(1st Place Winner)

“I greatly enjoyed participating and working with both HNP as well as Commit2Act in the fight against climate change. HNP created a welcoming and informative space throughout my experience in the Earth Day competition 2024 and I plan to continue to work with HNP in the future.”

29119.54 kg of Total CO2 Saved



Vraj Shah
(2nd Place Winner)

“I participated in the Earth Day Competition 2024, where I competed for HNP Ontario contributing my efforts through planting trees! My experience in the competition was incredibly rewarding as it allowed me to explore innovative ways to harness renewable energy and contribute to a sustainable future.”

28396.93 kg of Total CO2 Saved

Student Testimonials: Carbon Reduction Challenge Stream



Adil Mukhi
(3rd Place Winner)

“During the Carbon Reduction Challenge, I had the chance to go outside and plant trees with my friends, something I usually don't get to do. This experience not only made me more aware of my impact on the environment but also inspired me to continue taking actions that contribute to a sustainable future. I’m proud to have been part of a project that makes a real difference.”

20356.55 kg of Total CO2 Saved



Kesika Anushalingam
(4th Place Winner)

“I participated in the Earth Day Competition 2024 and took on the carbon reduction challenge. During the challenge I reflected on my ongoing habits to help the Earth and explored new ways to make a positive impact. This challenge made me rethink my daily habits and had made me motivated to further improve my environmental practices.”

19353.33 kg of Total CO2 Saved

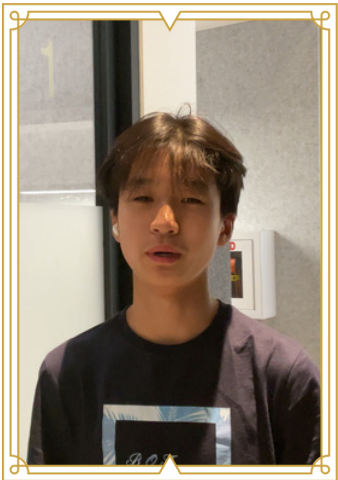
Student Testimonials: Carbon Reduction Challenge Stream



Fraser Roberts

“I participated in the carbon reduction challenge. Throughout this challenge, I learnt about the value that the "small" things have on my carbon footprint and that in reality, no impact is too small. For example, seeing the impact that a simple act like taking the bus had was eye-opening. When it comes to the climate crisis, it's easy to sometimes feel lost and powerless, but the challenge helped me understand that every little piece counts.”

3799.42 kg of Total CO2 Saved



Jason Lee

“While I [have] always been trying to reduce my carbon footprint, I had zero motivation as I thought it would make no significant impact as a single individual. However, this carbon reduction challenge had provided me with consciousness on how much carbon I am releasing from my daily actions. Seeing multiple people and students on the [commit2act] website, actively committing to reduce their carbon footprints has motivated me enough to take action; leading me to log my daily activities that potentially reduce carbon emissions.”

3154.89 kg of Total CO2 Saved

References

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). (2023). Global greenhouse gas emissions. *Government of Canada*.
<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-indicators/global-greenhouse-gas-emissions.html>

Jacobs, T. P., Gottschalk, L. L., Dandignac, M., & McConnell, A. R. (2021). Making Pledges More Powerful: Effects on Pro-Environmental Beliefs and Conservation Behavior. *Sustainability*, 13(17), 9894.
<https://doi.org/10.3390/su13179894>

Telzer, E. H., van Hoorn, J., Rogers, C. R., & Do, K. T. (2018). Social influence on Positive Youth Development: A developmental neuroscience perspective. *Advances in child development and behavior*, 54, 215–258. <https://doi.org/10.1016/bs.acdb.2017.10.003>

Acknowledgements

Our team at HNP Ontario would like to say a huge thank you to our community engagement and outreach teams for organizing and hosting Earth Day Competition 2024. Specifically, our team would like to thank Manaya Kohli, Nethuki Wickramasuriya, Bernice Lam, Rimal Kaur Mangat, Megan Chui, Mileina Angelo, June Yang, Ian Kim, and Muhammad Ansar for their oversight on this event.

This report was designed and written by Allyson Luong, Jasmine Su, Srija Das, and Muhammad Ansar. Additional writers include: Manaya Kohli, Nethuki Wickramasuriya, Bernice Lam, Rimal Kaur Mangat, Mileina Angelo, Ian Kim, and June Yang.

Additionally, our team would like to say a huge thank you to the editors of this report which include: Isabella Soto Sagalchik, Jasmine Su, Fraser Roberts, Natalie Sienkiewicz, Rimal Kaur Mangat, Manaya Kohli, Nethuki Wickramasuriya, Bernice Lam, Allyson Luong, June Yang, Ian Kim, Srija Das, Sierra Yoo, Kiyan Sajadi, and Muhammad Ansar.

Our team would also like to thank Ian Kim, June Yang, Sierra Yoo, Kiyan Sajadi, Srija Das, and Muhammad Ansar for providing strategic guidance and oversight on this report.

Our team would also like to thank all students who participated in HNP Ontario’s Earth Day Competition 2024. As well, we would like to thank all student leaders who provided us with headshots, biographies, and testimonials to include in this report with parental consent.

Lastly, our team would like to thank TakingITGlobal for their support and guidance with the Commit2Act platform and the Green My Classroom Grants. As well, we would like to thank TakingITGlobal for partnering with HNP Ontario on this event and funding it.