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Greener is Cleaner's mission is to prompt our community to develop keen minds that consider the environment and our future before anything else by basing their choices on the UN SDGs...

#UNSDGwarriors

Greener is Cleaner (GIC) promotes the UN Sustainable Development Goals with a sustainable plan. Our plan is sustainable because it always has alternatives and troubleshooting's. We fight for multiple global goals- even those that are not one of the goals on the left. We proudly call ourselves "UN SDG warriors" because we have fully absorbed the value of the goals and fight like warriors to achieve the ultimate common goal of the our future. We come up with innovative and SMART actions; we take risks to explore possibilities; we communicate and voice ourselves in public; we share the love and our passion to the world.

We are Greener is Cleaner, the UN SDG warriors.

Greener is Cleaner as a whole has long observed and identified the roots of the issue, climate change, and waste. These roots were carelessness and an extreme bond to plastic's convenience, as many of our community members neglect where their trash goes and only lean to things that bring comfort. For example, students and staff at school constantly threw food waste in the plastic bin, interrupting the whole recycling process.

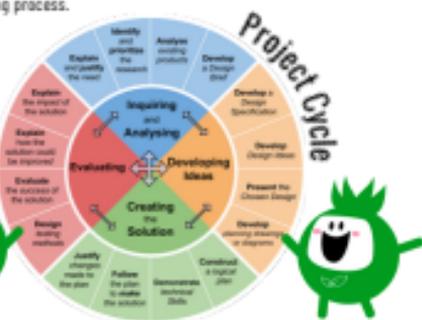
We live in the largest consumer of plastics (according to Greenpeace Plastic Report, December 2019). We all love nature, but it seemed like people in our community regard plastic litter as a picayune matter.



- The main UN SDGs that GIC fights for -

Awards/Recognitions:

- 2 Ambassador's Awards
- 2 Congressman Awards
- CIMS Core Value Award
- WWF Award
- Climate Research Award
- President of K-water Award
- Young Reporters for the Environment Excellence Award
- Technology Gyeonggi-do Education Award
- Ministry of Environment
- East Asian-Australian Flyway Partnership (EAAPP)
- Greenpeace Korea
- UNESCO, UNEP, UNWTO
- Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE)
- Eco-Schools certification
- Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification
- Hero Youngster Magazine
- WORLD issues Vol. 1, 2



OUR MAIN PROFILE:



Cherry Sung
 management
 activity coordinator



Bella McGrath
 public relations
 management



Danny Ok
 graphic designing

Testimonials:

"Through Greener is Cleaner, I learned that a small action that I was a part of could have such a big impact. GIC helped me learn how I can live a more sustainable lifestyle and realize how much plastic and paper I used in my daily life."
 Bella McGrath
 [Grade 7 student]

"They are very vocal and positive about the changes that we can make especially around moving away from single-use plastics and continuously gathering information about how our school can move towards a more sustainable, no-plastic future."
 Julie MacDonald
 [Biology Teacher]

Involvement

- 60+ students at the school climate strike
- 300+ people at the zero-plastic picnic event
- 130+ students signed onto the plastic-ban petition
- 2000+ students, parents, teachers, and faculty on Walk and Roll Day
- Greenpeace Korea on zero-picnic plastic event
- Incheon Free Economic Zone (IFEZ) on Walk and Roll Day
- Terracycle Korea on toothbrush upcycling campaign
- Maeil Dairies Company on plastic-free straw development
- DREAM organization on 3 straws : 1 book collaboration
- 3000+ hours as a team
- 1000+ hours as an individual



Impact

- paper posters -> digital signage
- plastic umbrella bags -> umbrella drivers
- plastic lunch boxes -> bento boxes
- disposable plastic cups -> biodegradable cups
- 6500+ citizens of Seoul
- 1300 students, 200 faculty, and 2500 parents of Chadwick International
- 37 elderly in the nursing home at Pohang, South Korea
- took 400+ carbon-emitting vehicles off the road throughout the 4 Walk and Roll Day's held
- saved 247.2 bottles every school day
- reduced 101 plastic cups every school day

Taking action leaves huge impact on the purpose itself, but it also offers a feeling of fulfillment from serving others, the excitement, and yourself. Just like we learned a lot about ourselves through our journey, people would be able to develop their keen minds and become exemplary characters.

You can lead by example and empower youth.
Everyone has the potential.



Setbacks

Looking back at our project planning document, we reflected on the risks we expected to face. Luckily, we overcame student body's bond with plastics, school's opposition to huge initiatives with plastic-ban, or large corporations refusing our appeals. Instead, what we struggled with was the unexpected outbreak of COVID-19, a serious pandemic. Due to this unexpected occurrence, we weren't able to carry out any actions that required human interaction. This list includes education at other schools, rallies, and further projects at school such as establishing the composting program, donating recycled-paper books to kindergarteners for doodling, opening a UN SDG exhibition, and making outdoor education more sustainable.

Another great challenge was lack of productivity and time of our members. There is a Korean academic culture in which causes most students to attend numerous academies and have tutors. One of our sub-members had a tutor until 2 am in the morning. Under these strict lifestyles, many students prioritized their academics before activities in Greener is Cleaner. In addition, the coronavirus caused all members to be separated.

In response to these challenges, I dismissed the suppressive people from the team and reached out to the remaining members to discuss what we can do individually during such an uncertain time. Some potential ideas were creating informative digital posters, doing city clean-ups, constantly writing articles about current news in relation to plastics, climate change, and sustainability, and doing challenges in our Youtube channel for the public to watch. We changed weekly 1-hour meetings at school into weekly 1-hour online meetings and started looking at other global goals to support. For example, we promoted UN SDG #3 by sending a package of hand sanitizers, masks, and snacks to a nursing home, worked for UN SDG #4 by publishing articles in 2 WORLD issue magazines about Nepalese education, advocated for UN SDG #11 by proposing a sustainable post-use renovation of the Olympic Plaza in Pyeongchang, South Korea, and planting flower seeds in places we picked trash from, and promoted UN SDG #14 by creating an award-winning video about the value of water and humans' responsibility to preserve its sanitation for the creatures underwater.

This way, Greener is Cleaner stood strong amidst the setbacks. We gained life-long invaluable skills such as communication, cooperation, and critical thinking, thus we are now more equipped to take new opportunities.

Gains

- funds: 567,330W (won)
- writing formal letters
- open-mindedness
- public speaking
- determination
- cooperation
- confidence
- leadership
- creativity
- patience

By cooperating with people we wouldn't usually work together with, we discovered our strengths and weaknesses.

By working towards a shared purpose, we strengthened our sense of responsibility, the pursuit of passion, authenticity, talents, and enjoyment of the journey.

By working on projects targeting the UN SDGs #11, 12, 13, 15, and 17, all respectively, we developed a much deeper understanding of climate change.



Highlights

- led 60+ Chadwick International students to the climate strike reinforced recycling in our city's apartment (8500+ citizens)
- cooperated with Greenpeace Korea and Terracycle in plastic-free/ upcycling campaigns
- was exposed to mass media including BBC front page, Korea's 3rd largest newspaper, and more
- communicated with large businesses such as Target, Nestlé, C.J. DORHOME, and Maeil Dairies Company
- imparted our voice in a UN Climate Change Conference garnered 130 signatures for the school plastic-ban petition
- sent a package of masks, hand sanitizers, and snacks to a nursing home during the COVID-19 outbreak
- added UN SDGs into the school's curriculum from Ppy-K replaced the school's plastic-using tools into eco-friendly ones

BECAUSE IN THE END, WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER.