



ECOいいこ

Team members:

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OUR AIM, TOPIC & ISSUE



The issue we have been tackling is plastic pollution. We believe that this is one of the biggest environmental issue that had to be taken care of immediately, as it affects not only the environment, but also wildlife and even the human population. Some serious effects include food chain disturbance, animals poisoned due to plastic ingestion, and land and air pollution due to the release of chemicals when burnt. Although plastic is a very convenient and functional material, it is made from harmful compounds and is not biodegradable. Additionally, Japan along with the United States, abstained from signing the “Ocean Plastic Charter” a pact, endorsed at the G7 summit held in June, 2018 which showed us how Japan does not find this issue as a priority. Therefore, our team desperately wanted to spread the importance of contributing in taking care of the plastic waste.

We also hoped to inspire more people to use our ECOいいこ bags or reusable bags instead of using single-use plastic bags, as well as encourage others to open their minds in not only plastic pollution, but also in other environmental issues.



WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING AND WHAT WE WERE GOING TO DO

We have done team meetings with teachers. Since we are in a dual-track school of Japan and British Columbia, we had to communicate with people from both sides of the school. We thought about how to spread our project and we introduced our project to all of the students at the school assembly. We came up with an idea which is to create an original eco bag out of used plastic bags. Japanese people are using too much plastic and it is directly affecting on the environment.

By doing this we can tell people the importance of carrying their own bags instead of receiving new plastic bags.

HOW WE MADE OUR IDEAS INTO A REALITY

We created an Instagram account to share pictures and videos since we wanted to raise people’s awareness about the environmental issue. We also posted some photos and videos to introduce our projects and what we are actually working on.



HIGHLIGHT

Highlight from our projects is having a workshop twice at school and making eco bags out of used plastic bags. Before we started, we announced to all the students that they need to bring as many plastic bags as they can.



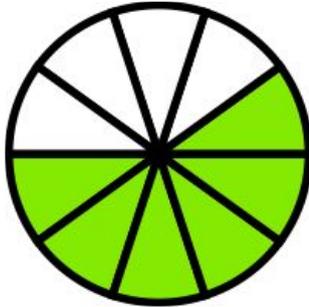
KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS WE GAINED

Communication Skills - We have gained communication skills from negotiating with teachers when we need permission for holding our workshops at school or posting pictures on our Social media account.

Leaderships - It was also very important to lead the people at the workshop and being responsible for our project.

Presentation Skills - By having presentations, we could clearly present about our topic so that the audience understands.

Craftsman Ships - We made many creative products for workshops and content for social media.



OUTCOME AND IMPACT

This graph on the left represents the ratio of students to teachers of both workshops. 36% were teachers, and 64% of the 105 people were students.

Green: Students (36%)

White: Teachers (64%)

Although it is hard to determine the impact, 47 people at the first, and 58 people at the second workshop joined. Which in total were 105 people who we were able to relay our team's message and influence in to contribute to the issue. From this, we were able to calculate that an average of 420 single-used plastic bags were upcycled. Through this activity, we were also given a lot of positive feedback. The majority of those who joined, found the process very easy to follow which only takes " a couple of plastic bags, an iron, and a little imagination". Some teachers also pointed out that it "would be in a landfill somewhere if not for this workshop".

Some students and teachers also began to help the environment in their own ways like our math teacher who recently bought a biodegradable iphone case.



OUR SUCCESS AND FAILURES

Having workshops was a great way to catch people's attention. There were people who told us that they loved the workshop and would love to join in if there will be another one. Although it was successful to spread our message of this problem to some people, we acknowledge that those people are from similar environment to us. We need to find a way to encourage students from other courses and school years. Our next step was to extend our field of activity to outside of the school. We were planning to have another workshop for elementary school students in the community. However, because of COVID-19, it became difficult to follow our original plan. Since then, we started to place more emphasis on our social media account. We recorded two videos explaining our project and shared pictures that is meaningful to us on our Instagram. We gained a lot of attention of people from outside of the school when we shared a picture of trash can that was full of different kinds of garbage in the school cafeteria.

