



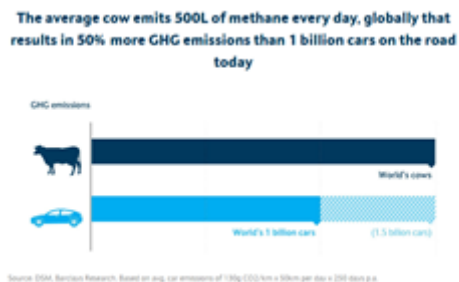
## GREEN CASTLE: WORKING TOWARDS A FUTURE WITH “ZERO” CO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS

*“There is only one good, knowledge, and one evil, ignorance” – Socrates.*

Green Castle is a group of students attending SEK el Castillo, who aim to eradicate the ignorance about climate change. Although there is a growing consciousness about its problems, not everyone takes it seriously or believes that they can make a difference. Our aim is to raise awareness in the school about the urgency of reducing our carbon impact as according to Nasa, it may not take long for the problems caused by climate change to be irreversible. That is why we, Green Castle, have become “the preachers of the ecologic spirit” (as named by the students) and have tried hard to fulfill and implement the UN sustainable developments into our school’s daily life.

Our measurement for success has been an ambiguous goal. For us, and the school community, it has been to reduce the wastage and raise more awareness in the everyday changes someone can make. Currently, we have addressed the sustainable goal of providing clean water, accessible sanitation, affordable clean energy, responsible consumption and climate action. To achieve our first two goals, we collaborated with a local NGO, ‘Energías sin Fronteras’, and NGO with an aim of providing affordable clean energy and water to sanitation to countries in Africa, South America and Spain. This was done by formatting a donation stand, allowing students to donate 1 euro and in exchange, allowing them to bring their normal clothes to school. The money which was collected, nearly 200 euros, went to a project in Kara, Togo, where it will be used to implement solar energy and allow electrical access to the community

To address the goal of responsible consumption, we held a day, called Green day in which a vegetarian menu was served. Our aim was to raise awareness throughout the school about the amount of resources used to produce meat, and the harmful amount of Co<sub>2</sub> which is produced. With the ‘casual wear’ day, we also were able to demonstrate the harmful effects of the overproduction of jeans, a commonly owned garment that can use up to 2,600 gallons of water per pair and Co<sub>2</sub> emissions comparable with driving 100 miles, by challenging students to find another fabric to wear.



Our first major experience was the process of forming the group and respecting each other's ideas to create an enjoyable work environment, mainly through the process of creating these events. Through our collaboration, we were able to design a logo to promote our campaign Green Castle. Here, the group developed their communication and collaboration skills, to convince one another about their ideas while incorporating some new ones. By gathering the group and allowing everyone to express their ideas, we were able to come to a consensus where the logos for our group were formed. By using this strategy, we were also able to make note of those whose ideas weren't heard as well, and allowing their opinions to carry more influence in the next project.

The next experience that is worth remarking was the Green day we organized. Before this, we decided to introduce ourselves to the school community in two ways, through technology or

physically. These two ways allowed us to show our analytical skills for the ages between 13-18, as most students have some form of social media, the most common one, being instagram. To be able to reach them, we created our own account, @greencastle.project, where we post the updates of our planned events and posters with information. We created presentations for primary kids to introduce our project.

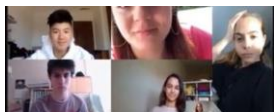
On Green day, February 14<sup>th</sup>, we found it incredibly hard to organize everything as we wanted to have a vegetarian menu, as well as collecting the money to donate to “Energías sin Fronteras.” This required the food manager to change the menu to something the school accepted, which wasn’t a simple task. Our collaboration and organization skills allowed us to split the tasks more evenly, making them successful. We managed to achieve all of our goals, creating a vegetarian menu and raising awareness about the environmental disasters happening and how simple everyday things, such as the clothes you buy, can affect how well we help our environment. A majority of the students didn’t bring jeans that day, therefore we were able to show that they were highly pollutant and the amount we collected allowed us to rethink our marketing strategies.

For our next project, we plan to do a video only focusing on how people can donate money for Energias sin Fronteras’s cause and why it would be beneficial, to allow a closer relationship between the school community and the NGO. To make sure that this project goes better than our first one, we made a survey to find out the weakest points. The link of the results of the survey has been sent to the following email: [social.leaders@future-foundations.co.uk](mailto:social.leaders@future-foundations.co.uk).

Soon after receiving our feedback, an art competition was prepared to engage the students physically in environmental activities, more information can be provided in this link: <https://paulamingo8.wixsite.com/misitio>

Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 outbreak, we weren’t able to follow through in our art competition plans. As a solution, allowing people to still be interested in the activity, we created a web-page in hopes that the students will embrace the activity with more illusion when we implement it in the future. By promoting teamwork, art, critical thinking and creativity, we made the project more appealing to the students so many would look forward to doing it rather than seeing it as another school task.

In conclusion, these activities have proven that our team has made a great effort to combat the ignorance of climate change. We’ve taken initiative into making the school and it’s community more ‘green’ and have done so in a way which is engaging and interesting. Although there are areas of improvement, we have made a good start into transforming our school to a sustainable environment, with plans of installing solar panels and creating a school orchard.



**Sincerely, Green Castle Team**