



# The Green Sages!! – Written Report



By Archita, Saanvi, Sara

## Introducing Us

Green  
Sages!!

The Green  
Sages!! Logo

The Green Sages!! is small in size with merely 3 members, but we are definitely not small in passion or power. Our aim is to raise awareness about environmental problems and increase greenery in our school community. By increasing greenery, CO<sub>2</sub> levels in the atmosphere can be reduced as plants will absorb CO<sub>2</sub> as a reactant for photosynthesis. Additionally, we aim to grow our own vegetables to create a self-sustaining garden. By using these self-sustaining vegetables in school meals from our own source rather than purchasing vegetables from abroad, we can reduce our food miles and contribute to lowering the school's ecological footprint.

## Our Ideas and Goals

13 CLIMATE ACTION



15 LIFE ON LAND



The Green Sages!! Help achieve the following SDGs goals: #13 Climate Action and #15 Life on Land. Goal #13 is applicable because we are explicitly focusing on climate action and trying to resolve the negative impact climate change has on our lives. Likewise, life #15 is applicable because we will increase the biodiversity and greenery in the area. We will ensure to protect and create this garden space using sustainable methods, such as natural fertilizer and pesticides so it won't harm organisms in the local food chain.

## Our Project- "Go Green"

### Part 1: The Green Drive

In March this year, The Green Sages!! organized and hosted The Green Drive, which was a donation drive giving students in our school the opportunity to donate plants, seeds, soil and other gardening material to be invested into increasing green space on the school campus. We hosted a 5 hour donation drive on the day of the student-led conferences at our school to prove us with an opportunity to talk to members of the school community and spread our ideas. In the drive, we received over 150 donations of gardening supplies.



### Part 2: Rooftop Garden

After the green drive, The Green Sages!! collaborated with an existing service group, **The Green Team**, to further develop the **elementary rooftop garden** in our school which was previously laying dormant. We started on a project to plant fruits, vegetables as well as flowering plants in various areas across the rooftop garden as well as in separate pots to increase green space in the school. While collaborating with The Green Team, The Green Sage!! is noticed and overwhelming interest and environmental protection and eco friendliness from younger members of the school community. By encouraging this interest, The Green Sages!!, in collaboration with the Green Team were able to **recruit approximately 45 students and collaborators** across the secondary school to help in our gardening initiative with the rooftop garden.



## Points of Measuring Project Impact

150 Donations in the Green Drive

45 Student Volunteers to assist with the rooftop garden

Future Projects with NGOs

The Green  
Sages!!  
Mascot



## Project Breakdown – Our Achievements

2h/week Gardening ~ 42 Hours

Collaboration with **The Green Team**

Future Collaboration with **Biofuel NGO**

Future Collaboration with **Agricultural School**

5 Hour Green Drive

45 Volunteering students





## Our Successes and Strengths

**Maximize Strengths:** One extremely successful aspect of our project was our ability to maximize our strengths. The member of our group that was extremely strong in graphic design and art commandeered poster and publicity of the project. The member that had several connections and was a fluent Japanese speaker was able to organize partnerships with several other organization, such as the oil refining NGO, To allow our initiative to be spread across the local community. Finally, the member of our group who is strong in communications with able to lead groups of students to inspire them to partake in our project activities.



**Spread Awareness:** An unexpected strength that came from the organization of The Green Drive is that it provided as a platform to raise awareness on important environmental issues and the SDGs. The drive was held all day during our schools parent teacher conference. As a result, several younger children as well as parents approached our stand to inquire about our activities, plans and the issue that we are addressing. This inspired several children across the school to become more actively involved with environmental issues. Some students that spoke to us during the drive also then as one of the 45 students to garden on the rooftop.



## Skills Gained

**Collaboration Skills:** The importance of having partners and organizations to collaborate with in order to make a meaningful impact in school

**Embracing the power of younger generations:** We learnt about the importance of inspiring the younger generation in order to create a sustainable project

**Gardening Knowledge:** In developing the Rooftop Garden, we learnt about different plants, vegetables as well as gardening techniques to effectively increase green space and meet the SDGs.

## Our Failures and Weaknesses

**Uncontrollable Factors:** One of the largest difficulties that was faced by this project are they uncontrollable factors that influence our progress. Our initial idea had a recycling competition that we intended to host in school. However, the timing of the project coincided with the beginning of construction at our school. As a result, we were forced to postpone the recycling project to a later date when the school is available.



**Storage:** Another obstacle that we encountered was that, due to an unexpectedly high number of donations, we ran out of storage space for the gardening supplies. This taught us the importance of preparing for the unexpected and always having a margin for error that enables adaptability in our project. However, we were able to overcome this obstacle by collaborating with our schools geography department to then arrange for storage.



## Future Projects and Initiatives

Though in this short timeframe, we could not achieve all the projects we planned to conduct. In the future, we would like to continue The Green Sages!! Specifically, we have already kickstarted two new projects to be conducted in the near future.

### Project 1: Oil Collection

The first project is used household oil collection. One of our members appeared on a TV program and met an influential NGO founder who collected used household oil and converted it to diesel oil. She mentioned that it was difficult to collect oil from consumers due to low public awareness. Thus, we have contacted the NGO and we are working with the school so we can collect oil from the school community and cafeteria as a long term partnership that we hope to establish.

Re: 【株式会社ユーズ】お問い合わせについて（返信）

Translate message to: English | Never translate from: Japanese



Mayumi Sano <sanomayumi@gmail.com>  
Mon 4/18/2022 1:04 PM  
To: irasutoya@irasutoya.com

戸田 ます

株式会社 ユーズ様へ、お返事ありがとうございます。

学校/同級生ステーションとなく油を集めたいだけなのであれば  
届いたところへご連絡をいただくと、弊社スタッフが取り込みます。

他に、何かご不明な点がございましたらご連絡ください。  
よろしくお願ひします。

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### Project 2: Collab with Agriculture School

Our second project is getting professional help for gardening. Although we have started planting the seeds collected from the Green Drive, we are not very knowledgeable about growing vegetables in the most sustainable way. Thus, we have gotten in contact with a teacher at an agricultural high school, who agreed to help us and give advice on how to proceed. In June, we are planning a Zoom meeting so the professor can physically assess our gardening area and give helpful advice. In return, we are planning to teach her students about activism and SDGs because she thinks though they are well-read about plants and the environment, they are not interested in social activism.

## Conclusion

*Our email interaction with the NGO establishing the opportunity for long term collaboration*

The Green Sages!! initiative has led to ripples of change within our community, and the impact will only increase from now. The garden we have started can be passed on to the generation of future, bright students at our school, leading to sustainability and biodiversity protection. Through this project, we strongly believe that we gained a renewed sense of unity and urgency. With passion, action and strength, the Green Sages!! will keep fighting for a world with better sustainability and a wonderful, clean environment that can last for future generations.

*All illustrations are self-made or from a website providing free graphics, <https://www.irasutoya.com/>*

