2020
ANNUAL REPORT
Welcome

2020. What Can I Say?

While many are waiting for 2020 to be over, we are living through a pandemic and most unprecedented times. Humankind has been presented with numerous opportunities to learn through chaos, and it is that chaos that hopefully drives our behavior and our planet forward to a healthier future for all living things.

In 2007, I founded this organization after observing chaos, both internally and externally, having suffered from complex auto-immune diseases following the birth of my second daughter. The lessons I learned over the next several years taught me how to create a healthier body and a healthier environment for me and my two young daughters. It was those lessons and experiences coupled with my background in formal education, my love of nature, and my drive to positively impact the world that set the path for Project Green Schools.

Project Green Schools (PGS) teaches students, schools, and communities to be mindful of land, food and agriculture, air quality, energy usage, water, consumption, and more, to act consciously and to make a difference. PGS believes a sustainable future requires discipline and sacrifice as well as creativity, innovation, and practice. When the pandemic hit, people began tuning into nature and healthy living at a profound level. While some of the messages we received from the media were confusing and often contradictory, we re-learned that hand-washing and clean air were of vital importance. We learned that food and how it enters our bodies, grocery stores, and homes should be valued. And we learned that self-care and making time to be out in nature can be both inspiring and a scientifically proven way to obtain a healthier lifestyle.

During our time at home, nature restored, healed, and often flourished. We noticed clearer skies and visibly purer waterways. Emptier streets became safe havens for animals all over the world. Drops in emissions were unparalleled, and the human footprint on the earth suddenly lightened. It appears that the lockdown of humans has resulted in healing for mother nature, but for how long?

When Covid-19 hit, PGS was prepared, innovative, and resilient. Schools were scrambling to figure out what was essential and how to hold students accountable. Schools came to PGS looking for highly engaging ways to keep their students learning and taking action from home as they transitioned to new virtual learning models. Our inaugural year of Race for the Planet: Virtual Home Edition was an Earth Day success that provided schools with a way to engage students through outdoor exploration, innovative technology use, and critical thinking. This year, as a result of the adaptive framework PGS has created, schools can partake in meaningful environmental and climate action at home, in their communities, and of course at schools (for those fortunate enough to be in classrooms).

Most importantly, I commend the incredible leadership of our students who worked especially hard during the pandemic and participated in virtual conferences, scholarship presentations, and advocacy to share ideas and connect to make a difference. While some students checked out, our students were looking for additional opportunities to ENGAGE, EDUCATE, LEAD, and SERVE.

During the Race for the Planet Virtual Launch alone, over 50,000 people across the nation and globe tuned in as eco-celebs like Enes Kanter, Bill McKibben, Jamie Margolin, Ovie Mughelli, Philippe and Ashlan Cousteau, Bob Perciasepe, and others helped kick off the event.

I believe the earth can heal when we set the right conditions. Like a doctor that needs only splint to set a broken bone, we too have the power guide our future, and it is my hope that the pandemic will accelerate our transition to a cleaner, greener, healthier world.
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MISSION

Developing the next generation of environmental leaders through education, project-based learning and community service.

BELIEFS

Students must be engaged at the intersection of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), energy, environment and public health to develop: sustainable solutions, employability, college and career readiness knowledge and skills.
Hello, my name is Heather Morecock. I am a rising senior at Oliver Ames High School in Easton, MA and am going into my eighth year of involvement with Project Green Schools. I am honored to be taking on the position of co-president of the Youth Council, and am looking forward to what this year has in store. Impact is one of the many factors that creates change, and I hope that as co-president I will be able to make a strong impact on the youth council. I am extremely passionate about making the world a better place, especially in our communities.

This year I am working on implementing sustainable practices into my school with the hopes of creating environmental awareness. I hope that this theme can be cohesive throughout my community and the council. My goal for this year is to engage more students in order to create a larger awareness towards environmental issues. I am a firm believer that education is the root of change, and that in order to make a difference one must be properly educated. As co-president I hope to get more engagement throughout the youth council and conduct meaningful work. I hope to pursue a career in marine biology and environmental science. I am looking forward to this year, and seeing the impact the Youth Council will make!

My name is Cory, a rising senior from Dacula, Georgia. I am honored to have the opportunity to serve in this capacity, and I am excited for the year ahead! An avid environmentalist, I love hiking and exploring our national parks, while capturing natural beauty through my camera. My love for the environment has translated into environmental activism. I have had so many opportunities through Project Green Schools and the National Youth Council to not only grow in my passion for the environment, but network with other passionate environmentalists, so I cannot wait to help give back to this organization and help my peers become more active and lead environmental efforts in their own areas.

As climate change and plastic pollution, among numerous other environmental issues, have become critical topics regarding our future, I am excited to see what this group of passionate and talented individuals can accomplish this year, through expanding our awareness efforts and organizing events and projects. In addition, the COVID-19 Pandemic has shown how much of an impact humans have, providing unique opportunities to further assess our impact and for environmental leadership and activism. In addition, the mobilization of people, voices, and stories against racial discrimination has brought to attention environmental racism and how BIPOC are at greater harm in regards to the environment. Over the coming year, despite many of the trials and tribulations we have faced and will continue to deal with in the coming year, we will have opportunities to help create lasting impact in our communities and I am confident that we will be able to progress for a greener future.
The Green Difference Maker Scholarship is given to a graduating senior who has demonstrated exceptional leadership on behalf of Project Green Schools. This scholarship honors impactful environmental leadership that takes place beyond the walls of a traditional school and out in our communities. This change maker has made a real difference in the lives of many, and we anticipate great things to come in this young person’s future!
Project Green Schools grows and supports student leaders.

That’s the answer to this meaningful question we asked our staff and our Board… “What outcomes make us proud?” We grow strong, confident, knowledgeable and experienced environmental leaders. That is clear. Our goal is student leadership development -- with more opportunities, in more communities, with more students, and with greater impact.

We believe that leaders are grown through experience, and we work to create those experiences. This past year Project Green Schools further built out the opportunities for our National Youth Council and our State Youth Councils.

These students are invited to participate in important regional, national and world events alongside industry, government and community leaders. This past year, students from across the United States conducted research at MarineLab in Key West, FL where they participated in the Coral Restoration Foundation Ocean Ambassador Program; at HUB Week students spoke to audiences of global innovators along with the Boston Bruins Foundation and First Lady of New Hampshire Valerie Sununu; Rhode Island students came to their State House and sat as delegates in the House Chamber, where they debated issues of energy and food policy; and more.

As we move into our next year, our goal is to expand these opportunities in North America and across the globe.

Sincerely,

Stacy Goodman
Board Chair
Membership

[K-12] schools and communities. Membership provides access to Green Schools Handbook, Tool Kits, our monthly Newsletter, Partner resources, grant opportunities, and much more!

Green Schools Members learn how to implement top down and bottom up programming and policies bound to make The Green Difference!

There are multiple ways to implement Green Schools 13 Environmental Pathways into your school’s classrooms, curriculum, culture, and community. Green Schools Members have access to award-winning projects, resources, personnel, and training from across the country through our Membership program.

Green Schools provides free Membership to educators, students, schools, administrators, facilities directors, wellness coordinators, STEM coordinators, and those looking to take action when it comes to greening.
1. Atmosphere and Climate
2. Ecosystems and Biodiversity
3. Energy
4. Food and Agriculture
5. Future of Sustainability
6. Green and Healthy Schools
7. Green Living
8. Land, Air and the Natural World
9. Transportation
10. Waste Management
11. Water
12. Outdoor Learning & Exploration
13. Scenic Conservation
A Student Recognition Program for environmentally focused students who achieve extraordinary impact in schools and communities.

K-12 students are awarded pins and certificates in recognition of their environmental service. Graduating seniors can achieve a stole following implementation of a capstone project.

Best wishes to our 2020 Graduates of National Green Schools Society.
Project Green Schools Recognizes Outstanding Energy And Environmental Efforts led in our Schools & Communities through our Annual Green Difference Awards.

CLICK HERE TO WATCH SLIDE PRESENTATION TO SEE THE WINNERS OF 2020!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2020 GREEN DIFFERENCE AWARD HONOREES!

Thank You to Our Sponsors:
Project Green Schools was thrilled to announce the inaugural year of Race for the Planet: Virtual Home Edition, a new way to engage students, schools and communities in climate action while in school or at-home.

Participants competed in energy and environmental games and challenges held throughout the year focusing on energy, water, waste, and sustainability, while raising funds to support a unique project goal that Greened Up their School/Community.
Race for the Planet compilation video
featuring notable personalities, including:
Enes Kanter (Boston Celtics), Bill McKibben (350.org)
Philippe Cousteau (grandson of Jacques Cousteau, EarthEcho)
Jamie Margolin (Zero Hour)
Ovie Mughelli (Atlanta Falcons, Baltimore Ravens)
Ashlan Gorse Cousteau (Producer)
Bob Perciasepe (C2es, former US EPA Administrator)
Valerie Sununu (First Lady of NH)

Chloe Maxmin (divest Harvard, ME State Representative)
Skye Flanigan (C-CHANGE)
Jon Powers (Clean Capital, former CSO for US Army)
And members of our National Youth Council.
Hosted by Kristy Lee, Weekend Anchor/Health Reporter NBC10 Boston
Featuring music from Buffalo Tom and Brooke Leifer

Full compilation launch video
Special launch video from Philippe and Ashlan Cousteau

CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE LAUNCH VIDEO!
Exciting Discovery Missions and gamified Challenges for students and schools coming in 2021!
Project Green Schools Launches Corporate Climate Council

WHY JOIN THE CORPORATE CLIMATE COUNCIL?
The Corporate Climate Council invites visionary companies to work collaboratively with the Council’s Leadership Team made up of Staff, Board, Advisory Board, National Youth Council Members, schools and communities to create meaningful, long-lasting change. The Corporate Climate Council stems from the belief that innovative companies’ actions are critical in fighting climate change and are vital in creating awareness for the next generation. This Council will create opportunities for student leaders to connect with government, corporate and professional leaders about solutions to 21st Century challenges while making connections that help youth find their place in higher education and the workforce.

In the words of 16-year old Swedish climate activist, Greta Thunberg, “Change is coming whether you like it or not.” Students today inherit a changed climate and a compromised environment. Student leaders today are future business and political leaders of tomorrow. Project Green Schools (PGS) transforms extraordinary young people into climate leaders.

PARTNER WITH PROJECT GREEN SCHOOLS
We believe your visionary companies’ actions are critical in the fight against climate change and we invite you/your company to work collaboratively with our Leadership Team made up of Staff, Board, Advisory Board, National Youth Council Members, schools and communities to create meaningful, long-lasting change.
Thank you for making The Green Difference with us in 2020. We’re looking forward to Green-o-vating with you in 2021!