

Title name: Growing Green: A Sustainable Garden Project

Our project aimed to alleviate the large issue of wastage at our school. In order to combat this issue we introduced new specific garbage cans only to use for waste and started growing plants in our own backyards as well as in the greenhouse at our school. The waste can then be used for compost around the school where it is needed since we have a lot of land on the premises. We plan to use the plants that are grown at school to incorporate into the new Agricultural-Business course that we have created that will start next school year. In the course students will learn about agriculture using the plants that we grew. We also have been planning more outreach to a younger audience- for example from our own middle school or elementary schools. In this outreach program, we will conduct field trips for the younger students in our school district to visit our greenhouse in the high school and teach them the fundamentals of gardening and being environmentally conscious.

Some challenges that our team overcame were battling against the weather. Since the planning portion of our project took a bit of time to make sure we were planting the most efficient plants, environmentally and economically, we haven't had much time to grow the plants and it is not growing season yet. To overcome this hurdle, we can visit the school during the summer to tend to our plants and even work on planting some in a garden at our own homes. Another challenge was finding a place in our school to grow our plants to combat the growing season issue. This made us realize that we could set up an indoor planting area but there are a lot of fire safety guidelines that drove us away from doing so.

During the process, our team learned more about the specific plants that should be grown, how they are grown, and all the factors that go into planning field trips. We had to make sure that we were having the correct soil for our chosen plants and we also had to find out which plants would be most cost effective. This would mean choosing plants like lettuce, swiss chard, kale and basil to start because of their low maintenance and quick germination. We also

learned a lot more about the benefits of composting and proper regulations which was important because many of us compost at home as well.