

## **Letter 1**

Dear Editor,

The Citizens of Kirkland must act. Failure to combat climate change steals the next generation's future. Will people change their behavior *after* the next hurricane Sandy? Will people act *after* Puerto Rico gets destroyed again? The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports an increase in extreme droughts, tropical cyclones, and flooding if global warming rises higher than 1.5° C. Average global temperatures have already risen 1.2° C. Continuing our current behavior is not an option.

My name is Nicholas Wegener and I am an eighth grader at Northstar middle school. I'm also a member of Sustainability Ambassadors, an organization empowering youth to catalyze community sustainability. Currently, I'm of part of an Ambassador team creating short, student-voiced videos for 9<sup>th</sup> grade biology teachers in LWSD. The videos educate youth how SNOTEL technology, snowpack, and global warming connect. Informing students of global warming's local affects will help them make more environmentally friendly choices. I'm also working on a solar neighborhood campaign, in which other Ambassadors and I partner with a local solar panel installation company called Sphere Solar. We'll go door to door educating people on the benefits of going solar and having solar panels installed by Sphere Solar. The intended impact is an increase in renewable energy positively affecting the environment.

However, fighting climate change doesn't just include leading projects or joining an organization. Saving the environment includes taking shorter showers, turning the lights off when sunlight provides enough light, carpooling, taking the bus, walking, eating less meat, getting a compost bin, and so much more.

I am part of the generation growing up with the threat of climate change always looming over us.  
I am part of the generation inheriting this world.  
I am part of the generation leading by example.

Now it's your turn.

Nicholas Wegener  
Kirkland

## **Letter 2**

Dear Editor,

My name is Nicholas Wegener and I am an eighth grader at Northstar middle school. My previous letter concerned actions I take to combat climate change. For this letter, I interviewed another inspiring sustainability activist: Santoshi Pisupati. Santoshi is a freshman at International Community School. Sustainability is a lifelong passion of hers. She joined Sustainability Ambassadors, an organization empowering youth to catalyze community sustainability, in October 2019.

The interview follows:

*What simple, everyday actions do you take to combat climate change?*

“I take cooler, shorter showers, and don’t heat up my thermostat or use artificial light as much due to the warm sunlight coming from outside. I also unplug my electronic chargers when I’m not using them.”

*What projects are you working on and what are the intended impacts?*

“I’m a project manager for Sustainability Ambassadors’ SNOTEL Mini Webinars project, which collaborates with LWSD district leaders to design student-voiced videos about SNOTEL technology for 9<sup>th</sup> grade science curriculum. SNOTEL technology measures snowpack in the King County area. Snowpack amount informs us how much water will fill our water reservoirs and of any resulting droughts or floods. Educating students on how global warming affects our local snowpack will help them make more informed, environmentally friendly choices. I’m also an Ambassador leader for Safer Routes to School in Kirkland, where I work alongside City Council to promote green transportation and decrease our city’s carbon footprint.

I believe we must explore all sides of climate change and get every industry involved to make a difference. I’m ecstatic to be on two different sides of this global issue.” As shown, youth in Kirkland are fighting for their futures. The next generation needs the citizens of Kirkland to fight too. Take shorter showers. Turn off the lights. Save our future.

Nicholas Wegener

Kirkland