

Final Presentation

January Sunnyvale Sustainability Commission Meeting

Youth Group Updates

Student -Run Sustainability Groups in the Bay Area

Executive summary

A overview on different sustainability youth groups in Sunnyvale and how the Sustainability commission can best support their efforts.

**1. FUHSD Climate
Collective**

2. SVYCA

**3. Additional
Groups**

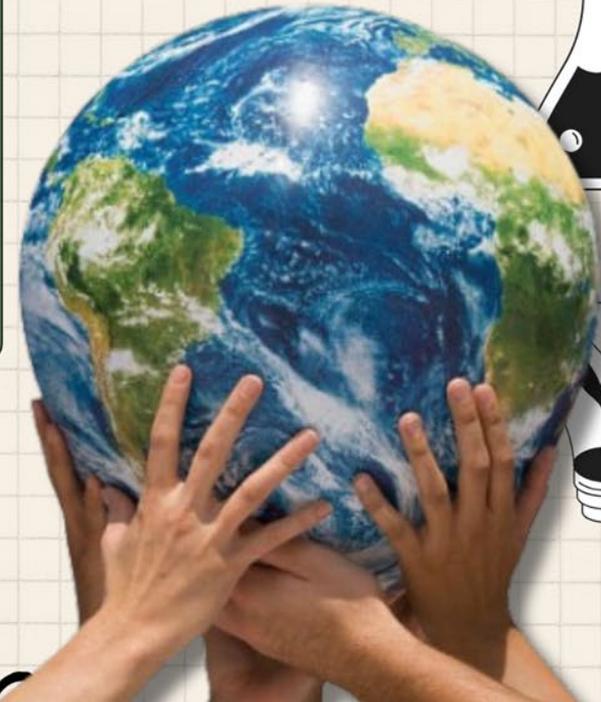
FUHSD Climate Collective

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FUHSD CLIMATE COLLECTIVE

Presented By: Suhani Nirwal and Ira Lele



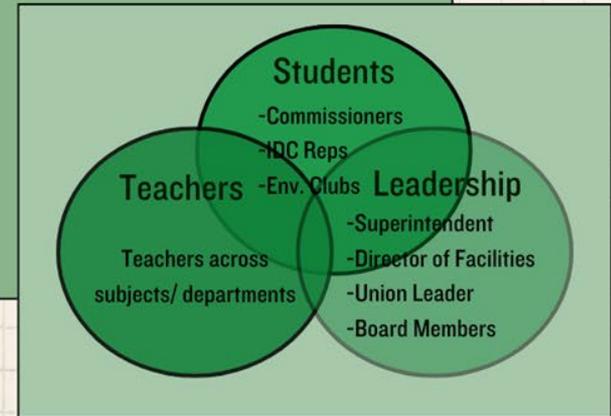
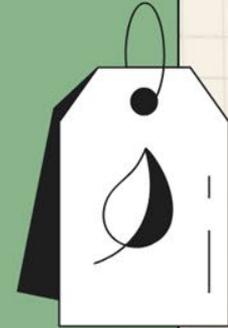
WHAT IS THE FUHSD CLIMATE COLLECTIVE?

Student Led/ Driven Initiative

Main Pillars:

- Increase sustainability across 5 FUHSD Campuses
- Increase environmental literacy in classrooms

- Team of passionate staff members, FUHSD administrators, teachers, and stakeholders



WHAT ARE OUR GOALS?

1. Work to reduce waste and improve sustainability across all campuses
2. Implement environmental education in classrooms throughout the district
3. Organize our amazing Earth Days!



@District Earth Day 2025

WHAT ARE OUR GOALS?



1

Apply for state **Green Ribbon School** application

Pursue recognition for our environmental leadership and sustainable practices through California's prestigious Green Ribbon Schools program.

2

Plan and host **Earth Day 2026**

Organize a comprehensive Earth Day celebration that engages our entire school community in environmental awareness and action.

7

Continue **data collection on the energy use of FUHSD**

Maintain comprehensive energy monitoring to identify opportunities for efficiency improvements and cost savings.

8

Write **grants to support the initiative**

Secure funding through strategic grant applications to sustain and expand our environmental programs.

3

Prototype and implement a **FUHSD Student Environmental Conference**

Create an annual student-led conference fostering environmental leadership and knowledge sharing across our district.

4

Continue with **Paper Recycling initiative**

Expand and improve our paper recycling program to maximize waste reduction and environmental impact.

9

Scale **Green Career Education**

Expand educational opportunities that prepare students for careers in environmental science and sustainability.

10

Create and implement new **site team structure**

Establish efficient organizational frameworks to better coordinate environmental initiatives across all campus locations.

5

Implement **hybrid garden initiative**

Develop innovative garden spaces that combine traditional and modern growing techniques for educational and sustainability purposes.

6

Develop a model for partnership with **middle schools**

Create sustainable collaboration frameworks to extend our environmental impact to younger students in our community.

LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE



FUHSD Climate Collective School Site Structure



Site Lead and Site Alternate

The Site Lead and Site Alternate of the Climate Collective Cabinet will work with their respective school sites to lead the initiative at their schools.



Climate Collective Commissioners

APPLICATION REQUIRED

Climate Collective commissioners work closely with the Site Lead and Site Alternate on collective projects.

Climate Collective Volunteers

NO APPLICATION NEEDED

Volunteers will work with commissioners and the lead/alternate to help out at Climate Collective events.



RECYCLING INITIATIVE

- Initiative began to address paper waste issue
- Recycles paper waste generated from all 5 high schools in FUHSD
 - Does this through student volunteers

Process

- Recycle paper by hand at least once a week
- Each site has reps: create spreadsheets to track classroom and volunteer progress
- Volunteers earn FUHSD certified volunteer hours



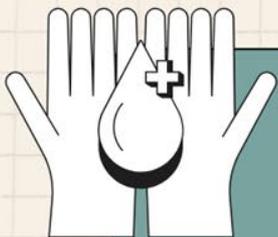


Some of our volunteers

Recycling Guidelines

Part of the recycling process



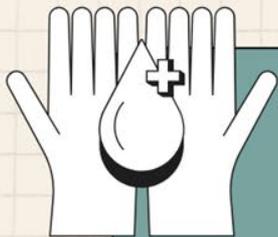


PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS

Opportunities for teachers to collaborate within departments and cross-departments to strengthen environmental curriculum.

- Teachers gain resources/support to identify where they are with their classes, and adjust singular units or assignments to align with climate concepts.
- Teachers have the opportunity to begin projects with the intention of displaying at our District Earth Day event.





OUR WEBSITE DATA + ED. RESOURCES

A driven team of students focused on data analysis, provide us with a detailed understanding of our energy consumption and carbon footprint.

They convert this data into visual widgets on the sustainability dashboard on our website for community members to interact with

In addition, located on our website are educational resources outlining teacher lessons, learning outcomes, and toolkits.





FUHSD Climate Collective

About Environmental Education Impact Contact Us

Environmental Education

Learning Outcomes



Teacher Lessons



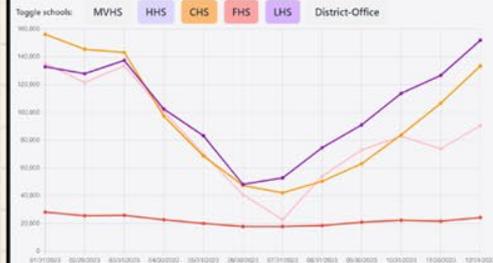
Teacher Toolkit



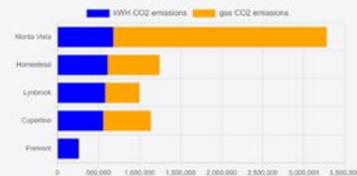
Green Careers



Our impact, over time



This chart tracks the CO₂ emissions due to energy produced by each school over time. By toggling different schools, you can see how each one contributes to the overall emissions and identify patterns or trends that may inform future energy policies.



Where does our energy come from?

Understanding the sources of our energy is crucial for making informed decisions about our consumption and sustainability practices. By knowing the origins of our energy, we can better appreciate the environmental impacts of our choices.

Our path forward: electrification

By incentivizing EV usage in students and staff, FUHSD is able to cut down on vehicle emissions. We currently have ~ 120 chargers across all our high school sites, and the average occupancy for each is ~ 5 hours.

Number of EV chargers: 120



Hours occupied: 5



Slide the charger and occupancy sliders to see how our EV infrastructure is making a difference!

Energy provided: 1,617kWh

**GHGs avoided:
2,578lbs daily ***

**In a single year, that's
~3,376 trees 🌳**

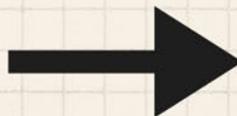
World Language Projects

Eco-friendly housing design contest



Working in groups, students research issues affecting the local area. Each group will identify 4 key focus areas for improvement and propose actionable solutions to address these challenges. Using maps, data, and design concepts, students will develop a presentation entirely in Chinese to showcase their vision.

[Learn More](#)



SUSTAINABLE CITY AND COMMUNITIES-DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROJECT



FULL LESSON

- (Chinese) [Sustainable city and community development plan](#)
- [Task card](#)

Working in groups, students research issues affecting the local area. Each group will identify 4 key focus areas for improvement and propose actionable solutions to address these challenges. Using maps, data, and design concepts, students will develop a multimedia presentation entirely in Chinese to showcase their vision.

- [Back to World Language](#)
- [Back to Topics](#)

Student Learning Outcomes

Visual & Performing Arts

- Create works of art that explore or raise awareness about environmental issues.
- Reflect on the historical and cultural dimensions of environmental topics through artistic expression.
- Use the arts to engage in dialogue about sustainability and environmental justice.



World Language/ELD

- Explore environmental topics from global and multicultural perspectives using target language vocabulary and texts.
- Compare how different cultures respond to environmental challenges.
- Develop language skills through environmental advocacy, storytelling, and communication.



Science

- Identify and describe major environmental processes (e.g., climate change, biodiversity loss, deforestation) and analyze their causes, impacts, and solutions.
- Apply scientific methods and data analysis to investigate environmental issues or problems.
- Explore the interconnectedness of human and natural systems using ecological and systems thinking.
- Evaluate the cultural and social environmental impact of various energy, technology, and consumption patterns.
- Take informed action to reduce environmental impact through science-based strategies.





EARTH DAY

Annual District Community Event comprising of interdisciplinary student projects, guest panelists, and a networking hour with local sponsors.

Earth Day 2025 recap:

- 400+ Student Presenters and ~75 Student Projects
- Guest Panelists representing diverse environmental fields (ex. Environmental Lawyer, Nat Geo Scientists, Stanford educators)
- ~1,200 attendees @ Computer History Museum

Partnerships: Cupertino Rotary, SVYCA, SYCE, SCCOE



EARTH DAY



FREMONT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

EARTH DAY PROGRAM

4:00 - 5:00

Pre-program

- Sponsor Booths
- FUHSD Climate Collective booths
- Green Careers Information
- Environmental Haiku Poetry

Hahn Lobby and
Hahn Triangle

Spend time engaging with sponsors for possible volunteer and internship opportunities. Also, learn more about the FUHSD Climate Collective's mission and ways to join our initiative!

5:00 - 6:00

Seated Program

- MV Choir Performance
- Welcome Address
- Fashion Runway
- Speaker Panel: Jeffrey Allen Brown, Kathy Ho, and Niran Somasundaram

Hahn Auditorium

Witness unique performances that highlight environmental issues. Hear from professionals about their environmental/ sustainability journeys.

6:00 - 8:00

Student Booths

- Interactives
- Art
- World Languages
- Environmental Education
- Environmental Research
- Environmental Justice/Advocacy
- Environmental Technology

Grand Hall

Adopt a multidisciplinary approach to problem solving as you observe 70+ projects created by 450+ FUHSD students and teachers designed to showcase innovative and multi-faceted solutions to environmental issues on communal, local, and global scales.

EARTH DAY 2026



**FILL THIS FORM OUT TO
RESERVE YOUR FREE TICKET!**

The poster features a light blue background with a white grid pattern. At the top left is the Fremont Union High School District logo, which includes a stylized atom and a globe. The text "FREMONT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT" is in a dark red, sans-serif font. Below it, "EARTH DAY" is written in large, bold, yellow letters with a slight drop shadow. Underneath, "SPEAKERS • BOOTHS • STUDENT PROJECTS • FOOD" is written in a smaller, dark red font. A dark blue horizontal band contains a white location pin icon followed by the text "COMPUTER HISTORY MUSEUM" in white, bold, sans-serif font. Below this, another dark blue band features a white calendar icon followed by "APRIL 22, 2026 4:00- 8:00 PM" in white, bold, sans-serif font. The bottom section has a light blue background with a white grid pattern. On the left is a smaller QR code with a white location pin icon overlaid on it. To the right of the QR code, the text "PROJECT SIGN-UP" is in bold, dark blue font, followed by the URL "HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/FUHSDEARTHDAY2026" in a smaller, green font. At the bottom right, there is a stylized illustration of snow-capped mountains and a line of green evergreen trees.

FREMONT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
EARTH DAY
SPEAKERS • BOOTHS • STUDENT PROJECTS • FOOD

COMPUTER HISTORY MUSEUM

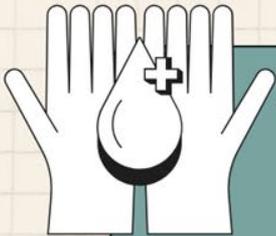
APRIL 22, 2026 4:00- 8:00 PM

PROJECT SIGN-UP
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/FUHSDEARTHDAY2026](https://tinyurl.com/fuhsdearthday2026)

EARTH DAY SPONSORSHIP FORM 2026



**HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT?
BECOME A SPONSOR!**



HOW DO WE REACH STUDENTS?

Our methods of reaching students range from our student-made website, to Instagram, Schoology Messages, Campus posters, and our first district wide newsletter addressing our Climate Coalition's efforts.

We attempt to keep our methods diverse to reach maximum crowds, and engage a variety of stakeholders. (ex. teachers talk to other teachers, students present to school clubs)



Contact Information:

1. Ira Lele: iam.iralele@gmail.com
2. Suhani Nirwal: suhaninirwal@gmail.com
3. Climate Collective Website:
 - a. fuhsdclimatecollective.com
4. Climate Collective email:
 - a. fuhsdclimatecollective@gmail.com
5. Meet us in-person:
 - a. Monthly meetings on the first Monday of each Month
@FUHSD District Office
 - b. 589 W FREMONT AVE, SUNNYVALE, CA 94087

**THANK
YOU!
QUESTIONS?**



Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action

02





What has the...

SVYCA Sunnyvale Action Team (SYCAT)

been up to?

- January 20, 2026 -

Our Mission

Policy Advocacy

Public Education

Youth Empowerment



**SILICON VALLEY
YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION**

Co-Leads and Advisors



Cynthia Li
Co-lead



Sufee Kathane
Co-lead



Katherine Park
Advisor



Peri Plantenberg
Advisor

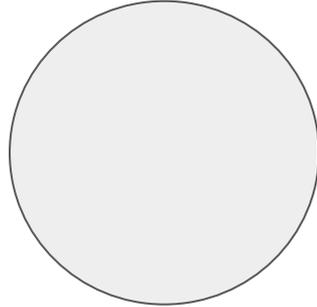


Kristel Wickham
Advisor

Members



Allison Chuang



Anya Mulchandani



Arjun Surendra



Prakruti Sunil



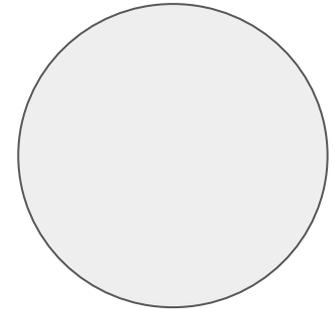
Chloe Dahl



Milla Churbanova



Addie Chen-Lee



Akash Iyer

Past Projects: FUHSD Climate Action Resolution

SYCAT students spoke at public comments December 9th, 2025

Student from California Youth Climate Policy Leadership Program introduced Climate action resolution (resolution=verbal support)

 Approved unanimously by FUHSD District board

Includes:

- environmental education
- composting
- minimize GHG emissions
- provide teacher professional development
- reduce landfill waste
- model responsible resource management

Past Projects: Zero NOx Air District Rules

Advocacy for Bay Area Air District Rules 9-4 and 9-6 for Zero Nitrogen Oxide appliances (water heaters and furnaces).

“A person shall not sell, install or offer for sale within the District:

- **9-4 Any natural gas-fired furnace manufactured after January 1, 2029, that emits more than 0.0 nanograms of nitrogen oxides..**
- **9-6 Any natural gas-fired storage tank water heater that is manufactured after January 1, 2027, with a rated heat input rating of 75,000 BTU/hour or less, that emits more than 0 nanograms of nitrogen oxides.”**

**Electric Heat
Pumps have zero
NOx emissions!**

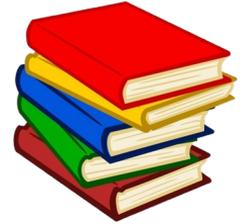


Current Projects: Library Literacy

ZINE:

- A story about food waste
- Aimed at K-3 audiences

Will be printed and distributed at Sunnyvale Library!



ENVIRONMENTAL BOOK LIST:

- Books featured on the Library's website & at in-person displays
- Pre-K to Adult reading levels

Pre-K-K/Kindergarten	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Our Zine! The Boy and the ORANGE - Describe the Lorax? - The Earth Book (Todd Parr) - Michael Recycle (Ellie Bethel) - Thank You, Earth (April Pulley Sayre) - 10 Things I Can Do to Help My World (Melanie Walsh) - My First Earth Day by Karen Katz - To Change a Planet by Christina Soontornvat
1st - 3rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - [Our Zine!] The Boy and the ORANGE - The Forest Man by Anne Matheson
4th - 5th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tree of Dreams - Laura Resau - What is Climate Change - What is...? Series - Global - Graphic Novel - Eoin Colfer and Andrew Donkin
Middle School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It's Getting Hot in Here by Bridget Heos – Teen-friendly climate science - Tracking Trash: Flotsam, Jetsam, and the Science of Ocean Motion by Loree Griffin Burns – Marine science & pollution - You Can Change the World: The Kids' Guide to a Better Planet by Lucy Bell – Action-focused guide. - The Last Wild by Piers Torday - Two Degrees by Alan Gratz – falls stories about people experiencing climate change - A Wolf called Wander by Roseanne Parry - from nature's perspective
High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Story of More (Young Adult edition) by Hope Jahren - How to Change Everything by Naomi Klein – Youth-focused climate guide. - No One is Too Small to Make a Difference by Greta Thunberg – Collection of speeches. - Parable of the Sower (graphic novel edition) by Octavia Butler - Eyes Wide Open: Going Behind the Environmental Headlines by Paul Fleischman – Media literacy & environment.
Adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hope Dies Last: Alan Weisman - How to Avoid a Climate Disaster: Bill Gates - Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind - Yuval Noah Harari - Abundance: Ezra Klein and Derek Thompson - Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World by Katharine Hayhoe.

Future Projects

Jack Niggli, Sunnyvale Sustainability Librarian

- Youth Climate Ambassador Program
 - Large group of 20-40 students
 - Leadership skills
 - Teach people how to advocate
 - Workshop/bootcamp
 - Speaker series

- Climate Cafe
 - Similar to previous library events
 - Lightly moderated space for discussion



Future Projects

FUHSD Board Policy – Environmental Education

encouraging more environmental education in classes, including outside of science, in FUHSD
Part of the same program that Climate Action resolution was for.

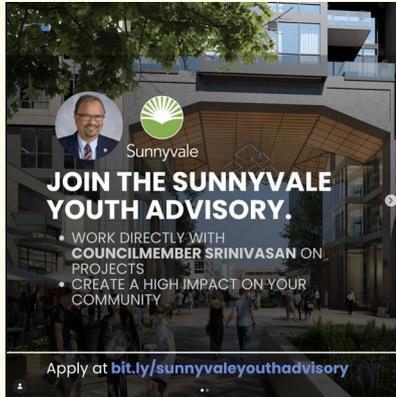
- **Wrote public comments**
- **planning to support board policy**

January 27th

Q&A

1. What is most urgent for our community right now?
2. How do you balance smaller actions with pushing for larger systematic change?
3. What obstacles have you encountered or overcome?
4. How can we best partner with your team for long-term success?
5. Are there existing policies or programs that we can help build on?
6. How can we help amplify youth, and everyone's, voices?
7. What would be your next steps with our support?

Additional Groups



Sunnyvale Youth Advisory

willow43223@gmail.com

Working with Councilmember Srinivasan, started Native Garden project at Fremont High School.



Studio Sproutling

studiosproutling@gmail.com

Teach kids about the environment through community projects and art.



Bay Area Youth Climate Summit

www.baycs.org/

Hosts climate workshops, rallies, and annual Earth Day Festival

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars!

Here are a list of a few sustainability -themed events that you might be interested in attending, all youth -led.

FUHSD Climate Collective Monthly Meeting

FUHSD Trustees will be in attendance, as well as a few Councilmembers. January 26th from 4:30 - 6:30 PM @ FUHSD District Office.

EARTH DAY

FUHSD Climate Collective's annual Earth Day event will be happening March 22nd from 4 - 8 PM @ Computer History Museum.

A scenic landscape featuring a calm lake in the foreground, surrounded by dense evergreen and deciduous trees. In the distance, misty mountains are visible under a soft sky. A wooden bench sits on a grassy bank near the water. The image is partially covered by two large, rounded green shapes. The top-right shape contains the word 'Thank' in white, and the bottom-left shape contains the word 'You' in white.

Thank

You