

In May of 2008, I went to a weekend retreat in Santa Rosa where I learned with my youth group what a carbon footprint was. It never had occurred to me up until that point how much of an impact the activities that I do relate to the environment. After a three-day discovery into an eco friendly lifestyle, the way I perceived energy changed completely. I learned with a slight restrain on daily household necessities, I could change my carbon footprint.

That summer I started reducing my carbon footprint and making sure my family was as well. I made trips to the recycling center in Orangevale, with large bags of recyclables such as aluminum cans and plastic bottles. Though sometimes the weather was quite warm, I opened windows, using natural air to cool my home. In addition, I used the swimming pool as an alternative to turning on a fan. I felt I really had made an improvement in my lifestyle and I felt satisfied with myself. However, I also felt I wasn't doing enough for my community.

This year I started a club at my high school called Eco.Logical. The club's focus is to provoke teachers and students into making their lifestyle a greener one. My club has set up a recycling program within my high school's campus and we wish to start distributing reusable grocery bags with our high school's logo as a profit to go to a non-profit organization that has yet to be decided.

Overall, my accomplishments so far this year have helped me help the earth, make new friends and has allowed me to be extremely involved within my school in all

aspects. I greatly wish to further my club in success so that all students at my high school can reduce their carbon footprint like I have.