

# THE ENVIRONMENTAL ENQUIRER

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## A NEW SEMESTER BRINGS NEW EXCITEMENT!

*By Luke Waugh (Grade 12)*

A new semester brings new excitement! I am thrilled to share that our recently implemented battery recycling sites have made a significant impact in just one month, collecting over 200 pounds of batteries. This incredible achievement highlights our club's commitment to environmental sustainability and our collective responsibility to reduce waste. As we continue to promote this important initiative, we are excited to announce



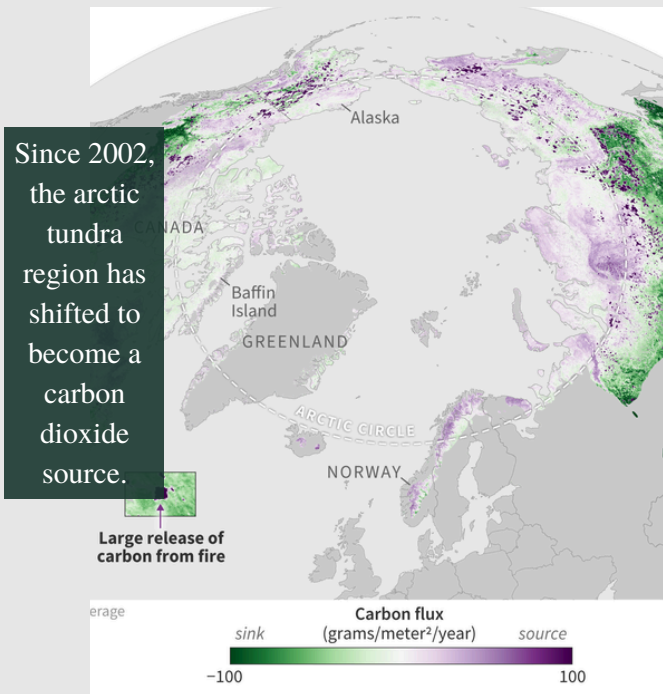
*Edgewood High School*

plans to develop even better recycling sites around the school, making it easier for everyone to contribute to this cause. The club never ceases to make me proud, and I eagerly look forward to all the future accomplishments we can achieve and the environmental changes we can promote!

## GLOBAL NEWS

*By Xander Frye (Grade 12)*

According to the NOAA’s 2024 Arctic report card, “the Arctic tundra region has become a source of carbon dioxide and methane to the atmosphere.” The tundra used to be a carbon sink or an area that absorbs more carbon from the atmosphere than it releases. Thawing permafrost, releasing stored carbon dioxide, and increasing wildfire emissions are the two biggest reasons why this shift is occurring. The effects are being felt, as inland caribou herd populations are decreasing rapidly, and there are fewer rain/snow events to recoat the icy ground. This research was conducted with 97 scientists from 11 different countries. They conclude that this is a sign that humans have inadequately managed reducing fossil fuel pollution, and urge governments to work towards stopping this downward turn or else learn to adapt to the worsening climate.



*Image Credit: NOAA*

## STUDENT INTERVIEW

*By: Hannah Clark (Grade 11)*

This week, I spoke to senior Cailin Dunham. Dunham said, “My favorite part of Environmental Club has been doing service based projects that also help the environment like making sleeping mats out of recycled materials to donate. I know this club is still very young, so I look forward to seeing how it is going to grow in the future. We have some great leaders in the club, and I can’t wait to see how they pass it onto the next generation of people passionate about the environment.



*Photo from Cailin Dunham*



*Photo by Eric Rudd, Indiana University*

## MONROE COUNTY NEWS

*By Chrislyn Miller (Grade 12)*

As climate change is becoming a more common issue, the chances of economic issues are growing larger, but scientists may have found the solution within one of the most basic and important foundations of Earth; soil. The Midwest is known for providing a good portion of the farming goods, and soil can be used as the place to put the carbon emissions that are becoming increasingly harder to be rid of. “More carbon is stored in the top 30 centimeters of soil globally than in the entire atmosphere, and cropland in Indiana can add even more to the existing pool. Managing agricultural soils can enhance the use of this natural carbon reservoir,” (Livingston). Being that Indiana is made up of almost 80% of farmland, it can be easily understood that Indiana is a top contender for this newfound idea of taking carbon emissions and putting them back into our soil.

## STATE-WIDE NEWS

*By Meri Crowe (Grade 12)*

Indiana environmental organizations have recently been battling for their funds. Senate President Pro Tempore Rodric Bray states, “It is appropriate to say the expectation is a little lower this year because I do not think we will have the revenue we are accustomed to.” The HEC is trying to stabilize funding for the state’s environment fund. They are closely watching for bills that could strengthen protection for the environment and funding. Since this is considered a “budget year”, the potential of new legislation is being put on hold for many environmental organizations. The goal of this new legislation is to “receive funding for conservation whether through PBHCT or sales tax” (TheStatehouseFile.com). Yet there is hope. Once we can pass this rough patch of shallow funds, we can continue to push for higher environmental funding.



Indiana  
Senate  
President  
Pro-  
Tempore  
Rodric  
Bray

*Indiana General Assembly*



*Smoke rising  
above a  
building burned  
down in the  
fires*



Scientific American

## NATIONAL NEWS

*Kylie Miller (Grade 10) and Alan Martindale (Grade 12)*

The California wildfires started on the seventh of January this year. Since then the fires have burned down roughly 47,724 acres of land, with some of the fire still actively burning. As well as the property and land damage caused by the fires there have also been 27 reported deaths. The fire was fueled by the winds and dry conditions, made worse by the fact that Southern California had only seen 10% of its normal rainfall since the first of October last year. The National Weather Service issued a red flag warning, and since hundreds of thousands of people have been evacuated.

They expect the total cost from the fires to exceed \$50 billion for property damage. According to Scientific American, climate change may be responsible for worsening the effects of these fires. Conditions in the affected areas were hotter and drier than in the past, making the grass and brush more susceptible to fire. Additionally, “Weather Whiplash,” a phenomenon where the climate switches repeatedly between extremely wet and extremely dry conditions, results in more dried-out vegetation to fuel the wildfires. These fires would likely have occurred without the effects of climate change but were nonetheless amplified by the drier, hotter conditions.



*Helicopter  
spraying water  
to put out fires  
in Los Angeles*

Abc News

# Contact Info



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Edgewood High School

# WORKS CITED

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