

# THE ENVIRONMENTAL ENQUIRER

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## A NEW SEMESTER BRINGS NEW EXCITEMENT!

*By Luke Waugh (Grade 12)*

The Environmental Club has been working diligently within the school and community. The club is excited to introduce recycling bins in the cafeteria to help reduce waste and promote the responsible disposal of recyclable materials. This initiative not only diverts waste from landfills but also raises awareness about sustainability among students.

Additionally, the club is preparing to collaborate with Bloomington's Parks



*Edgewood High School*

and Recreation Department to control invasive species. This effort will allow sunlight to reach native tree saplings, shrubs, and wildflowers in Cascade Park. Participating members will learn how to identify, manage, and dispose of plants that outcompete our native species. Serving our community as a club is always an exceptional opportunity. We are excited to collaborate and contribute, making a positive impact together!



*Image Credit: Mrs. Brookman*

## STAFF INTERVIEW

*By Gabby Buckley (Grade 12)*

The teacher who will be highlighted this week is Mrs. Brookman. Mrs. Brookman teaches multiple science classes and encourages students to appreciate the beauty of the Earth. She pushes students to enjoy the outdoors, and get in fresh air during walks every day. She also appreciates adding birdhouses or other things that can help the animals and enhance the beauty of the RBB campus. She leaves a message with students to understand and appreciate the earth's natural elements, and outside beauty, promotes more steps to take care of the earth, and finally informs students that if we do not take advances to protect Earth then we can lose it.

## STUDENT INTERVIEW

*By: Hannah Clark (Grade 11)*

This month, I spoke to Noah Baynum, a senior at EHS. Baynum said, “My favorite memory of Environmental Club was staying a few minutes after the meeting ended, weaving pillows for the homeless.” Baynum hopes that “The club can finalize getting the recycling bins put into the cafeteria area. This way we can maximize recycling done at school.”



*Photo from Noah Baynum*



*A sign reading "Direct Climate Action \$1.2 Million" is seen on a pillar Jan. 29, 2025, Bloomington, IN.*

## MONROE COUNTY NEWS

*By Chrislyn Miller (Grade 12)*

The city of Bloomington is contemplating whether the Climate Action and Resilience Committee should still exist or not. A City Councilmember, Hopi Stosberg, has been trying to find a solution to this debate, however, she has said that “there are city employees whose primary responsibilities revolve around implementing climate action plans.” Interestingly enough, Bloomington is a part of Project 46, a project that has cities all over the state working to create a united front against climate change. On January 15th, the council unanimously voted on ending the committee, which “leaves climate activists in Bloomington feeling discouraged,” says IU Junior Janani Eswaran. Even though Bloomington is without the committee, prospects of what the city can do for climate change remain large.

## STATE-WIDE NEWS

*By Meri Crowe (Grade 12)*

Indiana’s solar panel regulations are looking to be improved. Senate Bill 541 and House Bill 1581 should expand community access to solar panels in Indiana. These bills will allow Indiana residents, including those with unsuitable rooftops and renters, to participate in solar activity. Individuals will receive credits for their utility bills when subscribing. Solar power is an unchangeable and inexhaustible source of energy, which means it is very reliable. Citizens can dramatically reduce their carbon footprint when they rely on solar power. Producing electricity with fossil fuels creates fast greenhouse gas emissions, which lead to global warming and climate change. Solar panels are rising in popularity every year, and there are good reasons why.



*Photo by Harvest Solar*





*Ice collecting  
on the shore of  
Lake Michigan*

Photo by Getty Images

## NATIONAL NEWS

*Kylie Miller (Grade 10)*

Weather in the last week has shifted all over the US drastically. An extreme arctic chill positioned itself over the US last week causing temperatures to be rigidly cold. By the end of the week, a change in air patterns caused warmer temperatures by pushing warmer air from the south. In Bloomington last week on Monday it was 8 degrees and today it was 66 degrees. A meteorologist in the National Weather Service Bismarck Office in Nebraska states that the “temperature swings area sizable” but the fluctuation can be pretty violent during the meteorological spring.

## GLOBAL NEWS

*Xander Frye (Grade 12)*

The Democratic Republic of the Congo recently passed legislation to protect the Kivu-Kinshasa Green Corridor. It will become the largest protected tropical forest reserve. The reserve serves as a carbon sink, or something that absorbs more carbon from the atmosphere than it releases. Its trees absorb 1.5 billion tons of carbon dioxide annually. The forest and habitat of thousands of animal species found nowhere else have been threatened by deforestation, war, industrial farming, and the climate crisis. The DRC’s leadership hopes to inspire fellow countries to take action to protect and revitalize forests and their inhabitants.



World Economic Forum

# Contact Info



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Edgewood High School

# WORKS CITED

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- <https://www.energysage.com/solar/health-environmental-benefits-of-solar-energy/#:~:text=Generating%20electricity%20with%20solar%20power,global%20warming%20and%20climate%20change.>
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