

# THE ENVIRONMENTAL ENQUIRER

---

## CONTROLLING INVASIVE SPECIES

*By Luke Waugh (Grade 12)*

As the club enters its last quarter of school, I would love to highlight a volunteer opportunity a few of our members had the privilege of participating in. Nearly two weeks ago, some dedicated members donated their time and effort to collaborate with the City of Bloomington's Parks and Recreation Department to address environmental needs in Bloomington's oldest public park, Lower Cascades.

During this event, members worked to control invasive species, allowing sunlight to reach native tree saplings, shrubs, and wildflowers. In the process, Parks and Recreation leaders taught our members how to identify, manage, and properly dispose of plants that compete with our native species. This initiative was a fantastic learning experience, fostering a deeper appreciation for the delicate balance of our ecosystem and the importance of conservation efforts in our local community. We are grateful for the opportunity to contribute to such a vital cause and encourage more members to get involved in future projects. Great job, guys!



*Edgewood High School*



## SUSTAINABLE FASHION SWAP!

*By Alan Martindale (Grade 12)*

The Edgewood Environmental Club collaborated with the Key Club to create our first-ever Sustainable Fashion Swap! On March 27th, students brought old clothes they no longer wore to swap with other students. Through this event, we are doing our part to combat the trend of “Fast Fashion,” which creates excessive waste and exploits workers in countries with lax or nonexistent labor laws. Additionally, we were able to donate all leftover clothes to those in need. The Swap was a great success and we hope to do it again in the future!





## STUDENT INTERVIEW

*By Hannah Clark (Grade 11) and Sophia Rust (Grade 11)*

This month, we interviewed Sophia Rust, who came up with the idea for the Sustainable Fashion Swap. “The Sustainable Fashion Swap idea first came to me when I was racking my brain trying to think of an event people could genuinely enjoy. Many kids in High School, especially those consistently involved in volunteer-based clubs, don't get much recognition for the time, energy, and effort they sacrifice to keep these clubs alive. That's why I wanted to do something volunteer-based but also something enjoyable. Everyone likes clothes, they unite us, so I started looking into fast fashion. Fast fashion is a clothing manufacturing marketing strategy that cheaply and quickly capitalizes off current trends. Brands like Shein, Zara, and H&M are all examples of fast fashion. The negative environmental impact and exploitation of workers that fast fashion encourages are detrimental. As High School students, it is easy to feel hopeless in these situations, but when the opportunity arises to do what we can to help, it would be unwise to pass it up. Ultimately, I at least hope to achieve an experience. I hope the people who participate get something out of it and the leftovers get successfully donated to foster care. I hope we learn something from this experience and figure out what works and what doesn't so we can do it again.”



Photo from Sophia Rust





Elena Krueper, a student at Indiana University

## MONROE COUNTY NEWS

*By Chrislyn Miller (Grade 12)*

As the US Department of Education has recently come under attack, there have also been a change in how the government responds to environmental issues. Because of this, college students all over the country are becoming more anxious about what is to come. The students of Indiana University are worried, but they are ready to speak up and out about the new adjustments that are occurring. Michael Hamburger, an IU Earth and Atmospheric Science professor at IU, quotes, “What is of deep concern is that until now, there’s been a

strong bipartisan support for science. Now it appears that there’s a dismantling of the science infrastructure in the country, and it will be very hard to build back.” Hamburger also works with the “Concerned Scientists”, a group of students who are passionate about science and are not wanting it to be censored or placed on the back burner. Many students have gone to the Indiana Statehouse to fight for science, and though they are fearful for what is to come, many have said they are thankful to have a community where they can share their love for science. Scientific progress is essential in our ongoing battle to protect the environment, and students like those at IU are not looking to give up the fight anytime soon.

*Photo of a  
rubber  
waste  
disposal site*

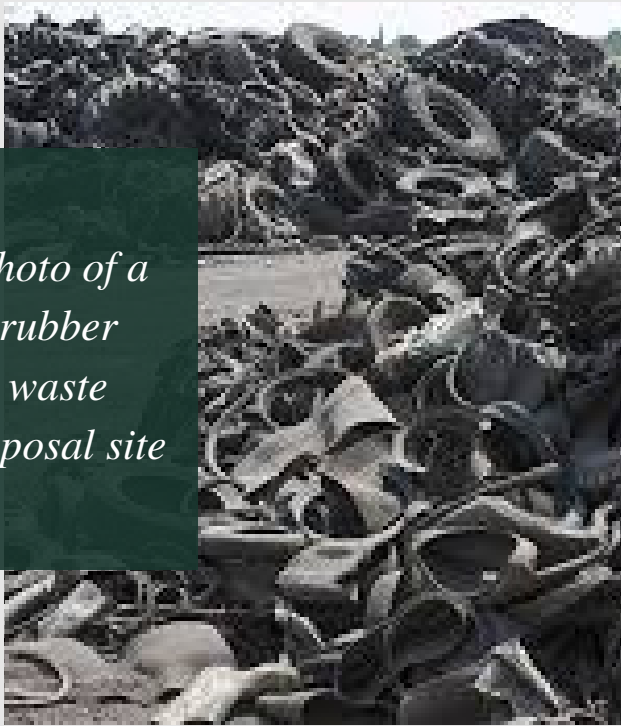


Photo by Waste Initiatives

## NATIONAL NEWS

*By Kylie Miller (Grade 10)*

Tires present a huge environmental challenge for the United States. Tires that are discarded wind up in landfills taking up physical space. While in the landfill there is an environmental risk of these tires "leaching of chemicals and spontaneous combustion." What poses a further dilemma if the tires are recycled thru a process called "pyrolysis" this process creates "harmful byproducts benzene and dioxins" which are bad for the environment and public health.

## GLOBAL NEWS

*By Xander Frye & Addy Hash (Grade 12)*

Mission 300 is officially underway in Africa. The operation plans to supply electricity to 300 million Africans by 2030. If the plan comes to fruition, it will cut the number of Africans without electricity in half. The \$30+ billion plan led by the World Bank Group heavily relies on numerous, small solar-powered sites to reach rural communities that would otherwise be difficult to connect to the centralized grid. Partners like the Rockefeller Foundation, Global Energy Alliance for People (GEAPP) and Planet, and Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL), have all played roles in the plan gaining international traction.



Photo via World Bank

# Contact Info



@edgewoodenvironmentalclub



lewaugh13@gmail.com



Edgewood High School



# WORKS CITED

---

- <https://indianapublicmedia.org/news/iu-bloomington-scientists-fight-against-censorship-politicization-amid-federal-cuts.php>
- <https://vitalsigns.edf.org/story/good-climate-news>
- <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/energizing-africa/overview>
- <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2025/03/250326154425.htm>
- \*Additional Photo Credits to the Edgewood Key Club\*