



# ROUND SQUARE ROUND UP

ISSUE 03



# ENVIRONMENTALISM



# ROUND SQUARE PILLAR OF THE MONTH

# environmentalism

From [www.roundsquare.org](http://www.roundsquare.org)

Students learn about the importance of tending to the future of the planet. They and their schools demonstrate an active interest in – and concern for – all natural environments.

Through defining and promoting a Spirit of Environmentalism, Round Square schools create opportunities both within and outside the curriculum for students to explore proven problems and to play a practical role in tackling environmental issues.

A spirit of environmentalism is about understanding mankind's place in the universe, the forces that shape our surroundings and the impact we have on those surroundings. A systems-based appreciation of the interdependence between human beings and the planet highlights the fine balance needed to make that relationship a healthy one.

In addition, mindfulness in connecting with the surrounding world underpins a peace and ease with natural cycles. This creates a connected appreciation for the beauty, complexity and fragility of the environment which often inspires creative expression – landscape painting, photography, poetry, creative writing.

A person living out a spirit of Environmentalism takes practical action in tackling issues of sustainability. They question and challenge any practices that impact negatively on the environment. They seek solutions and make suggestions as to how practices can be improved, and consideration of the environmental impact of every-day activity is second-nature.

An active interest in, and concern for, all environments develops awareness and understanding known issues. This leads to a recognition of the importance of tending to the future of the planet, protecting and preserving threatened habitats and creating sustainable communities. Ultimately, through discovering a spirit of environmentalism, each young person accepts and prepares for their destiny to be a future guardian of human society and the global environment.





# Earth Day at DAIS!

As every year, the entire school refreshes its pledge towards protecting the environment through a series of captivating awareness building and action oriented activities. This year we chose to revive the theme that required immediate attention and action. The theme was '3R Paper Management'- recycling and reusing. On the 22nd of April, the day started out with the Earth Day planning team welcoming the incoming students and teachers with a mesmerising Earth Day song. The singers welcomed the students and staff with a message to save the environment. They also held posters made on recycled paper displaying important messages for Earth Day. Similar posters were also put up around the school to celebrate Earth Day. The school prayer was followed by a message by our cub captains who delivered a compelling message, through the PA system, for each one of us to steps towards saving the environment.

Students from middle school had put up a special assembly, highlighting the current apthay towards the environment. In a humorous play, they explained how the Earth was so much cleaner and better when humans were locked up inside their homes during the pandemic. Portrayed through characters representing the Earth, Ozone layer, Covid virus, Mangroves, and humans, the actors sent out a strong message on how collective action can bring about changes that can help arrest the negative effects of climate change. The assembly ended with Sriya Bodapati and Dhruv Bhalla addressing the students about the importance of taking care of the Earth and waste paper management.

The awareness building program was carried out throughout the school by student volunteers from grades 7, 8A and Yr 11. Student volunteers visited every class from LKG to grade 8 and conducted sessions, discussions and activities engaging every child in understanding the need for action. The sessions included activities that encouraged reflections and reflections. Students played an informative video to raise awareness about environmentalism. The students discussed how they could make some lifestyle changes through individual actions and contribute to combating climate change. The discussions covered many topics like climate change, environmentalism, the importance of doing our part and waste paper management. Students groups produced feasible, creative, and innovative ideas and solutions about both waste paper management and reducing the use of paper in school as well as at home. The ideas created by the awarness sessions were practical and effective. Some of these ideas included using paper made from sustainable materials such as elephant dung or onion skin, using old notebooks for rough paper, creating new notebooks out of loose sheets and empty pages and several more.


During break time students from middle school and grade 9 sang a rap song in all faculty rooms with a message to save resources by reducing use of paper as well as turning off electrical appliances in rooms, when not in use.

# Earth Day at DAIS!

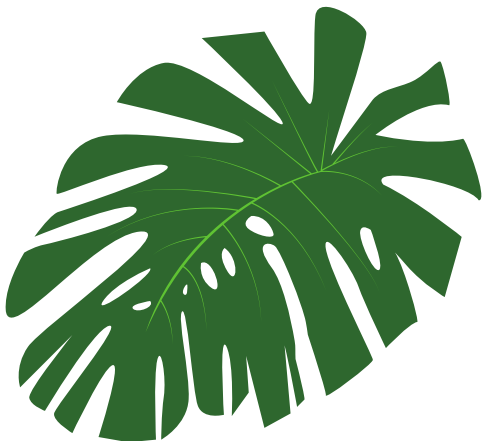
Students continued to engage in Earth Day related activities through music and art classes. Song about recycling, garbage segregation, conservation of resources were taught in ,music class, while in the art classes students worked with recycled paper and created paper mache artwork

Students painted and decorated boxes to collect the waste paper. These waste paper collection boxes were placed in each class. Students were guided to deposit waste paper in these boxes, for reusing and and recycling. Students pledged to reuse the recycle box for rough work and notes etc not only in school but also at their homes.

An overall, successful initiative that made students and teachers feel responsible for the environemnt and make changes to go green!



"Contributing to change in the school setup by spreading awareness about everyday things we can do to limit paper usage was a fulfilling way of giving back to DAIS. Interacting with LKG as well as new students in Pre-8th allowed for a collection of perspectives on the same plaguing issue" - Vivaan Turakhia



"Creating handmade posters and hosting a session for the second grade was truly an amazing experience. Hearing each student be so interactive and talk with pride about having their own plants to take care of allowed the true message of earth day shine through."- Aryahi Agarwal





# Earth Day at DAIS!







Earth Day at  
DAIS!

# DAIS Leadership Series

Ms. Monisha Narke join us as part of the Leadership Series on the 5th of May, 2022. Ms. Narke is the Founder and CEO of RUR Greenlife (RUR: Are you reducing , reusing , recycling). An environmentalist, she founded RUR Greenlife. with a vision to create eco conscious citizens. She has designed an innovative aerobic biocomposter which has Indian Patent and GreenPro certified by Indian Green Building Council. The technology won Bronze Excellence award on international platform by SWANA ( solid waste association of North America). With over 100 Decentralised waste management projects across India,RUR recycles 500 tonnes of biodegradable waste into compost annually. The RUR flagship program Go Green with Tetra Pak, a collaborative initiative to recycle Tetra pak cartons in retail, was recognized by Limca Book of Records. She is passionate about providing innovative solutions to maximise recycling of waste to a resource.

During her talk, she addressed students from grades 6 - 12, discussing sustainable ways to live. She spoke about her start up and her journey to establishing RUR Greenlife, as well as the process and work that the company does. She provided students with examples of ways they can lead a more sustainable life and help the people around them do so too. Since the students live in a city, together with our speaker they came up with ways to implement sustainable living solutions in their buildings, like compost bins, segregation of their waste and building a supply of fresh fruits and vegetables that residents can grow themselves in their buildings. She also asked thought provoking questions like what the students and teachers attending would like to see in their city and what changes they can make, and provided the students with a glimpse of what her next project would include.

**Ms. Narke's talk provided a great conclusion to the celebrations of Earth Day at DAIS. She helped students discover new and innovative ways to live sustainably. Students spoke to her about the discussions they had with the Earth Day volunteers regarding ways that they can help contribute to saving the environment, and she helped broaden their ideas and find small but impactful steps that each student could take toward a more sustainable life.**

MS. MONISHA  
NARKE





# ARTICLES

## The Spirit Of Environmentalism

With 'Earth Day' just round the corner, it is fitting that we are focusing on the Round Square IDEALS of the 'Environmentalism', which encourages us to develop a better understanding of our place on Earth, the forces that shape our surroundings and the impact our actions have on the environment.

The theme for Earth Day (April 22) this year was 'Waste paper management', which beautifully resonates with the Round Square IDEALS of the importance of tending to the future of the Planet Earth by conserving our limited resources

For me, the starting point is understanding the difference between "green" and "sustainable". While both these terms point to environmental awareness and preserving natural resources, "green" is limited to environmental health, while "sustainable" takes the notion of 'green' to the next level, and challenges us to look deeper.

Sustainability is a systems-based appreciation of the interdependence between human beings and the planet, encompassing environmental health, economic vitality and social benefits, while highlighting the fine balance needed to make that relationship a healthy one.

Simply put, environmental sustainability is responsibly interacting with the planet, to allow the maintenance of long-term quality of our limited natural resources. As inhabitants of the planet, our actions should be mindful, so as to not jeopardize the ability for future generations to meet their own needs.

Some concrete steps towards sustainability include harnessing renewable sources of energy (such as solar, wind, hydro-electric and biomass); recycling of metals (such as minerals, iron and steel); strongly advocating selectively logging of tress and crop rotation.

Being mindful while connecting with our surrounding world creates a connected appreciation for the beauty, complexity and fragility of the environment, which often inspires creative expression (landscape painting, photography, poetry, creative writing).

As a person living out a spirit of Environmentalism, over the last weekend, I took my first baby steps of practical action, to tackle one aspect of 'sustainability', to make a small difference, by participating in a "clean-up at Juhu beach, Mumbai".

Early Sunday morning, armed with gloves and masks, we picked up plastic waste (single-use plastic bottles, plastic wrappers and covers, etc.) and segregated it for effective disposal/reuse (handed over to new-age entrepreneurs, who will use it make eco-friendly products).

These 3+ hours were an eye-opening experience. I for one, returned home with small sense of accomplishment and a strong resolve to devote more of my weekends, for such activities leading to sustainable living.

Going forward, I wish to seek solutions/make suggestions/improve practices. On a personal note, be more mindful and have greater consideration for the environmental impact of my everyday activities, as I prepare to be a future guardian of human society and the global environment.

BY ARISHKA BETADPUR, 7A



# Environmentalism!

BY ADITYA BHARGAVA -  
IBD 12

Birds fluttering, rabbits frolicking, trees swaying. The warm sunlight gently penetrating the foliage, offering an ethereal glow to the serene backdrop of unending green. A circle of life maintained by a delicate balance between predator and prey. An imperfect perfection, but one that cannot last. The divine hand comes crashing down, trembling the earth and decimating all who breathe on it. The paradise is razed, the utopia ceases its existence and the once pristine fragment of nature turns grey, yet another addition to the concrete jungle. This grim scenario becomes reality for about five million hectares of forest cover each year, due to deforestation alone (for the westernized readers, that's over nine million football fields). Such travesties, coupled with further aggravations against nature and nature's subsequent assaults against us, lead to a justified call by concerned and educated laypeople to save our planet from ruin - therein lies the birth of environmentalism. To an extent, sympathies do lie with these environmentalists in defending our Earth. Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned, and our neglect of mother continues to lead to devastating catastrophes at an ever-increasing frequency. Sweltering heatwaves, frigid snowstorms, ravaging floods and decimating droughts are all proof of this - mother nature is irate, and it's evident.

Notwithstanding the significance of the aforementioned, the mere existence of environmentalism begs the question - what impact does it truly have in saving a dying planet? Is it a movement with a genuine capacity for driving change - an acorn of hope, rising into a towering oak? Or is it a doomed and misguided endeavour from the start? How can one save the environment in a mere few decades, when humans have spent over two centuries using it as their personal cornucopia?

The difficult truth to accept here is that there exists no clear-cut answer to these questions. As much as society has a burning desire to see positive change, the reality remains that modern civilisation hinges on the exploitation of nature. Living in a consumerist society, luxury takes precedence over sustainability - a sad state of affairs, but one that is universally true nonetheless. And it is this elite, consumerist crowd with their leather recliners and plastic cups filled with the finest of coffee, that propagate environmentalism from the cosy confines of their homes. Armchair activism in the truest sense of the word. Contrast this with the underprivileged who live from pay check to pay check, if not daily wages. Villagers with no access to electricity, relying on what meagre facilities the government can scrounge to provide. Does environmentalism hold relevance to them? To put it simply, the environment is a first-world problem concerning the elite and preoccupying them with the false notion of positively contributing to society, all the while they being the problem themselves. By decrying unsustainable practices, they engage in finger-pointing, armchair activism and an all-around futile engagement, working against significant contribution towards protecting the environment.

CONTINUED...



# Environmentalism!

BY ADITYA BHARGAVA - 12

With that said, one cannot discount the few who genuinely walk the talk, driving the change they want to see. Can these environmentalists make any relevant change to the environment? To divine this question's answer is a tricky one, and it strikes straight at the heart of the causes behind environmental degradation. Studies show that just 100 fossil fuel corporations account for 71% of global greenhouse gas emissions since 1982. With this in mind, what can environmentally aware choices of individuals do against the wanton corporate razing of our planet? A single person's choice to install solar panels will hardly make a dent on the fossil fuel industry's profits. Nor will said person's choice to go vegan force the rancher to close down shop. A single person, or even a group of such persons together, cannot realistically make a lasting impact through environmentalist choices alone.

Thus far, the battle for our planet's soul has been dark, and I'm certain what you have read in the previous minute or so has not helped. However, it is not my intention to leave you, dear reader, with such a pessimistic view of the world. To this end, how can an arguable, valid case for environmentalism be made? Well for starters, simply comprehending the cause for which one fights for can be sufficient. The environment need not necessarily be the vast vales of Danum, or the melting icecaps of a land you shall never once visit. It can simply be your community, the land and its inhabitants with which you interact daily. Rather than recognize the futility regarding the afforestation of the amazon rainforest, try planting some trees in your backyard. Rather than worry about the gaping ozone hole over the arctic, maybe go green with your bicycle. This may not change the world, but little choices do go a long way in shaping local communities and by extension, a better place for you to live in.

Of course, this is not the only way to make a change. Environmentalism can be pursued through appealing to higher powers. Ensuring the environment is not forgotten, and is an agenda on a city council's list. Ensuring that the congressman standing in as your candidate in the government maintains the environment as an agenda for discussion. And ensuring that environmental promises are followed through, by constant badgering at different administrative levels, both micro and macro.

To conclude, I say this - the environment, as it stands in the present, may not be a concern to you and me, with our decadent lifestyle. It may not be a concern to the daily wage labourer after they return home from a hard day's work. It may not be a concern to the government, ever engaged in its megalomania. It may not be a concern to the fossil fuel industry, with their primary concerns forever to remain profit-making. Nevertheless, while we may all remain carefree today, we may not have the liberty tomorrow. As such, environmentalism, despite its shortcomings and dangers, remains the most prudent course of action.



# Do you want to live a more sustainable and environment-friendly life?

Doing our part to save the planet from human-caused destruction is ultimately our responsibility! We can bring about impactful changes to our daily life this by following the 3 Rs- Reduce, Reuse and Recycle

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## Reduce

To live a more climate-friendly life means making daily choices that reduce our negative impact on the environment. We should reduce the amount of energy used. Instead of using the car all the time, why not walk or cycle? Switch to electric cars, or reduce the amount of waste your house generates.

## Re-use

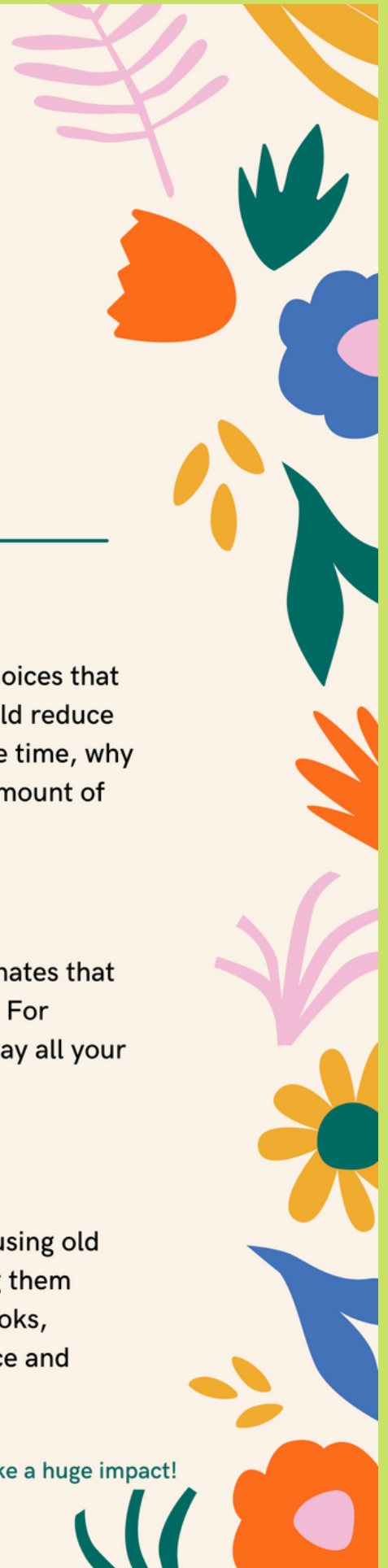
The easiest way to REDUCE is by re-using. Switch to alternates that can be used multiple times before needing to be replaced. For example, use cloth bags instead of plastic. Don't throw away all your food waste, instead use it to fertilise your plants etc.

## Recycle

Recycling is good for the environment; in a sense, we are using old and waste products that are of no use and then converting them back to the same new products. By recycling items like books, papers, plastic, boxes etc. we are easily able to both reduce and reuse.

These actions may seem incredibly small, but trust me they can make a huge impact!

Kavya Sinha 9B



# GREEN MOBILITY KICKS OFF IN INDIA AS EVS, HYBRID VEHICLES ARE TRENDING: STUDY

BY SHAURYA GOYAL - 12



Over a third of Indian consumers have expressed interest in electrified and hybrid vehicles, as the segment sets steam with India's focus on environment friendly, self-manufactured and sustainable solutions post pandemic, as per the findings of the annual report.

India is witnessing a shift in mobility trends with more and more consumers expressing interest in electrified and hybrid vehicles, as per Deloitte's Global Automotive Consumer Study 2022.

Over a third of Indian consumers have expressed interest in electrified and hybrid vehicles, as the segment sets steam with India's focus on environment friendly, self-manufactured and sustainable solutions post pandemic, as per the findings of the annual report.

According to the study, 59 per cent of the Indian consumers were concerned about climate change, pollution levels and gasoline/diesel vehicles emissions, indicating that consumers interest in the electric vehicles (EVs) is due to the perception of lower fuel costs, environmental consciousness, and a better driving experience.

The push for green mobility in the Union Budget with focus on battery swapping and charging infrastructure has also aided the interest in green mobility, it said.

# KNOW THE REAL WORTH OF THE EARTH

AHANA SHAH 7B

God's gift to Mankind is Earth's ethereal beauty,  
To safeguard it is our solemn duty!

We should curtail pollution caused by industrialisation,  
It's better for us, the sooner we get that realisation!

No more grounds littered with crushed bottles and pieces of glass,  
No more dirty plastic wrappers strewn on the picturesque grass!

Let's not hurt Mother Earth by cutting down trees,  
They beseech us, 'Don't cut us please!'

If we were to ban all single use plastic,  
Its effect on marine life, will be profoundly fantastic!

On Solar, Hydro and Wind energy we should all agree,  
And breathe crisp, pristine air with glee!

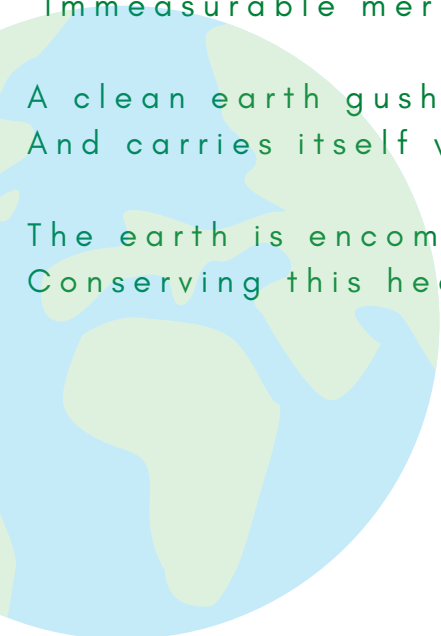
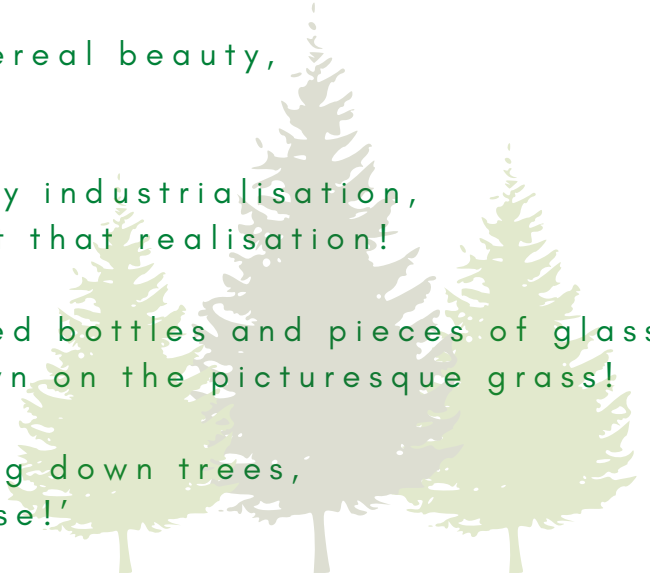
'Boom, Bang' firecrackers cause exceptional noise,  
The peace and tranquillity they destroy!

Deforestation can do us copious harm,  
It makes earth's verdant beauty lose its charm.

To the glorious tune of nature, flowers and trees sing,  
Immeasurable merriment to the birds and animals they bring!

A clean earth gushes like a new bride,  
And carries itself with a peacock's pride.

The earth is encompassed in a lush green and sparkling blue carpet,  
Conserving this heavenly view should be our solitary target!





# ***DESIGNING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES WITH MINECRAFT***

In February 2022, I participated in a Minecraft Build Challenge where the topic was, "Sustainable and Attainable Living". Sustainable living is the practice of reducing our demand for natural resources by making sure that we replace what we use to the best of our ability.

I designed a sustainable community called "Circle of Life", incorporating several sustainable features in the building materials used and in the way energy and resources are consumed.

Community Green House to grow food all year around fitted with transparent glass solar panels for heating. It has insulated sheep's' wool lining on the floors to keep the interiors warm naturally, composters to produce organic fertilizer.

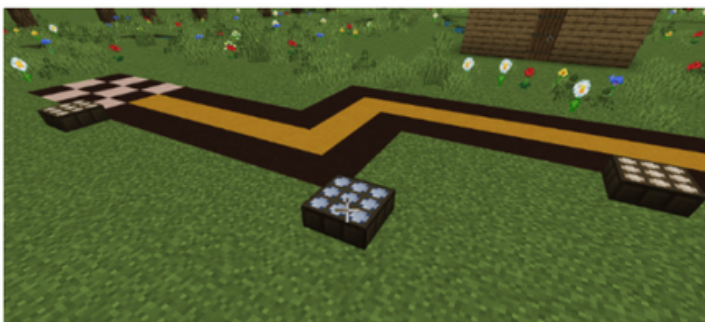
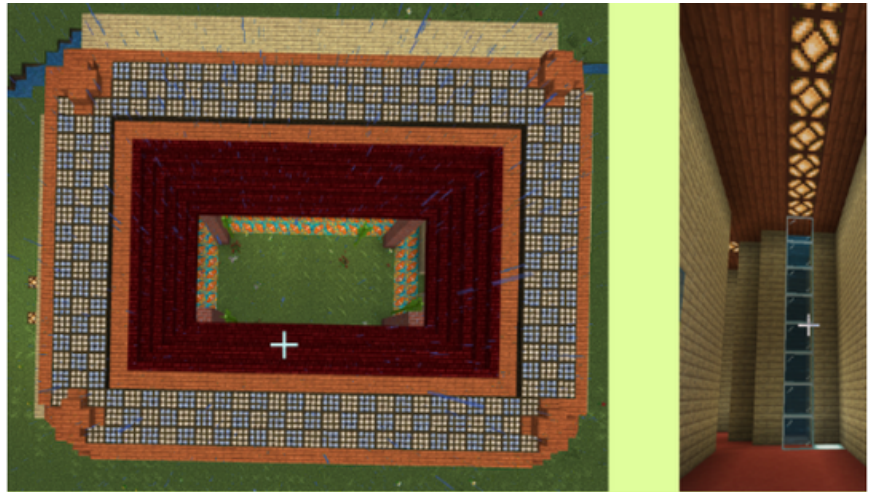
Homes - Sustainable homes inside the community have vertical columns with water circulating inside to produce natural cooling, solar panels on roof, and a central courtyard for natural light, ventilation, rainwater harvesting and garden. The floors have natural terracotta tiles for cooling. The inspiration for homes with central courtyard came from traditional houses built in Kerala

Renewable energy comes from windmills, solar panels on rooftops, biomass energy from food and animal waste from the community farms.

Water recycling - Canals with recycled water flow around the community, get filtered using natural methods (adding fish and aquatic plants for further natural purification). This also adds beauty to the community and cools the environment.

This project provided an opportunity to study and learn from sustainable living practices prevalent in ancient India (courtyard homes, water columns for cooling, canals with natural filtering of water), use of terracotta and using modern technology like greenhouse. It helped in understanding the different ways we can ensure sustainability by changing the way we live and consume resources. This project has also shown me the infinite possibilities in Minecraft. It gave me great satisfaction and joy in seeing my imagination take shape in the Minecraft world.

# ***DESIGNING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES WITH MINECRAFT***



BY  
SAKETARAM  
MANIKANTAN  
- 5A

# COMO PREVENIR EL CAMBIO CLIMATICO

SRIYA BODAPATI - 12

1) Usa productos reutilizables

2) Cierra el grifo mientras te cepillas

3) Ahorra energia

4) No desperdices el agua

5) Separa y recicla

6) Recoge la basura

7) Cuida y respeta los animales, plantas y arboles





# ENVIRONMENTALISM

N	A	T	U	R	A	L	R	E	S	O	U	R	C	E	S	D
F	X	Q	Z	I	Z	A	Y	Q	Z	W	K	L	O	O	U	S
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BY ARISHKA BETADPUR, 7A

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Conserve

Endangered

Energy

Global Warming

Green

Mindful

Mother Earth

Natural Resources

Pollution

Renewable

Reserves

Reuse

Save

Sustain

Survive

Toxic

**"Barren" By Tridha Haritwal - 12**



*tridha*