

Environment Edition

July 16, 2023



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President's Corner

By Shivi Goyal



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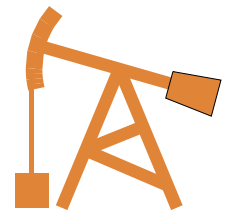
When we were choosing our theme for this newsletter, all the officers and I unanimously decided on the topic of environment. At the time, the Willow Project was making headlines across the newspapers, and we saw it as an opportunity to speak about it through our newsletter. Once the environment is damaged, it is hard to repair, so it's our job to save it. In order to bring awareness, we interviewed Eliana Wyche about what we can do by ourselves to make a difference for the Earth and information about the what the Willow project and the situation it is in.

This is also my last month as President and member of TIPS JVP. I will never forget these past 12 years and the memories I made. I've learned so much from the organization, and I hope it does the same to you. Thank you to the core and officer team for a great year. Below, we also have information if you are interested in becoming an officer for the 2023-2024 school year. Good luck!

This is me signing off. I hope you enjoy the newsletter!



Environmental Crisis: The Willow Project



By Pavit Kesar

The Willow Project is a proposed oil drilling project by ConocoPhillips inside the national petroleum reserve in Alaska. ConocoPhillips discovered Willow with two exploratory wells from 2016. The project is estimated to cost about 6-8 billion dollars and is known to be one of the largest proposed oil projects in decades. The proposed project included five drilling pads within the 23 million acres of untouched land in the reserve. If the drilling begins, then up to 180,000 barrels of oil will be produced per day which makes up 1.5% of the oil production in the world. Besides the extraction of oil, ConocoPhillips claims that the project is expected to create jobs and create revenue for the state and federal governments.

So what is the controversy about this project? If you have been keeping track of the news, you would hear that about 9.2 million metric tons of carbon emission will be produced into the atmosphere. Not only will this affect the current deterioration of the arctic circle, but also reduce freshwater use, infrastructure, and air quality around the drill site. Moreover, the project could destroy migration patterns and the habitat of many native species like caribous and yellow-billed loons.

Many climate activists and concerned citizens have made it a priority to stop the Willow project. They are protesting to reduce fossil fuel in order to cut down on carbon emissions produced in the atmosphere. And if the willow project is approved, Americans would be more dependent on fossil fuel. During his administration and campaign, President Biden promised to end oil drilling on federal land, and the Willow project is going to happen on the national reserve in Alaska.

So despite the controversy behind the Willow project, would our president approve this catastrophe? On March 13, 2023, the Biden administration accepted the Willow oil project. The approval was downscaled which means that the project will only include three drill sites which will include up to 199 total wells which will allow for less surface infrastructure than originally planned.

Even though the project is scaled down, why would Biden approve Willow? Some people say that Biden didn't have any choice but to approve Willow because of how high the gas prices are already. However, Willow might not actually start drilling. On March 15, 2023, a group of environmental groups filed a lawsuit to overturn Biden's decision, so there is still hope for the Willow project and the pressing matter of global warming.





How to Save your Environment

By Rusham Goyal

Eliana Wyche is the founder and president of the Save the Planet Association. She is a rising Junior at Saint Mary's Hall. Her hobbies include dance, theater, singing, and soccer. She also has a passion for engineering and wants to study mechanical engineering in college.

What inspired you to start the Save the Planet Association?

When I was younger, I started Save the Animals Association for fun. The mission was to help endangered species. When I was 12 years old, I believed there was so much more I could do to not only help the animals but also the environment they live in.

What do you think is the best way for teenagers to be able to help the environment?

The best way for teenagers to help the environment is to spread awareness in their community, whether that be handing out flyers or just telling neighbors the importance of recycling.

What are some ways to cut back in carbon emissions?

There are many ways to cut back on carbon emissions. Instead of driving, walking or biking to short destinations is a great way to cut back. Another way is turning off lights and unplugging devices when they are not in use. When you have to use your cars, make sure the tires are properly inflated and that you get regular tune-ups. If everyone does these small things, a huge difference will be made.

What are three small things every person can do at home to help the environment?

Three things to do at home are recycle, conserve water, and volunteer with environmental organizations.

What activities has the Save the Planet Association participated in?

During COVID, we hosted a virtual event called Plant Palooza, where people from all over the world sent in pictures of plants to show that they are making a difference in their own homes. We also hosted a recycling drive to allow people to recycle household items that they cannot put in a home bin. It was convenient and gave people the chance to recycle it all in one place. We hope to continue growing and making a difference in the future.

Upcoming Events

July 31st - Deadline to submit officer application

August 5th - Stuff the Bus



Easter Basket Project

By Aanvi Goyal March 25, 2023

This past March, TIPS JVP got the opportunity to make easter baskets for children for the Laurel Ridge Treatment Center. This treatment center specializes in helping people going through mental or health issues. We laid baskets out and put goodies in for children like chocolate, chips, lollipops, coloring books, markers, crayons, and toys which were contributed from members of TIPS JVP. We made 60 baskets and they were loaded in the car to be given to the kids. It felt nice to know that I could brighten a kid's day and put a smile on their faces by giving them a basket for the holiday.



New Leadership

As this academic year is coming to an end, TIPS JVP is looking for new high school officers for the student council. The student council makes the newsletters, plan events and activities, and helps the core team behind the scenes. If you are interested in joining, here are the requirements and information needed for the application. There are a total of 5 positions available and will span from August 2023-July 2024. The deadline to submit an application is July 31st, 2023. For more information, please view your email.

President - Rising Seniors

Vice Presidents of Events/Activities or Communications - Rising Juniors

- Responsible for newsletter/communication with core team and volunteers

Officers of Events/Activities or Communications - Rising freshmen or sophomores

- Responsible for meetings, coordination during volunteering events

1. You must be an active participant in JVP activities
2. You may not have any disciplinary actions taken against you by our organization or your school.
3. You need to submit a thoughtful, well-written essay expounding on why you would be an excellent candidate for whichever position you are applying for (no more than 800 words).
4. You may submit ONE Letter of Recommendation(LOR)

Kindly do not apply if you are unable to make the time commitment that these positions require. Please email your application and any secondary documents to tipsjvp@gmail.com

