



Date: April 16th, 2009
To: Mayor's Executive Team
From: Mayor's Youth Council, 2009
Subject: Climate Action Now: "Seven Changes, Seven Schools" Proposal

Briefing Objective: Approve proposal for project that brings C.A.N. into the hands of Seattle's youth

Issue Statement: Although the Climate Action Now campaign has achieved success, its ideas and principals have yet to reach our city's next generation, our youth. We propose two actions. First, we propose creating a section of C.A.N.'s website devoted to instructions and materials to help students in Seattle schools take action in their schools. Second, we propose the creation of a special grant, based on the Department of Neighborhoods' Small Sparks grant, specifically for students who want to make the seven changes in their schools.

Background: The Climate Action Now campaign was inspired by a global climate initiative that sought to reduce carbon emissions by a certain percentage within seven years. Seattle adopted this goal, and has pledged to commit to the goals and ideas of climate awareness. Since children and teenagers haven't had as much exposure to Seattle CAN as their adult counterparts, we propose to make their schools partners with the city to work for reduced carbon emissions.

This plan is based on a proposal from last year's Mayor's Youth Council, with some changes and revisions. We have redesigned the process by which schools will get the money, through a first-come first-served grant, and we have added a plan for a website to help students make green changes for their schools.

Outreach: From the community meetings we held in late 2008 and other discussions we've had with Seattle youth, it is clear that many Seattle students want to help the environment. Through our discussions with administration at Whitman Middle School, we found out that many schools don't have the resources they need to be as environmentally-friendly as they'd like to be.

Pilot: We have applied for and received a Small Sparks grant from the Department of Neighborhoods to implement a pilot of the Seven Changes program at Whitman Middle School in northwest Seattle.

We contacted Whitman to tell them we had received a grant and would like them to be a pilot for our project. We scheduled a meeting with Principal Mike Starosky to discuss the most effective way to spend the money at Whitman. He told us he was impressed with the recycling program Seattle has built, but was disappointed with Whitman's limited participation. Whitman had recycling bins in the hallways and classrooms, but the only cans in the lunchroom were for garbage. Starosky said he didn't like the message that was being sent to the students: that everything from their lunch had to be sent to a landfill, and could not be recycled.

Increasing the availability of the recycling program was Starosky's highest environmental priority for Whitman, and his suggestion for where the money should be spent.

The \$250 grant was spent to purchase five recycling bins and to create signs showing what can and can't be recycled. Whitman Middle School now has recycling throughout the entire school.

Proposal:

A. Goals:

- I. Raise youth awareness of climate change issues
- II. Create commitment to working on climate issues through youth in Seattle schools
- III. Promote Seattle Climate Action Now's involvement with students in Seattle

B. Recommended Steps for Implementation:

- I. Create web pages to be hosted on C.A.N. website
- II. Create \$250 grant to be given to the first 7 seriously interested schools to be used to implement the Seven Changes program

C. Resources Required:

- I. \$1750 in 7 grants to Seattle students
- II. Administration of grants through the Department of Neighborhoods
- III. Web hosting on Seattle C.A.N. Website: \$200 one-time charge.
- IV. Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs from C.A.N.
- V. Other materials (flyers, poster, &c.) from C.A.N.