



Kim Henry

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Issue Transportation systems should be improved to assist evacuations in meeting the needs of lower income Americans without vehicles during an environmental crisis.

Project Description Juniors at Casco Bay High School are given the opportunity to become experts in a problem related to America's overuse of fossil fuels, and draft proposals for policy change. I did extensive research on how fossil fuel emissions and climate change are increasing the number of highly destructive hurricanes, and what the government can do to improve evacuations. I then drafted a white paper, in which I proposed that FEMA should allocate funds to at risk states to convert their public transit into evacuation systems for those without transportation. The law can be improved to better utilize public transit in natural disasters, which consistently affect lower income citizens. The current laws not only ignore the needs of Americans below the poverty line, but also continue to marginalize minorities and put the elderly at risk. I presented my findings and proposed solution to a panel of environmental experts, including an officer of the U.S. Coast Guard.

Project Outcome On the local level, my goal is to make sure that Maine has an evacuation plan in place that accounts for lower income citizens. Additionally, on the national level, my goal is that other states recognize the needs of their lower income citizens in their evacuation plans, and that the federal government facilitates the inception of these plans.

Request I would like to know what kind of work my representatives believe they could do with this idea, if there are any plans to address it already in the works, or what it would take to put these plans into action.

Project Link blogs.portlandschools.org/humanities3