

Team Name: Trash2Trends

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Green Heart Action Plan

Problem Definition/ Problem Statement

Fast fashion contributes to excessive waste and environmental harm because cheaply made clothing is quickly discarded. Middle school students often throw away clothes instead of repurposing them, adding to landfill waste and reinforcing unsustainable consumption habits.

Root Cause of the Problem

Fast fashion leads to excessive waste and environmental damage because cheaply made clothing wears out quickly and is often discarded. Many middle school students regularly throw away clothes instead of repairing, repurposing, or donating them, contributing to overflowing landfills. The fast fashion industry promotes constant consumption through ever-changing trends and low prices, making it easier to buy new clothes than to extend the life of old ones. Without awareness of its impact or access to sustainable alternatives, students continue this cycle of waste, reinforcing unsustainable habits that harm the planet.

List at Least Three Credible Resources that Support Your Problem Statement

"Fast fashion is the second dirtiest industry in the world, next to big oil": This article highlights the significant environmental damage caused by the fast fashion industry, including its contribution to pollution and waste.

"The fashion industry emits more carbon than international flights and maritime shipping combined": This report discusses how the fashion industry's carbon emissions surpass those of major transportation sectors, underscoring its environmental footprint.

"The environmental price of fast fashion": This study examines the ecological costs associated with the fast fashion industry, including resource consumption and pollution.

Proposed Solution

To combat fast fashion waste, the **Trash2Trend Initiative** focuses on three key solutions:

1. **Clothing Swap Meets** – Organizing events where students can trade gently used clothes instead of buying new ones. This promotes sustainability, saves money, and reduces textile waste.
2. **Upcycling Workshops** – Teaching students simple techniques to repair, redesign, or customize old clothing, making repurposing both fun and fashionable.



3. **Donation Boxes** – Placing collection bins at school to encourage clothing donations for local shelters or thrift stores, ensuring clothes get a second life instead of ending up in landfills.

By raising awareness and making sustainable fashion accessible, Trash2Trend helps students reduce waste, express creativity, and build eco-friendly habits that last a lifetime.

How We Will Measure Our Success

We want to make a real impact, so here's how we'll know Trash2Trend is working:

1. **How Many People Join In** – We'll count how many students show up to our swap meets and upcycling workshops to see if more people are getting involved.
2. **How Much Clothing We Save** – We'll track how many items get swapped, donated, or upcycled instead of thrown away. The more we keep out of landfills, the better!
3. **What People Think** – We'll ask students what they've learned and if they're making more sustainable choices through quick surveys and feedback.
4. **Before & After Pics** – We'll take pictures of donation bins and swap meet tables to see the difference we're making in reducing waste.
5. **Giving Back** – We'll check in with local charities and thrift stores to see how many donated clothes are getting a second life.

If we see more participation, less waste, and positive feedback, we'll know we're making a difference!

Who are Decision Makers We Need to Reach

To make Trash2Trend a reality, we need support from key decision-makers, including:

1. **School Administrators (Principal & Vice Principal)** – They can approve events, provide space for swap meets and workshops, and help promote the initiative.
2. **Teachers & Staff** – They can encourage students to participate, integrate sustainability lessons into class, and help with logistics.
3. **Student Council & Clubs** – Partnering with student leadership groups can help spread the word and organize events more effectively.
4. **Parents & PTA** – Getting parents involved can help with donations, supplies for upcycling, and spreading awareness outside of school.
5. **Local Businesses & Thrift Stores** – Stores and brands focused on sustainability might



donate materials, sponsor events, or help distribute collected clothing.

By working with these groups, we can make Trash2Trend a long-term success

Our 3-5 Step Plan for Change

Spread Awareness – Create posters, social media posts, and classroom presentations to educate students on the impact of fast fashion and why reusing clothes matters.

Set Up a Clothing Donation Box – Place bins in key areas at school (like the cafeteria or hallway) where students can drop off unwanted clothes for donation or future swap meets.

Host a Clothing Swap Event – Organize a fun event where students can trade clothes they no longer wear, giving them a new life instead of throwing them away.

Run an Upcycling Workshop – Teach students easy ways to customize, repair, or transform old clothes into something fresh and stylish.

Track & Celebrate Impact – Keep count of clothes swapped, donated, and upcycled. Share the results through school announcements or a bulletin board to show the difference Trash2Trend is making!

Impact & Equity

Impact:

Trash2Trend has the power to make a big difference by cutting down on waste and showing students how their everyday choices can help the planet. When we swap, donate, or upcycle clothes, we keep them out of landfills, reduce pollution, and create less waste. It also encourages students to get creative, turning old clothes into something new. Plus, by donating clothes, we can help those who need them most, making sure that everyone can stay stylish without hurting the environment.

Equity:

Trash2Trend is all about making sustainability accessible to everyone. No matter a student's background or budget, everyone can participate in the swap meets or donate clothes they no longer need. It helps create a community where students can access gently used clothing without the cost of buying new items. This way, students don't have to feel left out, and we're all part of the same movement toward a greener, fairer school environment.

What Help We Need to Be Successful

Support from Teachers and Staff:

We'll need teachers to help us get the word out, encourage students to participate, and maybe even help supervise events. Staff can also help with setting up donation boxes or organizing spaces



for swap meets and workshops.

Student Volunteers:

We'll need a team of students who are excited to help organize and run swap events, sort donations, and lead upcycling workshops. Having a few people dedicated to the cause will make everything run more smoothly.

Donations for Supplies:

We'll need things like fabric, sewing materials, markers, and other craft supplies to make the upcycling workshops fun and creative. Donations from students, parents, or even local businesses could help us gather what we need.

Promotion and Awareness:

We'll need help from the student council or other school groups to spread the word—whether it's through posters, social media, or announcements at school. The more students know about it, the more will get involved!

Support from Parents and Local Businesses:

Parents can help by donating old clothes, and local businesses might be willing to help by donating materials for workshops or even sponsoring events.

