



Charte France

Prenons soin de la Planète

We, students of secondary schools (11 to 18 years old), assembled at Eybens on March 30th 2010, assume the following responsibilities:

We are conscious that our ways of life and negligence contribute to the misuse of energy resources and to the pollution of the planet. Therefore, we commit ourselves to adopt new consumer habit; to reduce energy use (by using energy-efficient light bulbs, more economic appliances, motion sensor lights) and to only consume that which we really need. We also want to keep ourselves informed, to serve as an example to others and to sensitize the population so as to reduce our energy debt. We are further committed to reduce and reuse our waste through recycling to give it a second life.

We think that it is necessary to change our production standards, and to develop the use of non-polluting and renewable sources of energy. Bearing that in mind, we will expand our knowledge concerning different uses of renewable energies in our region, as well as stimulate our academic establishments to carry out projects aimed at increasing the use of this kind of energy. We will also suggest that compost bins be set up in our school buildings.

We are aware of our abusive use of nonrenewable energies. In this regard, we will create awareness of this issue in our communities by informing, interpellating, and providing perspective, for example the ecological footprint. We will reduce wasteful energy use by choosing and promoting access to cleaner means of transportation, and researching and developing clean renewable energies for everyone.

We are concerned by the excess of waste on the global scale. We will separate and recycle the waste produced in our schools and communities. Together, we will learn how to move forward towards sustainable development. In sum, we will reduce waste and prefer goods that do not have excessive packaging.

We are conscious of our poor use of water, leading to overconsumption and wastefulness. We will ask our academic administrations to carry out a study on water consumption; we will present a proposal to the Administrative Board that will request the implementation of technical strategies to reduce water consumption (rainwater collection systems, water savers, etc.). In other words, we will create awareness of more intelligent methods of water user.

We are concerned about the unequal access to water in the world. To face this challenge, we will raise awareness of the problems related to water on a global scale (through images, data, press, movies...); we will identify existing nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations currently working on this issue and try to learn about their actions.

We are also concerned about deforestation because forests nourish biodiversity. We pledge to plant trees on our school grounds, to use certified recycled paper and to sensitize consumers about the issues of protecting forests and biodiversity.

We feel that overexploitation of natural resources and excessive waste are endangering the environment. In this regard, we would like to designate a “national” Waste-Awareness day on which we pledge to not generate excessive waste in our academic establishments, to organize an awareness-raising campaign to reduce excessive wastegeneration, for instance, through the use of games. We are also committed to re-using paper by re-packaging it into notebooks that can be used for brainstorming or rough drafts.

We are concerned with food production and consumption patterns, because our current living standards do not respect the environment. Given that organic and local agriculture favor both human beings and the environment, we will ask that organic meals be prepared in our school cafeterias (or at least that some of these organic and healthy items be progressively introduced in the menu); we also ask that the food that is not consumed be donated to care and assistance organizations. We will give priority to local and seasonal products so as to avoid long-distance transportation. We will sensitize school administrators and local habitants to adopt new consumer habits.

Lastly, we are concerned about the social consequences of climate change (particularly on original inhabitants and environmental refugees). We are concerned with the fact that the actions of Northern peoples impact the whole planet and we realize that the most affected countries are generally those that pollute the least. To react to this challenge, we are committed to do our best to reduce our environmental footprint, to contribute to the creation of a statute on the refugee situation caused by climate change and to propose that the Amazon be considered a World Natural Heritage (through awareness-raising and political pressure made on decision-makers at both national and international levels). We are also committed to buying fair trade products and to encouraging school cafeterias to introduce some such items on the menu.

We hope that making information available about these issues will lead people to act both individually and collectively, will provide knowledge and offer objective information and data, and will foster the development of critical thinking. We will promote debates in our schools in order to stimulate dialogue amongst students and we will find innovative and fun ways to raise awareness (artistic photographs, videos, conferences, games, etc.).

Together, let's take care of the Planet!

Youth delegates of the Rhône-Alpes and Ile de France regions