



## Stamford teen finds earth conservation organization



Jack Engel, a junior at Westhill High School started an initiative early this year to pick up at least one piece of trash each day. On Earth Day, he had participants in nine different states and Washington D.C. He coordinated with the Earth Day Network in D.C. and became an official organized event this year.

Engel started this project by cleaning up his own neighborhood. At Westhill High School he took an AP Environmental Science class, which is what showed him the problem of climate change.

Over 100 people across the country joined his initiative on Earth Day. However, Engel wants this initiative to be greater than just one day. He says, “Greta Thunberg has shown me that I can do something to make a difference.” He created an Instagram account: @clean2bgreen, where he posts pictures of him picking up litter and encouraging others to do the same. Because of this, he says that many people send him photos of them picking up pieces of trash when they go outside.

After seeing the success of Earth Day, he plans on having one focus day each month to encourage more people to pick up as much trash as possible.

This is a small step, which can help spark positive change. Engel says that in addition to picking up trash, “keep spreading awareness, share articles with your friends and your peers,” so we can save the planet.

## “Adidas and Allbirds are Teaming Up to Create a Shoe With Zero Carbon Footprint”



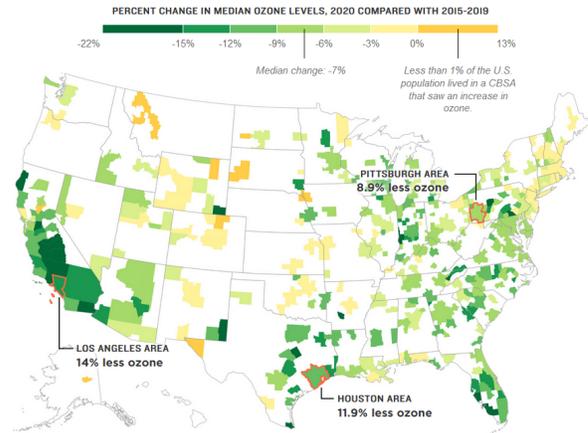
Twitter

Clare Duffy

Adidas and Allbirds are collaborating to create a high-performance sneaker with the lowest possible carbon emissions. Adidas has recently been making efforts to be more sustainable, including its line of products made of recycled plastics. Allbirds has long been rooted in sustainability, they are known for using renewable materials in their shoes. Adidas and Allbirds are aiming for between 2 and 3 kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions in the first version of their shoe collaboration, with later iterations moving toward zero emissions.

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## “Traffic Is Way Down Because Of Lockdown, But Air Pollution? Not So Much”



Daniel Wood/NPR

Morning Edition NPR

NPR researchers analyzed over half a million measurements of air pollutants from the EPA and compared them to that of the past five years. The study found that while traffic has decreased by about 40% over the course of the Coronavirus pandemic timeline, ozone measurements for March 2020 have barely decreased compared to measurements from March of the past five years. The study measures a 15% decrease in ozone, concluding that improving air quality will require a solution beyond just reducing car tailpipe emissions. Additionally, the study pointed out cities that had the lowest ozone decrease. It was speculated that this is due to either truck emissions, plant and refinery emissions, or coal burning emissions.

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## “Gulf of Mexico ‘Dead Zone’ Will Be Large This Summer, Scientists Predict”



Phil Degginger/Landsat/NASA, via Alamy

John Schwartz

Nutrient run-off, primarily from fertilizer, causes the Gulf of Mexico to experience low oxygen areas or “dead zones”. The area is expected to be much greater than average this year, and increased rainfall from climate change is likely to make the size continue to grow. The low oxygen areas are deadly to many sea creatures and results in many relocating.

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## “Luxury Cars Go Sustainable From the Inside Out”



Bentley

Brett Berk

Various car companies are working to make interior car materials more sustainable. Using recycled materials, vegan materials, limiting weight, and limiting waste are a few of the many techniques making the car industry more sustainable. While sustainable interiors are a step in the right direction, the most influential change in cars is electric powered vehicles.

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## “Like Trash in a Landfill: Carbon Dioxide Keeps Piling Up in the Atmosphere”



Chris Stewart/Associated Press

Henry Fountain

Despite reduced energy consumption due to Covid-19 shut downs, carbon dioxide peaked in May and was the highest it has ever been.

Natural variations in emissions from vegetation and other sources, means that even the reduction in human emissions are not resulting in global reductions. While emissions are diminished, the effect is cumulative and emissions are continuing to accumulate in the atmosphere.

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## “In a First, Renewable Energy Is Poised to Eclipse Coal in U.S.”



Libby March/The New York Times

Brad Plumer

For the first time in history, it is predicted that the U.S. will use more renewables than coal for electricity production this year. The Energy Information Administration anticipates coal to be responsible for only 19% of the country's electricity. Coal factories are the first to stop production due to the decreased demand, since they cost more to run than other renewable options. It is expected that carbon dioxide emissions will be down an additional 11% this year, due to the reduced coal usage and reduced emissions from cars. Future implications are hard to predict.

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“Our environmental practices make pandemics like the coronavirus more likely”



Universal Images Group/Getty

Sigal Samuel

Our environmental and social policies — like cutting down forests or failing to address a housing crisis — make it much likelier that a previously harmless microbe will cause a devastating outbreak. Increased land use causes the destruction of wildlife habitat which then means animals are moving into human space and are more likely to pass diseases to humans. Pandemics, climate disasters, all of these are related to mankind’s huge footprint on the planet.

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“White House Rejects New Emissions Rule Despite Covid-19 Link”



Robert Nickelsberg/Getty Images

Coral Davenport

The Trump administration decided not to tighten regulations around industrial soot, despite evidence that this type of pollution contributes to Covid-19 deaths. Results from a study done by Harvard have suggested that people living with a certain level of air pollution (PM 2.5) that is common in industrial cities are 15% more likely to die of Covid-19. It is estimated that by reducing pollution from industrial soot even a small amount would save thousands of lives.

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