What eco-friendly practices adopted by other colleges and universities should be implemented the Northern Marianas College?

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April 26th, 2019

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EN202-02

Research Essay

For most of us, we understand the issues we have made with our environment has been slowly growing and hasn’t truly been given much attention until now. In our nation, the Green movement has taken over many towns, cities, and even states. According to a local news webpage in San Diego, “The use of Styrofoam and single-use plastics in the city of San Diego will no longer be allowed beginning Saturday” (Ong, 2019). Even with all the hashtags, movements, and media coverage, there is still more that needs to be done. It is indisputable that we have to prioritize the health of our Earth. What can we do here in the CNMI to do more? I will be researching methods of eco-friendly sustainability that can be applied at our local college.

In my previous essay, I expressed how passionate I am about saving and improving the environment. The people of the CNMI should not only be focused on the health of our Earth, but also our islands. In September of 2018, according to an online article, “over 700 people from 34 groups and organizations across Saipan participated in Ocean Conservancy’s 33rd International Coastal Cleanup, the world’s largest single-day volunteer effort to remove trash from local waterways, beaches, lakes and rivers”(“5,538 lbs. of trash removed from 34 beaches,” 2018). Currently, there are around 55,246 people that live in the CNMI. Since there were over 700, I’ll take an approximate number of 750 and divide that by our population. Less than 2% of the overall population of the CNMI showed up to clean on that annual international clean up. With a percentage that low, its needless to say that something needs to be done. Observing and surveying how much of the students of NMC know about sustainability will also contribute to my research. Starting with my research on what eco-friendly practices are used at other colleges would give me ideas on how it can be applied here in the CNMI, more specifically our college.

The first academic source I found is a website for an organization called “AASHE” or the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. I find this source of information will be able to provide me details on the variety of institutions that are part of AASHE and how their school has implemented a positive mindset towards sustainability. The second academic source comes from AASHE and is part of its program; it is called STARS. The STARS website/program is used to rank the schools in different levels. Based on how the schools are ranked, I will gather data from this site on how well their methods have worked towards their goal of obtaining the highest ranking in STARS. The third source I will be using is the website for our local non-profit organization, MINA. MINA’s website has published multiple articles in the past few years on how schools in the CNMI have adopted more eco-friendly practices such as inheriting recycling bins on their campus or attending environmental sustainability workshops that were held. The fourth source I will be using is the Marianas Variety “Green Tips” subsection and the Saipan Tribunes “ENVIRONMENTAL” subsection to evaluate how local media establishes eco-friendly sustainability and highlights establishments here in the CNMI for being exceptionally green. My fifth source will be an article on how college students can actually save money while also going green.

The types of questions I will be asking my fellow peers will first cover on how much do they know on green sustainability. I will then move on to ask how much do they feel in their personal life take the actions of living an eco-friendly lifestyle. I will also be asking on how effective they think the sustainability strategies applied at other colleges will be here. As for who I will be emailing, I have 3-4 individuals that I do want to talk with. The first 3 are here on Saipan and I am hoping that I can interview them, instead of communicating over email. The first person I want to interview to are the both co-owners of the Shack, Glenn Hunter and Henry Worswick. I admire them for basing their business on clean eating and sustainability. The 3rd person I want to interview is Elizabeth Furey, the program director of MINA. I am interested in asking her on how MINA coordinates with schools, businesses, and other organizations to promote environmental conservation. The 4th person I am hoping to get a response from is the GNA or Guam Nature Alliance. I am hoping to ask them how effective their strategies are in promoting eco-friendly practices.

As for time management, I am a very busy person. I am an overloaded class schedule and I also have to balance this with my two jobs. Other than my work and school life, I am also involved with volunteer work and one of the captains of the O’laces Women’s Basketball club. I am confident that I will still be able to fit all of my interviews, observations, researching, and surveying into my tight schedule. I make spreadsheets to track my daily and weekly events. I will need to go around my fixed times aka class and work, in order to fit in my research time. Below I have entered a table on a regular week for myself. I am free on Monday and Wednesday mornings and I believe those will be the best times to gather my data from NMC students. Fridays and Saturdays will be dedicated towards organizing and fixing my data, as well as writing my paper.

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| **Day of the Week** | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** | **Saturday** | **Sunday** |
| **Morning** | No obligations | 9 AM – 10:45 AM  Class  11 AM  Class | No obligations | 9 AM – 10:45 AM  Class  11 AM  Class |  |  | 10 PM  Work |
| **Afternoon** | 1 PM – 3:15 PM  Class  5 PM - Work | 12:45 PM Class  1 PM – 3:10 PM Class | 1 PM – 3:15 PM Class  5 PM- Work | 12:45 PM Class  1 PM – 3:10 PM Class |  |  | Work |
| **Evening** | 8 PM –  End of Work Shift | 5 PM – 8 PM  End of Work Shift | 8 PM – End of Work Shift | 5 PM – 8 PM  Basketball | 5 PM – 8 PM  Basketball |  | 6 PM – End of Shift |

I am glad that I have chosen a subject that fits well into what I value and will help me get a good grade at the same time. I will be sending out my emails for interviews next week, so that I have enough time to schedule interviews with those that are on island. The sources I have gathered to strengthen my case on my research questions are all reliable and consistent. Through researching this subject, I also hope to find new methods of sustainability I can apply to my own personal life. If I can encourage others to apply these methods outside of school, it will make a big impact on our island. In conclusion, I am both excited and ready to write on and research my topic.

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