



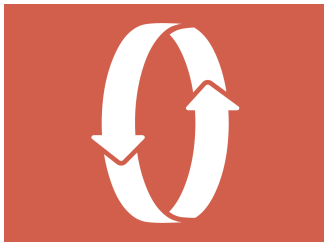
ENVIRONMENTAL
LITERACY AND
SUSTAINABILITY
INITIATIVE

San Mateo County Office of Education

Sustainable and Climate Resilient Schools Challenge 2020-2021

Kylie Johnson

In partnership with Woodside Upper School
Woodside Elementary School District



Zero Waste and Consumption

Entry Level

Community Awareness and Action



MASK POLLUTION

MASKS ARE EVERYWHERE!!

On the ground, nature trail, parking lots, basketball field, roads, rivers, streams, they are EVERYWHERE! This disrupts the eco systems around it, this has a ripple effect.

EFFECTS

- Marine animals have tangled up in facial masks preventing them to get food or water causing them to die.
- So face masks don't really break down so they are going to be here for some 3 YEARS! Face mask
- Since face masks are required in many public places such as school, grocery stores, gyms, it causes people to buy masks and sometimes even gloves (When I went to stores I brought 2 pairs of gloves while wearing 2 facial masks)

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Use eco-friendly face masks (cloth, recycled cloth, silk)
- Use your face mask more than once
- Cut off the ear loops after you are done with your mask



Image Source: [CNN](#)

Woodside Upper Elementary School fifth-grader Kylie Johnson from Mrs. Parker's class took steps to build her community's awareness of the waste generated from face masks used during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Kylie chose this project after seeing first hand how littered face masks were affecting birds that live on the beaches in San Mateo County.

For this "Mask Pollution" project, Kylie conducted research on the effects of littered face masks on the environment, and how face masks have now become a common item to find as litter since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Kylie developed a presentation to her class on this topic. In order to spread awareness in her local community Kylie hung over 20 posters across three miles. Both the presentation and the posters included ways for people to take solutionary action, and why sorting face masks into the correct bins is an important way to prevent littering.

Moving forward Kylie plans to continue this awareness campaign by creating larger posters. Kylie also plans to improve the posters by including more images, and inspiring others to take action by sharing the story of how this campaign gained momentum and created an impact in the local community.