



Dear [REDACTED] Students,

My name is [REDACTED] and I work for an organization called EcoWorks as a [REDACTED] for the Youth Energy Squad. EcoWorks has been doing work around sustainability and energy in Detroit since 1981 - that's over 30 years and we're still here working on some of the same issues! When we first started, we focused a lot of our efforts on training people for green jobs in Detroit. But we quickly realized that there was a lot more work to be done, especially with how people in our area use energy.

For our organization, it is not only about reducing energy use, but about managing that use correctly. What good is it to pay hundreds of dollars to heat your house if you will end up letting all of that hot air out and cold air in through holes in your windows? We believe that changes to the way we use energy must come from the intersection of how our homes are built, how we maintain our homes, and how we choose to behave inside of them. This is the same principle for schools! Here is where you come in:

The Youth Energy Squad is a program of EcoWorks that depends on the leadership of young people in order to succeed. Cody High School is currently in its fourth year of participating in the Go Green Challenge. Have you heard of this? It is a district-wide competition for K-8 schools, but an in-depth project-based program for high school students. Throughout the year, students in the Green Team complete projects that will improve the health of the environment. These are not projects on paper—these are real projects that the students get to see from beginning to end. Green Team members get to plan and execute these projects. They also get to manage their own funds and they get to reflect and write about their accomplishments in a public blog!

One of the major areas in which we focus is in energy conservation. In the United States, we spend about 90% of our time in buildings. That means that we spend 90% of our time using energy to power lights, heat, cool and run appliances in our homes, schools and other buildings. Students across Detroit are working in their schools, homes and communities to understand what this high energy use means for their health and their environment and our challenge to you is to do the same.

As leaders and experts in your school and community, EcoWorks challenges you to understand where your energy comes from, how it affects your community's health and environment and how you, as students, can impact energy use in your community. We hope that you can report back to us what you have found so we can use the information to help other schools and communities throughout Southeast Michigan.

We hope that you will accept this challenge and become the green leaders we so desperately need for a sustainable future! Together, we can make a difference.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED] and the EcoWorks Team

Education
Services
Training + Jobs
Reclaim Detroit

building energy solutions

313.894.1030
ecoworksdetroit.org

4835 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48210

EcoWorks

