



HARKER GREEN TEAM

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

The Harker Green Team aims to promote sustainability in our community and to increase awareness for environmental issues we face today and in the future. Follow us on Instagram [@harkergreenteam!](https://www.instagram.com/harkergreenteam/)

Accomplishments

The Harker Green Team was selected to attend the Algalita International Youth Summit on Plastic Pollution for two consecutive years, where we presented our Buy Better Boba and Use Me, Reuse Me projects. The Summit is hosted by Algalita, an organization founded by Captain Charles Moore, who discovered the Pacific Garbage Patch, that aims to address plastic pollution in the ocean.

Recent & Current Projects

- **Buy Better Boba:** we created glass boba jars, complete with a glass straw and a waterproof sticker, to sell to the student body at our school in order to promote sustainable purchasing. Since the boba tea packaging (the cup, lid, straw, etc.) creates so much waste, we wanted to create this product to combat that. When selling, we also brought in two different boba tea flavors (and boba pearls) so that the students could get their reusable boba drink right at school. We can happily say that we sold hundreds of jars and that students have been using their jars at local boba shops instead of opting for plastic packaging!
- **Clothing Swap:** every year (when possible) we organize for the students and faculty to bring in their unused clothes. We then host a clothing swap that lasts about two to three days. All remaining clothes are donated.





Recent & Current Projects

- **Use Me, Reuse Me!** is an ongoing project of ours that we started last year, before COVID-19. This project aims to combat the use of plastic cups and mugs at beverage stores in general, especially Starbucks. Since there is a Starbucks right across the street from our school, we have noticed many students getting drinks from there without a reusable cup. To prevent that, we placed a bin with sterilized cups and mugs obtained from past events and from the lost and found bin that people could take with them. Since we weren't gaining much traction with our idea, we wanted to market it a bit better and perhaps look into making a station where the cups could be dropped off (if the students do not want to take them home) and reused. Once the pandemic is over, we will resume working on this project!
- **Book Drive:** This school year we partnered with the Harker librarians on a book drive to collect books for the African Library Project, which helps establish libraries in rural African communities. We collected 1,016 books that were sent to a library in Kenya!
- **Divestment:** We are currently working to raise awareness about Divestment and explore the possibility of encouraging our institution and other institutions to divest from fossil fuel and other unethical and unsustainable industries.
- **Environmental Awareness:** We have an ongoing initiative to raise awareness on environmental issues through our Green Tips on our social media page (IG: @harkergreenteam) and in our school's daily announcements.
- **Environmental Legislation:** We have joined efforts to learn about and support environmental legislation on the local and national level. We have worked with legislative experts from 350.org, Sierra Club, and the Wilderness Society and have initiated a postcard effort to introduce our club members to the legislative process.

What we're excited about

We're excited to ramp up our efforts in the environmental legislation project this year with our postcard initiative!

Community Involvement

- **Spirit:** We love to get our student body involved by collaborating with the spirit team at Harker. Every so often we hold competitions or set goals that end with the different classes earning spirit points.
- **Climate Strikes:** We organized a group of students from the Harker upper school and middle school to attend the Climate Strike in September of 2019.
- **Community Service:** Our Green Team members participate in highway and river cleanups year-round. Harker is located alongside a highway ramp, so we help keep it clean.