

Hi, my name is Breann Malcolm, I'm a junior at Eleanor Roosevelt high school and also a member of the Environmental Defense Club. Climate change can't be solved but we can play a part in limiting its effects. If we want to see a change we have to start in our communities. This is why I support Climate parents' long term goals of 100% clean transportation and zero landfill waste by 2040 and 100% zero food waste by 2030. Prince Georges County has the second-largest school district in the state of Maryland so just imagine the amount of exhaust from buses that are polluting the atmosphere. Air pollution not only affects humans but animals as well. Over 1 million seabirds and 100,000 sea mammals are killed by pollution every year. People who live in places with high levels of air pollutants have a 20% higher risk of death from lung cancer than people who live in less polluted areas. People with underlying issues such as asthma are also at risk. Air pollution also contributes to the depletion of the ozone layer which is why we need electric buses. They run smoother, are more comfortable, and aren't harming the environment. Since I have been a student at Roosevelt a few gas leaks have happened. These could have resulted in a fire or an explosion. The health and lives of the students and faculty should be prioritized. Schools should switch to solar-powered energy. Solar power provides a more efficient way for schools to meet their energy needs. Electricity is responsible for more than 1/3 of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States. Switching to solar power is the easiest way to make a real difference in the future of the Earth. So I urge you to provide a better, safer, and cleaner environment not only for our staff and students but for ourselves and the generations to come.