

SOLUTIONS FOR OUR COMMON FUTURE

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Climate Change!! As soon as we hear these words burning forests, flooded streets, dying animals come to mind and many more destructive things happening to nature. Was this “the change that we wanted to be”. Our past world leaders have worked day and night to make this world a better place. Today we understand that climate change is real. It makes me so happy to tell you that each one of us who decides to step towards positive actions is a leader for change. Each act of good towards nature acts as a ripple effect for more positive impacts. The impacts we have caused for our monetary benefits and economic good have come with social and environmental cost. The law of mass balance states that there can be no choices of zero physical waste, well then why not we take steps that will have these outputs which are more reliable solutions rather drivers of pollution. Zero pollution activities do not exist, but carbon neutral countries do. Economy will bring about prosperity! but our happiness index indicates otherwise. The strategies that small cities and countries are implementing for integrated natural ecosystem protection and development are showing positive results. Local actions of Bhutan are a beacon of hope to mankind for being carbon negative and still prosper. I started working on phytoremediation of heavy metal polluted soils in my Bachelors and integrated the concept of backyard carbon sequestration to this to ensure healthier soil ecosystem and better local air quality. The idea is simple to have trees in the backyard or your locality to help with your carbon credits as an individual. I have 11 trees in my backyard and they are all different species. Imagine if every person applied carbon cutting solutions in their daily life. I am not suggesting each person to give up on their needs, but they can surely reduce the local carbon footprint. Under the Integrated Power Development Scheme our government is emphasizing so much on use of renewable energy sources for generation of electricity, every resident if implies this will be ultimately adding to the renewable electricity grid which will account for our carbon credits for energy generation. We would have more Certified Emission Units for our other manufacturing processes and lesser wastage of power. For rural areas we have the SAUBHAGYA rural electrification scheme wherein maximum energy generated in the grid of that region is generated via hydro or solar power. In addition to this each local resident of India can

avail the benefits of Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, each resident gets an opportunity to be a part of this massive change in our waste management system by segregating the waste at or homes which is the actual source of generation. We did door-to-door campaigning to refuse single use plastics and hundreds of people signed the pledge and many places showed actual changes after persuasion. The support from Vadodara Municipal Corporation was also a highlight of our campaign and we plan on working more in this direction. Promotion of green technology on local levels will add up to the countries green development and clean development mechanism. The Clean Development Mechanism is mostly applied in already industrialized states of India and promotion and investment in projects in less developed states would mean increased opportunities in those states as well as better technology and advancement through greener production. Smart agriculture systems are being promoted and incentivized and I understand that the pillars of sustainability also include human welfare so having food security is an integral part for being resilient towards the shocking changes that we see every day in our weather patterns. Vishwamitri river that flows through Vadodara is very polluted and the Bhukhi Stream connected to it is so polluted that now it is termed as Bhukhi Nallah. Our department is working on the stream restoration of this site through ecological reconstruction and cleaning of the stream. We all have the capacity to work for the environment so that we survive this climate emergency and stop being a ticking bomb for our own destruction. I firmly believe that consumerism drives pollution and if we start making well-informed choices then we do have a chance for a better future. Local actions by the youth of today are an essential stepping stone towards a resilient ecosystem where we will understand the importance of Co-Existing with all resources an organism. Our responsibility as a young leader is to live sustainable lives and create positive impacts to combat Climate Change for “Our Common Future “!!