

WCSH6

High School Students Step Up To Stop Waste

NEWCASTLE (NEWS CENTER) -- Some high school students at Lincoln Academy are taking global warming seriously. They're winning national attention for their efforts to do something about it.

Chloe Maxmin and Winston Crowell want to change the world, and they're starting in Newcastle. Chloe founded the Lincoln Academy's climate change club last year. Winston and about twenty others joined her -- to tackle what Chloe calls the defining issue of her generation.

Chloe said, "And that we really need to focus on solving this problem 'cause it will affect everybody's lives."

Their club convinced the school to ban vehicle idling in the parking area, then worked on battery recycling and did an energy audit of a school building. Their commitment caught the attention of a national foundation.

The foundation, called the Youth Venture, chose the Academy Climate Change club for a \$1,000 grant. They also took Chloe, Winston and another student to Florida this summer for a class they call environmental boot camp -- basic training for young eco-activists.

Winston says they're making a difference.

"Some difference, and I think we can spread that so we can make a much bigger difference than we have now," remarked Winston.

They're planning to use the money to help the school cut energy consumption in vending machines and computers -- major users of electricity. The club is now focusing on the whole community -- starting a project to help retailers reduce the use of plastic and paper shopping bags.

Chloe has already produced a short video for you tube that explains the idea she calls first here, then everywhere.

"The main idea is that once you start a campaign like this in a small town, or even a big town, it will inspire other communities to take action and then it will spread everywhere, so first here then everywhere," Chloe commented.

Chloe says they're already talking with local businesses about how to get the shopping bag project started -- hoping others will share their passion, and want to join them.

The students are hoping to develop a town-wide canvas shopping bag program that will be adopted by stores in Newcastle and Damariscotta.