

# Crisis: No Planet B

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Although most people have heard about the looming danger of climate change, not everyone knows the statistics, leading to rampant misinformation. To provide context, climate change is the long-term change in the global climate. While this process has been through natural cycles in the past, it has never been as exacerbated as it is today, mainly due to mankind after the Industrial Revolution.

Climate change most evidently manifests itself in global warming, which has triggered a domino effect in the environment. As global surface temperature rises, our oceans absorb much of that heat, warming more than 0.4 degrees Fahrenheit since 1969. Ocean heating has had some of the most dangerous effects, shrinking crucial Antarctic ice sheets, acidifying the waters by more than 30% and increasing sea level by about 8 inches in the last century.

Florida will be one of the first affected areas of sea level rise given its flat sea level, bringing

this issue even closer to home. Florida's Governor is planning more than \$4 billion in sea level rise solutions. These are funds that could go to crucial government programs in future years but instead will be wasted on a once-preventable catastrophe.

A report authored by hundreds of U.S. climate

scientists from 13 federal agencies, the 2018 Fourth National Climate assessment, predicted the U.S. economy will shrink by as much as 10% by the end of the century if global warming continues at its current rate. This means a



*“We are in the beginning of a mass extinction. And all you can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth. How dare you.”*

Greta Thunberg

GDP drop from \$19.39 trillion to \$17.45 trillion — the worst depression our economy will have seen.

“You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words,” 16-year-old climate activist Greta Thunberg said at the 2019 United Nations climate action summit in

2020

Flash floods will increase across Europe. Less rainfall could reduce agriculture yields by up to 50% throughout the world.

2019

As of now, we only have 11 years to prevent irreversible damage from climate change.

## The Heroes

Bella Ramirez | Co-Assistant Editor  
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### Daniel Block | senior President of Healthy Heritage

“I think it’s important to notice what you’re doing and think about ways you can change it. Just look at your personal environmental footprint and think of ways you can minimize it because it does start with you. It’s great if you can make a bigger impact and impact the school, impact the state,” Block said. “There are people impacting the entire world with international climate summits but it starts with yourself.”



# Our “If Then” Statement

**2100**

Sea level is projected to rise another one to four feet by 2100. Storm surges and high tides could combine with the sea level rise to increase flooding in many regions.



**2050**

The Arctic Ocean is expected to become essentially ice free by mid-century. Ocean acidification could kill off most coral reefs.



We are the last generation that can tackle this issue, for in a short 11 years, it will be too late, according to the United Nations. However, we have the opportunity to change course.

Considering 70% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions can be traced back to 100 companies, this may give little hope to the individual of trying to reduce their carbon output. More so than just turning the lights off and taking short-

New York. “Yet I’m one of the lucky ones. People are suffering. People are dying. Entire ecosystems are collapsing. We are in the beginning of a mass extinction. And all you can talk about is money and fairy tales

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**Colonial Crisis**  
Global temperature up  
1.62 degrees since 1800s

**2016 Burnin' Up**  
Hottest year  
on record

## The Effects

- 1 Heatwaves
- 2 Forest Fires
- 3 Severe Weather
- 4 Harsher Disaster
- 5 Rising Sea Level

&

Countless More

er showers, encourage large scale government action by writing a letter to your local representative to effect change; attend climate protests and join youth-led movements; vote for leaders who will take climate change seriously.

Steps of larger entities can have even

more of an impact. Take Heritage for instance, which saw the single uses of roughly one million plastic bottles on both of its campuses combined each year. To change that, the school now promotes reusable water bottles and only sells canned and boxed water, two much

more eco-friendly alternatives.

When the world bands together to save the Earth for its future generations, anything can be accomplished — even preventing the permanent effects of climate change.

(Graphics/Bella Ramirez)

(Photos/Maia Fernandez-Baigun)



# Cover Story



## Robert (Jack) Boucek | senior President of Black, Gold and Green

Hailing from an environmentally conscious family, Boucek joined the Marine Biology Club in seventh grade and Black, Gold and Green Club (BGG) in freshman year. One of the ways Boucek stays green is by biking to school instead of driving. “I’m actually trying to get administration to put in more bike racks to encourage that,” Boucek said.