

Clean Noida Youth Champions 2021

FEATURING 9
INSPIRING
STORIES

Journeys of 9 young changemakers who have made impact in waste management through their astonishing work.

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Clean Noida Project

Clean Noida Youth Champions 2021

With the belief in the power of youth, HCL Foundation under its Clean Noida project invited young change-makers from Delhi/Noida/NCR to present their inspiring and impactful journeys towards making a better future.

Dedicated young leaders aged 15 - 40 years, who are bringing exponential results through their astonishing work and efforts in the areas of waste management, conservation, and environmental well-being were the suitable candidates for this championship.

There are a number of individuals who have been contributing towards making planet earth better every day through their philanthropic efforts. The aim of the Clean Noida Youth Champions initiative was to find the hidden gems and recognize the efforts of youth and enable them to keep going and making impactful behavioral changes with their ideas and innovation. Individuals putting in the most dedicated effort and bringing the most astounding impact are recognized as Clean Noida Youth Champions by HCL Foundation.

They have been able to make their way despite facing all the odds. To inspire hundreds of others by discussing the successful journey. Youth driven by a cause to create an impact for self and in the society, bringing constant change with their approach submitted their inspiring stories.



It has rightly been said that the success of any nation could not be achieved without the meaningful participation of young people. International Youth Day validates the essentialism of the contribution of youth in bringing impact in all the diverse areas of development. Hence this International Youth Day, HCL Foundation went on a ride to find, support, and give recognition to the true youth champions.

Clean Noida Youth Champions 2021



Featuring Top 9 Stories

Vipul Kalra

Delhi



Vipul's stint as an environmental warrior began in high school when he got the opportunity to be a part of an eco-club. He utilized his capabilities in theatrical art, to contribute to the creation of a sustainable future. He has worked with the rag pickers' community and has explained to them the importance of waste segregation and various simple ways to materialize it. Vipul has endeavored towards upcycling, by collecting discarded banners and distributing them in various slum areas, which were later used to provide waterproofing to their mud houses. He has always encouraged his friends and acquaintances to plant and adopt at least one sapling on special occasions.

Exposure to the cause of the environment at a young age has been the driving force behind Vipul's actions. The disturbing scenes of running water, when a portion of the world is deprived of access to clean water; wastage of electricity, when many live in surroundings that get draped in darkness every evening; high rates of deforestation, when breathing clean air has become a luxury; all these made him ponder upon the urgency to act.

He initiated a project - 'Family Mentoring', wherein a volunteer would adopt a family, converse with them to understand their plight, educate their children and make their lives greener by planting a sapling. Similarly, he has made efforts to conduct workshops with school students to generate environmental temper, helping them to evolve as responsible citizens of the nation. Further, deliberations with National Service Scheme (NSS) units of various colleges were also held to create a plan of action on the recent environmental concerns such as the dismissal of single-use plastics, conserving water, etc. He firmly believes all hurdles are stepping stones to success. He is hopeful that he would be able to persuade more and more people to leave green footprints on the sands of the time.

Highlights of work



Tarunima

Noida



Being a staunch environmentalist and an animal lover, Tarunima always understood the importance of waste management and vowed to do more than her part when it came to solving this menace. Early on as a young law student, she volunteered with organizations like the SPCA (Noida) and impacted the lives of more than 300 animals. One of the steps that she took was to set up a stall selling recycled decorative items, utilizing waste material such as plastic and glass bottles at Deep Utsav (the annual Diwali fair held in Noida), to bring funds for the initiative she started.

She also briefly worked with renowned environmental litigator Advocate MC Mehta and also conducted workshops at Beejom farms in Noida for more than 1,000 students coming from different schools and colleges, spreading awareness about environmental issues and the circular economy. She believes in doing work where the impact is visible. The entrance gate to the sector in which she resides is a testament to this, where she along with 20 kids of the locality and with support from RWA decorated the entrance with tires, drums, and other recycled material.

Her drive to make a change led her to open an organization- Ecoswop Solutions. Her journey so far wasn't easy for she faced a lot of challenges along the way, primarily the inherent disinterest and ignorance of the majority of the people. She wishes to achieve a heightened sense of awareness and responsibility among her fellow city folk. Eventually, amplifying Noida's image as a model city in terms of waste management and environmental consciousness so that the entire country can take inspiration from it and give the coming generations a greener tomorrow, is her vision.

Highlights of work



Abhisht

NCR



Abhisht Kusum Gupta is instrumental in stopping the discharge of sewage in the Kondli drain thereby preventing pollution of Yamuna River which is the largest tributary of Gange, also working on the domains of solid waste management, groundwater depletion, stopping usage of single-use plastic, and protection of wetlands (as per Ramsar convention) in India.

Kondli canal is a 40 years old stormwater drain that was converted into a sewage discharge drain by Delhi & Uttar Pradesh authorities. Passing through various densely populated areas, and collecting discharges from half a million residents, it finally gets discharged into the Yamuna River. But, due to such heavy release into it, the vicinity of the canal is suffering from breathing problems and other health issues. Abhisht staged multiple protests and made a representation in various institutions like the National Human Rights Commission and Central and State Pollution Boards against the discharge of sewage into the Kondli drain. Taking cognizance of his complaint the Central Pollution Control Board issued a letter to the Chairman of Noida Authority requesting to take steps to curb pollution. Simultaneously, National Human Rights Commission issued directions to District Magistrate, Gautambudhnagar & Commissioner East Delhi Municipal Corporation to curb pollution in the drain.

His journey was full of ups and downs. As more and more residents joined and formed a group that has purely nonvested interest and force to reckon with. In the name of the Sector they reside in, this group was called Volunteers137, trying to venture into troubled water and waging war to protect mother nature with the belief that human existence depends only on the existence of such water bodies.

Highlights of work

प्रकृति को बचाने के लिए किया जागरूक

वि, नोएडा: सेक्टर-137 बायो डायवर्सिटी पार्क में रविवार को पाठ लंच कार्यक्रम का आयोजन हुआ। कार्यक्रम का मुख्य उद्देश्य वालंटियर द्वारा बच्चों को प्रकृति को बचाने के लिए जागृकी जागरूक के बारे में

न्यूज डायरी

गौरैया के लिए बच्चे लगा रहे हैं घोंसले

नोएडा। गौरैया और पर्यावरण संरक्षण के लिए बच्चे घोंसले लगा रहे हैं।

वॉलंटियर्स-137 के अभिष्ट गुप्ता ने बताया कि इस



Akash Arya

Noida



Akash who has always been interested in waste management, started with a cleanliness drive at Noida sector 62 and since then he got engaged in finding sustainable solutions for managing waste. By 2018 along with his team, he developed a solution to wet waste- a pot compost, which he named as 'Wet Waste Composter'. This could be adopted by each individual or family to turn their kitchen waste into manure. The impact of which was huge and his work was recognised in the Divisional Innovation Exhibition, organized by Regional Science & Technology Centre- Ghaziabad, with a second prize.

The main challenges he faced while starting the project was of people being hesitant towards composting by themselves. They did not want to make effort towards spot segregation and feared the smell while composting. While some thought it is the duty of the government & administration to process their waste and not theirs. But he kept convincing them by holding awareness session and performing nukkad natak in different locations with the help of many volunteers. He showed them how this model will not only reduce the garbage disposal problem but also help them earn good revenue by selling their homemade manure to different nurseries.

There were days when his moral broke, but meetings with different environmentalists and nature lovers always boosted him up and gave him the strength to move forward with his goal. Previously he provided solutions to individuals and family on one-on-one basis but now he is working to establish a whole waste management model for high-rise societies as well. Not only for wet waste but also contacting recyclers and companies to pick up the solid waste consisting of non-biodegradable material like plastic or electronic waste. He envisions a garbage-free Noida.

Highlights of work



Ashita

Noida



There is a saying that, there is one moment in everyone's life that shakes the person to his/her core. It was that moment for Ashita, the Founder of SustainX. It happened through a wrongly directed route of Google Maps, when she passed through the Asia's largest garbage landfill, i.e., the Ghazipur landfill in New Delhi. 'A Garbage Mountain' surrounded by thousands of eagles, with unbearable stink, and meat markets nearby gave her the feeling of 'Disgust' as a 'human being'. The Garbage landfill equivalent to 40 football pitches, which in years had grown as tall as 65 meters and was predicted to grow almost as tall as the Taj Mahal, is one among the tallest landfills in the world.

The disgust of this site hit her so hard that months passed but she couldn't forget it. She started reading and researching more about this Landfill. She spoke to her mentor about it who advised that a single person can't change the world but one must identify and operate in their circle of control, and that's when SustainX started.

Gradually SustainX became an enabler in achieving self-sustaining lifestyle movement. People interested in the journey saw SustainX as a one-stop-shop for information and options. It gave a platform to the sustainable brands for day-to-day decisions on sustainable lifestyle.

Through SustainX she started consultation and collaboration with vendors to enable and provide services like setting up Sustainable homes, creating green buildings, provide thoughtful landscaping, helping with solar systems setup and hydroponic systems and etc. It also started creates awareness in schools, colleges, and communities. Ashita believes that in the next 5 years SustainX will be able to make a significant contribution to 3 out of 17 sustainability goals set by the UN.

Highlights of work



Deepak

Delhi



Deepak's journey started in 2018 when he just passed class 12th. His school was at a distance apart so whenever he traveled he saw waste and dirtiness nearby. He grew up with the feeling of transforming society, and getting admission at Delhi University gave him the right platform to explore and unlock possibilities.

He started from his home by separating the dustbin as per the types of waste and implemented the same in his society with the help of the society president. Now, along with encouraging people to segregate their waste before throwing it away, he also started 'Sunday Safayi Challenge' and has also organized a plantation drive in the society with all his friends. He went places to spread the knowledge of cleanliness and distributed dustbins in the slums through college outreach programs.

Facing the challenge in encouraging humans for giving a helping hand for such work, he decided to change his way in involving people.

As the president of the mathematics department of his college, he ensured incentives in terms of plant or a recycled product to the winners of the programme they organise. He has been participating in various environmental events like waste collection, plogging drives, cleanliness drives, bag distribution, etc., and have helped in collecting hundreds of kgs of waste.

Highlights of work



Mehak

Noida



Mehak was deeply passionate about conserving the environment since as very young age. She used to read her elder brother's EVS books which always gauged her interest the protection of environment.

Her interest in the domain made her the school representative of an organization named ATTERO (E-waste management) in 2013, she was also the secretary and an active member of her school's environment club till the year 2017.

Alongside she also volunteered for an environment-based NGO named BHUMITRA and was awarded as the best volunteer of a cohesive e-waste movement Karo Sambhav. In 2020, she participated in a one month programme, Clean Noida Green Champions- II organised by HCL Foundation.

Taking her interest forward, she also presented a study on Climate Change in relation to poor SWM in CSIR-CCMB Hyderabad.

She aspires to be a clinical psychologist and serve the nation by opening her own organization in the environment and mental health realm. She says, that people are aware of environmental degradation and they know the solutions too, but are lazy and not ready enough to accept the change in their acts. She says, "We still address our sanitation workers as 'Koodewala' 'jhaaduwala' instead of Safayi Karamchari. This mindset needs to get changed."

Highlights of work



Shankar

Delhi



Shankar started the NGO "Vrikshit Foundation" in 2019 as an initiative to make society a more hygienic and cleaner place to live in. The foundation has covered a variety of environmental arrays, ranging from cleaning canals to transforming ruined parks into beautiful gardens; from transforming dilapidated walls into a piece of adore, to planting thousands of plants and making mini forests.

The deteriorating status of the society, on the whole, moved him to take the initiative and start with Vrikshit Foundation. He says, that he had never thought to make a brand out of this foundation, but just began with small baby steps to bring upon the slightest of every possible change in the society.

But with time more and more people got influenced and impressed by the deeds and without even realizing, from a team of 5 people Vrikshit grew into a family of thousands of volunteers spread across 14 states in India.

Vrikshit Foundation, under Shankar's supervision, undertook numerous initiatives and as a cumulative result of the same, he proudly says that his foundation has covered more than 270 locations spread across the length and breadth of the country and has collected millions of kilograms of trash, and that too within a short period of just 2 years. Like every organization in its nascent stage, Vrikshit Foundation too faced numerous issues but Shankar took them head-on and as a result, came out standing tall out of the problem.

He has been conducting cleanliness, plantation and beautification drives every single weekend with the support of its volunteers and making their efforts recognized. Shankar says he with his Foundation will be working towards making society an even better place to live in, and are constantly marching towards their goal.

Highlights of work



@VRIKSHITFOUNDATION



Vishal

Delhi



Vishal is a 19 years old young adult, a nominee of Humanitarian Activist Award 2020 by IdealMe Enrichment Foundation, he dwells in an unauthorized resettlement cluster in Central Delhi. Since his childhood, he has received his tuition from an NGO, wherein he also got engaged in advocacy work for the Earth Rights and Child Rights in and around his community. He was the Prime Minister of his local Children's Parliament called Yash Children's Parliament, where he along with his peers led many of the awareness rallies on Waste management and menstruation hygiene.

He was one of the core developers of a child-led initiative that gives a platform to children of Delhi to demonstrate their demands from the Government, also seeking a declaration of Climate Emergency by the Indian Government. He has been participating in various climate strikes and cleanliness drives at various places across Delhi, undertaken by the There's no Earth B, Fridays for Future and PRATYeK. He has also been vocal for the issues for Earth Rights at various platforms since 2019.

His life struggle has been his encouragement to work for the Earth and Environment. He wants to empower children around him to become agents of change. He wants to make sure that his life ends with something good that helps his community to help achieve growth.

Highlights of work





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