

BC students go green for the 2nd Annual Sustainability Contest

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BC students united over the month of October to create different clean energy ideas for the Second Annual Sustainability Contest.

The Sustainability Contest is fairly new to the BC community. It was introduced last year by the Environmental Issues Committee after they saw the student population's passion for improving the environment. The contest invited students to submit entries that promoted sustainability not only on campus, but in the community as well.

The theme of this year's sustainability contest was clean energy. Contestants were asked to come up with efficient ways to raise awareness about the economic, social, and environmental consequences of individual energy choices and find ways to transition to a cleaner and more equitable energy economy.

The contest was officially opened for submissions on Sept. 30. The original deadline for entries was Oct. 12, but the campus received so many entries that the deadline was extended to Oct. 22. This year's contest received over 130 entries from students. The first place winner will receive a \$100 Gift Certificate for the Campus Bookstore. The second place winner will receive a \$50 gift certificate, and the third winner will receive a \$25 gift certificate.

Over 70 entries were submitted by the BC students last year. As a result of the numerous green ideas that students came up with, BC pledged to make these ideas into reality. Students helped raise \$10000 for the installation of the solar panels on Myers Dining Hall last spring. Ever since the contest ended, BC has divested its endowment from fossil fuels last winter.

Last year's winner Natalaya Gryson, had the idea of installing electric car stations on campus. BC wanted to implement this proposal so they branched out to Tesla, an electric car company, earlier this semester. This led to the college becoming the first and only college to offer two Tesla High-Speed High-Power Wall Connectors and two free electric vehicle charging stations.



Stephany Hine, Stephen Olsen, Thomas Ruple, Mackenzie Williams and join together to show student support for the new charging stations. The charging station concept was the winning idea from last year's sustainability contest.

"Brevard College is constantly finding new ways to reduce our carbon footprint," President David Joyce said in a press release with BC. "By combining leading-edge technology and the forward-thinking of Tesla with our commitment to being a leader for higher education in the environmental movement, we now have the ability to offer the Brevard community a seamless and convenient charging experience."

Robert Cabin, the Environmental Science professor, said that the increase of entries is due to students becoming more aware of the devastation that is happening to the earth. Sustainability is becoming an increasingly

important component of this College, according to the Environmental Issues Committee. "Everyone narrates the Earth," Cabin said. "This generation has the greatest stake in the future of our planet. Our students realize this and want to do something about it, which is why we have this contest."

The top winners of this year's contest have yet to be announced. The judges will announce all of the winners within the next couple of weeks. For students who missed the deadline or feel compelled to share their proposal for clean energy, the Sustainability Contest will return next year.