

Torrington High School needs a "greening". We have many opportunities to decrease the environmental impact of our school, however we do not have the money to do so. Without the capital to fund environmentally friendly projects, we have only been able to commence a modest recycling program.

We use lights all day, every day at Torrington High, but we know that we could do better. If we were to invest in more environmentally friendly light bulbs, we could easily make our school greener. Not only would the change in bulbs create a greener school, they would also save money for our budget conscious city and administration.

The majority of our school lies in direct sunlight for most of the school day. Because of this, we could most certainly benefit from solar panels. With solar panels we would not only produce energy for our lights and computers, but we would be able to create heat much more efficiently than we do now. Our heating system would be updated, and with new and renewable technology we would help the environment as well as save money.

Though our Peace Jam Club began a recycling program last year, it is not enough. We have only been able to put recycling bins in the teachers' copy rooms. If we could add recycling bins to our cafeteria, we would recycle not only paper, but bottles and cans as well. Our recycling would be on a much bigger scale and consequently be much more efficient.

We have tons of great ideas as to how to make Torrington High School more environmentally friendly. We have many ideas that need prioritizing. The first thing we would do if we won the "Live Green Win Green" challenge would be to get an energy audit. The audit would only cost a few thousand dollars, but it would give us a much better idea of how to spend the rest of our potential winnings. An energy audit would clue us in as to whether new light bulbs, solar panels, and/or an expanded recycling program would be the most efficient use of our money. From there, we could live green in Torrington High School!