

Cynthia Maldonado

Step Into Action Plan

Introducing Recycling into Washington Heights

My community, Washington Heights is full of cultural diversity, but one thing we lack is environmental education. I often find myself wondering why my neighborhood does not recycle. As a child, I remember, I used to observe the sanitation workers throw all the trash into one truck. On the contrary, when I visited Japan I observed how extensive their recycling was; they didn't just simply dump everything together. My experiences as a global leader led me to thinking, "why not initiate recycling into my community?" I repeatedly thought about ways in which I could accomplish this. I concluded that to make the biggest impact, I had to start on a much smaller scale. If I can simply get the residents of my building to understand the importance in recycling, I can begin to inspire people into thinking about changing many of their habits. For example, I wanted to let them know that by simply recycling paper, they could a huge difference.

I cannot do this entirely by myself. I must get help from the Department of Sanitation as well as my superintendent in order to set out trash-bins specifically for recycling in and out of my building. Another big task I would have to face is translating my thoughts and ideas about the environment into Spanish, without getting lost in translation.