

Aubrey Organ National Grid Scholarship

Logo:



Pledge:

RINK REDEMPTION ENERGY PLEDGE

Through my participation in the "Rink Redemption" Pledge, I agree to work towards reducing the amounts of energy consumption at home, at rinks, etc. I will spread my knowledge on the environment and hopefully get more people to support the cause. With my help and the help of others, this pledge will help to save the planet. I want to join "Rink Redemption" to protect important resources!

We pledge to reduce our energy consumption by:

⚡ Turn off lights when you leave a room	⚡ Hang clothes to air dry (at least sometimes)
⚡ Shut down your computer at night.	⚡ Use cold water in the washing machine whenever possible.
⚡ Use natural light.	⚡ Only wash full loads of laundry.
⚡ Use ceiling or floor fans instead of air conditioning.	⚡ Use LED light bulbs. (They use 75% less electricity and last 25x longer)
⚡ OTHER: _____	

MY COMMITMENT

Signature

Date

Sports Hub Article

<https://985thesportshub.com/2022/03/29/silver-local-nonprofit-rink-redemption-makes-a-save-for-water/>

Website

www.rinkredemption.weebly.com

Rink Redemption and its Environmental Connection

My name is Aubrey, and I grew up learning about the importance of the environment, its problems, and how to fix them. My mother, Robin Buchanan, founded a nonprofit organization called Project Green Schools. Its mission is to “develop the next generation of environmental leaders through education, project-based learning, and community service.” At an early age, I began helping at Earth Day events. While visiting places like the Franklin Park Zoo, Mass Audubon Society, and the Massachusetts State House, I learned how the physical world changes for living things. As time went on, I attended other events like being one of a few students invited to speak at a Climate Week NYC event sponsored by the UN and the White House Climate Change Event, where I met the US Surgeon General Vivek Murphy. For my senior project, I chose to start Rink Redemption to contribute to the current global water problems we are facing.

Since I was seven years old, I have played hockey and was Captain of the varsity girls hockey team in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Driving up to a rink, piles of snow often overflow parking lots. Fans are mesmerized as the Zamboni sprays water to create a new surface. According to the NHL, one professional ice sheet requires approximately 13,500 gallons of water. I decided to make a difference and start the Rink Redemption for my senior project. This initiative aims to reduce water usage in homes and at rinks by providing environmental education, awareness, and tools. With Project Green Schools, we partnered and similarly raised awareness. Through our events at multiple rinks, we have educated hundreds of people and got them to sign our pledge. I created a pledge for people to reduce water usage at home, host events, and collect donations to put back into the hockey community. Our goal is to establish more sustainable rinks like the Climate Pledge Arena and develop new stewards of the Earth. Hockey

is a sport that needs water to function. Water is used for the ice and the Zamboni to create a new surface. When thinking of a classic hockey game, people need water to perform, drink to keep up their energy, keep the lights on, and everything within this game and the world to flow smoothly. By reducing the amount of water waste, Rink Redemption hopes to keep this game in play without harming the environment.

While my project originally started as a water initiative, I realized that more factors could make this sport more environmentally friendly. The sport revolves around water; however, it also needs the energy to keep everything running. In daily life, energy is the lights in the room, the source that charges the phones that this generation is addicted to, and the air conditioning to keep a person cold. With hockey, this resource is just as vital. Energy keeps these rinks functioning, the ice-cold, the machines moving, etc. Energy is a crucial ingredient to keeping life flowing at the pace humans have created. As the world industrializes, many have gotten greedy and waste more resources than needed. With this in mind, I designed an energy pledge similar to my water conservation pledge, only this time with energy-related actions people can take. People have already told me that they have already seen positive changes from taking my pledge, and they are excited to implement these ideas into their futures at home and in their schools/colleges.

This project and now the initiative has inspired my future. I enjoyed designing a custom website and logo, fundraising, outreach, working with the environment, and creating a new industry. Rink Redemption gave me tools that I hope to develop at Villanova University next fall further. I plan to double major in Communications and Environmental Studies with a minor in Marketing.

After designing the website, fundraising, doing outreach, working with the environment, and creating a new initiative, Rink Redemption gave me practical tools to continue it. At

Villanova University, I plan to double major in Communications and Environmental Studies with a minor in Marketing. The Communications aspect came from the multiple emails I have had to send and speak at my events. The more I continued to practice, the better I got, and it taught me the importance of outreach and gave me the necessary skills to perform them in a well-spoken manner. For Environmental Studies, this connects to the project's ideals and links to the government. At Villanova, this major focuses on bringing Environmental changes to government and legislation. My work with government officials has become known through Governor Mills of Maine naming April 16 "Rink Redemption Day" for my project, Nellie Gorbea, Secretary of State of Rhode Island, joined me on the ice on Game Day to recognize environmental leadership across the state of Rhode Island at the Dunkin Donuts Center on April 19, US Senator of Rhode Island, Sheldon Whitehouse, sent a Citation and video message for Game Day at the Dunkin Donuts Center, MA State Senator, Susan Moran of Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee came to support Rink Redemption and me at TD Garden on Game Day, March 29. Lastly, I am currently discussing with the Office of Governor Sununu about bringing Rink Redemption to the State of New Hampshire. Through these valued connections, I believe my project will be carried on through the years and hopefully brought further into the legislative world. Lastly, the marketing minor came from designing the website, logos, brochures, pledges, and merchandise. While these aspects took time and thought, I enjoyed creating these creative parts of my project and recognized their essential role.

I started this project in September of 2021. I have seen considerable success through my project in half a year, and it hit me that I am a teenager. Imagine if other teens choose to use their time and efforts together to impact? Students can be influential leaders for change. I like to believe that in the future, I will have an even stronger voice with more resources once I am in

college to continue my project for the future. First, the events I held this year will become annual in the future. Next, I already have some planned events as well as hopeful aspirations. Some events are a public skate and sustainability tour at the Bentley Arena, a private sustainability tour at Climate Pledge Arena in Seattle, WA, **on May 20**, and the energy pledge and logo.

Future goals include:

- Hosting the event with Boston College.
- A skate at Warrior Ice Arena.
- Implementing water sustainability tools at local rinks.

Overall, this project has been one of the best experiences. It provided me with new opportunities and showed me what I could accomplish quickly. This project initially started as a pledge and has expanded into a people's movement. I've gained a new insight into two different worlds, environmental and business, that I plan to continue in college with a double major in Communications and Environmental Studies at Villanova University. This project is essential while also hard for a high school senior to achieve. While it has been stressful and much work, I am proud of my successes overall and am looking forward to seeing how this turns out. I am excited to continue Rink Redemption and see how much this initiative can grow. This project has allowed me to learn more about our planet's current problems while also connecting to a sport I love.