

Samantha Chaves
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My name is Samantha Chaves and I am a resident of Kennebunk and a member of the Kennebunk High school community. I am very concerned about rising sea levels as I have learned of/experienced myself many of the threats that we face as a community as a result of rising sea levels. I live on Boothby Road in front of the saltwater marsh and very close to our beaches. Over the past 5 years, I have noticed an astounding and very concerning increase in both the amount of flooding that occurs and the severity of it. These floods drown the marsh which threatens the ecosystems and the organisms that inhabit it. This is not in our best interest, as salt marshes sequester more carbon from the atmosphere than all other ecosystems on Earth combined. Additionally, my road has been cut off for detour a number of times, which is not only inconvenient but will eventually contribute to economic downfall, as we will have to deal with rising sea levels threat to infrastructure and roads, eventually; I imagine through taxation of Kennebunk residents. We must start addressing these issues as they are only worsening every single day we do not act.