

SCHOOLS DONATE 1,741 USED CELL PHONES FOR POST-OLYMPICS RESTORATION

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The 2018 Pyeongchang Olympics is nearing its end. Like many other Olympics in recent memory, the Pyeongchang Games have fueled serious concerns over displacement of residents and environmental degradation. It was particularly devastating to witness massive deforestation of Mount Gariwang, a 500-year-old mountain that has been protected as a sacred area for centuries. The

beautiful forest of more than one hundred thousand trees, big and small, has now transformed into a skiing venue despite all the community efforts to stop the destruction.

Keenly watching the restoration process, environmental groups are trying to do what they can do in the meantime. On February 20th, Korea Zero Waste Movement Network donated 1,741 used cell phones to the Ministry of Environment to contribute to post-Olympics restoration cost. From September 2017, the organization has actively raised awareness on the environmental impacts of the Olympics as well as the value of recycling used cell phones. Students and those supporting the movement from 509 schools throughout the country have participated in the campaign over a period of three months.

From 1,741 cell phones, the organization was able to retrieve 70g of gold, 52g of palladium, 24,374 g of copper and other rare metals. The economic value is approximately equivalent to \$6,000.

Even though the money raised through this campaign is not the major source for the restoration of mount Gariwang, the donation delivers our worries and hopes for the ecological restoration of the Olympics venue along with a success story of e-waste recycling and community organizing.

For more details of the campaign,
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