

Overview of the Students Designing Sustainability Curriculum

Each class assumes the role of a *planning committee* of local citizens in order to accomplish the goals of this project, which culminate in a new neighborhood design depicted by a model or map and written explanations of the revised systems. The timing or spacing of the lessons is entirely up to each instructor.

Class 1 – *Introduction:*

The *planning committee* discusses what a sustainable community is, sets goals and establishes how to measure the values and success of that community.

Class 2 - *Changing Communities:*

The *planning committee* explores how communities change and grow over time. The committee examines and compares two maps of their site or town—one from 30-40 years ago with a recent one.

Class 3- *The Nitty Gritty & the Ecological*

Footprint:

The *planning committee* reviews the communities current consumption rates and levels of waste production, then calculates the amount of land needed to sustain its community current ecological footprint.

Class 4 – *Town Meeting:*

The planning committee has assessed its city in terms of basic sustainability and begins to brainstorm solutions that address problematic systems. (A local city planner can be invited to conduct this class discussion.)

Class 5 – *Natural Capitalism:*

The *planning committee* studies the concept of Natural Capitalism.

Class 6 – *Problem Analysis:*

The *planning committee* divides into *sub-committees* to begin research on system solutions in four focus areas : **Energy, Water, Waste and Transportation.**

Each *sub-committee* defines the problems in their focus area and assesses possible solutions.

Class 7 – *Sub-committee Solutions Report*

Preparation:

Sub-committees go over their research results and prepare a “solutions” report.

Class 8 – *Solutions Report Presentations:*

Each *sub-committee* makes a 7 to 10 minute presentation to the *planning committee* with its research results and recommendations for system solutions in its focus area.

Class 9, 10, 11- *Creating the New Community Design and Model or Map:*

The *planning committee* makes a plan to implement in its sustainable model. The remaining classes are spent working on an exhibition model or map and its support material.

Class 12 – *The Exhibition:*

The *planning committee* sets up its model or map at the final exhibition.

Class 13 – *Evaluation:*

Where do we go from here?