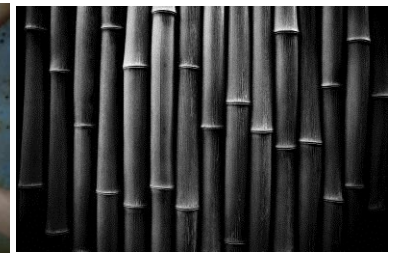


Students for Sustainable Cities

A program of The Keystone Center for Education



If they are to become truly sustainable, **America's cities need creative thinking.** Students for Sustainable Cities enables teachers to explore with their students the ways environmental health, social well-being, and economic vitality are interconnected.



Grounded in scientific investigations and aligned with National Education Standards, Students for Sustainable Cities creates opportunities for teachers to guide their students to pursue sustainability projects in their communities. By applying inquiry-based learning practices, critical thinking skills, and democratic processes, teachers and their students develop actionable strategies to analyze and address sustainability needs.

Program Objectives

Improve instruction

As a result of this program, participants will improve their understanding of non-biased problem-solving and concepts related to sustainability.

Support national education standards

Our curriculum aligns to national and regional education standards in a variety of disciplines, including language arts, math, science, and

social studies. It is non-biased and incorporates the Three E's of Sustainability: Environment, Economics and Social Equity.

Encourage students to think outside the classroom

We're dedicated to teaching critical thinking and inspiring community action. Each teacher and student team attending Students for Sustainable Cities will plan and implement a sustainability action project with their class in a local community.

Develop future workforce

Our programs incorporate Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) initiatives designed to spark student's interest in these subjects. Student participation in the program is an investment in the community's future math and science professionals.

Build community capacity around sustainability issues

The program creates opportunities to engage with community, promoting a sense of goodwill and

strong relationships among local teachers, students, community organizations, corporate employees, and local leaders. Each action project implemented by students and teachers will foster community engagement around specific sustainability issues in local communities.

Examples of student-implemented projects:

- School recycling/waste reduction
- Wildlife habitat restoration
- Rain garden creation
- Carbon reduction in schools, businesses, or transportation
- Outdoor recreation area development

Progressive Educational Components

Non-biased Approach

Teachers and students are introduced to a new way of thinking about their approach to contentious issues. They learn strategies to identify and remove their own bias in order to facilitate inquiry and critical thinking.

Systems Thinking and Sustainability Framework

Our programs incorporate the 3E's of sustainability—Environment, Economics and Social Equity—within a systems approach as a basis for examining issues and making informed decisions.

Scientific Process

Our curricula are based on a scientific process that includes historical information, hard science data collection, and social perspectives.

Open-ended

Our format allows participants to solve problems in a variety of creative ways based on the evidence and data they have collected - very different from the standard "cookbook" approach.

Service Learning Opportunities

We encourage participants and their students to use the knowledge they have gained to become active citizens of their communities.

Standards-based

Our curricula is aligned to national and regional education standards in a variety of disciplines, including language arts, math, science, and social studies.

Infusion of 21st Century Global Competition Skills

We incorporate 21st Century skills and concepts, including Global Awareness; Financial, Economic, Business and Entrepreneurial Literacy; Civic Literacy; Learning and Innovation; Technology, Communication and Media; and Life and Career Skills.

Program Process and Implementation

The program's structure and content enables educators to easily transfer their new skills to their classrooms and community.

The framework below, developed by professional educators and facilitators, guides teachers as they implement new classroom plans and activities that address local sustainability issues. Each step of the progression incorporates hands-on activities designed to relate to the students' world, and the educational activities, software, and content materials provided throughout the Institute will equip teachers with the tools to implement an investigation and community action plan with their students.

Program Framework

- Set a goal (vision) that would improve the sustainability in your community
- Determine criteria (related to 3Es) that are important to reaching your goal
- Examine potential actions that would help attain your goal
- Collect data related to those potential actions
- Analyze data
- Rate criteria on the Sustainable Decision Grid
- Determine possible barriers
- Set indicators to measure success
- Present findings
- Begin implementation

Teacher Resources

Teachers receive not only the full Students for Sustainability curriculum, but funds to implement projects with their students and support from local organizations working on specific sustainability initiatives.

For more information, contact:

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