HOW CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS YOUR COMMUNITY

Explore local climate change impacts and their connections to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Grade Level: 6-12 | **Duration:** 1-2 class periods

Students Will Be Able To:

- Identify local climate change issues
- Define and understand the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Connect climate change issues to the SDGs
- Pitch a project to address a local climate change issue

Materials Needed:

- Pencils or pens
- Discussion cards
- My Community SDG Action worksheet

In the Teachers Guide

- Sustainable Development Goals
- Climate Change and SDGs
- Project Pitches

RESOURCES

Articles

- Sustainable Development Goals
- What Scientists Need To Do to Accelerate Progress on the SDGs

Videos

- The World's Largest Lesson: Global Goals
- "We the People" for The Global Goals
- Sustainable Development Goals: Improve Life All Around the Globe

Created in partnership with scientists and educators.

Environmental Literacy Project

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Explore local climate change impacts and their connections to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

1 ENGAGE:

1. Begin by asking students to share what they remember about how climate change impacts vary across different regions of the United States.

2. Explain to students that today they will explore climate change impacts within their community.

3. Introduce the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by viewing one or more of the videos listed under Resources.

   a. Explain that the SDGs were established by the United Nations in 2015 to create a better world by 2030.
   b. The 17 global goals cover topics such as ending poverty and hunger, ensuring clean water for all, and taking climate action.
   c. Check the Teachers Guide for more information.

2 EXPLORE:

1. After watching the videos, ask students what they learned about the SDGs. Have students discuss which of the SDGs are relevant to their community.

2. Divide students into groups and have each group pick one SDG that is relevant to their community. Instruct students to brainstorm and research community leaders and organizations that are addressing that SDG.

3 EXPLAIN:

1. Explain to students that local climate change issues can be addressed by taking action, and they will be proposing a project for how their community can combat climate change.

2. Students should begin to collect data that shows how the community is faring with the SDG they chose. Students will complete the My Community SDG Action worksheet as they gather data.

3. To elevate the lesson, encourage students to email or call the community leader and/or organization they identified earlier and invite them to visit the class, virtually or in person.

   Use the discussion cards to further conversations.

4 ELABORATE:

1. Guide students in drafting a pitch for a project that addresses a climate change issue related to their chosen SDG.

2. Students should keep in mind how the issue relates to their chosen SDG, its impact on the community and human health, and what students and other community members can do to support their proposed project.

   Use the My Community SDG Action worksheet to draft project pitches.

5 EVALUATE:

1. Students share their pitches with the class. As an extension, invite community leaders to the class to hear students' pitches. Have each group record feedback they can use when drafting their project proposals.

CLOSURE OR EXIT TICKET:

Think about these questions as you reflect on this lesson:

1. What local climate change issue surprised you the most today?

2. How can understanding climate change impacts and how they relate to the SDGs help us better address climate change?

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Discussion Cards: Use these questions to prompt discussions and encourage students to think critically about climate change and its implications.

Which climate issues matter to you and why?

How does climate change affect your community?

Are any Sustainable Development Goals relevant to our community? Which ones and why?

Do you know local groups or people working on climate change? Who are they and what do they do?

How can we work with others in our community to tackle climate change?

What questions would you ask local experts or community members about climate change?

What climate issues should our community focus on? Why?

How might climate change impact our health and well-being?

HOW SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IMPACT YOUR COMMUNITY

Discussion Cards: Use these questions to prompt discussions and encourage students to think critically about climate change and its implications.

What data do we need to understand local climate impacts better?

How can our proposed projects help our community address climate change?

What should we think about when drafting our project pitch?

How could our projects help fight climate change locally?

What problems might we face in drafting our project pitches? How can we solve them?

How could our pitches encourage others in the community to act on climate change?

What role can young people play in dealing with climate change here?

What can we do to help address climate change in our area?

HOW CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS YOUR COMMUNITY

Name: _____

Date: _____

Step 1: Identify the Issue

Choose a Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) that is relevant to your community. Explain why.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Record data that shows how your community is or is not meeting the goals of your chosen SDG.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Step 2: Contact Community Members

Identify a community leader or organization that is addressing your chosen SDG.

Name of community leader/organization: _____

What did you learn from the community leader?
(This can be either through interviews or research.) _____

_____

_____

_____

Step 3: Draft Project Pitch

Develop a pitch a project that addresses a climate change issue related to your chosen SDG.
Outline specific actions you, other students, and community members can take to support community leaders and organizations in addressing this issue.

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