

LESSON PLAN: Green Cities Grade 6+/Science, Social Studies

As global warming increases, scientists, engineers, and innovators are coming up with ways to slow carbon emissions. This includes creating green cities.

Objective

This activity will help students to understand that there are many things that can be done to slow, stop, and reverse global warming. But it will take planning and insight partnered with the century's best science, technology, and innovation.

Materials

- Internet access
- Materials for culminating project
- Resources: <http://www.drawdown.org/>
<https://www.sustainablelearning.com/resource/my-green-city>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZCV-JFvuZo>
<http://media.planitgreenlive.com/en/build-your-own-city>
<http://media.planitgreenlive.com/>

Activity

Advise students they will form teams of engineers to design a new city that's going to be built (3-5 students per team). The site is now is a mix of prairie and forest. Their job is to make the new city as green as possible. They must find ways to balance the needs of humans with the needs of the environment and the species that live there. Key terms include **global warming**, **climate change**, **green**, and **carbon emissions**.

Begin by researching what makes a city green. Also, students must consider all the things in a town that people need – homes, schools, food, energy, etc. They can even discuss their own town or city as an example of things to include (or omit) in the town they design and build. Teachers can set the parameters for the number of green elements to include in their city. Possible activities to demonstrate their learning include collages, models, dioramas, drawings, essays, or slide presentations. The focus should be on the green details. This activity lends itself well to differentiated learning styles and abilities.

Reflection Questions

- What was easy about creating a green city? Difficult?
- What was difficult about balancing the needs of the environment with the needs of people? Is the balance possible?
- Are real green cities possible in the future? Why or why not?
- What can be done in your own town or city to move it towards being more green?