



Environmental Awareness Impact Series Teaching Guide & Resources

Teaching guide to help engage in important
conversations with students



About this Guide

This teaching guide on environmental awareness is meant to help faculty engage in meaningful conversations with our students that cover a wide array of issues centered around sustainability. Topics covered include campus-wide efforts and student initiatives, recycling at home, water conservation usage, among other issues.

This resource is for engaging your students through various topics about environmental awareness covering many different aspects from big picture ideas like how you can create sustainable communities or reduce wastefulness when it comes to energy consumption down into personal habits such as reducing meat intake or choosing environmentally friendly products over others every time possible.

The supplemental environmental awareness study guide for students is not meant to be step-by-step instruction but an opportunity for your students to browse resources to explore their perspectives. Below you will find some essential vocabulary words related to environmental awareness and recommended readings or videos that can help start discussion topics.

For a more robust student experience with the topic of environmental awareness, we recommend encouraging and incentivizing your students to explore environmental awareness outside of the classroom by participating in weekly activities like Impact Cinema's screening on the documentary "Tomorrow," or Real Talk discussion about environmental awareness & sustainability. Students will also have opportunities for the Library's book club discussion on "No Impact Man" by Colin Beavan and Stop & Serve Activities that involve recycling and conservation efforts.

Vocabulary

Climate Change/Global Warming

According to Issues and Controversies (n.d.):

Climate change, also known as global warming, refers to the gradual rise in temperatures on Earth and the impact this transformation is having on the planet. Climate change is caused by an increase in greenhouse gases—which include carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, methane, water vapor, and ozone—that trap the sun's heat in the Earth's atmosphere, creating a warming greenhouse effect around the planet (para. 1).

Fossil Fuels

According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary (n.d.):

a fuel (such as coal, oil, or natural gas) formed in the earth from plant or animal remains (para. 1).

Renewable Energy

According to Paolini and Paolini (2010) in Green Cities: An A-Z Guide:

Renewable energy is the energy produced by using natural resources that will regenerate in time. Primary sources of renewable energy are water, geothermal heat, wind, and sunlight. The energy produced by using different organic materials, such as wood, agricultural rejects, forestry residues, and urban solid waste (called biomass), is also regarded as "renewable" (para. 1).

Recycling

According to the Liboiron and Liboiron (2012) in the Encyclopedia of Consumption and Waste:

Recycling is an industrial practice in which recyclers collect used or abandoned materials and transform them into their constituent parts to create raw materials for new objects. Though such reprocessing has been around for centuries in artisanal, domestic, and industrial contexts, recycling was only coined in 1926 to describe sending partially refined oil back through the refining process. In the 21st century, recycling refers to two distinct but related practices: the industrial system of reprocessing materials and consumer-side recycling motivated by environmental values (para. 1).

Carbon Footprint

According to Macquari Dictionary (2017):

The carbon dioxide emissions for which an individual or organization can be held responsible, such as travel, fuel consumption, diet, energy requirements, etc. (para. 1).

Vocabulary

Sustainability

According to AllSides Red Blue Dictionary (2019):

Progressives, environmentalists, and conservationists typically use the word "sustainable" - or renewable - to argue that a course of action can proceed indefinitely without depleting the limited resources needed to sustain the action. The word is also used to mean that the action does not wreak havoc on life and the planet (para. 1).

According to Shkoda (2017):

In agriculture, sustainable means to support productive and useful farming systems for an indefinite period. This implies that sustainable agriculture must reduce waste and conserve resources, have a positive impact on the environment, and be supported socially (para. 1).

Green or Sustainable Living

According to Inspire Clean Energy (2021):

Sustainable living is achieved by making choices that aim to reduce our individual and collective environmental impact by making positive changes to offset climate change and reduce environmental damage (para. 1).



Read



- Read environmental impact on campus: ["Lynn University eliminates water bottle distribution"](#) AND [Inside iPulse: No more bus idling at Lynn](#) by Alexandra Zapata
- Read ["Is Bioenergy a Sustainable Climate Solution?"](#) by Marina Martinez
- Read ["What Is the Environmental Impact of the Billionaire Space Race? Experts Weigh In"](#) by Andy Hirschfeld
- ["Surge in environmental justice enforcement prompts intensified corporate attention to community issues"](#) by Nadira Clarke, Alexandra Dunn, & Lily Chinn
- ["The environmental toll of disposable masks"](#) by Anne Trafton
- ["Is Advanced Recycling a Cure-All or a License to Pollute?"](#) by Michael Lomtevas
- ["The total health and climate consequences of the American food system cost three times as much as the food itself"](#) by Laura Reiley



Watch



Watch "A Texas Myth: Sacred Sites Destroyed"

Collective Eye Films via Films on Demand
(Lynn login required)

In this short segment (2:00), Archaeologist David Keller describes how the protesters were naive to think that the public would become enraged by the pipeline.



Watch "Climate Activist Greta Thunberg on the Power of A Movement"

NewsHour Productions via Films on Demand
(Lynn login required)

In this short interview (10:32), Although more Americans than ever are worried about climate change, less than 40 percent expect to make "major sacrifices" to tackle the problem. But according to Greta Thunberg, a Swedish teenager, and climate activist, drastic action is exactly what's needed to address the problem. William Brangham sits down with Thunberg to discuss galvanizing young people across the globe to the climate cause.



Watch



Watch "Air Pollution and Your Health: What You Should Know"

*McIntyre Media, Inc. via Films on Demand
(Lynn login required)*

This program (18:48) gives viewers a thorough overview of air pollution, climate change, and the resulting impact on human health.



Watch "Beyond Meat"

*CNN: Eco Solutions via Films on Demand
(Lynn login required)*

Ever heard the phrase you are what you eat? Well, if you're one of the world's committed carnivores, it could be said that your eating habits are a significant contributor to the pressing problem of global warming. The impact of raising animals for meat includes deforestation and greenhouse gas emissions. This video explores food alternatives aimed at reducing meat consumption, including cultured meat and pea protein burgers. (11:00).



Discussions How-To

Consider developing a class contract before discussions this will facilitate a safe learning environment for students to discuss topics with civility.

Definition: Contracting is the process of openly discussing your students' expectations about how the class members will treat each other. A contract implies that all parties have a responsibility to uphold the agreement.

It is an effective strategy for making your classroom a reflective community. Feel free to modify the list from Facing History and Ourselves below:

Here is a list of norms that have been used in previous Facing History classrooms:

- Students should listen with respect. Try to understand what someone is saying before rushing to judgment.
- Students should make comments using “I” statements.
- Encourage students to write their thoughts down if they don’t have time to say them during class. If students do not feel safe making a comment or asking a question, write the thought in your journal or notebook. Please encourage students to the idea with themselves first and develop a safe way to share their opinion.
- If someone says an idea or question that helps with learning, say thank you.
- If someone says something that hurts or offends you, do not attack the person. Acknowledge that the comment—not the person—hurt your feelings and explain why.
- Put-downs are never okay.
- If students don’t understand something, encourage them to ask questions.
- Encourage students to think with their heads and heart.
- Encourage students to share the talking time—provide room for others to speak.
- No one should interrupt others while they are speaking.
- Student thoughts do not have to be shared publicly.



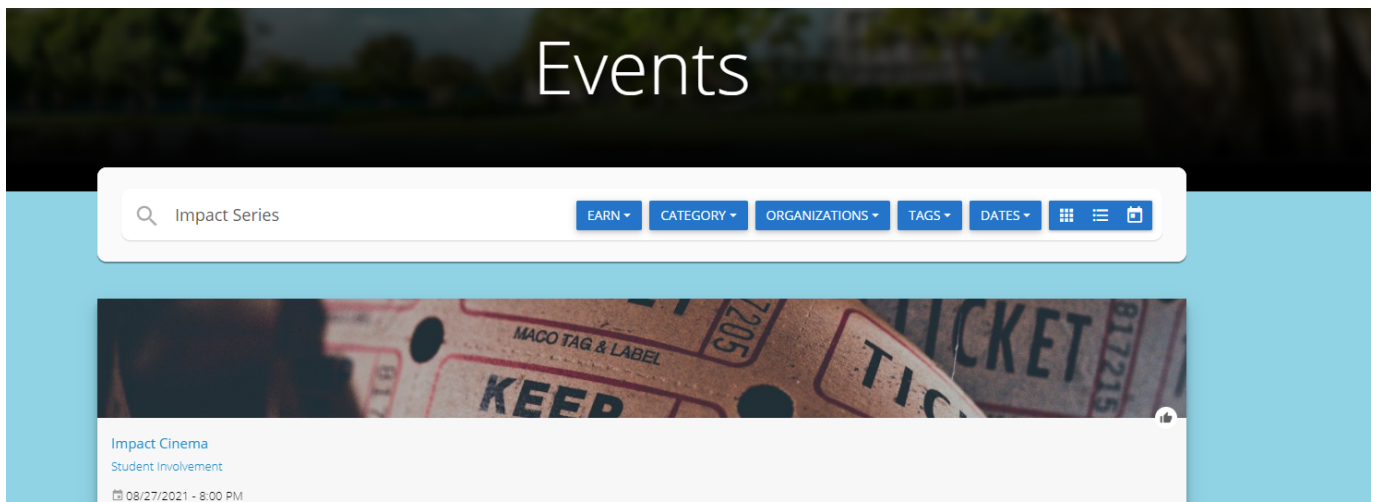
Discussion Questions

1. If you were a world leader and could choose a time from every industry and technology that would focus on improving, would you choose the next 30 years or the next 300 years? Why?
2. If we “used up” the earth and maybe went off to use up other planets in the future, how much would that bother you? Would it be a horrible thing or just the future of humanity?
3. Where do you get the energy that powers your life? Why do you get it from there? Would you instead get it from somewhere else?
4. If you could have the best meal of your life, where would it come from?
5. Have you ever worked on a project that supports the environment or values sustainability?
6. How do you feel about climate change and sustainable living in your community?
7. What are some ways to help reduce the carbon footprint of our society?
8. Have you seen any changes being made by Lynn or previous schools that support environmentally-friendly living practices?
9. What are some eco-friendly practices currently utilized at your workplace/school, and what future improvements can be made to those same practices?
10. What would make environmental issues more important in our culture, especially in college campuses and communities like ours (ex: recycling programs at dorms)?
11. How do you feel about the future of environmental protection for our planet?
12. Do you think there should be a more accessible way to access environmental information like air pollution, recycling policies, etc.?
13. Did you know that keeping a thermostat at 68 degrees or higher increases energy bills by 10% each year?



Act

To extend learning beyond the classroom, encourage and incentivize your students to attend the [monthly book discussion club](#) and the monthly film in the Impact Cinema, and Real Talk discussions and to engage with the monthly service project, Stop & Serve, Search "Impact Series" in lynn.presence.io for more information or contact the Office of Student Involvement CSI@lynn.edu or Dr. Antonella Reguiero AReguiero@lynn.edu.



Impact Series Schedule

FALL A: ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Friday, 8/27 at 8 p.m. - Impact Cinema: "Tomorrow" - The world's climate is changing. Instead of showing the worst that can happen, this documentary focuses on the people suggesting solutions and their actions.

Friday, 9/3 at 12 p.m. - Real Talk, a discussion on sustainability and environmental awareness

Friday, 9/10 at 12 p.m. - Book Club: "No Impact Man" by Colin Beavan - The author, his wife (and baby) give up virtually all of the comforts of modern living -- electricity, gas-powered transportation, shipped food, and public waste disposal -- in a drastic effort to curb his environmental impact.

Wednesday, 9/15 - Stop & Serve a monthly service project



Supplement

- Browse Film on Demand's videos on Environmental Issues (Lynn login required)
- Read the pros and cons in the Issues and Controversies database's guides on energy and the environment (Lynn login required)
- Browse GreenFile database (Lynn login required)
- Review "Tomorrow" documentary's "Day after Tomorrow" Classroom Workshop guidelines after screenings
- Read a reference series on Green Societies throughout history: Cohen, N. (2011). Green cities: An A-to-Z guide (Ser. The Sage Reference Series on Green Society, v. 4). Sage. <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/lynnu/detail.action?docID=1995296> (Lynn login required)
- Watch an eye-opening documentary that focuses on many never-before-seen solutions designed to slow down our escalating environmental crisis, "Ice on Fire" goes beyond the current climate change narrative and offers hope that we can stave off the worst effects of global warming. Narrated by producer and Oscar®-winner Leonardo DiCaprio and directed by Leila Conners. An HBO Production. (Lynn login required)





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