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**Bridging the Education Gap: Series of Infographic Guides to Sustainable
Living for Low-Income Communities**

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Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for Australia: Sustainability and the Environment,
SIT Study Abroad, Spring 2023

Abstract

Low-income communities in Australia face numerous negative impacts, such as health issues, social exclusion, educational disparities, and discrimination, which limit their opportunities to improve their quality of life (The Public Defenders,2022). As a result, students from these communities often have fewer resources and less funding, contributing to poor educational outcomes and underrepresentation in STEM fields, which includes environmental education (Australian Department of Education, 2022).

To address these challenges, I created an 8-page infographic series titled “Sustainable Living: On a Budget.” The series includes a cover page, an overview page, and four infographics covering : climate change, waste, preserving biodiversity, and using nature for therapy. The front side of each infographic contains educational information, while the back side offers practical tips for promoting sustainability that are not only beneficial for the environment but can also save money. Additionally, I created a bonus infographic on the impact of nature on mental health, along with actionable ways to spend more time outdoors.

Infographics were the perfect medium for this topic because I wanted to educate low-income communities on environmental issues and sustainability, which could be overwhelming to research. Infographics make it easy to present information in an accessible and compact space, saving people time and making the information more digestible (Williams,2014). Notably, Coast Adapt and Climate Council recognizes the effectiveness of infographics and uses them to share information on current environmental issues, as well as interpreting environmental information. While searching for infographics that directly target low-income communities, I found inspiration from Sekharan (2015) infographics on the Homeless Hub website. The consistent font, bright colors, and playful graphics make the information presented both engaging and easy to comprehend, which was a key factor in creating my own series of infographics.

To further narrow the scope of my project, I had the opportunity to interview 2 organizational leaders: Carol Hicklenton, Founder of NUJO, and Elyse Cunningham, a Community Organizer at Friends of the Earth Melbourne. These interviews provided important insights into the importance of inclusivity and communication in sustainability efforts.

After completing the series, I took steps to ensure the effectiveness of the infographics. This included seeking feedback from 2 organizational leaders, as well as my advisor, and analyzing survey data from 6 members of my own low-income community. Through this process, I received valuable insights and suggestions which I incorporated to improve the project's effectiveness/

As a black, low-income student from an inner city in the U.S., I created these infographics based on my own lived experiences. I was not aware of current environmental issues and their significant impacts on future generations growing up. Having experienced financial struggles, myself, I understand the significance of producing infographics that are accessible and relevant to the community. I hope my project delivers the message is that sustainability is a crucial aspect that needs to be accessible to everyone, regardless of socio-economic background. We all share the responsibility of preserving and protecting our planet for future generations. My infographics aim to inspire and empower individuals from low-income communities to make more sustainable choices and take action to protect our planet. By providing accessible and engaging information on environmental issues and practical tips for sustainable living, I hope to bridge the gap between low-income communities and sustainability education.

Key Words: Low-Income Communities, Infographics, Sustainable and Environmental Education, Inclusivity

Table of Contents

Abstract.....	2
Acknowledgements.....	6
Figures	
Figure 1: “How Does Climate Change Impact Your Health?”.....	12
Figure 2: “Impacts at 1.5 and 2 degrees of Warming”.....	13
Figure 3: “Why Should We Adapt to Climate Change”.....	13
Figure 4: “Struggling To Make Ends Meet”.....	18
Figure 5: “Changing Face of Poverty”.....	19
1.Introduction.....	9-20
1.1 Purpose and Significance of Project.....	9-10
1.2 Infographics as an Educational Tool.....	11
1.3 Histories of Infographics in Australia.....	1.1-12
1.4 Low Income Communities in Australia.....	14-16
1.5 Low-income Communities and Sustainable Education.....	16
1.6 Infographics for Low-Income Communities.....	17-18
1.7 Infographics for Sustainability in Low-Income Communities.....	20
2.Methodology.....	21-28
2.1 Collaborating With ACF.....	21
2.2 Interviewing Organizations.....	21-22
2.3 Gathering Research.....	22-23
2.4 Personal Experiences.....	23-24
2.5 Creative Work: Infographics.....	24-26
2.6 Feedback/Completion.....	26-27
2.7 Distribution.....	26-27
2.8 Ethical Issues.....	27-28
3.Results/Discussion.....	29-39
3.1 Description & Explanation of Work.....	29-31
3.2 Process.....	31-32
3.3 End Result.....	32
3.4 Critical Analysis of Creative Work.....	32-34
3.4.1 Self-Reflection.....	34-35
3.4.2 Feedback from Others.....	35-38
3.5 What I Have Learned.....	38-39
4. Conclusion.....	40
5. References.....	41-59
6. Appendix	
Appendix A: Email to Organizations.....	44
Appendix B: Interview with Carol.....	44
Appendix C: Interview with Elyse.....	45
Appendix D: Rating/Feedback Survey Results.....	46-47
Appendix E: Template for Infographics-Education Side.....	48
Appendix F: Interview Questions.....	49
Appendix G: Rating/Feedback Survey for Members from My Low-Income Community.....	49-50
Appendix H: Photos Of Creative Work: Sustainable Living on a Budget Infographic.....	51-60

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Lastly, I would like to thank the members of my low-income community for their positive feedback, kind words, and encouragement to keep going, no matter how hard and challenging this project got. Your support meant the world to me, and I am grateful for it.

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose and Significance

My creative project aims to bridge the gap between sustainability education and low-income communities in Australia. The focus of the project is to create an Infographic Series that educates readers on current environmental issues, highlights the importance of sustainability in daily life, and offers practical and affordable ways to incorporate sustainable practices into low-income households. Unfortunately, low-income communities often lack the necessary resources, funding, and qualified educators to prioritize sustainability education, unlike their higher-income counterparts. This has led to a significant gap in knowledge and awareness of environmental issues and sustainable living practices. By creating this guide, I aim to bridge the education gap that currently exists in low-income communities and provide accessible and actionable steps for individuals to improve their knowledge and practices in sustainability.

In order to bridge the gap between sustainability education and low-income communities, I have chosen infographics as the medium to convey my message. Infographics are an effective tool because they rely on minimal words, making it easier to communicate a message while being visually appealing for readers to engage with. I believe that education is crucial in promoting sustainability, and the infographics will serve as a valuable resource for individuals to make informed decisions about their environmental impact without the need for extensive web surfing.

Environmental issues can be heavy topics, and in order to keep the message approachable, my infographics will have a light-hearted and earthy tone, while still conveying the important message about sustainable living. I understand that not everyone has the same access to resources and education, and I hope that these infographics will provide a fun and easy way for individuals of all socio-economic backgrounds to learn about sustainability.

Sustainability in low-income communities is a concept that focuses on creating a balance between economic, social, and environmental factors to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This approach involves promoting the efficient use of resources to support long-term economic growth while reducing negative impacts on the environment and society.

The social aspect of sustainability ensures that all members of the community have access to basic needs such as food, water, shelter, and healthcare in an equitable manner. This can be achieved by “providing education and training opportunities that empower individuals and promote social and economic mobility”(Allen, 2022). Additionally, efforts can be made to improve community infrastructure and access to public service.

The environmental pillar of sustainability focuses on” preserving natural resources and ecosystems, reducing waste and pollution, and minimizing the carbon footprint of human activities”(Beattie, 2023). This can be accomplished by promoting sustainable practices such as conservation, recycling, and renewable energy development. By doing so, low-income communities can reduce their impact on the environment while promoting a healthier, more sustainable planet for future generations.

Personally, I hope to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by low-income communities when it comes to sustainability. Through my research and work on this project, I aim to develop a greater appreciation for the unique circumstances and barriers that these communities face in adopting sustainable practices. Additionally, I hope to hone my creative skills and develop my ability to communicate complex information in a clear and concise way. Most importantly, I hope that this project will make a positive impact among low-income communities and ignite lasting change.

By prioritizing sustainability education in low-income communities, individuals can learn about sustainable practices such as reducing waste, conserving water, and op-shopping, at an affordable cost, while reducing the negative impacts on the environment and society. This project aims to provide education to low-income communities and remind them that they too live on this Earth and deserve to be educated on how they can play a part in sustaining the planet.

Overall, sustainability in low-income communities is about creating a balance between economic, social, and environmental factors to promote long-term well-being for all members of the community. By prioritizing sustainability, these communities can create a more equitable, prosperous, and healthy future while minimizing their impact on the planet.

1.2 Infographics as an Educational Tool

I have chosen infographics as a powerful tool for sharing information about sustainability because they offer a visually compelling way to communicate complex data and ideas. Infographics combine text, graphics, and color to present information in a way that is easy to understand and digest. By using infographics, readers can quickly gain insights into sustainability, its importance, who it affects, and how they can contribute to the movement. Traditional research and analysis of data can be overwhelming for many people, and it can be difficult to distill the most important information from lengthy texts. Williams (2014,para.2) stated that “Infographics allow people to easily digest information through the use of visual data, charts, and statistics”. Williams mentioned that “with the proper use of color, proportion, and negative space, information can be transformed into memorable, attention-grabbing and even persuasive graphics” (2014,para.2).

Infographics provide a simplified and engaging way to convey important messages about sustainability that can be easily understood and remembered. Furthermore, infographics can be easily shared on social media, websites, and other digital platforms, which means that the message can reach a wider audience beyond the initial readership. This makes infographics a powerful tool for advocacy and education, particularly in low-income communities where access to information and resources may be limited. By using infographics to promote sustainability, we can empower communities with the knowledge and tools they need to create positive change for themselves and for the planet.

1.3 Histories of Infographics on Sustainability in Australia

While it may be difficult to determine the origins of infographics in Australia, environmental organizations such as the Climate Council (n.d.) and Coast Adapt (n.d.) have a long history of using them to emphasize the importance of environmental issues. From the Climate Council *"How Does Climate Change Impact Your Health?"* (See Figure 1) infographic in 2011 to more recent infographics, in 2021 *"Impacts at 1.5 and 2 degrees of Warming"* (See Figure 2). The Climate Council, with over 520,000 supporters, is reaching a wide audience with their infographics, and their website's infographic section (n.d.) makes it easy for readers to navigate and access the full reports, thus spreading awareness amongst their readers using both reports and infographics. Between these two infographics, you can observe the significant changes that have occurred over the past 10 years in terms of color, visual appeal, and text. You can also appreciate the amount of effort required to translate the information into the present-day style. This transformation is likely due to the importance of

infographics today, and its need to improve. In 2011, it is possible that many people were not using infographics, making their creation challenging due to a lack of information. However, upon examining *"Impacts at 1.5 and 2 Degrees of Warming,"* (See Figure 2) we can see that it is very modern in appearance, with up-to-date colors and graphics.

In addition the Coast Adapt program has created infographics that have been widely endorsed by the Australian Government of Environment and Energy, as indicated by the official stamp displayed at the bottom of each graphic. These infographics date back to 2017 and serve as a valuable resource for promoting sustainable practices and educating the public on environmental issues. Such as *"Why Should We Adapt to Climate Change?"* (See Figure 3). As a result, infographics have emerged as a valuable tool for educating readers on complex environmental issues. These organizations have recognized the effectiveness of infographics in conveying information in a visually appealing and accessible manner, and dedicated a whole section on their website. This has contributed to the widespread use of infographics as a means of promoting sustainable practices and raising awareness about environmental challenges.

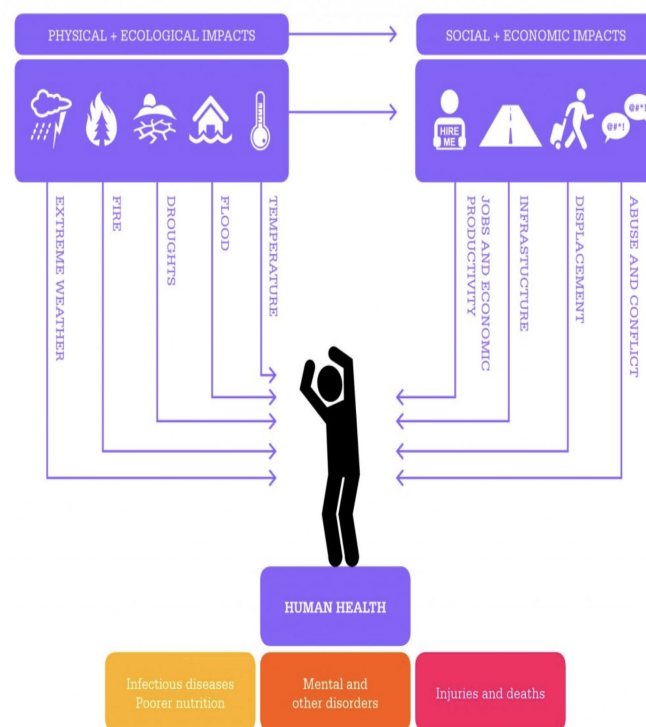


Figure 1: *"How Does Climate Change Impact Your Health?"* Infographic (Climate Council, 2011)

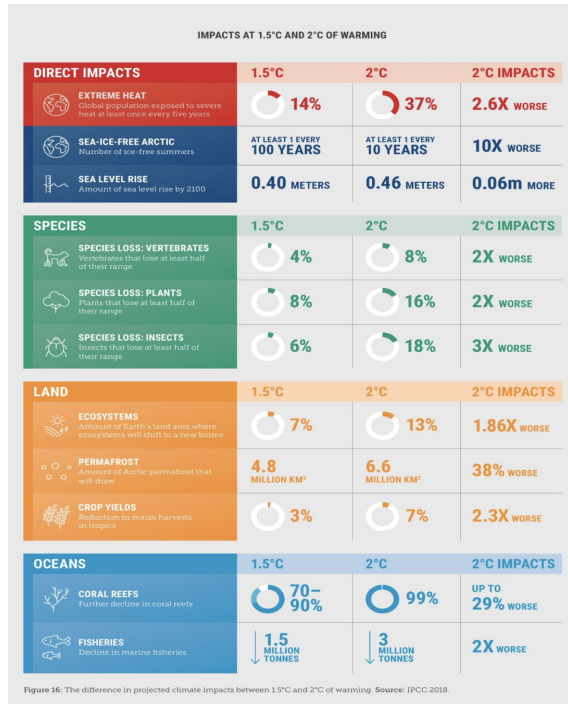


Figure 2: “Impacts at 1.5 and 2 degrees of Warming?” Infographic (Climate Council, 2021)

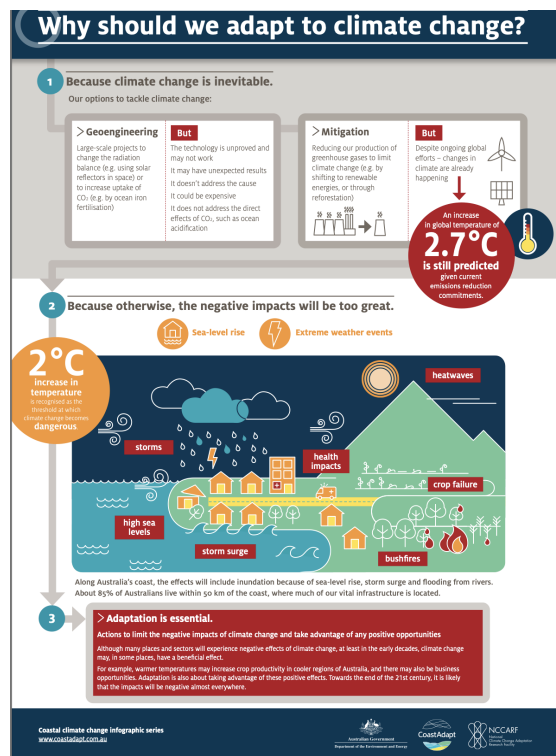


Figure 3: “Why Should We Adapt to Climate Change” Infographic (Coast Adapt, 2017)

1.4 Low-Income Communities in Australia

Low-income communities in Australia are defined as areas where households' disposable income falls below a level considered adequate to achieve an acceptable standard of living (The Public Defenders,2022,para.1-2). According to a 2019 report by the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling, "13.3% of the total NSW population, or more than 888,000 people, live in poverty"(The Public Defenders,2022,para.1-2). Such communities "experience various negative impacts, including childhood development, education, and employment issues, health and disability problems, social exclusion, and increased risk of homelessness and contact with the criminal justice system" (The Public Defenders,2022,para.3). To improve outcomes in low-income communities, it is crucial to prioritize individual, family, and community commitment, and to empower individuals to take charge of their own lives.

Low-income groups are particularly affected by health issues, social exclusion, and most importantly, educational disparities in Australia. People in lower socioeconomic groups are at greater risk of poor health, higher rates of illness, disability, and premature death compared to those from higher socioeconomic groups (AIHW, 2022, para.1). The social "gradient of health is evident, with people in the lower two socioeconomic quintiles comprising 40% of Australians, more affected by diabetes, suicide, and premature deaths than other Australians" (Calder, 2018, para.6). "Those in the most socioeconomically disadvantaged communities are 60% more likely to live with diabetes and 71% more likely to die by suicide than those in the most advantaged communities"(Calder, 2018, para.6). Moreover, there were "49,227 more deaths before the age of 75 in lower socioeconomic groups than in other socioeconomic groups between 2013 and 2017. In 2020, people living in the lowest socioeconomic areas were 2.2 times as likely to die from potentially avoidable causes, highlighting the need for timely and effective healthcare" (AIHW, 2022, para.4).

Low-income groups in Australia face significant social exclusion and discrimination, which can hinder their access to resources and opportunities necessary to improve their quality of life. According to Mission Australia's 2017 Concepts of Community report, young people in Australia from diverse socio-economic backgrounds face varying experiences and difficulties (Mission Australia, 2017, para. 1). The report reveals that "equity and discrimination" were identified as one of the top three most important issues in Australia by young people in 2016 (Mission Australia, 2017, para. 1). Young people living in low socio-economic areas reported higher levels of concern about community safety and exhibited

lower levels of trust compared to other young people living in moderate- or high-income areas (Mission Australia, 2017, para. 5). The report also highlights that lack of community trust is particularly stark in low-income areas, where only one quarter (26.0%) of young people agreed or strongly agreed that they can trust most people in their community compared to young people in high income areas (50.6%) (Mission Australia, 2017, para. 5). Furthermore, young people from low-income areas were slightly more likely than their peers to experience discrimination or unfair treatment based on mental health or physical health issues (Mission Australia, 2017, para. 5).

Low-income communities in Australia face significant educational disadvantages in comparison to their higher-income counterparts, leading to negative impacts on students' academic achievement and future prospects. Factors such as inadequate funding, a lack of resources, and less experienced teachers can all contribute to an educational system that fails to adequately prepare students for success (Parliament of Australia, n.d.,para.3.39). In addition, “lower-income families often cannot afford additional expenses related to schooling, such as books, excursions, and camps, which can hinder their children's ability to fully participate and engage in their education”(Parliament of Australia, n.d.,para.3.42).

These factors have led to poor educational outcomes among students from disadvantaged backgrounds, with a strong correlation between a student's level of socio-economic disadvantage and their performance (Parliament of Australia, n.d.,para.3.39). For example, standardized testing results show that students from low-income backgrounds, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds tend to perform more poorly, with some failing to meet the national minimum literacy standard (Parliament of Australia, n.d., para.3).

Furthermore, students from disadvantaged backgrounds also tend to have lower participation rates in STEM fields and experience worse outcomes in their adult lives. “On average, 15-year-old students from low socio-economic backgrounds in Australia are three years behind their peers from high socio-economic backgrounds in mathematics and science”(Australian Department of Education, 2022, para.1), including learning about environmental issues and sustainability. “Students from low socio-economic backgrounds often hold negative perceptions of STEM disciplines and are less likely to aspire to STEM careers, which results in underrepresentation of adults from low socio-economic backgrounds in the STEM workforce”(Australian Department of Education, 2022, para.1). It is essential to address and overcome these perceptions and aspirations to ensure that they have equal access

to education on environmental issues and sustainability. Through promoting and facilitating access to environmental education, we can help break the cycle of underrepresentation of low-income communities in these fields and build a more diverse and inclusive STEM workforce. The lack of resources and funding, inadequate access to healthcare and education, and social exclusion can all contribute to a cycle of poverty and disadvantage that is difficult to break. Despite these challenges, it is important to recognize the resilience and strength of individuals and communities who continue to work towards a better future. It is crucial to provide support and resources to low-income communities to help overcome these barriers and improve their quality of life, ultimately leading to a more equitable and inclusive society for all.

1.5 Low-income Communities and Sustainable Education

Low-income communities are disproportionately affected by climate change and extreme weather events due to their vulnerability resulting from factors such as lack of access to resources, language barriers, and limited educational opportunities (AHURi, 2021, para.2). Dr Veronica Matthews from the University Centre for Rural Health (University of Sydney, 2022, para. 22) highlights that low-income communities tend to lack finances or social support, and therefore comprise the majority of people affected in flooded areas and other extreme weather events (University of Sydney, 2022, para. 23).

The lack of sustainability education perpetuates negative environmental outcomes by limiting the ability of low-income individuals to make informed decisions about their daily habits and practices (Ackerley, 2019, p.8). Moreover, the lack of access to education perpetuates a cycle of poverty, and environmental education has a positive correlation with academic achievement (Ackerley, 2019, p.16).

Urban schools, which often have low-income students, face specific environmental challenges. Therefore, it is crucial for educators to provide support to these students through individual learning, social ties, engagement in stewardship, and policy action (Ackerley, 2019, p.16). By increasing access to information and resources about sustainable practices, we can empower individuals in these communities to make positive changes in their daily lives and contribute to a more sustainable future for Australia and beyond.

It is essential to address the challenges that low-income communities face in accessing sustainability education. Providing education and resources about sustainable

practices can empower individuals to make informed decisions, break the cycle of poverty, and contribute to a more sustainable, equitable society.

1.6 Infographics for Low-Income Communities

While searching for infographics that align with my goal of targeting low-income communities in Australia, I came across two examples that demonstrate the effectiveness of infographics in conveying hard-hitting data in a fun and engaging way. Vineeth Sekharan's 2015 infographics caught my attention with their consistent font, bright colors, and playful graphics. In Figure 3, the "Struggling To Make Ends Meet" (*See Figure 3*) infographic from a Homeless Hub report illustrates the impact of social determinants of health on the well-being of individuals and communities Sekharan (2015a). The graphic uses data to show the number of Canadians who experienced homelessness and food insecurity in 2014 and 2012, respectively. The design of the infographic is strategic and makes the audience understand the importance of social determinants of health Sekharan (2015a). The consistency in color and fonts makes it visually appealing but not too distracting for the reader to miss the overall message. Additionally, the text is enlarged based on importance, with emphasis on statistics like "including HALF A MILLION CHILDREN," which highlights the significance of the issue.

Similarly, Figure 4 showcases the "Changing Face of Poverty Infographic," (*See Figure 4*) which discusses the changing face of poverty in Ontario and how single adults are replacing single parents as the new face of poverty in Canada. The infographic compares the number of adults receiving social assistance through Ontario Works between 2000 and 2011, showing a 65% increase in the number of single adults and a 25% decrease in the number of single parents receiving benefits Sekharan (2015b). By emphasizing the importance of fighting poverty to address homelessness and improve the lives of those in need, this infographic serves as a powerful tool for promoting social equity.

In addition to effectively conveying its message, this particular infographic is also successful at presenting information in a concise and visually appealing manner. I particularly appreciate the use of graphs and charts, which make analyzing complex data much more manageable. The layout and design of the infographic strike a balance between being visually stimulating and informative without overwhelming the reader. I also find the

way the infographic emphasizes key statistics, such as by enlarging text or using bold fonts, to be very effective in drawing the reader's attention to important information.

The examples discussed demonstrate that with the right design and content, infographics can bridge the education gap and provide actionable steps to help individuals improve their sustainable practices, despite financial limitations they may face. Infographics can effectively convey complex data and ideas quickly and easily, making them ideal for reaching audiences with limited time and attention spans. As such, they offer a powerful means of communicating important information in a compelling and accessible way, contributing to a more informed and engaged society.

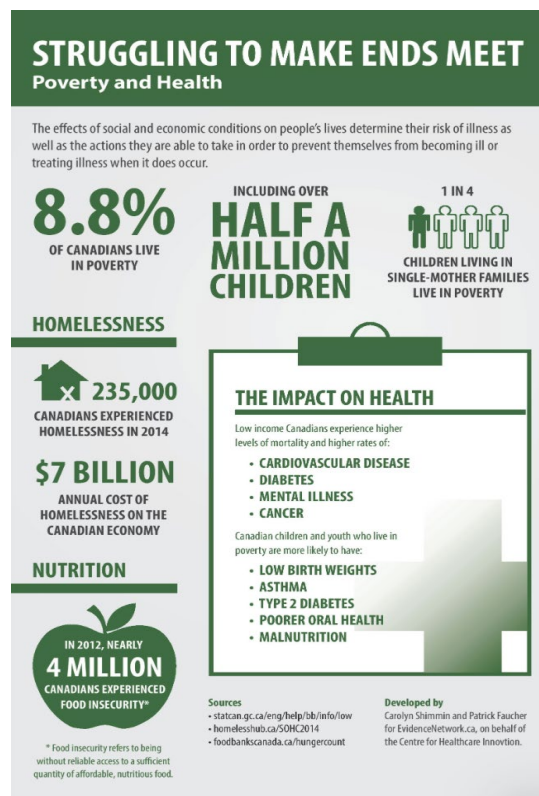


Figure 4: “Struggling To Make Ends Meet” Infographic (The Homeless Hub, 2015)

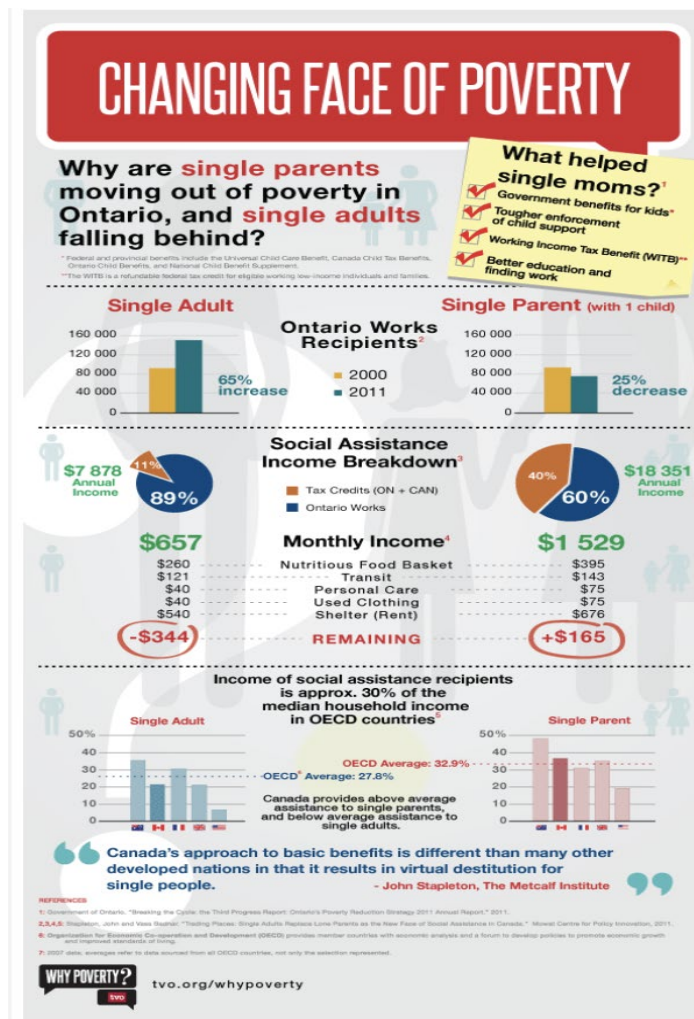


Figure 5: "Changing Face of Poverty Infographic" (The Homeless Hub, 2015)

1.7 Infographics for Sustainability in Low-Income Communities

In the context of sustainability, infographics can play a critical role in educating people about the importance of sustainable practices and inspiring them to take action. A well-designed sustainability infographic can convey a wealth of information in a clear, concise, and visually appealing manner. It can highlight the key issues facing our planet, such as climate change, loss of biodiversity, and waste. It can also showcase the positive impact of sustainable practices, such as reducing carbon emissions, conserving natural resources, and promoting social equity.

Infographics can also play a crucial role in promoting sustainability in low-income communities. By bridging the education gap and providing accessible and actionable steps, infographics can help individuals improve their sustainable practices, despite any financial limitations they may face. I aim to use this creative project to help make a positive impact on these communities by providing them with the necessary tools and information to make more sustainable choices. By showcasing the potential benefits of sustainable practices, such as reducing energy costs and improving air and water quality, this project can inspire low-income communities to take action and improve their quality of life, with everything they already have, and can afford.

2. Methodology

2.1 Collaborating With ACF

I was based in Melbourne, where both ACF and Friends of the Earth have offices. Although my location was not directly related to my project, I saw an opportunity to collaborate with these organizations and leverage their expertise in sustainability and community engagement. I intended to partner with an organization that could offer professional expertise, knowledge, and a strong collaborative relationship to address the critical issue of sustainable education for low-income communities by creating effective and engaging infographics.

I had carefully considered several potential organizations and ultimately found ACF to be a strong partner due to their reputation for promoting sustainable practices and educating the public about the significance of environmental protection. Collaborating with ACF would have enabled me to tap into their expertise and create compelling infographics that could educate and inspire low-income communities to adopt sustainable practices. Moreover, ACF's deep commitment to social justice would have ensured that everyone has access to a healthy environment, making them an ideal partner for this important work.

Unfortunately, despite my efforts, I was unable to establish a partnership with ACF. However, I remained committed to my goal of bringing sustainable education to underserved communities and continued to research other organizations to collaborate with. Despite the initial setback with ACF, I remained hopeful that other organizations would be willing to potentially collaborate with me or offer their expertise in some way.

2.2 Interviewing Organizations

To enhance my partnerships and gain further understanding of how successful environmental organizations in Australia are supporting low-income communities, I reached out to 7 organizations, including Friends of the Earth (FOE), Climate Council, and NUJO. (*See Appendix A: Email to Organizations*). Though not all of my inquiries received responses, I was fortunate to conduct 2 interviews, with Carol Hicklenton at NUJO and Elyse Cunningham at Friends of the Earth Melbourne. Through my interviews with Carol and Elyse, I gained valuable insights into the importance of inclusivity and communication in sustainability efforts.

To ensure that my project was well-informed, I tailored my questions to their own lived experiences with campaigns and projects, as well as their knowledge in the field of sustainability. (*See Appendix F: Interview Questions*).

In my interviews with Carol and Elyse, the importance of inclusivity and effective communication in sustainability efforts stood out. Both emphasized the need for equitable access to resources for low-income communities. Visual aids and storytelling were found to be effective in engaging people and making information more digestible, which is incorporated into my infographics. (*See Appendix B: Interview with Carol*)

In addition, they both mentioned that incentivizing people to adopt sustainable practices is essential. Highlighting the financial benefits of sustainable living on a budget can motivate people to make changes. I aim to showcase these benefits in my infographics to encourage more sustainable practices. Furthermore, Elyse reminded me of sustainability's connection to resilience and community care, emphasizing that it is not just about individual actions but collective responsibility and understanding. (*Appendix C: Interview with Elyse*)

Based on these findings, I can conclude that inclusivity, effective communication, and incentivization are crucial components of sustainability efforts. The insights provided by Carol and Elyse helped me narrow down my project rationale by highlighting the need for accessible resources for low-income communities, the effectiveness of visual aids in engaging people, and the importance of showcasing the financial benefits of sustainable practices.

2.3 Gathering Research

To better understand my target audience and create effective infographics, I conducted research on low-income communities in Australia. This research helped me understand their living conditions, financial constraints, and daily struggles, enabling me to tailor my infographic series to their specific needs and make it more relatable.

I also performed research on infographics for low-income communities and sustainability in low-income communities, which has provided me with valuable insights and knowledge, in making this project. This research allowed me to learn about the challenges that low-income communities face regarding sustainability and environmental issues, as well

as the types of information and visual aids that are most effective in communicating these topics and educating my target audience.

In addition to this, I found the Climate Council's existing infographics on various environmental issues in Australia to be very helpful in terms of communicating messages about sustainability and environmental awareness. Although they did not respond to my collaboration request, their exciting infographics on their website were extremely helpful for inspiration. Studying existing infographics on these topics also provided me with an understanding of the design principles, color schemes, typography, and data visualization techniques that work best for engaging and informing low-income communities.

Furthermore, I conducted research on the four main topics that I am planning to discuss in my infographic series, namely climate change, waste, loss of biodiversity, and nature for mental health. These are the biggest environmental issues the world is facing right now, and I felt that it was vital to convey this in my series. My research on these issues included information such as what the environmental issue was, what the cause was, what the effects were, and how we can solve it. Gathering this information was extremely helpful in providing my audience with a substantial amount of information without the need for deep diving and web surfing.

2.4 Personal Experiences

As a black, low-income student from an inner city in the U.S., I used my own lived experiences to create an infographic educating low-income communities on environmental issues and sustainability. Growing up, I was not aware of the current environmental issues and their significant impacts on future generations. However, when I attended Smith College in the U.S., I became involved in campus sustainability initiatives, which sparked my interest in learning more and becoming an advocate for change in my inner city community. This led me to participate in the SIT Study Abroad program in Australia for their Sustainability & Environmental Action program, where I gained hands-on experience and learned from experts with years of training.

When I first arrived in Australia, I used to purchase plastic water bottles daily until I realized their environmental impact. The financial costs were adding up, and I became aware of the need to switch to a more sustainable option. With the help of SIT, I was convinced to

buy a reusable water bottle and drink from the tap, which was a significant change for me. Growing up in an inner-city community, where the water supply was often contaminated with issues such as lead, we had no choice but to rely on plastic water bottles, and this habit stayed with me even when the problem was resolved. This experience showed me how limited resources can shape our actions and how low-income residents often have to rely on plastic water bottles, which are detrimental to the environment.

In addition, having experienced financial struggles as a low-income student myself, I recognize the significance of producing infographics that are accessible and relevant to the community. My personal encounters have provided me with a unique understanding of the difficulties faced by individuals in similar circumstances, such as living paycheck to paycheck, struggling to pay bills, and being limited by financial constraints.

Looking back, I am proud of how much I learned about sustainability and environmental issues in just four months. Not only have I saved money by ditching plastic water bottles, but I have also developed better habits. Moreover, creating infographics that are accessible and relevant to the community has been a significant accomplishment for me. This experience has taught me the importance of taking responsibility for my actions and their impact on the environment, and how small changes can make a big difference. Designing something specifically for my own community is empowering and facilitates a sense of connection and togetherness. By uniting around a shared experience and collaborating towards a common goal, my objective was to establish a sense of belonging and support within my community.

2.5 Creative Work : Infographics

Infographics were the perfect medium for my creative project because I wanted to educate low-income communities on environmental issues and sustainability, which could be daunting to research. Infographics make it easy to present information in an accessible and compact space, which may otherwise be overwhelming to find on the internet. Rather than spending hours searching on numerous websites, my infographics allowed me to present everything in one place.

I created an infographic guide series that highlighted three critical environmental issues: waste, climate change, and the loss of biodiversity. With a bonus focusing on nature's

impact on mental health. I chose these topics because I felt they were the most pressing issues currently facing our planet most comfortable for me to educate others about.

As I am most experienced with Canva for digital design, I chose to use it as my design platform for designing the infographics. To add a personal touch, I also used the avatar design platform BitMoji to create a customized avatar of myself, which was featured throughout the series engaged in different sustainable activities. To start this series, I created an eye-catching cover page and overview page. The overview page served as an introduction to the concept of sustainability and emphasized its importance, while also providing readers with an overview of the topics covered in the series, giving them a clear idea of what to expect.

By creating the cover page and overview page first, I was able focus most of my time on the four main infographics. This enabled me to prioritize these topics, which required more attention, and ensure that they were visually engaging and alluring enough to captivate the reader's interest and encourage them to explore the content in more depth.

For each environmental issue, I created a double-sided infographic. The front side contained educational information on the issue, including its causes, effects, and potential solutions, accompanied by key facts and statistics. On the back side, I included practical tips for promoting sustainability and acting against the issue, offering 4-5 actionable examples that were not only beneficial for the environment but could also save money.

As for the bonus fourth infographic on nature for mental health, the education side provided information on how nature impacts mental health, coping mechanisms for eco-anxiety, and the importance of gaining a sense of place, along with key facts and statistics. On the back side, I included actionable ways for individuals to interact with nature and spend more time outdoors, promoting the benefits of being in nature for mental and physical well-being.

After planning the layout for each infographic, I created templates with specific subheadings such as The Cause, The Effect, The Solution, and research that corresponded to the information needed (*See Appendix E: Template for Infographics-Education Side*).

This process also allowed me to brainstorm various titles that related to sustainability and saving money, such as "Climate 101: Actions For a Greener Wallet." By utilizing this

template, I was able to brainstorm ideas and conduct extensive research on each environmental issue. I then organized my findings under the appropriate subheadings, ensuring that every aspect of the topic was thoroughly addressed in the infographic.

After carefully organizing all the information on the templates, I moved on to the design phase of the project. I experimented with different colors and fonts that worked well with the subject matter and incorporated them into the infographics.

As I designed the infographics, I took great care to ensure that they were tailored to an Australian audience. This involved using Australian currency on the cover page and incorporating Australian vernacular to make the language and design easily understandable for my target audience. I also adjusted based on differences between American and Australian English, such as using the term "turn off leaky taps" instead of "turn off open faucets," as my advisor pointed out. Additionally, I opted to use the term "public transport" rather than "public transportation," which is commonly used in America. To make the infographics more engaging and relevant to the Australian audience, I included visuals such as kangaroos and koalas for biodiversity infographics, trash cans and garbage bags for waste infographics.

In addition, throughout the series, I used different symbols related to money such as dollar signs, coins, and price tags, and the titles were related to saving money. All these elements were carefully chosen to highlight the most important information and remain under the theme of "Sustainable Living: On a Budget".

Overall, using a template greatly facilitated the design process, ensuring consistency throughout all the infographics, and helped me to stay on track with my personal deadlines. This approach also saved me a significant amount of time and ensured that each infographic received equal attention and care during creation.

2.6 Feedback/Completion

Upon finishing my infographics, I contacted a total of eight organizations, including the seven I had initially reached out to and a new one called Sustain: The Australian Food

Network. I informed them that my project was completed and asked for their feedback on both the quality of the infographic and the information it presented. Additionally, I shared a survey with members of my local low-income community to measure the effectiveness of my infographics in educating them about environmental issues and sustainability. Although the community members were American students, they were still a part of my target audience. After sending out emails to the 7 organizations, 2 organization leaders provided me with feedback. Out of the 10 low-income community members I sent my survey to, I received 6 responses. The feedback from both the organizations and the community members provided valuable insights and suggestions, which I used to improve my project accordingly.

2.7 Distribution

To distribute the infographics I created, I actively pursued various channels with organizations I reached out to. During interviews with organization leaders, I asked if they could distribute my infographics on their social media, websites, or newsletters, though none confirmed the certainty of that possibility. Although I understand that bringing my infographics to directly to low-income communities in Australia is not within my ethical rights as a student researcher, I am optimistic that an organization will offer me an outlet to share my work through their sites or connect me with communities that will be able to view my infographics. Additionally, I am excited to announce that my advisor, Eshana Bragg, will be presenting my work for The Joyality Project collective (www.joyality.org). The collective is interested in pitching the idea of distributing my work through their blog, e-list, and social media in an intersectional eco psychological empowerment context. While I am willing to print physical copies, I will wait until organizations request them. However, physical copies may be more challenging to distribute to a broader audience, as they are limited to a specific geographic location and may not be easily accessible to low-income communities without transportation or nearby community centers across Australia.

2.8 Ethical Issues

As the focus of my project was on creating and sharing infographics to increase awareness about environmental sustainability, there were no ethical concerns related to research on human subjects or the collection of personal data. I received ethics approval from the SARB without any conditions. However, during my discussions with one organizational leader, there were concerns raised about my project promoting the myth that individuals are solely responsible for environmental issues, particularly when considering the impact of

larger corporations and industries on low-income communities. In response, I clarified that my objective was not to place blame on individuals, but to educate and raise awareness among individuals from low-income communities about current environmental issues. I also emphasized the importance of advocating for their communities and inspiring small-scale actions that can contribute to larger systemic change. While I agree that individuals should not be solely responsible for environmental issues, I wanted my project to ignite a change and empower low-income communities. Overall, no other ethical issues arose during the project, and feedback from others was generally positive

3.Results/Discussion

3.1 Description & Explanation of Work

The series begins with a cover page titled “Sustainable Living: On A Budget”, featuring an avatar of myself that introduces herself saying “Hi, I'm Brianna, and as a member of a low-income community, I know how crucial it is to protect our planet. That's why I created this infographic series for you!” Adding these statements adds a personal touch and creates a connection with the audience. Thus, emphasizing that this infographics series was created by someone from a low-income community, for low-income communities. Throughout the series, my avatar serves as a guide, engaging in various activities related to sustainable living (*See Appendix H: Photos Of Creative Work: Sustainable Living on a Budget Infographic*). The purpose of this is to help readers feel that they are not alone in their journey towards sustainability, and that I am here to guide them every step of the way.

The overview page played a crucial role in introducing the concept of sustainability and outlining the three environmental issues that would be covered in the series: climate change, waste, and preserving biodiversity. It opened with a clear and concise definition of sustainability and explained its importance for low-income communities and future generations, highlighting the need for equity. Next, the page transitioned into introducing the three topics with striking numbers and significant facts designed to grab the reader's attention and raise an alarming sense of urgency.

The overview page then ended with a powerful affirmation to low-income communities, sub-headlined “Sustainability Is For Everyone,” which reminded them that they deserve access to education and empowerment, and their financial setbacks should not exclude them from participating in the environmental change movement.

First of the series was "Climate Change 101 - Easy Actions for a Greener Wallet," aimed to educate readers on the basics of climate change, including its causes and effects, as well as providing significant statistics on its impact. The information provided includes how climate change is more than just a heat wave and included statistics of striking effects such as the rise of Australia's climate by an average of 1.47 ± 0.24 °C since 1910. The infographic also highlighted the potential causes of climate change, such as burning fossil fuels and industrial processes. After providing substantial information on climate change, the backside of the infographic provided 5 simple and actionable steps that individuals can take towards combating climate change and creating a more sustainable lifestyle that ultimately saves them

money. For example, conserving water through actions such as taking shorter showers, fixing leaky taps, and only running the dishwasher or washing machine when you have a full load can help reduce your water bill.

Next in the series came "Low-Cost, Low-Waste: Sustainable Shopping." This infographic focused on waste management, including its causes and effects, as well as providing significant statistics on its impact. The infographic started by providing an overview of waste management and why it is a problem. It then proceeded to highlight the two main causes of waste in Australia: Construction and Demolition, and Household waste, each with significant data and facts to support the point. The infographic also included striking points on the effects of poor waste management, such as landfill and the toxins it produces, which can lead to air pollution, harm human health, and threaten biodiversity. The backside of the infographic provided 4 tips and tricks for low-waste shopping and reducing waste at home, including buying in bulk, using reusable bags and containers, and composting.

Following structure, the backside, or the sustainable actions side presented actionable steps that readers can take to shop ethically and make eco-friendly choices that support waste reduction, even on a budget. One of the examples provided was repairing broken items such as clothing, furniture, or electronics instead of throwing them away and buying new ones, which can help extend the lifespan of products, reduce waste, and save money.

The last environmental issue covered was "Small Bills, Big Change: Preserving Biodiversity." This informative graphic emphasizes the importance of preserving biodiversity and covers its causes, effects, and significant statistics on its impact. The infographic explains the roles that biodiversity plays in our lives and how it affects our ecosystem. It highlights three main causes of biodiversity loss, including habitat loss, overexploitation, and pollution, and provides striking statistics on how Australia's wildlife has been declining. For instance, the graphic highlights how the koala population has plummeted, with a combined decline of 50%.

In similar fashion, the back-side, the sustainable actions side, provides actionable ways for individuals to make a positive impact on preserving biodiversity while saving money, such as promoting community gardens that create green spaces supporting various plant and animal species. These gardens also provide low-income communities with the opportunity to grow their produce, reducing grocery bills, and promoting healthy eating habits.

The fourth and final infographic of the series is titled "Nature's Green Therapy." It emphasizes the mental health benefits of spending time in nature, such as managing eco-anxiety and fostering a sense of place within the environment. As the previous three infographics tackled environmental issues, I wanted this one to serve as a lighter note to remind readers not to be overwhelmed by the information. It is not their fault that they may not have been aware of these issues earlier, but it is important that they learn about them sooner rather than later. This infographic also provides a way to use nature as therapy while coming to terms with our current state of the world. The backside of the infographic showcases how we can still be sustainable by going outside and appreciating nature, which in turn can give us a desire to take better care of it.

The sustainability message I hope my project contains is that sustainability is a crucial aspect that needs to be accessible to everyone, regardless of their income level. We all share the responsibility of preserving and protecting our planet for future generations. My infographics aim to inspire and empower individuals from low-income communities to make more sustainable choices and take action to protect our planet. By providing accessible and engaging information on environmental issues and practical tips for sustainable living, in an affordable way, I hope to promote equity and help catch them up to speed on what they may have missed out on.

3.2 Process

Since that these infographics were specifically targeted towards low-income communities with a focus on providing educational resources on sustainability and environmental issues, I made sure to consider the challenges that individuals from such communities face due to inadequate education and limited resources. Therefore, I carefully crafted the writing style of the infographics to ensure that it was simple enough for a seventh-grader to comprehend, without being too technical. However, I also made sure to maintain a certain level of complexity in the language to provide a rigorous learning experience, as these topics are studied at university-level and can be challenging to understand. During the creation process, I often found myself struggling with the curse of knowledge - the difficulty of putting myself in the shoes of someone who knows little or nothing about the subject matter. But, because I have been in those shoes before, I make a conscious effort to simplify the content without sacrificing accuracy or depth. My goal was to make the information accessible to anyone, including my past self, who was once in need of a clear and concise explanation.

In terms of the visual design, I aimed to create infographics that were both fun and exciting to engage with, while also maintaining a level of professionalism and sophistication that would not undermine the seriousness of the subject matter. I recognized that these infographics were intended to be an educational resource on sustainability and environmental issues, and as such, needed to be visually appealing and accessible to a wide range of age groups, from 15 to 40 years old.

3.3 End Result

During my outreach to various organizations, I made it a priority to ensure that my infographics were easily accessible to the public. To achieve this, I requested that the organizations share the infographics on their social media platforms or in their newsletters. However, despite my efforts, I have yet to receive any response or confirmation regarding their posting.

Despite this setback, I recognize the potential for my infographics to be shared and published both digitally and physically. Since I created them using Canva, they are easily shareable on various digital platforms such as newsletters, websites, and social media. Additionally, I believe that printing physical copies of my infographics would expand their potential reach, especially in places like community centers, workplaces, libraries, and schools where people may not have easy access to digital resources. No matter where these infographics are being distributed or shared, in my project, I emphasize that sustainability is not just a privilege for the wealthy but a right for everyone.

So, whether it's in a children's community center, a professional workplace, or a library, this infographics series is accessible to everyone regardless of their age, social status, or background.

3.4 Critical Analysis of Creative Work

In my infographics, I aimed to convey sustainability messages effectively and educate the audience about the importance of saving the earth and being a part of the change, both big and small. I started with a sustainability overview to provide a deeper understanding of what sustainability is, why it's important, and how it's necessary, especially in low-income communities that are disproportionately affected by environmental issues.

Throughout each infographic, I ensured that the message of sustainability was consistently conveyed, while also providing solutions that the audience could implement to be a part of the change. To provide hope and show that there are solutions to the overwhelming issues presented in the infographic, I included a bar at the bottom of each education side stating "On the flip side, there are some easy and budget-friendly ways to fight against..."

To ensure that the audience received reliable information, I used accurate and up-to-date information in my infographics. I did extensive research to ensure that the information I presented was accurate and relevant to the topic. However, if there were any gaps in the information I presented, I made sure to acknowledge them and provide suggestions for further research or exploration.

To emphasize the severity and urgency of climate change, I intentionally placed the climate change infographic first in the series. By including the urgency and deadline section, I hoped to inspire my audience to act and make changes in their daily lives, with ways I provided.

Conversely, I placed "Nature's Green Therapy" last to end the series on a positive note and provide my audience with a sense of hope and optimism. By highlighting the positive benefits of nature and providing sustainable actions to connect with it, I aimed to encourage my audience to take care of their mental and emotional well-being while also taking care of the environment.

In designing my infographics, I aimed to create a visually appealing and cohesive design that enhanced the understanding of the information. For the education side, I used darker and more somber colors such as dark brown, navy blue, and maroon to convey the significance and seriousness of the topic. On the other hand, for the sustainable actions side, I used brighter and cooler colors such as pastel blue, light green, and yellow to promote a brighter and more positive mood for the solutions and actions that can be taken. I also included appropriate font choices and other visual elements such as avatars and relative graphics to create a more cohesive and engaging design.

To target diverse backgrounds, I ensured that this series was both fun and engaging yet still professional, using a combination of professional fonts, colors, and trusted information. I

aimed to make the information accessible to individuals from low-income communities without dumbing it down or limiting their comprehension skills. People from low-income communities are not less intelligent; they simply have not had access to educational resources and opportunities. I wanted this to be an educational resource that would be taken seriously, rather than a children's book. To achieve this, I utilized various strategies, such as incorporating environmental terms, providing statistics from scientific reports, and explaining the information in a way that is both intelligent and approachable. Learning about environmental issues and sustainable practices is not always easy, and it can be overwhelming at times. However, I believe that it is important to confront these challenges head-on in order to create meaningful change (*See Appendix H: Photos Of Creative Work: Sustainable Living on a Budget Infographic*).

Learning about environmental issues and sustainable practices is not always easy, and it can be overwhelming at times. However, I believe that it is important to confront these challenges head-on in order to create meaningful change. To motivate and transform my target audience, I provided actionable steps and solutions that could inspire and empower them to make positive changes in their lives. By including more than 15 actionable steps, I provided my audience with a comprehensive guide to sustainable living that could be easily implemented in their daily lives without breaking their wallets. I believe that making sustainability accessible and affordable can ignite a transformation of people's perception, making it seem less like a burden and more like an opportunity for personal and societal growth. Furthermore, I aim to inspire individuals and communities to prioritize sustainability in their lives and education by emphasizing the economic benefits of sustainable practices, such as reducing energy bills and food waste. Sustainability doesn't have to be expensive, and by making small changes in our daily lives, we can make a big impact on the environment while also saving money.

3.4.1 Self-Reflection

Reflecting on my experience over the past 4 months, I have noticed significant growth in my understanding of environmentalism and sustainability. At the beginning of my journey, I felt uncertain and out of my comfort zone, as I had little knowledge of the subject. However, the workshops, lectures, and community-building activities at SIT helped me gradually become more comfortable with and understand the current state of the environment.

As someone with a background in digital media for over 5 years, I recognized that my creativity was one of my strengths that I could use to help me overcome the challenge of effectively communicating complex environmental and sustainability issues to a general audience. I used my creativity to experiment and brainstorm innovative ways to present the information in a way that was visually appealing, easy to understand, and engaging. By tapping into my strengths, I was able to create infographics that not only conveyed important sustainability messages but also captured the attention of my target audience.

Creating infographics allowed me to apply my newfound knowledge and creativity to raise awareness and educate others on sustainability issues. At first, I found it difficult to effectively communicate complex topics in a visually appealing way. However, with practice and feedback from my peers and mentors, I was able to improve my skills and create informative and engaging infographics.

One of the challenges I faced was figuring out how to incorporate multiple sustainability messages into a single infographic without overwhelming the audience. I had to carefully choose the most important messages to include, for each environmental issue, while also ensuring that the information was presented in a clear and concise manner. While there could have been other sustainability messages I could have incorporated, I feel that I included the most significant ones that were necessary for baseline education and were most relevant and impactful for my target audience.

3.4.2 Feedback from Others

Firstly, my advisor, who is very experienced with creating info sheets like this, working professionally with Sustainable Futures Australia in this capacity for decades, provided me with insightful feedback and served as an invaluable resource throughout this entire creation process. She provided me with excellent advice such as making my work more personal by including my avatar, ensuring that the infographics were contextualized for an Australian audience, such as using Australian currency instead of US dollars on the cover page, and using Australian vernacular. Additionally, she encouraged me to implement the bonus 4th infographic "Nature's Green Therapy," which wasn't initially planned but added a unique and positive element to the series, focusing on the connection between ecopsychology, nature, and mental health. She also suggested that I share my background and

indicate that I am low income, which added an authentic touch to my creative piece. Overall, her feedback helped make my infographics well-rounded and authentic.

Thus, after completing my infographics and receiving responses from the organizations, I reached out to Carol Perdigao, a leader from Sustain: The Australian Food Network, someone from a major environmental advocacy organization, and a member of low-income communities to provide me with feedback and reviews. I used survey ratings and feedback from my intended audience of low-income communities and verbal feedback from organization leaders.

Carol from Sustain: The Australian Food Network, had nothing but great things to say about my infographics project and mentioned that it was very well done and well-written. This flattered me as I was nervous about the completeness of explaining information such as this and being fairly new to this space, so having a knowledgeable organization leader say that was honorable. In addition, she also provided some tips on how to make my infographics more consistent in terms of color and fonts, which I took and applied accordingly.

During my project, I received feedback not only on my infographics but also on my rationale. Someone from a major environmental advocacy organization expressed concern that I may have been implying that individuals are solely responsible for the climate crisis. They felt it was unfair to ask those in lower socio-economic brackets to bear the burden of fixing the mess caused by the top 1% of the population, who are responsible for over 50% of the world's emissions.

While this feedback was valid, it was not my intention to blame individuals for the climate crisis. My goal was to provide educational resources to low-income communities who may not have access to information on sustainable living practices and the climate crisis. I wanted to create a guide that would give others like me a basic understanding of the issues and empower them to make a difference in their own lives. While human activity may not be the sole cause of the climate crisis, I do believe that our actions can have an impact, no matter how small.

While my advisor originally suggested adding an ecopsychology/nature connection section as the fourth infographic, I was uncertain about its feasibility due to time constraints. However, I was able to design it after all, and the person's feedback served as the final

catalyst for this infographic. Their comments inspired me to emphasize the empowering effect of taking positive action and using one's voice for environmental advocacy. This interaction challenged me to consider another viewpoint on my project, which allowed me to narrow down the fact that low-income communities are not to blame for the climate crisis and should not be burdened with cleaning up the mess. I also used this to alter my overview page and began the series by stating that low-income groups are not the problem. I ended the series with the same message on Nature's Green Therapy, encouraging them to use their voices for the betterment of their community and the environment.

While getting advice from experts was valuable, I also wanted to assess the effectiveness of my infographics among my target audience, who are members of low-income communities. To achieve this, I conducted a survey among people I know well in my community, ranging from high school to college. (*See Appendix G: Rating/Feedback Survey for Members from My Low-Income Community*). I asked them to rate and provide feedback to measure the effectiveness of my infographics and to see if they gained any knowledge from them. I received six responses from my survey and evaluated the effectiveness of each infographic and the overall series based on their feedback. (*See Appendix D: Rating/Feedback Survey Results*) Here are the findings:

For Infographic #1, the feedback was positive. Members found it clear, well-organized, and easy to understand. Members stated “it effectively conveyed the causes and effects of climate change and provided actionable solutions.” The infographic was successful in educating the target audience on the importance of taking simple actions like recycling and planting new plants to combat climate change.

Infographic #2 was also well-received. Members found it informative and educational, with concrete steps to take in order to reduce waste. “Members stated “the statistics presented were eye-opening and encouraged individuals to think about my own contributions to waste.” The infographic successfully encouraged viewers to act and make changes in their daily lives to reduce waste.

Infographic #3 highlighted the importance of preserving the health of our planet for the benefit of all living things. Members said “it provided me with actionable steps for to

promote biodiversity and support local farmers' markets.” Members appreciated the emphasis on reducing biodiversity loss and the declining wildlife population in Australia.

Infographic #4 explored the positive effects of connecting with nature on mental health. It introduced the concept of "Eco-anxiety" and gave examples of how gardening, walking in nature, and other outdoor activities can help reduce stress and anxiety. Members stated “the use of images was greatly appreciated, and the infographic encouraged me to start connecting with nature more often.”

The feedback from members of my community was overwhelmingly positive. They found the infographics visually engaging, informative, and easy to follow, appreciating the explanations of various environmental issues and their causes and effects, as well as the solutions provided to contribute to preserving the planet. The infographics successfully encouraged them to reconsider their environmental impact and take effective measures to make the world a better place. Their responses affirmed the message I was trying to convey and showed me the effectiveness of my work.

With feedback from my advisors, the organization, and the community, I was able to fine-tune my project and make final corrections. This was important for me as a creative, as at times, I second-guess my work, especially in something I am fairly new at. Reviewing the affirmations was a way to confirm that my infographics did the job, allowing me to avoid overthinking and fixing what wasn't broken.

3.5 What I Have Learned

During the project, I learned the importance of community engagement and collaboration. Both organizations and community members played an integral role in contributing to the success of the project. Looking back, I realized that I missed an opportunity to connect with leaders from low-income backgrounds or those who have had similar experiences. If I could do the project over again, I would have made a concerted effort to reach out to these leaders, as they would have provided unique insights into the challenges and opportunities of promoting sustainability in low-income communities. Additionally, I would have tried to understand their needs and preferences better by testing the effectiveness of the infographics on low-income communities in Australia, if it was within my ethical

boundaries. This would have allowed me to tailor the infographics more effectively and reach a broader audience, including those from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds.

4. Conclusion

In conclusion, my experience with creating infographics to convey sustainability messages has taught me the power of visual communication in inspiring people from low-income communities. Moving forward, I believe there is still much work to be done in promoting sustainability in low-income communities. To address this, I have ideas on projects such as implementing a workshop series on sustainable living practices, covering topics such as climate change, waste reduction, and preserving biodiversity, using my infographics as a supplement to the workshop. Another future project that would be interesting is hosting a sustainable art competition in low-income communities, with the theme of creating art from recycled materials. This would be an engaging and creative way to promote sustainability, as I believe that creativity and art present a meaningful way for people to be involved while learning.

In summary, I am very proud of where I started and where I am now in my journey towards promoting sustainability. My personal experience of growing up in a low-income community has inspired me to use my skills and knowledge to contribute to a more sustainable future. I feel empowered to take on more projects that work towards the same mission and send a similar message of sustainability to all communities.

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<https://www.homelesshub.ca/blog/infographic-changing-face-poverty>

6. Appendix

Appendix A: Email to Organizations

Hello,

My name is Brianna Mateo, and I am an American student studying sustainability and environmental action in Australia through SIT. I am writing to you as I am undertaking a month-long independent project through April, where I will be based in Melbourne.

The objective of my project is to create easy-to-understand and shareable infographics for lower-income communities to bridge gaps between different socio-economic groups. The infographics will be visual and digital, allowing for widespread distribution and accessibility. The purpose is to educate readers on the importance of sustainability and environmental issues and provide actionable steps to make a positive change in their community.

As a successful environmental organization in Australia, I believe that your expertise and guidance would be invaluable to the success of my project. Specifically, I would like to hear your thoughts on how we can educate low-income communities on the importance of sustainability, and what your organization is currently doing to support them.

I would also like to understand if there is any possibility of collaboration, partnership, or support from your organization. As my project progresses, I believe it would be a great opportunity for us to work together to create effective and engaging infographics that could reach wider audiences and promote sustainable practices.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best regards,

Brianna Mateo

Appendix B : Interview With Carol

During my interview with Carol, I learned about her organization, NUJO, which provides consulting and data to help local government managers increase engagement in environmental protection and sustainable living projects. While they do not initially target any specific socioeconomic groups, they assist local governments and managers. I reached out to Carol early on in my project, hoping to gain insights, existing data, and success stories and potentially collaborate.

Carol emphasized the importance of appealing to people's hearts and understanding why they do something if we want to change their behavior. She shared a success story from 10 years ago, which aligned with my project. She had conducted an education campaign on wood smoke in South West Byron Bay to combat pollution caused by wood heaters. The campaign led to a significant reduction in smoke, giving me hope that my infographics would be a success story similar to that one day, by educating low income communities.

When asked about potential collaboration, Carol mentioned that she is not a good collaborator because her organization's needs and values do not align with local communities through environment managers. However, she gave me valuable advice on overcoming the challenge of convincing people to change their ongoing habits. She suggested providing incentives to encourage people to adopt more sustainable practices for the sake of their wallet.

As we wrapped up the interview, I felt inspired to educate low-income communities, provide resources, and make long-lasting changes in their lives. Carol's insights gave me hope that change is possible, even with ongoing environmental challenges.

Appendix C : Interview With Elyse

During my conversation with Elyse, we discussed the importance of providing incentives to encourage people to get involved in sustainability efforts. In my case, I mentioned reminding people that there are affordable ways to be sustainable, which not only helps the environment but also their pockets. We also talked about the high cost of living in low-income areas and the unfair consequences suffered by these communities due to climate change. Elyse emphasized that sustainability is not just an environmental issue, but a community care issue that requires interconnected communities and individuals making small changes in their own lives.

We discussed a specific campaign Elyse is working on that aims to promote public transportation over cars, in low-income communities. However, she mentioned that they were unable to collaborate due to their focus on the specific use of public transportation, and my topic does not really align with their project. Nevertheless, it was great to have the chance to interview her. We also talked about the most effective ways to communicate sustainable practices, including the use of visual aids and storytelling. Elyse mentioned that storytelling can be particularly effective, especially when it includes personal anecdotes that deeply relate to people.

We also discussed how success can be measured in changes to places or shifts in power. Finally, we talked about the crucial need to include low-income communities in sustainability efforts. Elyse highlighted the fact that these communities will be the worst affected by climate change, and it is crucial to ensure that they have access to resources and can adapt in an equitable and fair way.

Our conversation emphasized the need for a community-driven approach to sustainability, with a focus on building connections and creating lasting change for the benefit of all.

Appendix D: Rating/Feedback Survey Results

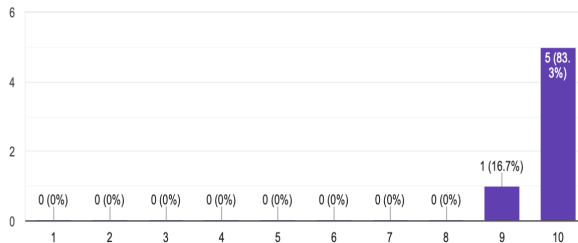
<p>Infographic #1: Climate Change 101: Easy Actions for a Greener Wallet Copy</p> <p>On a scale of 1-10, how effective do you think the infographic was in explaining the concept of climate change and the actions you can take to combat it?</p> <p>6 responses</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Rating</th> <th>Count</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>0%</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>0</td><td>0%</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>0</td><td>0%</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>0</td><td>0%</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>0</td><td>0%</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>0</td><td>0%</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>0</td><td>0%</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>0</td><td>0%</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>1</td><td>16.7%</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>5</td><td>83.3%</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Rating	Count	Percentage	1	0	0%	2	0	0%	3	0	0%	4	0	0%	5	0	0%	6	0	0%	7	0	0%	8	0	0%	9	1	16.7%	10	5	83.3%	<p>Infographic #1: Climate Change 101: Easy Actions for a Greener Wallet</p> <p>In what ways did the infographic help you understand the concept of climate change and the actions you can take to combat it?</p> <p>6 responses</p> <p>The infographic gave me a clear and well organized visual of the effects of climate change in Australia. It was well organized and made it easy to understand what all the effects are and provided solutions and explanations for how the solutions are beneficial.</p> <p>The infographic allowed me to learn about the certain causes of climate change and why it is harmful to society. I enjoyed how the infographic was very clear and concise about the solutions that individuals can learn about in order to fight against climate change, such as transitioning to renewable energy or like turning off lights and unplugging appliances when not in use.</p> <p>By informing the audience of the cause, effect, and solution! I really liked the implementation of the concrete steps that one can take to transition to renewable energy.</p> <p>In the "What is Climate Change", in the second sentence there is an i missing from It.</p> <p>Yes! I have been educated that climate change happens as a result of simple acts like improper disposal of waste, killing systems in the ecosystem, and burning energy sources like fossil fuels into the atmosphere. Ways I can combat climate change is to part take in activities that lead to the growth of new plants and engage in the recycling of goods.</p>
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Infographic #3: Small Bills, Big Change: Preserving Biodiversity



On a scale of 1-10, how effective do you think the infographic was in explaining the importance of biodiversity and providing easy affordable ways to preserve it?

6 responses



Infographic #3: Small Bills, Big Change: Preserving Biodiversity

How did the infographic inspire you to think about the importance of biodiversity you can play in preserving it?

5 responses

I appreciate the infographic providing context on the impact that it has on wildlife to make me more inclined to care/ listen to the issue at hand.

This infographic included cute pictures of animals and emphasized how maintenance of our planet is so important and how it affects all living things on our planet. This infographic also provided information that can be taken to preserve it. But it also included the actions that are causing the damage to our planet. This infographic was very informative of the damages already done to our planet and provided very important information to be shared.

I didn't realize that the wildlife population in Australia has been declining for the past 40 years. It has probably been declining in some other places in the world. This infographic helped me realize how important it is to reduce biodiversity loss in Australia and in other places across the world. I usually shop at local farmers market in my neighborhood, but this infographic did a great job of explaining how supporting local farmers market promotes biodiversity through sustainable agriculture. It is more affordable compared to larger supermarkets.

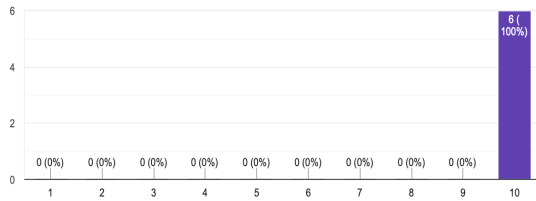
The first paragraph regarding its connection to the food, medicine and clean water that we need is very effective because it allows me to connect how taking concrete steps to protect our planet affects all of us internally.

Infographic #4: Natures Green Therapy



On a scale of 1-10, how effective do you think the infographic was in conveying the significance of spending time outdoors and immersing oneself in nature for enhancing mental health?

6 responses



Infographic #4: Natures Green Therapy

How did this infographic enhance your understanding and connection with nature?

5 responses

Greatly appreciated the images utilized within this graphic and

This infographic introduced an idea "Eco-anxiety" that I had never heard of but can relate to so it helped give me a new perspective and understanding. It encouraged me to be more attentive and connected with nature. It also included new ways to embrace and enjoy nature and I will definitely try these new suggestions!

I am not an outdoor person, but this infographic was great for establishing how understanding nature can improve mental health for individuals; which I think is so important to maintain, especially in today's society. I loved the examples of how connecting with nature brings forth so many positive aspects in our lives, like gardening improves your well-being, something as simple as just walking also helps to improve your connection with the outside world and it can also help reduce stress and anxiety. Also, I mentioned that I am not an outdoor person, but I enjoyed how this infographic emphasized that embracing outdoor activities also just helps you relax your body and mind and encouraged me to start connecting with nature more often in my life.

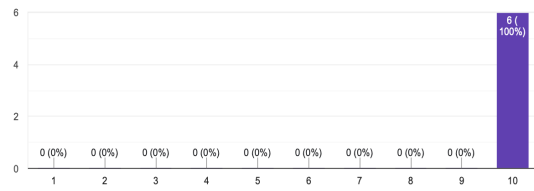
The fact that you put mental health at the top really draws me in immediately considering how central it is to everything that we do, I felt honored to learn about nature's connection to it.

Overall Infographic Series:

[Copy](#)

On a scale of 1-10, how effective do you think the infographics were in promoting sustainability education in low-income communities of Australia?

6 responses



Overall Infographic Series:

In what ways have the infographics helped you to understand and take action towards sustainable practices?

5 responses

Its helped me to reconsider how I can be a more environmentally conscious person!

This infographic was not only visually engaging but extremely informative. It explained different issues in environmental sustainability, what the causes and effects of these issues are and it even went as far as providing solutions that all individuals can take to contribute to the preservation of our planet. A lot of times it feels like as individuals there isn't much that we can do to help save the planet because we feel that we are so small but this infographic provided effective ways that we can all take part in saving our planet in small and enjoyable ways.

This infographic was very concise, clear, aesthetically pleasing and easy to follow. It did a great job in encouraging me to understand and take action towards sustainable practices practice for the environment in small ways. For example, I learned that I can help reduce waste by just reusing water bottle and bags, preserving biodiversity by supporting local farmer markets and connecting with nature by taking simple walks. All in all, this infographic did a fantastic job of promoting sustainability education in low-income communities of Australia and illustrating affordable ways to incorporate sustainable practices to achieve this in everyday life!

I've learned that partaking in outdoor adventures and taking walks can decrease the possibility of anxiety and depression. supporting local markets and composting food scraps rather than tossing them can

Appendix E: Template For Infographics-Education Side

What is the Environmental Issue?

- Provide a clear and concise definition of the environmental issue you are addressing.
- Use language that is easy for all audiences to understand.
- Include visuals, such as diagrams or graphics, to help illustrate the issue.

The Cause

- Use data and evidence to support the claim that these causes are contributing to the issue.
- Highlight the importance of reducing or eliminating these causes in order to mitigate the impacts of the issue.

The Effect

- Describe the consequences of the environmental issue, such as ecosystem damage or public health concerns.
- Use real-world examples to illustrate how these impacts are affecting people and communities around the world.
- Emphasize the urgent need to take action to address these impacts before they become more severe.

The Deadline-ClimateChange

- Explain the concept of a "deadline" or the point at which irreversible damage to the planet's ecosystems and/or public health will occur.
- Encourage readers to take action now to help prevent irreversible damage and mitigate the impacts of the environmental issue.

Key Facts/Statistics

- Provide some key statistics and facts about the environmental issue that help to illustrate the urgency of the issue.
- Use visuals, such as graphs or charts, to help illustrate these statistics
- Emphasize the need for collective action and individual behavior change to address the issue.

Appendix F: Interview Questions

1. Can you tell me about any campaigns or initiatives your organization has undertaken to promote sustainability in low-income communities in Australia?
2. How do you measure the success of your sustainability campaigns and initiatives, especially in low-income communities?
3. What kind of data do you have on environmental awareness and sustainability practices in low-income communities, and how was this data collected?
4. Based on your data and experience, what are some of the biggest challenges in promoting sustainability in low-income communities, and how have you addressed these challenges?
5. In your opinion, what are some effective ways to communicate environmental awareness and sustainability practices to low-income communities?
6. Can you share any success stories or case studies of sustainable practices being adopted in low-income communities in Australia?
7. How important do you think it is to engage and involve community members in sustainability initiatives, and how have you done this in the past?
8. Finally, how do you think my project can best collaborate with organizations like yours to achieve the goal of promoting sustainability and environmental awareness in low income communities.

Appendix G: Rating/Feedback Survey For Members From My Low Income Community

1. On a scale of 1-10, how effective do you think the infographic was in explaining the concept of climate change and the actions you can take to combat it? Please explain your answer.
2. In what ways did the infographic help you understand the concept of climate change and the actions you can take to combat it?

Infographic #2: Low-Cost, Low-Waste: Waste Reduction

1. On a scale of 1-10, how effective do you think the infographic was in explaining the concept of waste reduction and practical ways to reduce waste?
2. How did the infographic encourage you to think about waste reduction?

Infographic #3: Small Bills, Big Change: Preserving Biodiversity

1. On a scale of 1-10, how effective do you think the infographic was in explaining the importance of biodiversity and providing easy affordable ways to preserve it?
2. How did the infographic inspire you to think about the importance of biodiversity and the role you can play in preserving it?

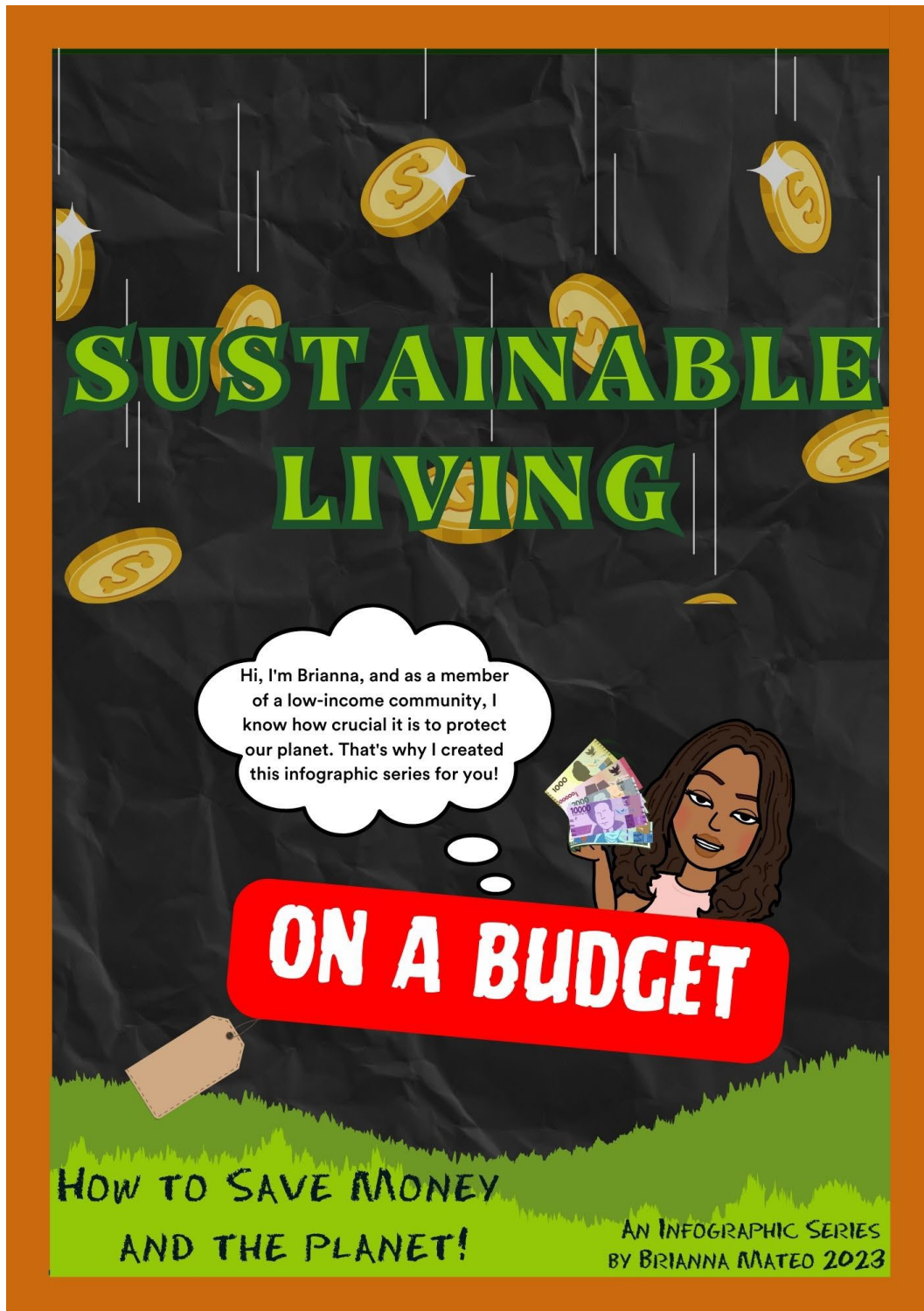
Infographic #4;Natures Green Therapy

1. On a scale of 1-10, how effective do you think the infographic was in conveying the significance of spending time outdoors and immersing oneself in nature for enhancing mental health?
2. How did this infographic enhance your understanding and connection with nature?

Overall Infographic Series:

1. On a scale of 1-10, how effective do you think the infographics were in promoting sustainability education in low-income communities of Australia? Please explain your answer.
2. In what ways have the infographics helped you to understand and act towards sustainable practices?

Appendix H: Creative Work Sustainable Living on a Budget Infographic



WHAT IS SUSTAINABILITY?

Sustainability aims to create a better world for current and future generations by meeting our needs while preserving the ability of future generations to meet theirs. It involves balancing economic, social, and environmental factors for a resilient and thriving planet. This includes addressing environmental challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss, and waste. By reducing our impact on the planet and protecting natural resources and ecosystems, sustainable living promotes a balanced and harmonious relationship between humans and the environment.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Sustainability is like a superpower that can transform the world for the better, especially for communities facing environmental challenges. It's about creating cleaner air, access to clean water, and green spaces for everyone. Sustainability aims to build fair and equitable communities, improving access to basic needs and reducing poverty. By promoting sustainable practices, we can create a healthier and more equitable world, particularly for vulnerable communities. It's an opportunity to make a positive impact on our world and create a brighter future for all!

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

To effectively educate pressing environmental issues in our infographic series, we'll cover these key topics:



CLIMATE CHANGE

Global warming raised Earth's temp by 1.0°C, leading to more severe disasters like floods, droughts, and bush fires.



LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY

Australia has seen over 100 species extinctions since human arrival, contributing to the sixth mass extinction at an alarming rate.



WASTE

Australia generates 67 million tonnes of waste, but only 37% is recycled, with much ending up in landfills or polluting the environment.

Sustainability is for EVERYONE.



Sustainability is not just a "luxury" for the privileged. As members of low-income communities, we are not the cause of the world's problems, but we can embrace sustainability and co-create powerfully positive environmental and social solutions.

Promoting sustainable living practises and providing educational resources in our communities can also enhance equality and economic mobility. Remember, you are not the problem, but a potential agent for change with every small action!

Climate Change 101: Actions for a Greener Wallet

WHAT IS CLIMATE CHANGE?

Climate change is much more than a heat wave on Earth! It's caused by burning fossil fuels and deforestation, releasing greenhouse gases that trap heat from the sun. This makes our planet warmer, leading to extreme weather, rising sea levels, and habitat loss for plants and animals. It also poses risks to our health, food supply, and economy.

THE CAUSE

Climate Change is primarily caused by human activities, including:

- Burning fossil fuels for energy and transportation
- Deforestation and other land use changes
- Agriculture and livestock production
- Industrial processes and manufacturing
- Landfills and waste management



2019

Australia saw a significant increase in extreme heat in 2019, with a record-breaking number of extremely warm days with high temperatures exceeding 39 °C.



Australia's climate has warmed by an average of 1.47 ± 0.24 °C since national records began in 1910.



Sea surface temperature rise of 1.05 °C since 1900 led to more frequent flooding, rains, and storms.

THE EFFECT



Extreme fire weather and longer fire seasons has increased across the country since 1950.



Low-income communities are more vulnerable to health impacts of climate change, such as heatwaves, bushfire smoke, air pollution and inadequate access to healthcare.

THE DEADLINE

Urgent action is needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prevent the worst effects of climate change, according to scientists. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states that we need to achieve global net zero GHG emissions by 2050 to keep the temperature rise below 1.5°C.

THE SOLUTION

Transitioning to renewable energy, improving energy efficiency, reducing greenhouse gas emissions through policies, promoting sustainable transportation, and adopting eco-friendly urban planning key systemic solutions to combat climate change and protect our planet.



ON THE FLIP SIDE, THERE ARE SOME EASY AND BUDGET-FRIENDLY WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE TO FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE.

REDUCE ENERGY USE

Turning off lights and unplugging appliances when not in use, using natural light instead of electric lighting, and "using low tech solutions for heating and cooling (like blankets and open windows) can help reduce your electricity bill and save you money.

CONSERVE WATER

Taking shorter showers, fixing leaky taps, and only running the dishwasher or washing machine when you have a full load can help reduce your water and electricity bills.

REDUCE WASTE

Buying things in larger amounts; using reusable bags, bottles, and containers instead of disposable ones; and recycling as much as possible can help you save money and reduces the amount of garbage you produce

CONSIDER A PLANT-BASED DIET

Cook some traditional vegetarian dishes made with grains, beans or lentils that are high in protein. Eating less meat and dairy can help you save money on groceries and reduce your carbon footprint.

USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Taking the bus or train, car-pooling or biking instead of driving alone can help you save money on petrol and car maintenance



LOW-COST, LOW-WASTE: WASTE REDUCTION

Understanding Waste

Waste includes materials that are discarded when they are no longer needed. Poor waste management can harm the environment through the release of harmful gases from improper disposal in landfills or oceans, contributing to climate change and pollution of air, water, and soil.

2 MAIN CAUSES in Oz

Construction and Demolition: This waste accounted for 25.2 mega tonnes of waste in Australia in 2020–21. This includes waste generated from construction, renovation, and demolition activities, such as concrete, bricks, timber, plasterboard, and other construction materials.



Household Waste: Australian households generate over 12.4 million tonnes of waste annually, with individuals contributing significant amounts of organics, textiles, glass, and plastic waste.

the EFFECTS

- Landfills release methane and other harmful gases during organic waste decomposition, contributing to air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Landfill waste can contain hazardous materials that pose long-term risks to environment and human health.
- Landfill toxins can leak into soil and water, polluting local ecosystems and harming biodiversity.

Australia produces about 76 million tonnes of waste every year, and still increasing.



the SOLUTION

To protect the environment, adopt a circular economy approach: design out waste and pollution, keep products in use, and regenerate natural systems.

Reduce waste, reuse materials, optimize product lifetimes, and increase recycling and composting.

Collaboration among businesses, policymakers, and citizens is key for a sustainable future.

ON THE FLIP SIDE, THERE ARE SOME EASY AND BUDGET-FRIENDLY WAYS TO FIGHT AGAINST WASTE.

Reduce Plastic Use

To save money and reduce plastic use, choose reusable options like water bottles, bags, and straws, make your own cleaning and personal care products, and avoid single-use plastic cutlery.



SHOPPING LIST



Meal Plan

Planning meals ahead of time can help reduce food waste by allowing you to only buy the ingredients you need and use leftovers. This saves money by reducing the amount of food that goes to waste and lower grocery expenses.

Repair and Upcycle

Repairing broken things such as clothing, furniture, or electronics, instead of throwing them away and buying new ones, can help reduce waste and save money by extending the lifespan of products.



Op- Shopping

Buying second-hand stuff in good condition over new ones gives pre-owned things new life, prevents landfill waste, and saves money compared to buying new things.



Small Bills, Big Change: Preserving Biodiversity

UNDERSTANDING & IMPORTANCE

Biodiversity and agriculture play critical roles in maintaining the health of our planet. They help to sustain the balance of the ecosystem and provide us with vital resources such as food, medicine, and clean water. However, our planet is facing a significant loss of biodiversity and a decline in sustainable agriculture practices. If this trend continues, it could have disastrous consequences, including the collapse of ecosystems and the loss of essential resources.

- **Habitat Loss:** Human activities such as deforestation, urbanization, and agriculture have destroyed and fragmented habitats, reducing the amount of available space for plants and animals.
- **Overexploitation:** Hunting, fishing, and harvesting of wild plants and animals has led to the depletion of many species, sometimes to the point of extinction of various of species.
- **Pollution:** Chemicals from human activities such as industrial processes and agricultural practices have polluted the air, water, and soil, affecting the health of many species.

THE CAUSE



Wildlife populations worldwide declined by 69% on average from 1970 to 2018, with Australia experiencing the highest number of mammal extinctions with continual decline of more than 1,100 wildlife populations.

THE EFFECTS



Combined koala populations have plummeted by 50% over 20 years in Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

THE SOLUTION

To reverse biodiversity loss and secure a nature-positive world by 2030, urgent action is needed. Australia can lead the way by implementing strong nature laws, protecting forests, taking climate action, and recognizing Indigenous Australians' stewardship of the land. With the right conservation efforts, commitment, investment, and expertise, it is possible to restore wildlife and their habitats, bringing them back from the brink of extinction.

Australia experienced widespread bushfires during the summer of 2019-20, burning over 8 million hectares of native vegetation across 11 bioregions and severely impacting 17 major vegetation types.

ON THE FLIP SIDE, THERE ARE SOME EASY AND BUDGET-FRIENDLY WAYS TO PRESERVE BIODIVERSITY

Compost

Consider composting food scraps using it to improve soil health, reduce harmful synthetic fertiliser use, and support biodiversity. Council or community run composting programs and locally available organic materials can also be cost-effective ways to nourish your garden and promote a healthy ecosystem.



Join A Community Garden

Community gardens provide you with the opportunity and skills to grow some of your own food, reducing grocery bills and promoting healthy eating habits. They also promote biodiversity by creating green spaces that support a variety of plant and animal species.

Shop at Local Markets

Supporting local farmers and markets promotes biodiversity through sustainable agriculture, reduces carbon footprint from long-distance transportation of food, and often offers more affordable options compared to large supermarkets.



Support Eco Tourism

Sustainable tourism protects local biodiversity and promotes conservation and indigenous culture. If you go away on holiday, try to stay in simple, budget, eco-friendly accommodation. Visit national parks, and participate in guided tours or activities that promote conservation and education.



Nature's Green Therapy

Nature For Mental Health

Spending time in nature can be a powerful tool for improving mental health and wellbeing. The benefits of fresh air, sunshine, and green spaces are well documented, with studies showing that time spent in natural environments can reduce stress, boost mood, and even improve cognitive function. Living near a park or natural space is beneficial, but low-income communities may face obstacles accessing the outdoors. However, there are still ways to connect with nature regardless of financial situation.

Gaining A Sense of Place

Connecting with nature fosters a sense of place and motivates people to care for the planet. Building connections to the land can be done in many ways, from learning about local history and cultural traditions to exploring nearby parks and natural areas. By taking the time to connect with your local environment, you can gain a sense of place that will empower you to protect and care for the planet. (Rogers & Bragg, 2012)



Dr Rona Weerasuriya from Deakin University's Health, Nature and Sustainability Research Group suggests that spending time in nature provides numerous health and wellbeing benefits such as relaxation, rejuvenation, and improved mood.

Coping With Eco-Anxiety

It's natural to feel overwhelmed by the state of the environment and experience eco-anxiety. It's not our fault but rather the whole economic system, and a few mega-corporations and individuals at the top, so we shouldn't feel obligated to clean up everything else. Instead, we can take it one day at a time and become micro-advocates for our community. We can use the tips from this infographic series to make small daily changes, and if we feel bold, we can attend rallies, protests, and sign petitions to use our voices for environmental advocacy. It's crucial to remember that low-income communities are disproportionately affected by environmental issues, and while it can be anxiety-inducing and feel overwhelming to solve these issues, we have the power to use our voice and effect change. Let's take it one step at a time and work together to create a healthier planet for all.

ON THE FLIP SIDE, THERE ARE SOME EASY WAYS TO USE NATURE'S GREEN THERAPY!

Nature Therapy at Home

Living near a park or natural space is beneficial, but if you're part of a low-income community like me you may face obstacles accessing the outdoors. However, there are still ways to connect with nature regardless of financial situation. After all, it's "free!"



Take A Mindful Walk

Engage your senses and immerse yourself in the present moment by taking a mindful walk in nature. Feel the sun on your skin, hear the rustling of leaves, and breathe in the fresh air around you. This can help reduce stress and anxiety, while fostering a deeper connection with the natural world.



Embrace Outdoor Activities

Take advantage of outdoor activities such as camping, or as simple as a picnic in the park can be a great way to enjoy the benefits of nature. Spending time outdoors can help you relax your body and mind, while promoting feelings of well-being.



USE YOUR VOICE!



Taking part in community action for nature is a great way to connect with like-minded individuals and feel empowered to make a difference. Whether its local tree-plantings, petitions or rallies, consider joining in to show your support for environmental causes. Every voice counts, so don't be afraid to be bold and make a difference!