

Environmental Justice Breakout Session

Discussion

- Empower people to participate in process – in particular youth
- Look at structural public policy changes
- Power of the community
- Obtain tools for creating change
- Understand their own environment and their role in environmental degradation and stewardship
- Fight for community health
- Community Mapping Project – research in community
- There is little open green space in urban areas
- Watershed project
- Environmental connectedness – sustainability
- Students write a petition

Sample Project: Native Plant Restoration/Green Space

There is a report equating community health with open green space – relating to community demographics (the less open space, the less healthy the community is overall). At Trust for Public Lands (<http://www.tpl.org>)

Idea: create public gardens on schools

Academic Learning

- Native plants
- Writing/Language Arts
- Investigation skills
- Historical relevance
- Geography
- Art and esthetics
- Communication skills
- Analysis
- Statistics – math – (fundraising)
- Critical thinking skills
- Earth science
- Observation skills

Meaningful Service

- Educate others about environmental stewardship and environmental issues
- Lack of open Green Space in community
- Bring to light voice of community
- Increase Quality of Life

Collaboration

- Local nurseries
- Chamber of Commerce

- Landscape architects
- Local businesses (Home Depot, Lowe's)
- Community Beautification Programs in cities
- University – Master Gardeners Program
- Native Plant Society (*local*: Orange County California Native Plant Society)

Youth Voice

- Student vision for the garden
- Identifying plants
- What kind of garden (e.g., butterfly, fruit)
- Presentation to Boards/councils/organizations
- Writing grants & requesting donations

Civic Responsibility

- Understanding Environmental Justice issues
- Speaking out about the issues
- Educating the community

Reflection

- Video project
- Former students teaching incoming class
- Classroom discussion
- Presentation at School Board meeting
- Written reflections on changes to their habits/attitudes
- Time capsule

Evaluation

- Assess learning through written reflection
- Outcomes – do we have butterflies, fruit, etc? (community inventory)