Experience Climate Change

AN OVERVIEW OF A GRC ’18-’20 PROJECT
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Premise + Background

- Evanston is a North suburban city of 74,000 residents. This lakeshore community borders Chicago, Skokie, and Wilmette.
- Inducted as a GRC member in 2008.
- City Council passed the Climate Action & Resilience Plan in December of 2018. This plan contains 13 Focus Areas and over 140 actions for Climate Mitigation & Resilience.
- Outreach, Education, & Behavior Change is the focus area that this project falls under.
Goals of Activity

Share what climate impacts look and feel like locally

Understand what decisions the City needs to make, and how the students can contribute to mitigate these local impacts

Solicit feedback about participant priorities

Source: City of Evanston
Timeline

- Spring ’18 – Fall ’18 (Planning Stage)
- Winter ’18– Summer ’19 (First Iteration)
- Fall ‘19-Spring ‘20 (Second Iteration)
  - Research & Content Creation
  - Focus Group Sessions- Community Partners & City Staff
  - Community Meetings- D65 Teachers & EvanSTEM
  - Printing Quotes & Logistics
  - Curriculum Review w/ Teachers
  - Classroom Lessons & Climate Projects
  - Climate Action Fair
Process

EXPERIENCE CLIMATE CHANGE PROCESS

1. Content Creation
2. Collaboration
3. Logistics
4. Classroom Time
5. Final Project + Future
Recording Session with City of Evanston Mayor Stephen Hagerty
Implementation - The Activity

Experience Climate Change Toolkit

Welcome to the City’s Experience Climate Change Activity Toolkit. Since the City recently adopted the Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP), the Office of Sustainability is excited to engage with you and your students through this experiential learning activity. We hope the students will start thinking about what climate impacts look and feel like locally, what decisions the City needs to make, and how the students can contribute to mitigate these local impacts. Below are the instructions to set up the activity.

Materials:

1. 4 Scenario Posters (Extreme Heat, Water, Waste and Air Quality)
2. Action/Impact Cards
3. Extra: Command hooks
4. Tape

Set Up:
Classroom Time!

Dive into Our Water Ways

1. IDENTIFY THE CONTEXT
2. UNDERSTAND THE TOOLS
3. EXPERIENCE THE SYSTEM
4. TAKE ACTION

Zero Waste by 2050

75%

725 TPA
The Impact

**Climate:** C16, C18
**Leadership:** L11, L39
**Sustainable Communities:** SC35, SC39, SC43
**Water:** W52
**Waste & Recycling:** WR22,
Key Takeaways

- **Collaborate** with community stakeholders (this is key!)
- **Strike the balance** between simplicity & technicality of information
- **Prepare** for conversations to segue (with kids or adults!)
- **Create** visuals

*Challenges:
- Finding institutional partners
- Information exchange/ resident to resident conversation
The Future

- Ramp up online curriculum
- Continue relationship building with community & institutional partners
- Expand to other age groups
- Case study for other cities
Special Thanks & Recognition

- Evanston Rebuilding Warehouse
- Chris Essex
- EvanSTEM
- District 65
- National League of Cities
- MetaMedia
- Lake Dance
- Delta Lab at Northwestern University
Resources

- You can find the Experience Climate Change posters and action cards on the City of Evanston’s Website and on EL3, an online learning platform.
  - [https://www.cityofevanston.org/about-evanston/sustainability/climate-change](https://www.cityofevanston.org/about-evanston/sustainability/climate-change)
  - [https://el-3.org/organization-details?id=1101](https://el-3.org/organization-details?id=1101)

Press Release on EvanSTEM & City of Evanston Collaboration
[https://www.cityofevanston.org/Home/Components/News/News/4860/17](https://www.cityofevanston.org/Home/Components/News/News/4860/17)

Lake Dance

MetaMedia
[https://www.mcgawymca.org/metamedia/](https://www.mcgawymca.org/metamedia/)

Evanston Rebuilding Warehouse
[https://www.evanstonrebuildingwarehouse.org/](https://www.evanstonrebuildingwarehouse.org/)

National League of Cities
[https://www.nlc.org/](https://www.nlc.org/)
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