



Each year, the USGBC-MGC Green Schools Committee designates a particular theme. Schools have the option of following this particular focus to qualify for an additional award (schools are not penalized if they choose not to focus on the annual theme.) Themes are selected to reflect current issues both locally and globally, and require an additional narrative to be included in the final submission packet.

2019-20 Focus of the Year: Environmental Justice

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, **Environmental Justice** is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.

Fair treatment means:

No group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental and commercial operations or policies.

Meaningful involvement means:

- People have an opportunity to participate in decisions about activities that may affect their environment and/or health;
- The public's contribution can influence the regulatory agency's decision;
- Community concerns will be considered in the decision making process; and
- Decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.

A project related to Environmental Justice can take many forms, and is ultimately up to your team to decide upon. This packet contains ideas to get you started, though the possibilities are endless.

Build Awareness

Raise awareness about a community that is negatively impacted by an environmental issue, such as flooding.

Understand Responsibility

Investigate the systems that contributed to the problem and explore approaches for solving the problem.

Take Action

Work with others to develop and implement solutions that address the cause of environmental injustices.

Category	Resource	Impact/Goal	Action	More information
Climate Justice Lesson Plans	Activating My Democracy	Students develop a sense of civic responsibility and their constitutional rights	Our Future Is A Constitutional Right! Students examine basic elements of a civil lawsuit, drawing on real examples from the youth-driven landmark climate cases .	https://ultimatecivics.org/middle-school-lessons/#1498168757602-671c70b8-ab72
	Activating My Democracy	Youth learn about their rights, the court system, and how to use their rights to defend what they love	Youth-driven climate cases present a teachable moment for youth to learn about how to use their rights to defend what they love.	https://ultimatecivics.org/high-school-lessons/#1541099480824-4c651472-0d55
	Teacher-Friendly Guide to Climate Change	Students learn the history, evidence, and causes of global climate change	This guide is written for teachers and includes both the basics of climate change science and perspectives on teaching a subject that has become socially and politically polarized.	https://teachclimatescience.wordpress.com/chapters/
	Research Youth Activists	Students learn from their peers how to advocate for a climate just world	Research young activists fighting climate change like the Juliana v. United States Youth Climate Lawsuit and Greta Thunberg, Swedish climate activist.	JULIANA v. UNITED STATES Youth Climate Lawsuit: https://www.ourchildrenstrust.org/juliana-v-us Fifteen-year-old climate activist: https://www.ted.com/speakers/greta_thunberg
Environmental Justice Lesson Plans	Host an Environmental Justice Workshop	Environmental Justice Topics and Issues are addressed in K-12 curriculum	Duke University has posted educational content for K-12 on topics such as environmental racism, food justice, and inequitable waste disposal.	https://sites.duke.edu/ejworkshop/resources/lesson-plans/
	Teaching Tolerance Lesson	Teaching Tolerance educates youth to be active participants in a diverse democracy	Analyzing Environmental Justice helps students understand how pollution disproportionately affects the poor and racial and ethnic minorities. They can also use a map to locate environmental injustice.	https://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/tolerance-lessons/analyzing-environmental-justice http://scorecard.goodguide.com/index.tcl https://dnr.mo.gov/env/esp/aqm/critmap.htm https://www.lung.org/our-initiatives/healthy-air/sota/
	Learning to Give: Service Learning Projects	Service-Learning Projects to spark ideas for actions related to stewardship and the environment.	Farm to Table Food Security: Students become aware of the complexity of the issue of hunger in the U.S. as they use research, critical thinking, and problem solving to explore, communicate, and draw conclusions about an issue around food production and distribution.	https://www.learningtogive.org/units/farm-table-and-food-security
Learning to Give: Environmental Toolkit	Research a Local Environmental Justice Issue	Working with a partner organization, research a local environmental issue and its impact. Create a fact sheet for school and community use.	https://www.learningtogive.org/resources/environmental-justice-toolkit	
	Jane Goodall's Roots and Shoots	Skill building in determining community needs	Dr. Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots is a youth service program that includes: -Resources for Educators -Roots and Shoots Formula Toolkit -Community Mapping for Young Children (ages 4-6)	https://www.rootsandshoots.org/sites/default/files/Mapping%20for%20Young%20Children.pdf

Projects and Activism	Ioby	Students find and participate in a local environmental justice project	Searches under "Find a project" for "St. Louis" and "Missouri" pull up examples that represent a range of local projects that address issues of environmental justice. There is also an option to register new community-focused ideas under "Create a Project."	https://www.ioby.org/projects/browse?f%5B0%5D=sm_field_project_status%3A1
	Environmental Activism and Urban Crisis	A source book for local racial and environmental justice activism and issues	This is a book that focuses on the wave of environmental activism and grassroots movements that swept through America's older, industrial cities during the late 1960s and early 1970s. Gioielli examines various groups' activism in response to specific environmental problems caused by the urban crisis in each city. In doing so, he forms concrete connections between environmentalism, the African American freedom struggle, and various urban social movements such as highway protests in Baltimore and air pollution activism in Chicago.	https://www.amazon.com/Environmental-Activism-Urban-Crisis-Baltimore/dp/1439904669
	Equity Indicators Project	A tool that measures disparity of resources that exist as a result of marginalization	This tool works across multiple areas and measures the disparities faced by disadvantaged groups (those most vulnerable to inequality, such as racial and ethnic minorities, immigrants, or individuals living in poverty) across those domains. The Equity Indicators Project is a regional collaboration between the City of St. Louis, Forward Through Ferguson, and United Way.	http://islg.cuny.edu/sites/our-work/equality-indicators/ https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/equity/
	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals	The Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all	The Sustainable Development Goals address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, and peace and justice. The Goals interconnect and in order to leave no one behind, it is important that we achieve each Goal and target by 2030.	https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/
	The World's Largest Lesson	World's Largest Lesson introduces the Sustainable Development Goals to children and young people everywhere and unites them in action.	Seventeen Global Goals to achieve an end to extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice and tackle climate change.	http://worldslargestlesson.globalgoals.org/
	Story of Stuff Short Films	Educational short film clips	More movies/films that can be used to help spread awareness and call to action for advocacy. Pick a specific film and use it as an inspiration/call to action for your school.	https://storyofstuff.org/
	Bullfrog Films Movie Nights	Films that inspire action for environmental justice	Bullfrog Films is a leading source of educational DVDs and Videos. Host a movie night for other students in your school to watch one of the films, then hold a discussion after for ways to take action. Then take action.	http://www.bullfrogfilms.com/index.html http://www.bullfrogcommunities.com/

	Deep South Center for Environmental Justice	Advocacy and action for the in the Gulf Coast Area.	The Deep South Center for Environmental Justice is dedicated to improving the lives of children and families harmed by pollution and vulnerable to climate change in the Gulf Coast Region through research, education, community and student engagement for policy change, as well as health and safety training for environmental careers.	http://www.dscei.org/
Volunteer Opportunities for Students	Volunteer with a local Environmental Justice Organization	Place-based environmental justice volunteer opportunities	Find out what volunteer events are happening in your community, and join in. Invite experts from the community to present at your school.	https://www.learningtogive.org/resources/environmental-justice-toolkit
	Advocate for Fairness and Change	Students connect with local organizations to make a difference	Attend a local event about improving neighborhoods or the local environment and tell others about what you learned. Visit your elected representatives to let them know what you want to see changed. Take a position, practice writing and saying what you want to impact, and be an advocate for change. Create a PSA including information about your cause.	https://www.learningtogive.org/resources/environmental-justice-toolkit
	Advocacy Art	Students use art to add their voice to environmental justice issues	Use Art and Education together to help students advocate for environmental justice	https://greenschoolsnationalnetwork.org/justice-for-all-art-is-a-powerful-tool-for-advocacy/
	Fit and Food Connection Food Drive	Students research and plan a food drive to collect food to donate to The Fit and Food Connection	The Fit and Food Connection - An organization that provides healthy food to people living in food deserts throughout the St. Louis area.	https://fitandfoodconnection.org/
	Gateway Greening Garden	Students can volunteer or learn how to start their own garden at school.	Gateway Greening - A nonprofit dedicated to educating and empowering individuals through gardening and urban agriculture. Students can find a way to be involved with Gateway Greening.	http://www.gatewaygreening.org/about/
	Ioby Blow up Hunger	The students could volunteer time as a class. Or they could host a food drive/fundraiser at school to make a donation.	Ioby has many different project ideas and projects they need help with. Blow Up Hunger is one of them.	https://www.ioby.org/project/blow-hunger
Local Organizations	Gateway Greening	Learn from a nonprofit dedicated to educating and empowering individuals through gardening and urban agriculture.	Volunteer, research, fundraise	http://www.gatewaygreening.org/about/

	Just Moms STL	Learn from a local group focused on the impact and clean-up of radioactive and toxic waste from the Manhattan Project era specifically the Superfund site known as West Lake Landfill.	Volunteer, research, fundraise	https://www.facebook.com/westlakelandfill/
	Missouri Coalition for the Environment	Learn from an independent citizens' environmental organization for clean water, clean air, clean energy, and a healthy environment.	Volunteer, research, fundraise	https://moenvironment.org/
	The Dutchtown South Community Corporation' Project: So Fresh, So Clean, So Creative	Learn from DSCC's mission is to advance neighborhood vitality through community empowerment, housing stabilization & real estate development. This Project aims to reduce improper waste disposal, littering, and illegal dumping while building community capacity to address and enact system-level change.	Volunteer, research, fundraise	https://www.dutchtownsouth.org/so-fresh-so-clean-so-creative-south
	St. Louis Policy Coalition	Learn from a group of nonprofit organizations, governmental agencies, and passionate individuals working together to address the food system needs of the Greater St. Louis area.	Volunteer, research, fundraise	https://moenvironment.org/food-farm-program/stlfoodpolicy/
	The Fit and Food Connection	Learn from an organization that provides healthy food to people living in food deserts throughout the St. Louis area.	Volunteer, research, fundraise	https://fitandfoodconnection.org/