

City Classroom CAP - Series

PBL support for using your City Climate Action Plan as a Living Textbook for local relevance, student agency, and community impact.



Credit: Kevin Lisota

Current Habits Checklist - Start With What's Working

Students conduct a family, caregiver, or mentor survey on current positive, proactive habits related to climate change to invite cultural knowledge, encourage a solutions mindset, and establish a baseline for analyzing next steps.

START HERE! Create a baseline! Your family members or circle of respected adults, whomever they be, are already doing a whole bunch of sustainable actions so start with a solutions mindset by identifying current habits. Use the handy **Checklist of 91 Habits** linked below to celebrate your current practices and learn about new ones.

Data Collection

You can collect data using either print or digital versions below. The checklist can be completed by students in class or through family or caregiver conversations.

1. **Full Set of 91 Practices** [Print Version](#) | [Duplicate Microsoft Form](#) NOTE: full survey should take 6-8 minutes to complete.

2. **Smaller Sets by System**
 - a. **Natural Resource Systems** [Print Version](#) | [Duplicate Microsoft Form](#)
 1. Saving Water
 2. Trees are Cool
 3. Wastewater Solutions
 4. Stormwater Solutions
 - b. **Transportation Systems** [Print Version](#) | [Duplicate Microsoft Form](#)
 1. Lots more Bikes
 2. Smart Transportation
 - c. **Clean Energy Future** [Print Version](#) | [Duplicate Microsoft Form](#)
 - d. **Zero Waste** [Print Version](#) | [Duplicate Microsoft Form](#)
 - e. **Food Systems** [Print Version](#) | [Duplicate Microsoft Form](#)
 - f. **Civic Engagement** [Print Version](#) | [Duplicate Microsoft Form](#)

Analyze the Patterns

View the Current Habits Checklist data as bar graphs for students to analyze.

- See [Sample Data from 84 8th Grade Students](#).
- Also see [Matthew's Data Analysis Infographic](#) - VIDEO [4:00]

Some questions you might ask...

1. How do we read this data?
2. What do you notice?
3. What are you curious about?
4. What does the data of our own collective set of habits reveal about where we are as a community in reducing the impacts of climate change, conserving resources, or stewardship of our environment?
5. What are a few easy actions we could improve on as individuals or as a class?
6. Which actions would be easiest to do but also result in the biggest impact?
7. How do we measure impact?

Why It Matters

Learn about the “Why?” behind each of the sustainable actions on the checklist. These short examples and explanations include links to data sources and calculators. They were all researched and edited by students and vetted by professionals. Explore [Why it Matters](#) to learn how many small actions can really add up.

Share this new information with your family or caregiver, or other respected and trusted adults in your life.

Next Steps and Extensions...

Student Agency - Impact Project Design

(This lesson is best if built in small elements over multiple units.)

Lesson Resources: Students practice the [IP3 Strategy](#) to develop individual, team, and school-wide projects with metrics that measurably advance the City’s Climate Action Plan and other policies, plans or programs. It’s best to practice a few simple Impact Projects **as a whole class** to study the **IP3 Strategy** as a model of effective project management. Classroom spreadsheets are provided so that students can see the power of data-driven collection action. The IP3 Strategy emphasizes creative and personalized **impact storytelling** so that students can find their voice connected to measurable impact directed at priority stakeholders. The lesson also provides a model for how to establish a **Classroom Climate Action Plan (CAP)** by aggregating individual and team Impact Projects in one spreadsheet. Even if you just have a few actions, your class will be empowered by organizing and reporting their collective impact directly aligned with your City’s CAP. Engaging students in managing a Classroom Climate

Action Plan becomes a legacy learning opportunity for next year with built-in models and goals for subsequent students to use as an annually updated baseline.

Sustainability Dashboards - How Do We Track Progress?

[Lesson Resources](#): Students explore the performance measures, updates, and dashboard reporting for their city along with other cities (and also the UW!) to unpack some of the following lines of inquiry. Are we part of these numbers? What if all of the students and their families in our school took the same actions? Would the data show up in the dashboard? What are the math assumptions behind the dashboard's formulas for tracking progress? Are we making progress? Are we making progress at the right rate of change?

Impact Volunteer Hours for Classrooms and Clubs

Need volunteer or service learning hours? Use our [Impact Volunteer Hour Packets](#) to find curated Impact Projects for different categories all related to your city's climate action plan and other policies and plans.