



Green Goes Greener 2010

In the 2008-2009 program year, WIA In-School Youth (ISY) participants took a stand for the environment by implementing *green projects* in their communities. Twenty-one youth-led *green teams* developed green projects that aimed to educate the community about climate change, clean up the environment, and explore green businesses in their communities.

This program year, ISY and ISY Transition to Adulthood program participants are taking even bigger steps through the **Green Goes Greener** initiative. *Green Goes Greener* is a youth-led initiative to explore green industry and initiatives that serve to protect and preserve the environment. *In addition, each project category is specifically linked to one or more core competencies that the ISY program aims to develop in participants.* Those competencies are Communication, Interpersonal, Decision Making, and Lifelong Learning Skills and are represented by C, I, D, and L by the project category descriptions below.

Teams of youth can develop and implement a project from one of the project categories below or can work within other areas of focus. The youth project-planning tool below will help youth plan and implement their projects. At the beginning of June, youth will have the opportunity to present their projects at an interactive expo. All participating groups will be recognized and awarded for their hard work!

Green Goes Greener Program Timeline:

Below is a rough timeline for the Green Goes Greener Initiative.

March – Teams of youth convene to develop their project

April 1st – Teams send initial project plans to kramachandran@dycd.nyc.gov

April through May – Youth-led teams implement project

Beginning of June – Youth and other community groups present initiatives at an interactive expo

Green Goes Greener Project Categories:

1. Go on a Green Career Hunt (C, L)

In this project youth will learn what ‘green industry’ is and ‘green collar jobs’ are. Youth will learn what it takes to get a green collar job or to start a career in the green industries that they research. When youth are done with their research, they should share the information they have learned with their peers.

Example Projects:

- Conduct a green jobs/ green career fair for your community of choice
- Create a Green Map of the green businesses in your community or in a surrounding community (check out www.greenapplemaps.org for more information)
- Create a blog that informs other youth about green careers green jobs

2. Create a Green Business (C, I, D, L)

In this project, youth will create a green business and strive to earn a profit. The money earned should be designated for a positive purpose.

Example Projects:

- Recycle plastic and/or aluminum
- Re-design used clothing
- Create artwork out of recycled materials

3. Focus on Food (C, I)

Sustainable agriculture is a way of raising food that is healthy for consumers and animals, does not harm the environment, is humane for workers, respects animals, provides a fair wage to the farmer, and supports and enhances rural communities (www.sustainabletable.org). In this project, youth will learn about sustainable agriculture in their communities or will research the availability of food in their communities. Youth should create a campaign that highlights the information they find.

Example Projects

- Coordinate a food drive for a local food pantry
- Plant a vegetable/fruit garden and donate the fresh foods
- Conduct a fair that promotes healthy eating habits/ lifestyle

4. Combat Climate Change HEAD ON (C, I)

Reducing your carbon footprint takes us one step closer to putting a cap on climate change. There are a lot of ways to reduce climate change. In this project youth will take on one project to reduce climate change. Youth should create a campaign that goes along with their project, promoting their area of focus.

Example Projects:

- Create a *green council* with the purpose of making the exploration of environmental issues a long-term focus of your program
- Community composting
- Learn how to do an energy audit
- Change energy inefficient light bulbs to energy efficient ones
- Create a campaign that educates and encourages others to reduce their carbon footprint
- Arrange a presentation from the Alliance for Climate Education (ACE) to be held in your community (check out www.acespace.org for more information)
- Volunteer with Recycle a Bicycle (check out www.recycleabicycle.org for more information)

Youth Project Planning Tool

Use this tool to make your projects happen!

Planning Step	Sample Activities
Step 1: Organize Bring together a team of participants to take action	Hold a meeting to inform other participants about the project and to inspire them to get involved. Or, choose a project together.
Step 2: Research Learn as much as you can about the project area. You won't learn everything, but the more research you do, the better!	Research the internet Interview experts Visit organizations that are doing work related to your project.
Step 4: Set Goals Pick one or two realistic things you can make happen. Every step, no matter how big or small, counts!	Decide to recycle enough aluminum cans to earn the money to buy recycling containers for your community center.
Step 3: Plan Planning involves breaking the goal up into smaller tasks and assigning roles to each member of your group. If you want to get feedback from community members about your project, plan out how you will do this.	Decide where to collect aluminum cans, create a flier to publicize your program, create a schedule for team members to take turns collecting cans from designated areas. Create a short survey that community members can fill out to give you feedback.
Step 5: Implement Implementing the project could take place over time or as an event. Make sure you have all the plans, supplies, and people necessary to make the project happen.	Place recycling bins in designated areas and collect them twice a week. Once gathered, cash them in at a recycling center and keep an account of the money you make. At the end of the project, use the profits as you planned to do.
Step 6: Reflect & Celebrate Team members evaluate the work they have done. They have space to address successes and challenges individually or as a group.	You all have worked hard for a very worthy cause. Plan to meet up after the project is over to reflect on all the work you have done. Most importantly, celebrate with your teammates!