

Climate Action Challenge: Action Team Project Ideas and Resources

Is your Action Team having trouble brainstorming or selecting a project? Are you looking for more projects to consider? Below are several project ideas with helpful online resources and lesson plans. Projects are labeled by focus area(s): Food, Waste, Energy & Consumption, Natural Environment; as well as project type(s): Climate Change Mitigation, Climate Adaptation, and Climate Change Activism.

Do not let your creativity be limited by these examples—read through them and brainstorm how you can expand on these ideas or make them more applicable to your target audience, goals, and team interests!

Project: Start a community/school compost (Make sure you quantify the amount of waste you are diverting from the landfill! This is a great metric to track mitigation efforts.)

Focus area(s): Food, Waste

Project type(s): Climate Change Mitigation, Climate Change Adaptation

- [How to start composting, what to put in, what kind of container to use, etc.](#)
- [Vericulture—composting with worms!](#)
- [Composting in Flagstaff](#)
- [Tips for winter composting](#)
- [Composting resources for teachers and students](#)
- [Recycling and composting combined lesson plan \(K-5th grade\)](#)

Project: Conduct a school energy audit

Focus area(s): Energy & Consumption

Project type(s): Climate Change Mitigation

- [Energy.gov Do-it-yourself energy audit](#)
- [National Renewable Energy Laboratory energy audit lesson plan \(8th grade\)](#)
- [National Renewable Energy Laboratory 'Conducting a School Energy Audit' presentation \(high school\)](#)
- [Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy 'Light in the Library: A Student Energy Audit' lesson packet \(8th-12th grade\)](#)
- [Additional lesson plan resources from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory](#)
- [Green Schools Best Practices: School Energy Audits outline \(document\)](#)

Project: Set up/manage school or neighborhood recycling and waste reduction systems

Focus area(s): Waste

Project type(s): Climate Change Mitigation, Climate Change Adaptation

- [Recycling and composting combined lesson plan \(K-5th grade\)](#)
- [Recycling lesson plan \(6th-8th grade\)](#)
- [Wake County NC recycling and waste reduction lessons/activities \(multiple grades\)](#)
- [Teacher Planet reduce, reuse, recycle lessons/activities](#)
- [Project Learning Tree reduce, reuse, recycle project ideas for every subject](#)

Project: Establish/restore an area to a native or drought-tolerant plant garden

Focus area(s): Natural Environment

Project type(s): Climate Change Mitigation, Climate Change Adaptation

- [Northern Arizona Native Plants list](#)
- [Coconino Master Gardener Association](#)
- [Garden in Flagstaff](#)
- [The Arboretum at Flagstaff](#)
- [Gardening lesson plans \(multiple grades\)](#)

Project: Establish/manage a community food garden

Focus area(s): Food, Natural Environment

Project type(s): Climate Change Mitigation, Climate Change Adaptation

- [USDA tips on starting a school garden](#)
- [Gardening lesson plans \(multiple grades\)](#)
- [National Education Association school garden curriculum \(K-8th grade\)](#)
- [National Farm to School Network tips \(document\)](#)

Project: Develop a school-specific climate action plan

Focus area(s): Energy & Consumption, Waste

Project type(s): Climate Change Mitigation, Climate Change Adaptation, Climate Change Activism

- [Colorado School Safety Resource Center 'Positive School Climate Action Plan Template' \(document\)](#)
- [National Wildlife Federation 'Sample Climate Change Action Plan' \(document\)](#)
- [Flagstaff Climate Action and Adaptation Plan \(document\)](#)
- [Harvard Climate Action Plan \(website\)](#)
- [The New School \(NY\) Climate Action Plan \(video\)](#)
- [EPA 'Climate Change – What can you do: At School'](#)
- ['Young people work to stop climate change at summit' \(news article\)](#)

Project: Organize a FireWise neighborhood safety education program

Focus area(s): Natural Environment

Project type(s): Climate Change Adaptation, Climate Change Activism

- [Creating a FireWise Flagstaff](#)
- [City of Flagstaff: Firewise tips, maps, programs, and reports](#)
- ['What Flagstaff homeowners can do before a wildfire emergency strikes' \(AZ Daily Sun article\)](#)
- [National Fire Protection Association Firewise USA resources](#)
- [Wildland Urban Interface \(WUI\) toolkit \(document\)](#)
- [International Association of Fire Chiefs 'Checklist: How to have a Firewise Home'](#)
- [West Virginia Firewise in the Classroom: Youth Working with Communities to Adapt to Wildfire \(report\)](#)
- [Minnesota DNR wildfire lesson plans](#)
- [FIRESafe MARIN wildfire education](#)

Project: Conduct and share interviews of how climate change affects neighborhood, community, or school members

Focus area(s): depends on interview material/creative direction

Project type(s): Climate Change Activism

- [Climate Wisconsin: Stories from a State of Change \(videos\)](#)
- [Climate Stories Project](#)
- [Climate Generation: Share Your Climate Story](#)
- [Personal Stories about Global Warming Change Minds \(NYTimes article\)](#)

Project: Conduct a neighborhood needs assessment focused on climate change vulnerabilities and solutions

Focus area(s): depends on neighborhood vulnerabilities

Project type(s): Climate Change Mitigation, Climate Change Adaptation, Climate Change Activism

- [Loyola University Chicago 'A Community Needs Assessment Guide' \(document\)](#)
- [CDC 'Community Needs Assessment: Participant Workbook' \(document\)](#)
- [National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership 'Conducting a Community Needs Assessment' resources](#)
- [Learning to Give Community Needs Assessment information and resources](#)

Project: Plant a Pollinator Garden

Focus area(s): Natural Environment

Project type(s): Climate Adaptation

- [US Fish and Wildlife Service 'How to build a butterfly and pollinator garden in seven steps' \(website\)](#)
- [The Arboretum at Flagstaff Native Plant Materials Program \(document\)](#)
- [Planning a Pollinator Garden lesson plans \(4th-8th grade\)](#)
- [Pollinator.org education resources \(website\)](#)
- [US Fish and Wildlife Service Project Pollinator Guide \(document\)](#)
- [California Academy of Sciences 'Flowers Seeking Pollinators' lesson plan \(2nd-7th grade\)](#)
- [Pollinators: Why They're Important and How Schools Can Help \(Project Learning Tree\)](#)

Project: Organize a Walk/Bike to School campaign

Focus area(s): Energy & Consumption

Project type(s): Climate Change Mitigation, Climate Change Adaptation, Climate Change Activism

- [National Bike to School Day \(May 8, 2019\) website and planning resources](#)—
AMAZING RESOURCE FOR PLANNING THIS EVENT AS A CLIMATE ACTION CHALLENGE PROJECT
- [Action for Health Kids Walk/Bike to School planning resources](#)
- [Safe Routes: National Center for Safe Routes to School \(website\)](#)
- [Walk Friendly Communities Flagstaff contact: Martin Ince](#)