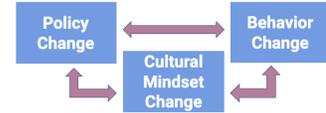


Educator-Led Environmental and Climate Solutionary Initiatives Overview

Resource Originally Developed Under the Supervision of Andra Yeghoian while at the San Mateo County [Environmental Literacy and Sustainability Initiative \(ELSI\)](#)
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What is an Educator-Led Environmental and Climate Solutionary Initiative?

An environmental and climate solutionary initiative is a type of impact project that (service work done by a person or group of people) that benefits a local community (school, neighborhood, city, etc.). A **solutionary** is someone who is able to identify inhumane and unsustainable systems, then develop solutions that are healthy for people, animals, and the environment. In an **environmental and climate solutionary initiative**, educators analyze real-world environmental and climate justice problems and develop solutions in their local community that seek to mitigate these problems through policy change, behavior change, and cultural mindset change. Leading solutionary projects provides an opportunity for educators to make lasting impacts that improve the health and wellbeing of a school community.



What are the general types of solutionary initiatives that educators can Lead?

- **Behavior Change Challenges:** Administrators facilitate activities that encourage individuals to change their behavior and include mechanisms for these activities to recur annually.
- **Physical Symbols of Change:** Refers to projects where administrators advocate for and support the implementation of a visible symbol of solutionary action on a school campus.
- **Baseline Assessment and Plans:** Administrators conduct a comprehensive baseline assessment to understand the current status of a focus area and then advocate for the adoption of recommendations based on the assessment.
- **Curriculum Integration:** Facilitate the integration of a sustainability topic into curriculum and instruction.

Are there examples of educator-led environmental and climate solutionary initiatives?

The [Educator-Led Environmental and Climate Solutionary Initiative Exemplars](#) is a comprehensive set of example projects that have been developed and **successfully** piloted by educators. The initiative exemplars are organized in the spreadsheet to include the general types outlined above, and then sample goals, pathways of advocacy, target audiences, and an overview of the different steps that would need to be taken to be successful. *Please note that the spreadsheet is also organized into action focus areas (see tabs on the bottom), including: Energy, Food, Land-Based Ecosystems, Transportation, Waste and Consumption, Water, and Multiple Topics (two or more areas).*

Is there a planning template that students can use to help design an initiative?

- The [Educator Planning Template for an Environmental and Climate Initiative](#) supports educators to develop and organize a clear project plan.
- Educators are also encouraged to utilize different [Change Theories](#) when planning their solutionary change initiative, to evaluate the readiness for change; prepare, plan, and design change initiatives; manage the change process; and consider disruptive change strategies.