

Lesson Objective:

1. Student assist in developing the criteria (boundaries) of selecting an action project.
2. Students collaboratively decide on an action project to address the issue of urban heat at their schoolyard (or in their community)

Curriculum Standards:

- NGSS ESS3.C Human Impacts on Earths Systems
- MD E-Lit Standard 5 Topic A: Human Impact on Natural Processes
Indicator 1: Analyze the effects of human activities on earth's natural processes.
- MD E-Lit Standard 7 Topic B: Individual and Group Actions and the Environment

Materials Needed:

- Synthesis Information from previous modules and Reflection Lesson 1

Teacher Directions

It will be no surprise that many of the ideas generated to address the impacts of urban heat will be large and potentially expensive. The first step in selecting an action project is defining the criteria (boundaries, limits, restrictions) for the project. It is important that students have a voice in listing those criteria to encourage their engagement and ownership of the project.

✓ Defining the Criteria (or boundaries) to select a project:

- Using a white board, overhead board, or similar ask the students, what are the criteria, or limitations, we have to place on our project. Provide a start for them, such as "Must meet teacher needs for curriculum standards" or "Be completed prior to XX/XX/XX (date)".
- Refer to the list of compiled action project ideas (Column B) from Reflection Lesson 1 as well as the people "who can influence change" in column C. Review each idea to determine if any ideas meets the criteria.
- Cross out any projects that do not meet all the criteria

Potential Criteria

- ✓ A teacher selected item. examples:
 - must meet certain academic standard
- ✓ Project deadline
- ✓ Funding (don't assume you don't have funds. There are options.)
- ✓ Student safety
- ✓ Has to be done during school time.



Is your Action Project Realistic?

Consider alternatives:

Many educators immediately think an action project must be a large undertaking for **watershed restoration or protection**, such as a tree planting or garden install, but the truth is the simple act of having students sharing their voice on an environmental issue that they have researched is the most important objective.

Consider the following as action projects:

- **Civic Action:** ex. town meetings, voting, writing elected officials/ decision makers, advocating/ letter writing for policy change.
- **Community Engagement:** ex. presentations, social media, event-organizing, messaging at community events, PSAs, flyers, posters
- **Everyday Choices:** ex. energy conservation

- ✓ **Select the project** Have more than one idea that meets all the criteria? Take a vote in a manner that everyone’s voice is heard. Consider dot voting or having a debate where proponents defend their idea (or their “opponents” idea).

✓ **Create a Goal and Strategy Statement**

To ensure you have a good foundation for a project the class should be able to complete the following statement with the information developed as a group.

Project Goal and Strategy Statement

We want _____
(person, group, or organization)

to _____
(take a specific action)

which will result in _____
(the impact you want)

In order to achieve this, we will _____

(strategy for change)

✓ **Make it happen!**

Students should help:

- Make a plan
- Assign tasks or create committees
- Create a schedule
- Take action
- Reflect on your project’s success & celebrate! Be sure to invite the appropriate stakeholders or people “who can influence change” to celebrate with you.

Selecting the project based on the class criteria:

	Idea #1	Idea #2	Idea #3
Criteria for the Project (the limits)			
<i>(teacher choice)</i>			



Project Goal and Strategy Statement

We want _____
(person, group, or organization)

to _____
(take a specific action)

which will result in _____
(the impact you want)

In order to achieve this, we will _____
(strategy for change)

ACTION PROJECT PLANNING
Project: _____

What are tasks needed to get the project done?	Who is going to do each task (list people or committees)	By what date should each task be completed?
What are the resources, supplies, and expenses needed?	Who can help us with the project?	



<http://ccwscience.org>

REFLECTION LESSON 2 Selecting an Action Project

Student Sheet

