

Green, Greener, Greenest

Discover ways to decrease your impact on the environment by using efficient energy, renewable resources, and locally produced materials.

Age Appropriateness:

13 and up

Key Topics:

Environmentalism,
Renewable Resources

Skills:

Researching,
Critical-Thinking,
Planning

Materials:

Internet or library access

Action Time:

2+ hours

Resources:

www.greenserviceprojects.org

OBJECTIVES

- To learn how to select building materials that will create the smallest carbon footprint.
- To create a plan to reduce waste created by your service project.



Discussion

As you begin the planning of your service project, it is important to keep in mind which resources will be consumed and what kind of waste will remain after the event is over. Use a large piece of poster board to create a list of consumed materials and waste created by your service project. What water/electricity/energy sources will be needed? What materials will be used? What kind of waste will these materials create? What forms of transportation will be used for people and materials?

Action

Use the chart below to create goals for the project. Create a plan to achieve these goals. Use online and literature resources to research methods to discover which materials may be reused or recycled. Contact vendors to find out where products are produced and what forms of transportation are used to deliver products to customers.

	Green	Greener	Greenest
Product Selection	Produced/Available within 500 miles	Produced/Available within 150 miles	Produced/Available within 50 miles
Water	Reduce project usage by 25% or use rainwater collection for 25% of water needs	Reduce project usage by 35% or use rainwater collection for 35% of water needs	Reduce project usage by 50% or use rainwater collection for 50% of water needs
Waste	Reduce waste going to landfill by 20%	Reduce waste going to landfill by 30%	Reduce waste going to landfill by 40%
Recycling	Recycle 15% of waste or use 30% recycled materials	Recycle 30% of waste or use 40% recycled materials	Recycle 45% of waste or use 60% recycled materials
Energy	Use 25% hand tools/human effort	Use 50% hand tools/human effort	Use 100% hand tools/human effort
Renewable Energy	Use 25% renewable energy	Use 50% renewable energy	Use 75% renewable energy

Reflection

After the project, evaluate your goals. Which methods of reducing environmental impact were easiest/hardest to achieve? Discuss ways to incorporate lessons learned from this activity into future projects.