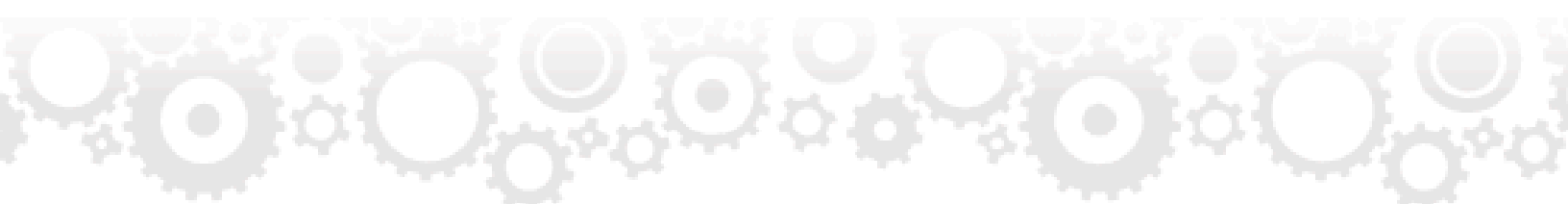




Community Energy Innovation Prize



TEAM BEAN

PUBLIC RESOURCE

New Orleans, LA

ABOUT OUR PROJECT

Life in New Orleans can be a challenge. We face hurricanes, heat, and flooding – all increasingly challenging due to the climate crisis. New Orleans also has disproportionately high rates of poverty, poor health outcomes, and suffers from urban blight and high rates of violence.

Much of the area was flooded in 2005 with Hurricane Katrina. Then during Hurricane Ida, the area was left without power for 10 days during the hottest time of the year. Louisiana has also lost approximately 2,000 square miles of land since the 1930s, and without action, we could lose up to another 3,000 square miles.

Despite all this, we love our city. We can't imagine living elsewhere. We work to make our community stronger, better prepared, and more sustainable.

While these challenges seem insurmountable, we know local non-profits in our community have potential solutions and are working hard to implement them.

We wanted to design a method by which children could learn about these possible solutions - and get involved in planning improvements for their community.

We created a series of field trips for the students. And then created a planning activity where the students could utilize their new knowledge to brainstorm improvements for their community.

In the next phase of our project, we hired a team of students for after-school planning sessions, working alongside their science teacher. The students worked with a resilience budget and decided which improvements to bring to their campus.

As we will share, this can be adapted to any school or classroom.

FOR TEACHERS:

1

We recommend doing an initial survey of your students:

What climate issues do you live with?

(they will have life experience for this question)

Are you aware of any local efforts to address these issues?

*most likely not. But this will help show your impact later)

What resilience or clean energy jobs are out there?

(students will most likely not know of many)

2

Guide students through some learning about climate here - perhaps a video or documentary on issues? Connect to the lived-experience of students.

3

Then invite a few guest speakers from local non-profits in your area to visit the classroom and share their work. Have speakers focus on:

What's a climate / clean energy solution you are working on?

(this highlights the non-profit's work and shares ideas with students)

What jobs are involved?

(helps students see future career pathways / get interested)

do you love your job? how much do you make?

(further motivation for students)

FOR TEACHERS:

4

Then students can do a mock planning activity: working in small groups.

Here is your imaginary budget:

\$50,000 - which is enough for one solar project on a home or small business. Or can be divided into smaller projects, such as community gardens or rain barrels. The students can connect these investments in the community to the issues facing their community. For example: flooding can be improved with more trees or rain barrels.

5

Have students present to the class their solutions. This builds a bit of accountability.

Students could also visit a younger classroom and work with younger students, modeling the process.

6

to go further, have students create fundraiser to actually attempt to fund some of their solutions.

Focus on small improvements - like rain barrels or more trees.

And “win” will give students a sense of accomplishment and help instill hope.

**OPEN INVITE FOR ANY "BRAIN PICKING" OR ADVICE
FOR ANY EDUCATOR OR COMMUNITY**

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GUEST SPEAKERS



STUDENTS LISTENING TO FRANZISKA TRAUTMANN, GLASS HALF FULL

IN 2020, AS A COLLEGE SENIOR, FRAN FOUNDED "GLASS HALF FULL" AN EFFORT TO RECYCLE GLASS BOTTLES INTO SAND, FOR COASTAL RESTORATION PROJECTS.

FRAN'S BACKYARD IDEA HAS NOW GROWN INTO A MAJOR OPERATION.

GLASS HALF FULL HAS DIVERTED MILLIONS OF POUNDS OF GLASS WASTE INTO SAND AND IS REBUILDING LOUISIANA'S COASTAL WETLANDS WITH THEIR SAND.

OUR PROJECT GOALS

Expose children to possible careers in resilience, advocacy, and clean-energy

Teach children about local clean energy and resilience efforts

Engage students in climate projects, especially the planning and decision making-process.

Foster leadership and agency among students.