Urban Youth Lead the Way: Engaging Urban Youth in Your Conservation Work

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Agenda

Introductions
  - Why care about the environment?
  - What do we care most about?

Why is it important to engage low-income communities of color in environmental work?

Survey of Blackstone Students
  - Predictions
  - Discuss Results
  - Group share out

Barriers + Solutions: What Keeps Young People from Engaging in Environmental Issues?
Why do you care about the environment?

➔ Find a neighbor you don’t know, introduce yourselves, and share your response to this question

➔ Our responses

➔ Your response share out
What environmental issues do you care most about? Why?

- Share your response with your neighbor
- Our responses
Reflection Questions
Turn and Talk

- How much diversity do you see in your workplace? (race, age, community)
- Which communities do you engage with in your work?
Why is it important to engage low-income communities of color in environmental work?
Exposure to Hazardous Waste Sites Based on Class (In Massachusetts)
Exposure to Hazardous Waste by Race
(In Massachusetts)
Why is it important to engage low-income communities of color in environmental work?
Survey of Blackstone Academy Students
Survey

Turn and Talk: How do you think urban students would respond to these questions?

- How informed are you on environmental issues?
- How much do you care about environmental issues?
- Why do you think it’s important to care about the environment?
- What environmental issues do you care most about?
- Where do you hear about environmental issues?
- What environmental issues have you heard about on social media?
- How does seeing things on social media impact how you see environmental issues or how much you care about those issues?
- Do you know what conservation is?
In your small group:

**Introduce yourselves.**

Then look at your assigned graph from the survey, and talk with your group about:

**What do you notice?**

**What does it make you wonder about?**

After a few minutes, we will rotate graphs.
How informed are you on environmental issues?

- 1: 2 (3.6%)
- 2: 7 (12.5%)
- 3: 18 (32.1%)
- 4: 25 (44.6%)
- 5: 4 (7.1%)
How much do you care about environmental issues?
Why do you think it’s important to care about the environment?
What environmental issues do you care about the most?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Climate Change</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>78.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preservation of parks and other green spaces</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>35.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protecting endangered species</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>66.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pollution of air and water</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>69.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Littering</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of access to healthy foods</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>46.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renewable Energy (solar, wind, etc.)</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>39.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Justice</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

***environmental justice was added as an option after most students had responded; we predict these responses would have been higher if it was one of the original options***
Where do you hear about environmental issues?
What environmental issues have you heard about on social media?

![Bar chart showing percentages of different environmental issues discussed on social media. The issues are climate change, wildfires, pollution, animals going extinct, global warming, sea level rise, and other. Climate change is the most discussed issue with a percentage close to 50%.]
How does seeing things on social media impact how you see environmental issues or how much you care about those issues?
Do you know what conservation is?
Group Share Out

What surprised you?
What caught your attention?
What did you find interesting?
Barriers that keep urban youth from engaging in environmental issues
Turn and Talk

What barriers are keeping urban youth from engaging in environmental issues?
Brainstorming Solutions to Barriers

What might be some possible solutions to overcome the following barriers?

For each one, turn and talk with your group.
Barrier #1

Urban youth focus on things that are vital to them right now (eg. sports, extracurricular activities, academics, helping families)
Barrier #2

Everyone is on their phones
Barrier #3
Lack of EDUCATION
How can we overcome those barriers?

How can we get Young People (in urban areas) invested in environmental issues?
Solutions
(Our Ideas!)
Solution #1

Creating more awareness (eg. summits, advertise climate strikes, involve students in climate strikes)

(One-time events; not long-term commitments)
Solution #2
Using technology for the better (eg. informing others on what websites have reliable information)
Solution #3

After school environmental clubs, introduce incentives to keep urban youth interested (eg. Stipends)

(Longer term commitments)
Follow up to Solution #3

Connect with organizations that already engage urban youth in environmental issues

What is sunrise about? → Sunrise

Instagram: sunrisemvnt
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Questions?
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