

# Sustainable Neighborhoods for Happiness



## STUDENT ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

*This activity was developed by the Arizona State University Walton Sustainability Solutions Initiatives*

### **Materials Needed:**

- Pencil or pen
- Paper, notebook, and/or note-taking device
- Neighborhood Evaluation worksheet
- Neighborhood Happiness Diagram worksheet
- Neighborhood Promotion (assigned by teacher)

### **Introduction (Read before doing the activity)**

What makes a sustainable neighborhood? What is the relationship between happiness and sustainability? What makes a happy neighborhood? In this activity we are going to explore neighborhood systems and evaluate neighborhoods according to the Sustainable Neighborhoods for Happiness Index (SNHI). The SNHI is meant to serve as a means for assessing and comparing how well individual cities, towns, neighborhoods, and communities address sustainability issue associated with residential happiness.

### **Activity Instructions:**

1. Gather your materials including an evaluation worksheet, a diagram worksheet, and a neighborhood description that was assigned by your teacher.
2. Review the neighborhood description you have been assigned.
3. Based on the description and photos, think about each of the indicators on the evaluation worksheet. Provide a rating (1 to 3) for each indicator about this neighborhood and write a brief justification for that score. There are spots for all this information on the evaluation worksheet.
4. Once you have rated all the indicators, calculate the average rating for each component on the worksheet. (Components are Community Involvement, Water Management, Energy Management, Community Design, Food Management, Waste Management, and Transportation.)
5. After filling out the evaluation worksheet, plot the average scores for each measure of the Diagram worksheet. After plotting all the scores with a dot, connect the dots as shown on the examples on the worksheet.

6. Answer the following questions in your notes or at the bottom of your worksheet:
- What are the pros and cons of this neighborhood?
  - If you can, look at the diagrams from other neighborhoods you weren't assigned. What are some of the key differences between the three neighborhoods you weren't assigned. What are some of the key differences between the three neighborhoods in this activity?
  - How might one neighborhood learn from another neighborhood?
  - What recommendations do you have for the neighborhood you evaluated to increase their community happiness and sustainability?
7. You are now ready for Activity 2: Envision a Sustainable Neighborhood!

## Conclusion

After completing this activity, you should have a better idea about how to identify components of a sustainable (or unsustainable) neighborhood. You have analyzed neighborhood practices and structures in terms of sustainability, and you are now better able to articulate the difference between neighborhoods.

