



Envision a Sustainable Neighborhood

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
- Narrative worksheet with T-Chart
- Vision worksheet
- 15 to 20 inches of yarn or string
- Tape or staples/stapler

Introduction (Read before doing the activity)

How can a more sustainable neighborhood improve your happiness? How does creating a vision of the future helps us in achieving that vision? In this activity you will think about your neighborhood and how your neighborhood would score on the Sustainable Neighborhood for Happiness Index (done in the previous activity). You do not have to evaluate your neighborhood, but you should be able to reference the components that are a part of the index. Have fun envisioning!

Activity Instructions:

1. Create a sketch of your neighborhood on the Narrative worksheet with the T-Chart. Try to include some of the components you evaluated in the previous activity.
2. Complete the T-Chart to categorize components of your neighborhood as "What I Like" or "What I Want to Improve". Examples can include any part of your neighborhood, from nearby parks, shaded sidewalks, to the presence of litter or light pollution.
3. Next, create a "Day in the Life" narrative (story) for a typical resident of the neighborhood. This narrative should provide a detailed look at what it's like to live in your community, that is, how would a resident experience the benefits that the neighborhood provides, and react to the areas that need improvement? Descriptions of your narrative should be based on the information collected using the T-Chart.
4. Imagine what you would like your neighborhood to look like 20 years from now. Consider the T-Chart you completed. On your Vision worksheet, create a detailed drawing of your vision of what you want your future neighborhood to be like. The goal is to imagine a more sustainable and happier place to live for everyone in your community.

5. Next, use the yarn or string to connect the narrative you wrote to your drawing of the desired future neighborhood.

6. Think about what needs to happen in the next 20 years to make your vision for the future of the neighborhood come true. Think about and identify specific steps or processes that need to happen. Examples might include planting shade trees, improving lighting, or installing solar panels on every home.

7. Record each step on a post-it note or piece of scrap paper.

8. Attach each piece of paper or post-it to the yarn or string that connects the neighborhood narrative to the future neighborhood. Try to place the steps or processes into a chronological order if possible. The goal is to create a timeline that bridges the gap between the present and future states of their neighborhood and represents a plan of action for the next 20 years.

9. When finished, share your vision of the future of your neighborhood and your plan with your peers.

Conclusion

Congrats on making it through the activity and gaining a better understanding of how features of a neighborhood can positively and negatively impact the environment, economy, and society. We hope your vision for the future can come true! Maybe you can be a part of making it happen... :)

