

# Urban Planners

## Eco-Schools Topic:

Transportation

## Grade Level:

Grades K-8

## Guiding Question:

How can we make communities bike friendly?

## Key Questions, Attitudes and Behaviors to Teach:

- Draw a picture of a form of transportation that does not use fossil fuels (K)
- I want to ride my bike to school (A)
- I get driven to school without any other students in the car (always, often, sometimes, never) (B)

## Lesson Objectives:

- Students will discover environmentally friendly and safe ways to get around their community
- Students will take action to make their community a better place

## Materials:

- Laptops with Cool Urban Planning Ideas PowerPoint
- Paper and colored pencils/markers/crayons
- Cardboard, recyclables, scissors, tape, and other construction materials
- Sidewalk chalk

## Prep:

- Gather materials
- Ask SACC director if you can work outside (if you want to use sidewalk chalk)

## Engaging Intro

- Ask the students about what forms of transportation they use most often.
  - What are the pros and cons of this transportation?
    - Ex: Cars are convenient, but they emit lots of air pollution (CO<sub>2</sub>)
- What are some alternative forms of transportation that would be more environmentally friendly?
  - Why are they better for the environment?
    - Ex: Buses and carpooling replace individual vehicles, and less cars means less air pollution is emitted
    - Ex: Bikes don't create any air pollution, and it's a way to exercise and have fun!
    - Ex: Walking doesn't create any air pollution and also is exercise
- What is sustainable urban planning?
  - Building a city that makes people and the environment feel happy and healthy.
  - Let's see some cool sustainability ideas that are in different cities across the world!
    - Walk through the Cool Urban Planning Ideas PowerPoint



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- Google Maps alternative transportation exercise (*if you did not in previous lesson*)
  - Students get in groups of 3-4 with an accompanying ESLI volunteer
  - Each groups picks a place they regularly go (supermarket, movie theater, park, etc.).
  - Students must come up with a plan to get to their destination without driving themselves.
    - Provide students with printed transportation resources and phones with Google Maps.
  - Ask students: Is it safe to be biking or walking where Google Maps suggests?
- What are some difficulties that prevent you from using these forms of transportation?
  - Ex: No bus stops, no bike lanes/trails, no bike racks, no sidewalks

### Exploratory Activity

- Tell the students that today they will get to create their own community that is environmentally friendly!
  - Remind them to include the things we talked about that make environmentally friendly transportation more accessible (Bus stops, bike lanes/trails, bike racks, sidewalks etc.)
  - Have them include places that they would like to go to (Pool, library, friend's house, etc.)
  - Encourage them to make their community even more environmentally friendly (Wind farm? Solar panels? Wildlife habitat?)
  - Give the kids their materials (paper/pencils, cardboard/tools, or sidewalk chalk) and let their imaginations run wild!

### Meaningful Discussion

- Have the kids share out and show each other their communities
  - Have them explain what they included and why
- Have them share how they plan on using environmentally friendly transportation in their daily lives.
  - Ex: carpool with friends, walk/bike to school, use the school bus instead of having your parents drive you

### Links and Resources

- Cool Urban Planning Ideas PowerPoint:  
<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1-jGIRi1fop0IHCBni3c970C-BouWPpwD5nEFZUjvgog/edit?usp=sharing>
- The Ten Most Eco-Friendly Cities:  
<https://www.tentree.com/blogs/posts/the-10-most-eco-friendly-cities>
- Eight Eco-Friendly Cities Making a Difference:  
<https://www.westernunion.com/blog/environmentally-friendly-cities/>
- Modes/Benefits of Green Transportation:  
<https://www.conserve-energy-future.com/modes-and-benefits-of-green-transportation.php>
- Ten Ideas for a Green Transportation Infrastructure:  
<https://www.conserve-energy-future.com/modes-and-benefits-of-green-transportation.php>



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