



SUSTAINABILITY AMBASSADORS

# Student Agency – Impact Project Design

PBL support for using your City Climate Action Plan as a Living Textbook for local relevance, student agency, and community impact.

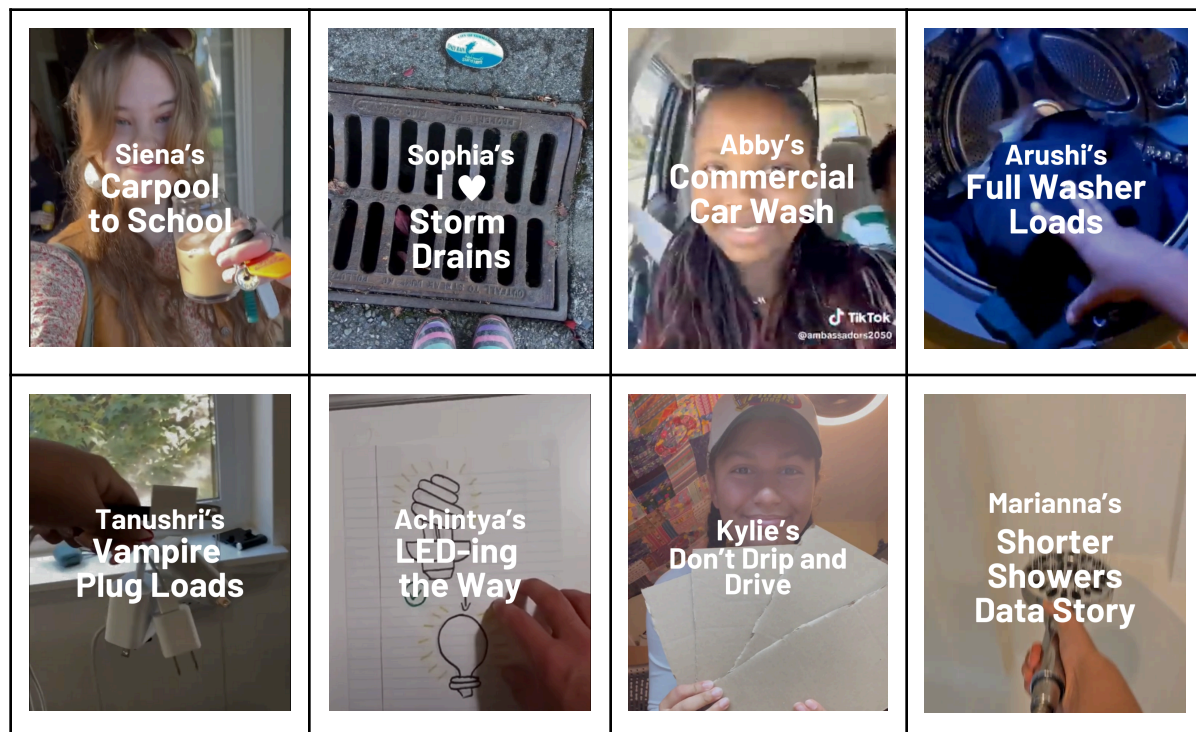
## What is Impact Project Design? (Get the [RUBRIC](#))

Students practice the **skills of a project manager** by using the [IP3 Strategy](#) which includes three elements: (1) impact design, (2) impact data tracking, and (3) impact storytelling. These are the same elements that any adult project manager would recognize.

The best way to engage students in the IP3 Strategy is to first share a range of impact stories from other students so they get a sense of what's possible and then to practice a project template as a class so everyone gets the hang of it.

On the [IP3 Strategy](#) webpage, we are developing a collection of 45 Impact Projects in nine different categories of sustainable systems actions types. Each impact project features a ready-to-use template along with a growing collection of student impact stories. We are always looking to publish exceptional examples of student-led impact.

### Start with some great Student Examples!



## The Wisdom of Using Models and Templates

All of the student impact stories above were designed from one of the existing templates on the IP3 Strategy [webpage](#).

The templates are **90% completed** impact projects. The idea is to provide students with a strong **example to follow** including an impact statement, given procedure, and ready-made formulas to guide them in collecting data and calculating their impact.

At this stage in developing the skills of a project manager, students use one of the templates to just **swap in their own personalized content**, do the math for their own data, and create their own final impact story. As the student examples demonstrate, the impact storytelling part of the IP3 Strategy encourages lots of creativity.

With well supported practice, especially over multiple units, students will know when they are ready to apply the IP3 Strategy to their own project ideas based on community needs.

## Master the Three Elements of the IP3 Strategy

Get the [RUBRIC](#) for evaluating student work and make it your own.

### **1** Impact Design

**Intended Impact Statement:** For an Impact Project to be effective, it is crucial to be super-clear about your intended impact. Think about answering this one sentence prompt just as you might set up a hypothesis. “If I implement this (action) then I expect to achieve this result (the impact), which is important because... ([Why it Matters](#))” See lots of excellent, student-generated [Impact Statement Examples](#).

**Community Alignment:** Take some time to understand how your impact statement aligns with and supports existing policies, plans, or performance measures of your city. Who is already working on this and how can you contribute to their work?

- See [List of Cities with Climate Action Plans](#)
- Key Word Searches for [Who's Working On It](#)
- How to find and engage with a [Local Non Profit Working On This Topic](#)

**Procedure:** Outline the steps you will follow. Keep it simple, sequential, and achievable. State the obvious. Then check it off. Make it replicable so that anyone else could easily follow and implement your impact project. We want thousands of students to do this same action. That's how the change reaches a tipping point. Your work can be a model.

## 2

### Impact Tracking

Gather and analyze real data so that you know that your project is resulting in actual impact.

What metrics will you use? For example:

- pounds of CO2 emissions avoided
- gallons of water saved
- number of trees planted
- number of storm drains cleaned out

Align your impact data with the policies, plans, or performance measures used everyday by professionals in your city who are responsible for implementing the Climate Action Plan or a related policy-driven plan. See [List of Cities with Climate Action Plans](#)

Information is power and numbers tell stories about human behavior. Analyze some of the following **data dashboards**. (Also see [Dashboard Lesson](#)) Could our classroom or school develop our own dashboard to be updated annually by each group of students coming through? Does our school district have a public-facing dashboard to track sustainability actions? Can we advocate for this?

#### A few inspiring Sustainability Dashboards...

- [One Seattle Climate Portal](#)
- [UW Sustainability Dashboard](#)
- [Bellevue Environmental Performance Dashboard](#)
- [Issaquah Climate Action Plan](#): View [Data Dashboard](#)
- [Redmond Environmental Sustainability Action Plan](#): View [Data Dashboard](#)
- [Kirkland Sustainability Strategic Plan](#): Scroll down to view Annual Reports
- [Tacoma Climate Action Plan](#): Scroll down to open the latest Progress Report

## 3

### Impact Storytelling

Now that you have some data, so what? Who needs to know? Shout it out by identifying [critical stakeholders](#) and the best way to reach them using some of these creative [Impact Storytelling Tips](#).

Review some **useful considerations** in developing your impact story outlined on the next page.

Policymakers, project managers and other climate champions in your community are hungry to hear about positive impact, especially from the next generation. **This is you!**

## Some considerations in developing your impact story...

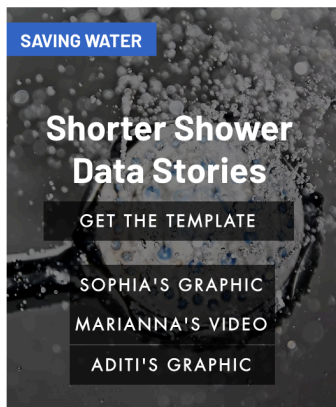
1. Excellent production and execution. Evidence of both creativity and craftsmanship.
  - a. Minimal stock footage, and NO watermarked footage or photos.
  - b. We want your real photos and videos!
2. The story includes accurate impact data using the equations in our impact projects and/or these cool [equivalencies](#).
3. The impact data is related to one or more specific actions or needs stated in a city, county, or community sustainability policy, plan, or dashboard.
4. It is short and engaging, fun to experience, read, or view by other young people.
5. Infographics are beautifully composed and easy to follow.
6. Voice audio recordings need to be of consistent quality, clear, and plenty loud.
7. Music can serve as an excellent narrative organizer or emotional amplifier.
8. Videos can be portrait or landscape depending on your platform. Keep this consistent throughout the whole video.
9. Export video in the highest resolution possible, no lower than minimum 720p.
10. Have you stretched your creativity by exploring some of these [Impact Storytelling Tips](#).

## Practice the IP3 Strategy as a Class

Practice a few Impact Projects as a whole class to study the [IP3 Strategy](#) as a model of effective project management. Suggested **Classroom Practice Projects** are listed below and each includes a **Classroom spreadsheet** so that students can see the power of data-driven collective action. Lots of little actions taken by thousands of people really do add up!

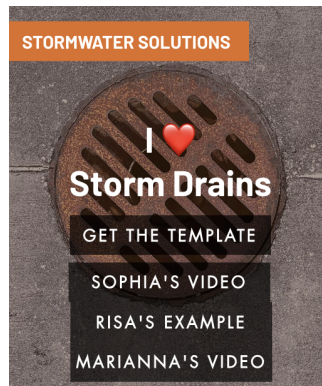
## Choose Your Own Impact Project

Students can adapt or reinvent any of the ready-made Impact Project Templates on our [webpage](#). As you practice this process in one or more units, students will naturally want to apply the IP3 Strategy to their own project ideas. Here is a [Blank Template](#) for students to build from scratch. Have fun developing a range of personalized impact stories. We will publish the best work on our website.



[TEMPLATE](#)  
[Classroom Spreadsheet](#)  
[Marianna's Video](#)  
[Aditi's' Graphic Text](#)  
[Dila's Video](#)

[Blank Template](#)



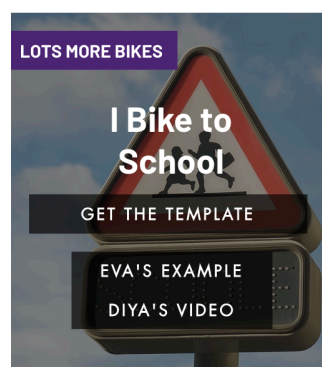
[TEMPLATE](#)  
[Classroom Spreadsheet](#)  
[Marianna's Video](#)  
[Sophia's Video](#)

[Blank Template](#)



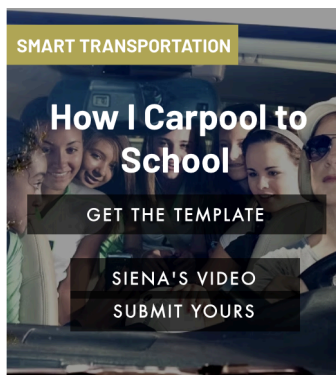
[TEMPLATE](#)  
[Classroom Spreadsheet](#)

[Blank Template](#)



[TEMPLATE](#)  
[Classroom Spreadsheet](#)  
[Diya's School Project](#)  
[Eva's Example](#)

[Blank Template](#)



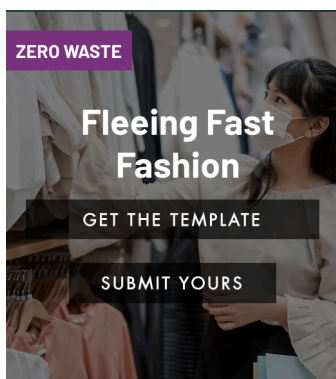
[TEMPLATE](#)  
[Classroom Spreadsheet](#)  
[Sienna's Video](#)

[Blank Template](#)



[TEMPLATE](#)  
[Classroom Spreadsheet](#)  
[Tanushri's Video](#)  
[Achintya's Video](#)

[Blank Template](#)



[TEMPLATE](#)  
[Classroom Spreadsheet](#)  
Use this [Cool Calculator](#)  
[Sienna's Video](#)

[Blank Template](#)

## Build a Classroom Climate Action Plan

You can establish a Classroom Climate Action Plan by aggregating all of our individual or team Impact Projects in one spreadsheet. This spreadsheet becomes the foundation for a Classroom Climate Action Plan.

See [Typical Elements of a City Climate Action Plan](#).

Even if you just have a few actions and your city Climate Action Plan has dozens of actions across multiple goals areas, your class will be empowered by organizing and reporting their collective impact directly aligned with the city's needs.

Engaging students in managing a Classroom Climate Action Plan becomes a legacy learning opportunity for next year with built-in models and goals for subsequent students to use as an annually updated baseline. See an example...

1. [SPS Blank Classroom Impact Spreadsheet 2024](#)
2. [LWSD Completed Classroom Impact Spreadsheet 2023](#)

***Bellevue School District leads the way.*** Can you imagine a Classroom Climate Action Plan becoming a School Climate Action Plan? What about a School District Climate Action Plan?

- [Bellevue School District Sustainability Policy](#)
- [Bellevue School District Sustainability Implementation Plan](#)

### What can we learn from other school districts that already have Sustainability Plans?

- Ann Arbor Public Schools, [Environmental Sustainability Framework](#)
- Denver Public Schools, [Sustainability and Climate Action Plan](#)
- Boulder Valley School District, [GreenBVSD](#)
- Los Angeles Unified School District [Learning Green](#)

## From Spreadsheet Reporting to Graphic Design

Consider engaging a team of student writers, editors, and graphic designers to **format your Classroom Climate Action Plan** in a way that parallels the design layout choices of your city's plan.

Take some time to study the graphic design and layout choices of your city's Climate Action Plan. You may want to pull some prompts from these guidelines for student inquiry,

1. [MY CAP - How is the Plan Organized?](#)
2. [MY CAP - Analyzing Infographic Design Choices](#)
3. [MY CAP - Text Feature Analysis Tips](#)

## Ideas for formatting...

- Title Page (photos and graphics)
- Student Statement of Purpose, Values and Vision (photos and graphics)
- Table of Contents
- Executive Summary of main outcomes for this school year (photos and graphics)
- Reports (baseline, actions, impacts, recommended next steps)
- Below is a list of typical goal areas. Also: [Typical Elements of a City Climate Action Plan](#).
  - Energy and Buildings Actions
  - Transportation Actions
  - Zero Waste, Consumer Power, Circular Economy
  - Water Conservation
  - Natural Resources Tree Canopy, Stormwater, Salmon Recovery
  - Food Systems

Share frequently with stakeholders at City Hall including both sustainability staff and elected city council members. ***They will want to know!***

Submit exceptional student work via the [Submission Form](#) on our website, We are always looking to publish great examples of student Impact Projects!