

Choose Format that Works for You

Each Academy will have a similar structure, but will also be developed in collaboration with neighborhood partners and tailored to the needs of individual communities.

Communities can choose from the following topics to be delivered in a multi-week program (one session per week), or in a one day educational fair.

Session Topics

1. Sustainability, So what's the big deal?: Quality of Life 101
2. Food: green and on the cheap
3. Home heat home: Sustainable housing and energy
4. Green jobs and education: Tools for economic sustainability and empowerment
5. Building your green school
6. Good education: step one for sustainability
7. From here to there: Transportation that's healthy, practical, economical, convenient, and easy on the environment
8. Keepers of the Waters: Protecting and reclaiming our waters, the source of life, Green Infrastructure
9. The Consumption Factor: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – saving money, local economies and the world
10. Government Leadership: How to build bridges between the general public and our representatives
11. My dream neighborhood: Community Design and Participation



GreeningUSA is a Syracuse-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization advocating sustainable communities to the benefit of local economies and environments.

Interested in hosting the Sustainability Academy in your community?

Contact GreeningUSA

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A citizen-driven workshop series for neighborhoods

Sponsored by



Nojaims Supermarket

In collaboration with

 Syracuse City School District



The Sustainability Academy is a citizen-driven education workshop series about how to live, work and play without harming the environment or the future of our communities.

Objectives

To empower citizens with knowledge and hands-on skills necessary to contribute to a sustainable community

Through a series of interactive sessions or a one-day educational fair, participants will:

- * Develop a network of citizens concerned with local sustainability issues
- * Gain the skills, know-how and access to resources to make informed decisions on daily living based on sustainability principles (energy, food, water, housing, waste)
- * Learn about community design and how to effectively participate in sustainable community development
- * Learn about growing opportunities in “green collar” and sustainability jobs
- * Learn from successes and failures of sustainable community initiatives worldwide

Background

The Sustainability Academy arose from discussions amongst community educators at a series of Greening USA Education Committee meetings. The group responded to a need to focus energy and resources on existing community projects .

Implementation

The Academy will run a pilot academy at one of the first phase school renovation projects (Blodgett Middle School) to complement the resources and efforts that will be going into the neighborhood and to empower neighbors with the tools to develop sustainable communities and create a community support network around the school. The academy hopes to repeat itself at all interested city schools, areas undergoing community development, and neighborhoods.

Session Topics

1 Sustainability, So what's the big deal?: Quality of Life 101

"Sustainability" sounds sophisticated & important, but what does it really mean? Why should we care? Enjoy a short movie and discuss this and more with local experts.

2 Food: Green and on the Cheap

Our food choices greatly effect our health, nutrition, and environment. Come learn how to prepare healthy and inexpensive foods with readily accessible, locally-grown foods.

3 Home Heat Home: Sustainable Housing and Energy

Pedal a bicycle to turn on a light bulb, learn about the energy you consume in your home, and find out about inexpensive solutions to conserve energy and save money. Experts in home energy efficiency and financial incentives to improve energy efficiency will share all of their secrets with you.

4 Green Jobs and Education

What is all of this buzz about "green jobs" and how can you get one? Learn all about careers in emerging green collar jobs, where to get professional training, and how to get employed. Learn how to fill out a resume, talk to hiring businesses, and even apply for a job, right on site.

5 Building your Green School

How many hours do kids spend in their schools and how might this affect them? Schools with natural lighting, fresh air ventilation and abundant green spaces can have astounding positive impacts on children's health, attendance rates, how well they pay attention, and perform on tests. Learn all about this and how green schools can benefit your child and community.

6 Good Education: Step One for Sustainability

An educated citizenry is the backbone of any society and essential to the well being and sustainability of a community. This session will highlight the goals and aspirations of participants, community leaders and local educators, and introduce pathways for participants to pursue their educational dreams.

7 Transportation: From here to there Economically

During this session the audience will be introduced to various forms of alternative transportation, from bike, bus riding, and walking, to electric/hydrogen powered cars. Participants will consult with a panel of community transportation experts about how to get around safely, save money and decrease their carbon footprint.

8 Keepers of the Waters

Don't take that tree in your front yard or park down the street for granted. Our green spaces may be worth more than you think. Come learn about the benefits of urban green spaces, including: protection against storm water runoff, improved air quality, cooling of urban heat island effect, increased property value and more.

9 Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – saving money, local economies and the world

Learn what to do with all of your junk or how to cut down on it in the first place! Local experts will share ways to turn trash into treasures, including artwork, compost and cash.

10 Government Leadership

Meet with local officials and community leaders to find out how government functions in Central New York and how to be an active contributor.

11 My dream neighborhood

Brainstorm with fellow neighbors about what your dream neighborhood would look like, then discuss projects and organizations that could help facilitate actualizing some of these dreams (TNT, etc.).

