

# Student Sustainability Design Challenge

2023 - 2024 School Year



# Program Overview

Students are concerned about their futures, and many are interested in how they and their peers can help make their communities and the world at-large become more sustainable. Through this program, student teams will learn how local organizations (companies, nonprofits, government, etc.) are working to become more sustainable entities and/or improve outcomes for their communities.

Students will also learn about the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) so that they can see how the impact they have locally connects globally. Over the course of this program, students identify an issue(s) in their community that aligns with one or more of the UNSDGs. They research their topic and design sustainable solutions that help to alleviate/mitigate the issue. If possible, they may also begin to test or implement their solutions.



The program will culminate with students sharing their proposed solutions and learnings with their peers, their community, and local organizations involved in this program.



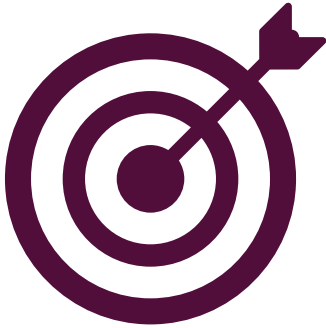
# The UN Sustainable Development Goals

In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly crafted 17 goals for sustainability as part of its 2030 Agenda. Those goals, shown below, will provide the theme and lens for the Student Sustainability Design Challenge. While global in their reach, these goals are also relevant at the local level and provide a direct connection for from classroom content to real-world application.



# Design Challenge Goals

Throughout this program, students will...



## Identify challenges

Students identify a sustainability challenge in their community and design solutions to address the challenge.



## Build skills

Students build their skills in creativity, collaboration, communication, and critical thinking.



## Increase career readiness

Students increase their career awareness and can identify the skills and pathways needed for success in those careers.

# Design Challenge Timeline



## Summer 2023: Recruitment

Business, community, and post-secondary leaders interested in connecting with youth to help raise awareness of their organization's commitment to sustainability should [contact the Consortium for Public Education](#) to learn more. We are looking for a variety of partners to join us and share their work as well as help students better understand career pathways they may explore. Engagement opportunities may be designed to meet your organization's interest and capacity.

## September 2023: Challenge Preparation

The Consortium training team will meet with participants, especially those interested in presenting at the kickoff, to make sure that everyone is well-prepared for the kickoff of the design challenge process. The Consortium team will work to match business, community, and post-secondary partners with student teams that share similar sustainability interests and will help facilitate partnerships with school teams.

## October 2023: Design Challenge Kickoff

Students learn about sustainability! All teachers and their student groups will gather at the Energy Innovation Center to hear from sustainability experts, as well as local organizations, businesses, and post-secondary institutions pursuing the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

## November - February: Students Design a Solution

Back in their classrooms, students will work to identify a challenge in their community that relates to one or more of the UN SDGs. Throughout the winter, students will explore and iterate on possible solutions. You, our sustainability professionals, are invited to provide students with input and support as they develop their solutions.

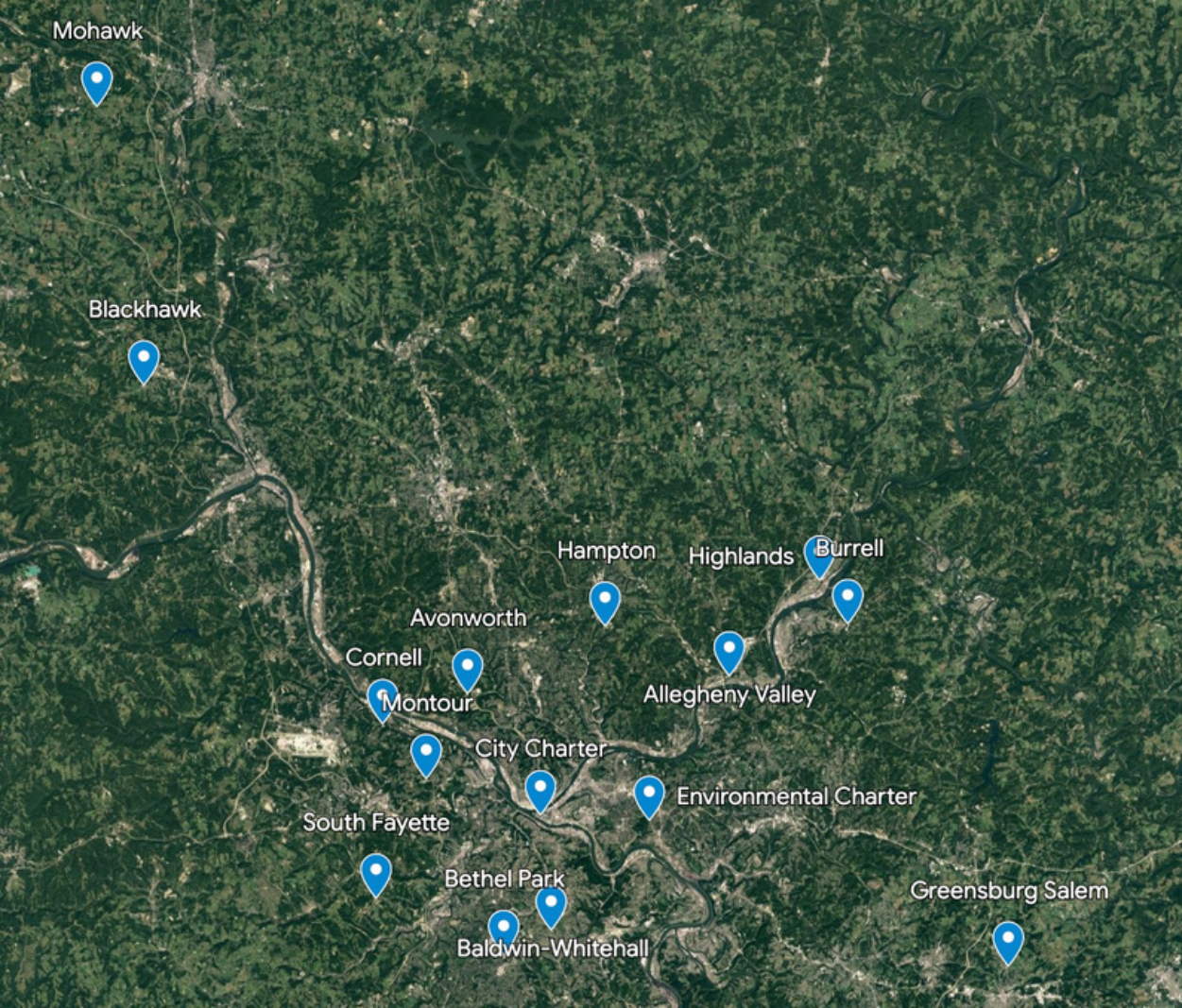
## March 2024: Final Presentations

Students share their ideas! All school teams will reconvene at the Energy Innovation Center to share their challenges and solutions with you, our sustainability professionals. Students will get to hear from their peers while also receiving balanced feedback on their own plans.

# School Districts

The following regional school districts have indicated an interest in participating:

- Allegheny Valley
- Avonworth
- Baldwin-Whitehall
- Bethel Park
- Blackhawk
- Burrell
- City Charter High School
- Cornwall
- Environmental Charter
- Greensburg Salem
- Hampton Township
- Highlands
- Mohawk Area
- Montour
- South Fayette Township



# The Consortium for Public Education

## Our Mission

We connect schools with community so that students can access the opportunities, resources, and experiences they need to imagine, plan, and be ready for their futures.

## Visit our website

[tcfpe.org](http://tcfpe.org)

## Contact Us

[info@tcfpe.org](mailto:info@tcfpe.org)

## Follow us!

@tcfpe



## About Us

The Consortium is a nonprofit organization working with schools across southwestern Pennsylvania on initiatives designed to strengthen and broaden school leadership, engage community, and empower students. Our initiatives build cross-sector partnerships that bring resources, improvements, and support to public schools. Through our work, we reach:

- 3,500+ Educators
- 72,000+ Students
- 10 Counties
- 65+ School Districts and Career and Technical Centers
- 50+ Community Partners: Colleges & Universities; Employers; Community Organizations; Trade Schools and Training Centers

