



ILLINOIS GREEN SCHOOLS PROJECT

2021–2022 Theme

Energy & Justice at School

This year's theme is designed to incorporate principles of environmental justice into projects centered around energy efficiency and sustainable communities.

Schools are welcome to implement any type of project they choose, but extra resources and materials will be available to support this theme.

Incorporating the theme into your project

For many classrooms, environmental justice may be a new term. Projects could center on educating the school & local community about what environmental justice means and key historical and current examples, and what avenues can be used to change.



Identify

Identify a problem or area of concern related to energy within your school. This could have to do with lighting, thermostat usage, power usage from electronics, and more.



Investigate

Investigate and assess how the issue impacts people at your school and in your community. Environmental justice requires us to advocate for new policies and structural changes that create fairness and reduce pollution in all communities. Students can learn about and become advocates for solutions to local environmental inequities in their communities.



Implement

Implement a solution at your school building through the Illinois Green Schools Project that ties environmental justice to energy. Ask your students:

- How can we make our space friendly to the Earth?
- What changes to energy use at our school would help everyone feel safe and comfortable in the school environment?
- How do these changes to our school building positively impact our community and the people in it?