

GLOBAL NETWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



HOW TO CREATE SUSTAINABILITY CLUBS FOR PEACE AND PEACE CLUBS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

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“It always seems impossible until it is done”
(NEISON MANDELA)

This manual is designed to provide inspiration, guidelines, and resources for creating school based Peace Clubs for Sustainability and Sustainability Clubs for Peace. It is composed of five sections:

PART 1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT THE GLOBAL NETWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

This section covers basic information about GNSD including history of the network, its mission, vision, and benefits of membership.

PART 2. ORGANIZATIONAL PROCEDURES

In this section you will find information on how to start a new club, description of basic policy for creating a club, descriptions of responsibilities of club officers, examples of meeting agendas, and guidelines on how to successfully run your new club.

PART 3. RESPONSIBILITIES

- Responsibilities of mentors
- Responsibilities of officers

PART 4. STARTER KIT

PART 5. IDEAS AND RESOURCES

You may look here for ideas for the meetings related to enhancing eco-consciousness and actions supporting sustainable development.



PART 1

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

❖ **Mission**

In the context of increased violent conflicts between ethnic groups, people of different religions, development of terrorist organizations, and easiness with which young individuals join such ideology, addressing the issue of the relationship between sustainable development and peace becomes a high priority. We assume that sustainable development is impossible without peace and that we cannot have peace without sustainable development.

The mission of GNSD is to involve youth in active realization of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. We intend to do it by creating [Sustainability Clubs for Peace and Peace Clubs for Sustainability](#) in high schools worldwide. These clubs will involve their members in community projects addressing protection of the environment, and non-violent conflict resolutions. GNSD provides an internet platform allowing members of these clubs to maintain a dialog and create partnerships with the members of clubs around the world.

❖ **Vision**

The vision of GNSD is to be the largest and widespread and comprehensive organization for sustainability and peace education, creating opportunities for learning by doing, providing relevant resources for schools, and connecting youth with local community organizations.

❖ **History**

In 2014 a group of former participants of EmPeace LABS workshops, together with few young community leaders representing Brazil, Canada, China, Nepal, India, Japan, Nigeria, Cameroon, Somalia and USA, came with an idea of utilizing experience gathered during the training by launching the Global Network for Sustainable Development (GNSD). The intention was to involve high schools' students in creating a model of global partnership for sustainable development envisioned by the UN. GNSD was officially launched in Kathmandu (Nepal) at the meeting of Rotary International Clubs of Nepal, as a project of Arizona State University.

In 2016, one of the partners of GNSD, Mahatma Gandhi Shodh Sansthan (MGSS), a CBO (Community Based Organization) from India, initiated a new project: Peace Clubs for Sustainability (PCS). At the beginning of 2017 we decided to include this project in the revised mission of GNSD, and register GNSD in Arizona (USA) as a non-governmental organization (NGO) acting globally. You may find information about the structure of the network and its Leadership Team on our website (gnsd.org)

❖ **Benefits from Membership**

Individual members of GNSD will benefit from participation in the network's activities by:

- Expanding their eco-consciousness;
- Learning about technology;
- Meeting and collaborating with other school clubs from varying sustainability backgrounds and cultures;
- Developing leadership skills;
- Finding their voice;
- Stretching their expectations of self;
- Positively impacting their peers, families, schools, communities and planet;
- Creating and building upon a vision of a sustainable future;
- Opportunities to engage politicians, leaders, peers and educators;
- Participating in field trips - a popular experiential form of learning that excites the imagination of students and actively involves teachers.



PART 2

ORGANIZATIONAL PROCEDURES

❖ How to Start a Club

- Please review GNSD's Mission and Vision to make sure that this is something you want to support and implement.
- Visit our website www.gnsd.org, click on **Join** in the top menu, then click on **Register as an Individual Member**.
- When the application form opens, fill it in and submit. In a couple days, you will receive an e-mail confirming your membership, and asking you to create a password. This password will allow you to access some of the **Resource Materials**, as well as pages of clubs registered under GNSD. This password will also allow you to participate in Blogs available on these pages.
- If your school does not have a club yet, contact the principal of your school that you want to start a new club, and inform your Regional Coordinator about your initiative (you may find your Regional Coordinator on our website in the drop-down menu for **About Us**.)
- Typically, schools require student organizations to abide by school rules, and adopt a set of by-laws, have a core-group officers, and a faculty advisor (mentor.) You may discuss this Manual with the principal, and/or nominated by him supervisor of the club.
- Next you need to organize a meeting with all the students of your school, and invite your Regional Coordinator to make a presentation about GNSD, and the mission of the club. At the end of the meeting you may invite students interested in becoming members to stay for a while. You may inform them, how to register as individual members.
- Then you need to select some students who will create the initial leadership team. You will need the following officers to be on this team:
 - ✓ President
 - ✓ Vice president
 - ✓ Treasurer
 - ✓ Secretary
 - ✓ Media Coordinator
 - ✓ Webmaster

PART 3 RESPONSIBILITIES

❖ Responsibilities of Mentors

- Explain the various dimensions of mentoring and what is involved.
- Help members to create a feasible plan of activities.
- Assist members in their search for opportunities for community involvement.
- Motivate members to be involved involvement in the Club's activities.
- Provide practical guidelines and resources for members of the club.
- Enable the development of club networks (connections with local communities.)
- Facilitate learning by doing.
- Make sure all club meetings are fun, organized, start and end on time, and follow the agenda you set at the beginning of the meeting.
- Sustain and/or increase the membership of your Clubs.
- Help to execute successful projects that address the needs of your community.
- Help to develop the leadership skills of other Sustainability Club officer, as well as members of the Sustainability Club.
- Delegate tasks to club officers and members of the club and ensure such tasks are completed timely and in line with the mission and vision of the GNSD.
- Evaluate and set attainable goals for the Club.
- Inspire the officers and members of the Sustainability Club.

❖ Responsibilities of Officers

President is the principal officer and therefore responsible for leading the club in meetings and activities in accordance with guidance established by the school and Regional Coordinator.

Vice President assists the president in club management, supervises club meetings in the absence of the president, carries out other duties assigned by the President, and oversees the Blog.

Secretary writes and keeps minutes of club meetings, maintains the attendance roster for the club, and maintains club membership records with the names and email addresses of all current members, creates and maintains a book of photos, newsletters, committee notes, programs from external community services projects, letters from the community, any written accolades, and anything else of historical significance to the club.

Treasurer receives and disburses all club funds, maintains a current balance sheet, makes a financial report to the club twice a year.

Media Coordinator is responsible for reporting and promoting club activities and community events sponsored by the GNSD, and assists the webmaster in promoting Club events on the website.

Webmaster creates the content of the Club's page on GNSD website, and forwards it to the webmaster of gnsd.org

PART 4 STARTER KIT

❖ How to Register your Club.

- Go to www.gnsd.org, click on **Join** in the top menu, then click on **Register a New Club**.
- Youth interested in various aspects of peace education may choose to create Peace Clubs for Sustainability. If this is your choice, please mark Peace Club in the Application Form.
- Youth interested in environmental aspects of sustainable development may choose to create Sustainability Clubs for Peace. . If this is your choice, please mark Sustainability Club in the Application Form.
- After we review and approve your application, your club will be added to the World Map of clubs. We will also create for your club a webpage on our GNSD platform.
- For more detailed information how to start the Club please read Peace Club Starter Kit published by the United States Institute of Peace (<https://www.usip.org/public-education/students/peace-club-starter-kit>)

❖ Potential Activities. Sustainability Clubs for Peace can:

- Raise social, cultural and legal consciousness in the school environment about various aspects of sustainable development by adopting various forms of environmental protection (like green energy, water harvesting, etc.)
- Get involved in community projects addressing environmental issues.
- Promote the role of women in sustainable development.
- Set up a forum where students, teachers, and parents can express their viewpoints.
- Promote not only the rights of youth, but also their obligations towards their school, community, and larger society.
- Teach students how to create global partnerships, by bringing together students from different cultures, religions, and socio-economic backgrounds.
- Create a library of resources in sustainability, peace and protection of the environment

❖ Potential Activities. Peace Clubs for Sustainability can:

- Provide students, parents and teachers with skills and knowledge on how to effectively resolve interpersonal conflicts without violence.
- Promote the role of women in peace building.
- Promote the role of music in peace building.

- Get involved in community projects addressing the issues of social justice, conflict and peace.
- Set up a forum where students, teachers, and parents can express their viewpoints on community development.
- Promote not only the rights of students, but also their obligations towards the society.
- Teach students how to create global partnerships, by bringing together students from different cultures, religions and backgrounds.
- Raise social, cultural and legal consciousness in the school environment about various aspects of sustainable development by adopting various forms of environmental protection (like green energy, water harvesting, etc.)
- Contribute to the content of GNSD library of resources in the area of sustainability, peace and protection of environment.

❖ **Organize the First Meeting of the Club.**

During this meeting, you should encourage all club member to participate in a conversation to lay the groundwork for your future activities. Key questions to answer include:

- **WHY YOU ARE HERE:** Why do you want to be part of a Sustainability or Peace Club? What does sustainability mean to you? Why does it matter that young people work for sustainability? What do you think you may offer personally?
- **SET YOUR GOALS:** What do you hope to learn and do as a Sustainability or Peace Club?
- **HOW DO YOU WANT TO OPERATE:** How often and where will you meet? How do you see the role of teachers or other adults to sponsor and mentor your work? Do you want to stay in touch with each other on Blogs, Facebook or other social media?
- **DECLARE YOUR COMMITMENT:** Ask each member to write a short pledge or statement of purpose for their participation in the Club. This is their chance to describe their commitment and vision, and it can also be shared with others who want to learn more about your work. Articulate **WHY, HOW, and WHAT:** Why does peace matter to your group? How will you pursue sustainability? What actions and attitudes will you uphold?

PART 5

IDEAS AND RESOURCES FOR CLUB'S ACTIVITIES

❖ Example of Agenda for a Meeting.

1. **Introduction:** Welcome the group to the Sustainability Club meeting. If there are several guests and new members you may want to explain a little about the history and mission of the GNSD.
2. **Program Agenda:** Explain the talking points of the day's meeting and if possible, pass an agenda.
3. **New Guests and Member Introduction:** Introduce any speakers or non-student guests as well as new student Sustainability Club members.
4. **Announcements:** Include recognition of members' achievements (i.e., Club perfect attendance, college acceptance, school athletic awards, community awards, Club member of the week, club member birthdays, upcoming events, any special thanks to officers, members, mentors, and sponsors.
5. **Discussion about Status of the Projects:** Talk about roles, logistics, progress of the project, reminders about recording service hours and allow members and officers to ask questions and/or make suggestions about projects.
6. **Topic for the Day:** Discuss topics for monthly club meetings.
7. **Closing Comments:** Thank all the meeting's participants, and remind the club members about the upcoming projects, and the date for the next club meeting. You may also want to ask if anyone has anything to add, or has any questions.
8. **Refreshments:** You may use funds from the club treasury to buy snacks and beverages for a short social at the end of each meeting. This can help club members to get to know one another outside of the community projects activities.

❖ Examples of Club's Projects already in Action

Project 1: Turn Grease into Fuel (Westerly Innovations Network/Westerly Middle School, Westerly, Rhode Island.)

This group of middle school students, who are passionate about community service, decided to do their part in tackling global warming by creating a sustainable project to collect the town's waste cooking oil, refine it into biofuel, and then distribute it. The students presented their project to the local town council and convinced them to place a grease receptacle at the town's transfer station to collect waste cooking oil from residents. The group also convinced 64 local restaurants to donate their waste cooking oil, which is a by-product of fried food. To collect the waste oil from restaurants and the transfer station, the students collaborated with a local company to collect the waste oil and bring it to a biodiesel refinery where waste cooking oil is recycled into biofuel. Funds

received from the refinery for the recycling of the waste oil were used to purchase Bioheat®, a biofuel, from a local distributor to give to local charities. This project has been, and continues to be, a success for the environment, and local families in need of heating assistance. To date, this project has collected over 36,000 gallons of waste oil and produced 30,000 gallons of biofuel a year, which eliminated 600,000 pounds of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere. The students have donated 4,000 gallons of Bioheat® to local charities and helped 40 families with emergency heating assistance. Another important part of the project is educating school children and residents about energy alternatives. The students have made numerous presentations to the local elementary school and residents to encourage them to participate in the project.

Project 2: Steps to a More Sustainable School

Josh Rubin, Syosset, New York

When Josh entered Solomon Schechter High School of Long Island, he was surprised to learn that there was no recycling program in his school. Paper, plastic and aluminum were constantly discarded into the trash to be hauled away to a landfill; however, the lack of recycling was not due to a lack of awareness. For almost 40 years, the environmental movement and the media have brought light to issues like air and water pollution, conservation, and deforestation. Locally, towns on Long Island have required residential recycling of newspapers, plastic containers, and aluminum containers. Al Gore's documentary film "An Inconvenient Truth" was a very popular film after its release in 2006, and yet so many people still found recycling and active conservation to be personally inconvenient. Many are still skeptical, and they did not believe that their personal actions or individual efforts would make a difference. Josh investigated and he found a private company called Royal Recycling that was willing to pick up the school recyclables for free. The school now recycles paper, plastics, aluminum, and cardboard on a weekly.

**FOR MORE RESOURCES AND EXAMPLES OF CLUB ACTIVITIES
PLEASE VISIT THE PAGE **RESOURCES** ON OUR WEBSITE.**

**WE WILL ALSO APPRECIATE IF YOU COULD SEND US
DESCRIPTION OF YOUR ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING PHOTOS).
WE WILL SHARE THEM ON OUR NEWS PAGE.**



Visit our websites:

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