

TEACHING SUSTAINABILITY IN NASHVILLE



URBAN GREEN LAB™



INTRODUCING: TEACHING SUSTAINABILITY IN NASHVILLE

Overview

Perfect for educators, librarians, and school staff, this 1.5-hour professional development workshop gives participants the confidence, tools, and inspiration to empower students to make sustainable choices, weave sustainability into any subject, build eco-friendly habits in their schools, and strengthen student engagement.

Participants will be better able to:

- Understand sustainability and its role in an educational setting
- Apply practical, sustainable strategies in classrooms and schools
- Incorporate standards-aligned sustainability lessons with ease
- Access local tools, resources, and partners to support your efforts

What's New?

- **Adapted** to integrate sustainability into **any grade level or subject**
- Includes **case studies** and **hands-on activities** for **real-world application**
- **Condensed to 1.5 hours** to accommodate PD days, lunch-and-learns, and staff meetings
- Shares **sustainability curricula from other sources**, not just Urban Green Lab's materials
- Offers **local Nashville resources**, continued support, and engagement



Measuring Our Impact

We measure impact by tracking participation—zip codes, schools, and educators trained—and behavioral outcomes, including sustainable choices, resource use, curriculum integration, and community connections.

2030 Target

Embed sustainability learning into 75% of Nashville Schools.

For questions, please contact Karissa Hampton, Director of Education and Training, at Karissa@urbangreenlab.org

The Evolution of Sustainable Classrooms

Urban Green Lab's Sustainable Classrooms program laid a strong foundation for sustainability education across Nashville. Since 2018, it has provided educators with the knowledge, confidence, and tools needed to bring sustainability into their classrooms. Originally focused on middle school STEM standards, the program has evolved in response to feedback from educators, MNPS staff, board members, and community partners. The result is Teaching Sustainability in Nashville, a flexible, inclusive, and locally grounded professional development experience that helps educators adapt any lesson plan to integrate sustainability across subjects and grade levels.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS & OUR 2030 PLAN

1

Education

In 2025, Urban Green Lab published its 2030 Strategic Plan, positioning sustainability education as a practical, equitable, and transformative tool for Nashville. By embedding learning into schools and connecting it to real-world challenges, our programs empower students and communities to take meaningful action.

Through STEAM, social-emotional learning, and project-based experiences, participants develop critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving skills, preparing youth for future careers and enabling adults to lead sustainable communities.

2

Environment

Empowers teachers, students, and communities to reduce waste, save energy, protect air and water, and strengthen climate resilience.

3

Equity

Ensures all communities have access to sustainability learning, helping address disparities and amplify underrepresented voices.

4

Health

Promotes sustainable habits that encourage healthy eating, active lifestyles, and reduced exposure to pollution.

5

Growth

Supports innovation, resource efficiency, and prepares students for green careers while fostering a resilient local economy.