



Students of Marie Curie Gymnasium in a memorable picture with the General Consul, Pauline Kao, at the General Consulate of the United States in Düsseldorf (2022)

Going Green – Education for Sustainability

is a multi-award winning intercultural blended-learning project for English as Foreign Language (EFL) classrooms. The program looks at the different measures that Germany and the U.S. are implementing concerning environmental issues. Students on both sides of the Atlantic explore federal, local and state initiatives, compare different approaches to combat climate change and contest commonly held stereotypes. Discussions with counterparts in both countries are explored via a shared blended-learning platform (Moodle) and further web applications.

Our Mission

It is our goal to inspire German and American high school students to participate in the project, engage with each other through the e-learning platform and interact with their respective communities. Our overarching goal is to promote youth's understanding of complex notions of global development and climate change and accelerate the process towards sustainability.

Target Audience

More than 6,000 students have participated in this project since 2014, partnerships with German and American schools are developing, and existing school partnerships are adopting the project. Though the curriculum is designed for EFL classes 10 through 13 of all school types, content can be adapted to the needs of younger learners. In the past, even classes 5 to 9 have participated in the project.

The Going Green Curriculum



The project curriculum can be taught throughout the school year in about four to six weeks. It is primarily designed for the English-as-a-Foreign-Language (EFL) classroom and for Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) in German High Schools. Yet, it can also be taught across the curriculum and outside of Germany as well. Learning modules have been developed to incorporate STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) content to attract participation of science teachers and classes.

Competition

Going Green concludes with a student competition that awards and promotes outstanding initiatives for sustainable development arising out of classroom work at the end of the school year. Students are encouraged to develop ideas for 'real life actions,' execute and document them online, enter the competition and present their action plans at concluding regional project events.

Examples of award-winning student action plans:

- organizing an upcycling festival on school campuses
- developing a board to teach new students about sustainability
- creating an App to promote restaurants that serve local foods
- planting trees and starting joint school garden sponsorships across schools;
- designing a waste management program

and many more ideas and measures...

NEW MODULES COMING SOON...

Environmental//Justice



Ever heard of “**redlining policies**” before? What’s the difference between “**environmental justice**” and “**environmental injustice**”? What does “**environmental violence**” mean?” What’s “**environmental racism**” !!!?

Is there “environmental injustice” in my community!!!?

Green // Energy



Are all renewable energy sources green? What’s “**net energy ratio**”? What are the pros and cons of **fossil fuels** and **green energies**? What does “**energy density**” mean?

How could we achieve a 100% renewable-energy transition?



Going Green participants visit the US Embassy Berlin (2018)

Teacher Trainings

Seminars with hundreds of teachers are conducted annually all over Germany to promote the project. These trainings include an overview of the curriculum, an introduction on how-to-teach sessions and they feature expert speakers on the issue of sustainability.

Evaluation

The 2014 pilot program has been evaluated by Leuphana University Lüneburg and is subject of a doctoral dissertation as a state-of-the-art teaching tool (completed 2021). Each project cycle is evaluated through teacher and student feedback.

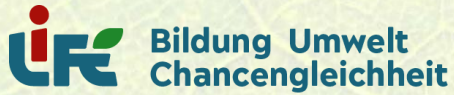
In a Nutshell

Going Green tasks are designed following an inquiry and action-based approach. The different activities will give students the chance to not only expand their knowledge on several sustainability-related topics, but also investigate and analyze concepts in updated research-tasks and streamlined case-studies. At the end of each module, students have the opportunity to look within their community, identify problems and design and evaluate solutions.

Going beyond the Classroom

While learning about the concept of sustainability, students are encouraged to reach out to their local communities (policy makers, businesses, organizations), explore measures that could be implemented in their families, schools, and communities, and develop ideas to advance the environmental agenda. Knowledge about sustainability and the environment does not remain in the classroom: It is widely shared!

Founding Partners



Going Green is part of the initiative Teach About US, a unique cooperation of many contributors, and a sister project to the U.S. Embassy Election Project. The concept, curriculum, and implementation have been developed by the U.S. Embassy in Berlin, Life e.V. Berlin, and Leuphana University Lüneburg under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Torben Schmidt and founding program manager Dr. Joannis Kaliampas (2014-2021).

The U.S. Consulates promote the project Germany-wide and engage with schools locally.

The Transatlantic Outreach Program (TOP) in Washington D.C. is the principal partner to facilitate exchange with U.S.-based schools. Starting with the school year 2021-2022, we are further developing close regional partnerships with the German-American Institutes in Baden-Württemberg under the leadership of the German-American Institute Tübingen, and with Amerikahaus Munich and the German-American Institute Nürnberg covering Bavaria.

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Participate now - visit
www.teachaboutus.org



1. Sign-up
2. Course request

Partner organization in the U.S.



Partner organization in the EU



Past partnerships:

Baden-Württemberg meets California



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Bavaria meets Georgia



amerikahaus

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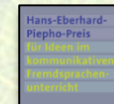
The project has been supported by the **Friedrich-Ebert Foundation**, the **Berlin Senate**, the **Potsdam Institute for Climate Research Impact (PIK)**, and the **State Ministry of Baden-Württemberg**.



GOING GREEN

Education for Sustainability

A German American Blended Learning and Hands-On Project



We are proud recipient of the Hans-Eberhard-Piepho Prize for Creative Ideas in Communicative Language Teaching and the Germany – Land of Ideas Award.