



Planting the Right Kind of Green

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India

☀ Call to Action

Plant a garden. Learn about native plants in your community. Keep local biodiversity in mind! Learn more about Aadya's project at www.therightgreen.org.

☀ Values

- Biodiversity
- Sustainability Initiative
- Education
- Environmentalist

☀ Lessons Learned

Good intentions are a wonderful thing, but when you add knowledge, you can literally change the world

It is always possible to rebuild that which is broken, all you need is a strong will and knowledge

On her way to school, Aadya used to walk by a garbage dump.

When she organized a drive to plant an urban garden in its place, she learned about the importance of native plants for local wildlife. She realized that, while there were many trees around, most of them were non-native and therefore didn't support local biodiversity. She started workshops in a local nature park and even built a database of local plant species and the insects and birds they support.

☀ Language Arts

Research which are the ten most common native tree species in your region, and which are the ten most common non-native species of trees in your region. Create a trivia game to educate people about the native and non-native trees in your area and the benefits/risks each one of these species bring to the region

Create a 10-to-15-minute presentation (10-15 slides) about native trees in your region of the world. Focus on which species have disappeared, why, and what have been the consequences to the ecosystem.

Write a research essay on reforestation: What is it? Why is it important? Have there been any reforestation initiatives in your country or region? Were they successful? Why or why not? What were the consequences to the environment?

Create an educational campaign (written text, video, photograph, or a mix of the three) to raise awareness of the problem of improper disposal of trash in your area. In a separate sheet of paper, explain why you made the choices you made.

STEM Activities

Aadya's dream started by acknowledging the collection of trash in her community and wondering why no one had gotten rid of it yet. Complacency and lack of awareness can be two of the main contributing factors in a community's unsustainable practice. Identify a similar issue in your community that is not being addressed and why you believe people don't address it.

- Examples: Lack of recycling, use of excessive plastic or Styrofoam, single-use items, etc.

In addition to the direct effects of trash on the environment, landfills produce greenhouse gases, including methane, that are extremely harmful on the environment. Compare and contrast the effects that landfills, and tree planting have on climate change. Create a chart to display the results of your research.

Identify three types of trees and research what effects they have on the environment around them. Create a presentation to explain the effects that each of the different trees selected can have a positive impact on their environment. This may include:

- Providing food, home and protection to mammals and birds
- Reducing water runoff and reducing erosion, flooding and pollution in waterways
- Moderate temperatures and serve as a windbreak to protect the area

Sustainability Innovations

[One Tree Planted](#)¹ is one of the top sustainability nonprofit organizations existing today. They plant trees in North America, Latin America, Asia, Africa, Europe and the Pacific for a donation of \$1 per tree. However, in addition to planting trees their T.R.E.E.S school program brings environmental education into grade school, high school and University programs with lesson plans, activities and resources.

In addition to planting trees, recycling and waste reduction is extremely important for reducing greenhouse gases and maintaining a more sustainable planet. [National Recycling Coalition](#)² and [Waste Aid](#)³ are two great nonprofit organizations that address waste collection and recycling in the communities that need the most assistance.

Polystyrene, commonly known as Styrofoam, is used for insulation, usually in packing material to keep products safe while shipping. This type of packaging is non-biodegradable and difficult to recycle. In order to replace Styrofoam, researchers at the Institute of Natural Products Engineering at [TU Dresden](#)⁴ developed an insulating material made from recycled paper for shipping temperature-sensitive foods and medicines.

Sustainability Career Pathways

Gardener. While gardening may sound like a hobby, there are increasing numbers of community gardens, city gardens, and school gardens that need managing. You can play a role in caring for, fundraising for these efforts, as well as using these gardens to educate, and often feed, the communities they're located in. Interested in learning more about urban gardening, visit [here](#)⁵.

Urban Forester. Understanding and managing the trees in a city is a full-time job. Literally. Most cities, even smaller ones, have an urban forester in their employ, recognizing the many health and environmental benefits trees (especially native trees) [have to offer](#)⁶. These individuals manage street tree plantings and removals (as older trees die), map and manage the canopy (using GIS skills), and so on. Sound like a career for you? Learn more [here](#)⁷. And learn more about the great work of Casy Trees, a leading urban forestry

organization, in Washington, DC, [here](#)⁸.

Park Ranger. Parks are a key place where the public learns about nature--including what's native and non-native to their area. Park rangers are both educators and protectors of the world's parklands. This is a career opportunity for those who want to educate and care for forests and parks. Learn more about being a park ranger [here](#)⁹.

1 <https://onetreepanted.org/>

2 <https://nrrecycles.org/>

3 <https://wasteaid.org/>

4 <https://www.springwise.com/sustainability-innovation/mobility-transport/cool-packaging-alternative-styrofoam>

5 <https://bonnieplants.com/gardening/meet-the-urban-gardeners/>

6 <https://www.americanforests.org/our-work/urban-forestry/>

7 <https://www.zippia.com/urban-forester-jobs/>

8 <https://caseytrees.org/about-us/>

9 <https://www.parkrangeredu.org/>

