

DataHaven

Classroom Materials

Title of Material: Climate Change Initiatives in Hartford Webquest

Topics Discussed: Climate Change

Skills Utilized: Research, problem solving

Format: Individual or in small groups, discuss as a class

In Person or Online: Online

Procedure/Instruction Suggestions:

This is designed to take *at least* one whole class period and for students to thoroughly explore the climate change initiatives. It can be assigned and done in class on the computer or online at home.

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Climate Change Initiatives in Hartford Webquest

Directions: Read the following excerpt on Hartford's efforts to confront climate change. Then, using the [Hartford Climate Action Plan](#), answer the thought questions and reflection in complete sentences.

Carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions, driven by human activity, are increasing global temperatures and contributing to issues that have major implications for Greater Hartford: damage to ecosystems, severe storms, extreme flooding, and more heat waves. One study projects that the average summer temperature high in Hartford in 2050 will be 87.3 degrees, an increase of 5 degrees since 2000.

According to the City of Hartford's 2017 Climate Action Plan, the city's close proximity to the Connecticut River means a major flood could impact up to 25 percent of Hartford's land area, or one-fifth of the grand list. The creation of Hartford's first-ever climate action plan, developed through a community-wide initiative, represents an inclusive model of using collective action to combat climate change at the local level.

As Hartford's Sustainability Office works to implement this plan, other towns across the region, such as Coventry, Glastonbury, Hebron, South Windsor, and West Hartford, have taken steps to become more sustainable—all having become voluntarily certified through Sustainable CT, an independently funded, grassroots, municipal effort working across the state.

- DataHaven [Greater Hartford Community Wellness Index \(2019\)](#)

Thought Questions Using the [Hartford Climate Action Plan](#)

1. Look at the picture on the first page. What do you see? What are people writing? What would you write?
2. The mayor's message reads, "At the same time, we recognize that all of us can do our part. Achieving the goals of this Plan depends on each of us making choices that reduce our negative impact on the environment".
What does this mean? What choices can *you* make? (Page 4)
3. Pick one of the following impacts of climate change: warmer, wetter winters; hotter, drier, summers; or extreme flooding events. What data is cited? How will your selected impact change Hartford? (Page 8-11)
4. Pick one of the "Planning and Engagement" timeline events. What was done? How could this help Hartford's efforts to help reduce the negative impact of climate change? (Page 12-15)
5. Look at the picture on page 16. What do you see? What are the people doing? How can this help?
6. One of the stated values is social equity. It states, "in cities across the US and around the world, low-income communities of color are disproportionately exposed to polluted air, water, and soil, layering additional injustices upon challenges faced by vulnerable families. Added to this burden is the threat of climate change, which brings with it extreme weather that can result in added financial and personal difficulties for families. As a city, we are underprepared for these challenges" (Page 19). How do you think the city can better prepare for these challenges?
7. Look through one of the 6 Action Areas: energy, food, landscape, transportation, waste, water (Pages 24-64). What are the goals? What sticks out to you as important work, what surprises you, what worries you, what inspires you? Make sure you are thorough in your look through your action area.
8. Reflection: Are you confident in this plan? What stood out to you as good, what stood out to you as not enough? After reading this plan, will you be changing any of your actions? How will you spread the word of positive change to reduce our negative impact on the environment?