ESS: INTRODUCTION TO SUSTAINABILITY

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LEARNING PLAN OVERVIEW

Subject(s)	Sustainable Development Project
Grade Level (s)	High School (ages 14-18)
Systems Tool(s)	Sustainability Compass
Purpose of Using Tool	Discussion
Summary	Students needed to be introduced to the Sustainability Compass. The new ESS spec requires them to understand the 3 pillars (Economic, Social and Environmental). The Sustainability Compass tool allowed them to see how all of them intertwined along with different models like the Compass that can show the wellbeing aspect.

Learning Objectives

- To describe how sustainability is comprised of environmental, social and economic domains
- To explain how the 3 domains intertwine
- To use the model as a form of discussion

Material and Settings

- Large A3 paper with Sustainability Compass drawn on it
- Cut out of statements for students to discuss

Learning Context

The idea of sustainability is new to students, and they have a misunderstanding that it is only focusing on environmental reasons. This lesson was used to show them that sustainability is also for our social growth and economic focus.

Purpose of Using the Systems Thinking Tools

The tool allowed for a holistic approach to the understanding of sustainability rather just in separate pillars.

Impact on Participant Learning

Students were able to see the importance of sustainability for our ability to flourish. It cleared up any misconceptions of only environmental focus and allowed students to gain a more holistic understanding.

Learning Plan Step-by-step Description

- Introduce students to the idea of sustainability and get them to write their own definition. Compare the work and discuss factors.
- Show them the required learning outcome showing that sustainability also includes the social and economic aspects.
- Give statements out and ask students to put them into the Sustainability Compass where they see fit.
- Get students to form connections and add examples of where they have seen this.
- Get students to evaluate the use of sustainability models (three-pillars and nested dependencies) and get them to conclude which is the most accurate and why.

Reflection: Plusses

The task was a very interactive way in getting students to form a discussion between the connections of all 4. Students were able to gain a deeper understanding of the importance of sustainability and remove the misconception of it just being to protect the environment.

One group were able to connect all of the nature statements to other pillars and from that our discussion was able to move the nest dependencies model as being the most accurate.

Areas for Improvement

More time to develop on the connections but this will hopefully develop throughout the course now they know how to use the model.

EVIDENCE

Slide presentation