



Going Green Teacher Training Seminar Handout

'Going Green—Education for Sustainability' is a German-American blended learning project for the EFL and CLIL classroom. Going Green is part of the U.S. Embassy's *TeachAboutUS* initiative developed in cooperation with Leuphana University, Lüneburg, and LIFE e.V., Berlin.

Registration

- Visit the *TeachAboutUS* Moodle platform at <http://www.teachaboutus.org/>.
- Create a new account: Click on Create new account in the top right box and fill in your personal information.
- Confirm your registration by clicking on the link in the confirmation e-mail.
- Log-in on the Moodle platform using your user name and password.

Requesting your own E-Classroom

To register your own e-classroom, fill out the registration form by clicking on the button "order a course" next to the Going Green logo on the title page (<http://www.teachaboutus.org/>). If you need support regarding the registration, please contact Ms. Katja Krüger (LIFE e.V., eXplorarium, Berlin) at krueger@life-online.de.

You can also access a preview e-classroom without registration (and forward the link to interested colleagues). Simply visit the *TeachAboutUS* platform (<http://www.teachaboutus.org/>) and click on "Preview courses" in the Going Green tab.

Going Green Project Itinerary

Going Green is intended as an annual project, to be concluded in the second half of the school year. For 2017, the schedule has not yet been finalized. Pls. subscribe to our newsletter or check our website for updates.

School visits by speakers and U.S. Embassy staff can be arranged as well as through the *MeetUS* program. For *MeetUS* visits, pls. contact Heike Mead at the U.S. Embassy Berlin (MeetUS-berlin@usembassy.de). She will direct you towards her colleagues in the U.S. Consulates.

From the Going Green FAQ section

+++Who can participate? What is the target group?

We invite all teachers and students of English and CLIL courses in Germany, and interested courses in the U.S. to participate in the project and the student competition for sustainable action plans. The target group includes primarily EFL courses in the upper secondary level (*Qualifikationsphase*). An overview of curriculum content (see <http://www.teachaboutus.org/>) lists connections between the topic of sustainability and the 16 state curricula for English in this age group. However, even grades 6 and 8 participated in the past!

+++I teach CLIL (content and language integrated learning) classes. Can we participate?

Yes, Going Green tasks and materials are suitable for CLIL courses, especially with a focus on political and social sciences. The project materials provide opportunities for language practice, political and civic learning, as well as intercultural contents. The paradigm of research-based learning on local impacts of sustainable development is at the core of Going Green. The materials allow for a variety of adjustments you can make for your specific learner group.

+++I teach young learners. Can we participate?

Generally yes, but you will have to make major adjustments to tasks, materials, and learner support. The proposed classroom work is not mandatory and you can use the provided materials selectively in your courses according to learner needs and ability. Contact the Going Green team for further suggestions regarding this aspect.

+++My school's curriculum is packed. How can I fit the project into my courses?

We don't want you to take unnecessary detours from your curriculum. The project contents are in line with state curricula for English in the upper secondary school. The topics of sustainability and U.S. culture are part of each of the 16 German state curricula (see above). The suggested classroom work covers curriculum contents and can, if necessary, be easily extended or adjusted. Think of it as an invitation to incorporate new teaching and learning resources into your classes and include digital media and authentic resources.

+++Do I have to participate in the competition?

We highly encourage participants to develop their own sustainability action plans and take part in the student competition, but this is not a mandatory requirement. Although such participation has turned out to be highly motivational, we understand that sometimes time pressure and other constraints can stand in the way of such an approach. So, the message here is: You are very welcome to participate in the project, even if you cannot submit a contribution to the competition.

+++My school doesn't provide the infrastructure to use e-learning regularly. What can I do?

You are not alone in this. From our teacher networks we know that the digital infrastructure in schools can vary tremendously, ranging from schools with wireless web-access and tablet classes to schools with traditional computer labs and inconvenient access to digital technologies. *TeachAboutUS* does not require access to computers during each lesson. Inquire about arrangements at your school, e.g., to use your computer lab once a week. If possible, also ask your students to bring their own devices as the platform will be compatible with smartphones, tablets, and laptops. The materials also allow for a flipped classroom approach (see below), i.e. asking your learners to access the online materials at home and discussing them at school. In addition, selected *TeachAboutUS* materials will be accessible for download, so that participants can use them in an 'offline' environment.