

INVENTORY: KEYS TO SUCCESS

Step One of the Earth Force Process invites young people to identify environmental issues. The following keys to success will establish a strong foundation and prepare them to find sustainable solutions to pressing issues.



Use a driving question to set the context for students. It will ground them and you in what your end goal is and help you monitor whether you are on track throughout the Process.

- How can we improve the environmental health of our community?
- What are the environmental conditions in our community that need improvement?



Using multiple methods of data collection enforces a scientific approach and ensures that students identify authentic environmental issues. The more an issue appears from multiple sources, the more important it is to the community.

- Stormwater assessment
- Water quality monitoring
- School wide waste assessment
- Energy audit
- Expert panel interviews
- School or community survey



Guiding questions can be used to help students go deeper into their discoveries and to open them up to thinking differently about what they see. If students are stuck or getting lost in the weeds, guiding questions can help them get back on track.

- What might cause variations in data over time?
- Are you seeing a symptom or an issue?
- What's the relationship between what's on the ground and what's in the water?
- How does water flow through our community?



Expert volunteers can show students a path to careers they may have never imagined. They might collect data alongside students in the field, attend a panel discussion hosted by students, or even share data from other sources that help students build a more robust inventory.

- City planners
- Stormwater authority
- Parks and Recreation biologists
- Water engineers
- School facilities manager
- District sustainability coordinator