Integrating Equity Into District Sustainability Efforts

SMCCD Sustainability Team Onboarding Project
Alexis Whitaker and Katherine Chen
Presentation Outline

1. **Project Description** – Environmental justice training for new Sustainability employees

2. **Project Sample** – Intersectional environmentalism for the ETS audience
Vision

Empower district staff working in sustainability to become champions for environmental justice and social equity at the district and in their own lives.
Training Outline

- Equity within the environmental movement
- Environmental Justice
- Incorporating Equity into Sustainability Projects
- Equity on campus and student resources
Intersectional Environmentalism
What does an environmentalist look like?
Case Study

- DDT, Rachel Carson, and United Farm Workers
- Whose story is told?
- The importance of recognizing intersecting goals
Intersectionality in the Environmental Movement

• Defining intersectional environmentalism
  • Recognizing the interconnectedness of social & environmental issues

• Redefining sustainability
  • Actively centering people (not just places) in the work
  • Vehicle for racial justice and social equity

• Case study
  • West Oakland: Red Star factory closure
  • Santa Cruz: Beach Flats Community Garden
  • San Francisco: Bayview-Hunters Point

• California Environmental Justice Alliance (CEJA)
Resources

Reference document highlighting student resources across campuses

Required reading and research

Toolkit for building equity into sustainability projects
Thank You!

Alexis Whitaker
Whitakera@smccd.edu

Katherine Chen
Chenk@smccd.edu

smcccdsustainability
https://sites.google.com/my.smccd.edu/smcccdsustainability/