

An exercise in facilities management: how planet and people friendly is your home and local area?



The objective is to gather evidence on how sustainable your home and local area is.

What you need to know

What is sustainability?

It is usually defined as: “the ability to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” Sustainability includes environmental, social and economic issues such as health, access to clean water and sanitation, nutrition, education, social inclusion and child protection. In short, it means ensuring that there is enough for everyone in the world forever - and it has never been as important as it is today.

What is facilities management?

Facilities Managers are the people who take care of all sorts of workplaces, from schools (do you know who they are at your school?), hospitals, shopping centres, sports arenas and offices. They oversee activities like catering, cleaning, building maintenance, environmental services, security and reception. They have specialist skills in health and safety, technology, design and space planning, business continuity, engineering and management. Facilities Managers therefore make an important contribution to sustainability by reducing plastic and food waste, making buildings more energy efficient, improving air quality and protecting the environment.

What you need to do

- Take a look inside and around your home. What sustainability issues have you noticed about your home and local area? For example, are there vegetable peelings put in the bin rather than the food waste container, is the TV left on when no one is watching, is the tap left running when people wash their hands, do you recycle everything you can?
- Use the worksheet on the next page as a guide to help you start thinking like a Facilities Manager. What is urgent? What is important? What can be improved?
- Take photographs to support your findings. Ask others in your household what they think should be done and who is responsible.

	What? is the is problem	Where? is the problem	Why? is it a problem	Who? did you speak to	How? can you solve the problem	Anything else? you would like to say
Food & Drink 						
Energy & Water 						
Recycling & Waste 						
Health & Hygiene 						
Buildings & Gardens 						
Travel & Transport 						
Neighbourhood & Town/City 						
UK & World 						

Share your findings

When you have completed the exercise return the form (and any supporting materials) to the person who gave it you for their comments.

Why not share with your friends and swap ideas? You could also tell your teacher about what you have done!

IWFM and award-winning education consultancy Class of Your Own have created a workshop programme for schools to encourage young people to explore pathways into the workplace and facilities management profession.

If you or your teacher would like to find out more about holding a workshop for you and your classmates, please visit <https://www.iwfm.org.uk/insight/policy/career-of-choice.html> or email policy@iwfm.org.uk

