2CLA Climate Action Projects

Upper Valley Climate Change Leadership Academy
June 16, 2021
Bringing Local Resources to Climate Change Education

Where I am in the Design Thinking process:

- Conducted informational interviews with Four Winds and Flow-of-History
- Contacted Lebanon Middle School science teacher

Between now and our fall reunion, I hope to:

- Get commitment from one or more middle school teachers
- Research climate change curriculum and service projects in other middle schools
- Begin to enlist NH and VT climate experts and record talks as educational videos appropriate for middle school - e.g. climate science, public health, forestry, agriculture, etc.
- Record targeted oral history interviews with local residents
Supporting Pollinators

Where I am in the Design Thinking process:

- Problem Statement: How could we increase space for pollinators that provides food, water and shelter?
- Established list of people to interview to better understand issue/challenges facing local bee populations
- Determining questions and information I need from those groups

Between now and our fall reunion, I hope to:

- Start interview process and collect information
- Begin engaging with community members that can help create a solution
- Create outreach materials to start spreading information
Wildlife Corridors in Corinth

Where I am in the Design Thinking process:

- Meeting With Stakeholders
  - Interviewing Town Officials
  - Joining the Conservation Commission
- Assessing and Picking up on Previous Work

Between now and our fall reunion, I hope to:

- Determine Best Pilot Project
  - Explore options for Resident-Action Based Solutions
    - Informational Mailers to Landowners
    - Educational workshops on managing land for Wildlife
  - Explore options for Town-Based Solutions
    - Act 250
    - Conservation/Land Protection
    - Ordinances/Zoning Regulations
Reduce Idling in Car-Queues

Where we are in the Design Thinking process:

- Problem statement: How might we reduce the amount of idling that takes place in queues of cars?
- Have some background research, need more.
- Need many more observations/interviews

Between now and our fall reunion, we hope to:

- Discuss mini-project with a pilot business management
- Decide on a trial solution
- Set up trial mini-project for pilot car-queue line
Liane Avery & Kristina Harrold

Household Food Waste

Where I am in the Design Thinking process:

- Step One: Research and Observation
- Brainstorming stakeholders, questions, areas of exploration
- Research: how to have climate change conversations
- Observation: Personal behavior

Between now and our fall reunion, I hope to:

- Make more observations with family and friends
- One week trial with engaged stakeholders
- Interview questions for general public
- Outreach to related organizations
Opportunities for Land Conservation

Where I am in the Design Thinking process:

- I am still doing research
- I have yet to contact individuals with my questions
- I need to line up landowners for my questions and comments

Between now and our fall reunion, I hope to:

- Finish my research
- Contact people from different organizations with my questions
- Write up my findings for an article for the local paper
- Contact my neighbors and family members to get them on board for land trust consideration.
There is little or no representation by BIPOC and youth in climate leadership organizations. How might we increase the participation by people in these populations?

Where I am in the Design Thinking process:

- Problem & Stakeholders Identified
- Research Phase
- Interview Questions Developed
- Some Interviews Conducted
- Observations complete

Between now and our fall reunion, I hope to:

- Have all interviews conducted
- Have commitments from UV Climate Action Groups to recruit BIPOC/Youth participants
- Develop a list of potential candidates to serve in leadership roles
Eco Shelter (Evolving)

Where I am in the Design Thinking process:

- land acknowledgements / coordination and dissemination of social services / shelter during extreme weather events on public land
- Problem Statement: Upper Valley territories provide insufficient public lands equipped with infrastructure to help transient populations during extreme weather events, how might we build infrastructure to prepare for climate migrants?
- Interviews / Drafting letter to introduce Design Thinking
- Future Planning, Climate Migration

Between now and our fall reunion, I hope to:

- Completed interviews with 4-5 interest groups
- Share findings with CoC & Housing First
- Let Design Thinking inform idea of a Shelter - rather than inverse
Educating & Organizing for Change

How can I help Lyme residents and town officials take long-term climate effects into account when making decisions about which sources of energy to adopt?

Where I am in the Design Thinking process:

- I have completed my observations, interviews, surveys and research into the problem area (needfinding)
- I have analyzed the problem and determined possible stakeholders
- My solution is to launch a citizens’ group, Sustainable Lyme, to educate/advocate for renewable energy

Between now and our fall reunion, I hope to:

- Launch a robust website for all things related to renewable energy and climate change mitigation/adaptation in Lyme
- Recruit a steering committee for Sustainable Lyme
- Set action steps to take in 2021-22 for both Sustainable Lyme and the Lyme Energy Committee
Develop an Thetford Ambassador Program for Low Carbon Emission Home Heating Options

- **My problem statement** - 27% of Vermont’s greenhouse emissions come from building heating, how might we reduced GHG emissions from home heating?”
- **Pilot program** - I plan to create a neighbor to neighbor educational program to provide resources concerning lower carbon emission ways to heat their home, following a ambassador model  set up by the Thetford Energy Committee

**Between now and our fall reunion, I hope to:**

- Do more research on low carbon emissions heating alternatives and potential contractors
- Use an established ambassador template from the Thetford energy committee as my pilot program to help Thetford residents to discover alternative home heating options
- Collect content for a web page, Survey Thetford residents, Work on FAQ list of questions, Create a list of home ambassadors,
Reducing GHGs from Residences

- Carbon emissions from residential activities contribute >18% of NH’s total GHGs.
- Over 40% of home energy costs are from heating and cooling.
- Insulation and air sealing improves comfort and reduces heating bills by 20%.
- NHSaves program offers low cost or free energy audits and generous rebates on weatherization measures.
- Stakeholders will be residents with financial means to weatherize but have not yet taken action.

Between now and our fall reunion, I hope to:

- Build awareness of the benefits of participating in the NHSaves energy audit and weatherization program.
- Design a pilot program identifying volunteers, contractors, develop promotional materials, obtain prizes, publicize/hold public meetings.
- Launch a Weatherize Bradford Campaign.
Climate Change Education

Where we are in the Design Thinking process:

- We've discovered many resources to utilize in our project process and have begun to research ways to improve climate change education in schools
- We know what we want our project to center around resolving the issue of lack of climate change education in schools and that we want to begin this work in our high schools
- Basically between Research/Observation and Problem Analysis

Between now and our fall reunion, we hope to:

- Have a solid project idea and plan
- Talk to our schools about the boundaries of our project and possible guidelines that we'd have to work with
- Interview people that will help us implement better education/awareness programs in our schools (ex. Our teachers, school board, other students who share the same interest, teachers who teach a curriculum that includes climate change)
- Be in a position where we are able to complete the entire project charter due to sufficient research, interviews, and observations
Plastic Packaging of Greens

Where I am in the Design Thinking process:

- I bring home 4 clamshell containers of greens per week. I started researching alternative packaging for greens purchased from the market.
- I reached out to a local farm in NH and spoke with the COO and Head Grower to ask questions about their product and history, including packaging history.
- I also spoke with one of my employer’s packaging engineers and an environmental engineer.

Between now and our fall reunion, I hope to:

- Continue conversations with key stakeholders regarding the packaging of greens.
- Connect with leaders of larger markets that may drive the use of the clamshell container.
- Create a consumer survey for additional thoughts on the packaging of greens.