



**GLOBAL
SUSTAINABILITY
CHALLENGE**

**SUSTAINABLE
BUILDINGS**

CHALLENGE

Building a sustainable facility takes a variety of practices that all contribute to one goal. LEED certification is one way to measure and recognize buildings that meet exacting standards of efficiency. (LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.)

From water conservation to composting, to smart energy sources, the Minnesota Twins facility has received LEED certification four times. Commit to a sustainable future with the Minnesota Twins as you learn about ways to take action in your community.

ACTION

Ready to make an impact? Take the challenge and follow the steps below to inventory areas that are energy efficient and innovate as you imagine what's possible for the future:

1. **Create an efficiency checklist to certify one of your spaces.** Using the LEED certification process as a model, create your own "certification" tool for one of the spaces in which you spend time (e.g., your room, your home, your school, your library). The LEED certification process includes nine areas: 1) Integrative process, 2) Location and transportation, 3) Sustainable sites, 4) Water efficiency, 5) Energy and atmosphere, 6) Materials and resources, 7) Indoor environmental quality, 8) Innovation and 9) Regional priority. After you've created the checklist, complete your inspection, and "certification."
2. **Make a video about practices you've documented or implemented in your own space.** The Minnesota Twins video talks about a variety of sustainable practices they've implemented, from using compostable products and keeping waste out of landfills to reusing rainwater. Make a video that highlights what you are doing in your personal life to contribute to global sustainability.
3. **Design a building that incorporates innovative solutions for common needs.** Select a building that you'd like to design—a home, a recreation center, a ballpark—and include existing or inventive ways to increase efficiency. Maybe you could orient the building to maximize the use of daylight or invent a product that uses the actions of visitors to generate energy. Have fun innovating!

Bonus Project:

Visit a **LEED-certified building** and, if possible, talk to someone that was involved in meeting the certification requirements. Be sure to send a thank you note!

NGSS for Grades 6-8

MS-ETS1-1 Define the criteria and constraints of a design problem with sufficient precision to ensure a successful solution, taking into account relevant scientific principles and potential impacts on people and the natural environment that may limit possible solutions.

MS-ETS1-4 Develop a model to generate data for iterative testing and modification of a proposed object, tool, or process such that an optimal design can be achieved.

Common Core for Grades 6-8

WHST.6-8.2 Write informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/experiments, or technical processes.

SL.6-8.5 Include/Integrate multimedia and visual displays into presentations to clarify information, strengthen claims and evidence, and add interest.

EXPLORE RESOURCES

- [Kansas's First LEED Platinum Commercial Building](#)
- [Today's Green Minute: Greenest Skyscraper Ever?](#)
- [Soccket: A Green Way to Turn Play into Energy](#)
- [STEM Careers: Jaime Leal-Morales](#)

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