



KAPPA DELTA PI

INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY IN EDUCATION

## Sustainable Community Resource Scavenger Hunt

**Objective:** KDP members will participate in an experiential activity that will increase their awareness of community resources and sustainability.

**Rationale:** Every community has resources that contribute to the overall sustainability of the planet. The assets found within the community will affect a teacher's overall job, as teaching in a resource-rich community will be different than in one with less access to what its residents need to survive and thrive. Raising awareness of the resources and the lack thereof can help educators better understand their students and families.

**Essential Definition of a Sustainable Community:** A place where everyone has access to what they need to be happy and healthy. Areas of cities that lack these basic services are considered to be “deserts.”

The resources needed for a sustainable community include:

- Food and nutrition, including access to farms or food systems (CSAs, farmer's markets)
- Affordable housing
- Clean air and water
- Schools and other learning opportunities
- Transportation
- Energy sources
- Public service (police, fire, hospitals)
- Recreation, green spaces, and entertainment
- Retail and businesses

### **Resource Scavenger Hunt:**

Using a large map, Google maps, personal knowledge, or by exploring the community, identify resources in the community available to and for everyone. Choose one or two categories to focus on as a group and begin plotting these on a map. Look for patterns—which areas of the city are resource-rich? Which have less access?

### **Ideas for Discussion Questions:**

- How is teaching in a school located in a desert for one of these categories different than teaching in a resource rich area?
- What changes would a teacher in school located in a food desert or a transportation desert need to make for students and families? What about the other types of resources?
- What positives can come from living in a desert area of a community? What are the negatives?
- If you had to suggest one or two resource areas for your community to focus on overall, which would it be? What affect do you think having more access to resources could have?
- What can you do as an educator and community member to help bring resources to the community where you work?
- What would it look like to teach in a community that is perfectly sustainable?

### **Adapted from:**

*Community Sustainability Inventory (Grades 3-5) Learner Packet*, Creative Change Educational Solutions. 2013. <http://www.creativechange.net>. With special thanks to Susan Santone, Founder and Executive Director of Creative Change Educational Solutions

*Creating Our Future*, Creating Our Future. Date Unknown, <https://www.facingthefuture.org/>. With special thanks to Victor Nolet, Western Washington University.