



Earth Force Definition of Civic Action Project

Earth Force environmental civic action projects are projects that are:

- *Youth-driven;*
- *result from an environmental issue and related policy and/or practice research;*
- *ones in which youth interact with "power"; and*
- *have measurable impact.*

Youth-driven means youth voice is critical throughout and that youth make decisions that include adult criteria, do the research, design the project and implement the project.

Policy and practice research means the students/youth find information on the context of their environmental issue, who the key players, stakeholders and decision-makers are on the issue, what the different viewpoints are on the issue, and the pros and cons of those viewpoints. This information may reveal a formal, established policy they want to change in some way or a practice of the members of the community that they want to change.

Youth interaction with power means youth speak to power (decision-makers, policy-makers) to get information and also to present their plan on what they want changed and in what way/how they want to make the world different. The level of power (school, town, county, state, federal) is to be chosen on the basis of the issue and what is appropriate for the group of youth.

Measurable impact means there is some way of quantitatively determining the students made change, or movement toward the change they aim for.