

Breathing Easier

A curricular program designed to address local air quality issues through the lens of environmental justice



Grade: 5th



Available in Spanish



Includes kit materials & professional development for educators to support implementation

Are you interested in engaging your upper elementary students in ways that connect to their lives and interests through culturally sustaining pedagogy? Do you want to teach science in a way that addresses the complex social and ecological challenges facing the next generation? Are you unsure how to do this in your classroom?



Program description:

Breathing Easier engages students in integrated learning anchored in science about air quality and related health outcomes throughout Washington state. Through rigorous data analysis and environmental justice discussion, students learn the sources and types of local air pollution and explore health outcome disparities in frontline communities. They also examine the interaction of ecological systems and society and the actions taken by individuals and communities to address poor air quality. Students engage in participatory science with handheld air quality meters and use online tools to understand air quality statewide. With guidance from their teachers and support by EarthGen staff, students are guided to design and lead action projects to improve community health at school and at home.

To learn more contact EarthGen's Program Team at info@earthgenwa.org.



Ongoing program

enhancements include WIDA Standards + GLAD supports, Since Time Immemorial, Culturally Sustaining Pedagogy, and more

Next Generation Science Standards

5-PS1-1. Develop a model to describe that matter is made of particles too small to be seen

5-ESS2-1. Develop a model using an example to describe ways the geosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and/or atmosphere interact.

Integrated Environmental and Sustainability Learning Standards

Standard 3: Sustainability and Civic Responsibility - Students develop and apply the knowledge, perspective, vision, skills, and habits of mind necessary to make personal and collective decisions and take actions that promote sustainability.