# Lab 23 Response: Personal Sustainability Challenge

## Part 1: Selecting and Completing a Challenge

Select and complete your sustainability challenge as determined by your professor. Your professor will determine the duration of the challenge and may require ongoing check-ins. For example, as you begin your challenge your professor may require you to consult with them on the challenge you select and how you will go about conducting the initial audit. Further into the challenge your professor may require you to consult with them for how to best document your efforts and measure the impact of your sustainability challenge. Use all this experience in completing the challenge to inform the presentation you will build for Part 2 of this lab.

## Part 2: Build Presentation Slides

Develop a PowerPoint or Google Slides presentation that you will share with your classmates. Your presentation slides should include the following elements:

**Introduction (suggested number of slides: 3)**

Include the following in these slides:

* Title of your presentation and your name
* Describe your challenge and identify the underlying environmental problem you are seeking to address
* Discuss the reasons why you chose this challenge

**Accomplishments (suggested number of slides: 5-8)**

Include the following in these slides:

* Document the challenge in action as follows:
  + Discuss the steps you took and the strategies you used while participating in your challenge.
  + Include videos, photos, and supporting descriptions that showcase your engagement in your challenge.
* Document concrete measures by which you evaluated your success as follows:
  + Include data tables and graphs that showcase the impact of your challenge, that is compare before, during, and after the challenge.
  + Discuss the broader impacts of your challenge, such as reduction in carbon, water, and nitrogen footprints.
  + Discuss how you amplified your challenge by sharing what you were learning and engaging other people in your challenge.

**Lessons learned and course connections (suggested number of slides: 6-8)**

Include the following in these slides:

* Explain the environmental problem your sustainability challenge addressed, using at least 3 credible sources that are not your textbook. Cite your sources at the bottom of the slides in which they are used. You may use the [COD Library Sustainability Challenge Research Guide](https://library.cod.edu/biolo1110/sustainabilitychallenge) as a starting place to find resources.
* Connect your project to at least two specific biology concepts as follows:
  + Identify and explain the terms/concepts from the textbook.
  + Provide analysis and connections between the concept and your challenge.
* Discuss your takeaways from doing the challenge.
* If you were going to do this challenge again, discuss what you would change and explain why.

**Connection to Sustainable Development Goals, Pathways of Public Service and Civic Engagement, and Paul Hawken essay (suggested number of slides: 6-8)**

Include the following in these slides:

* Discuss two [Sustainable Development Goals](https://sdgs.un.org/goals) that your challenge addressed, and explain how they align with your challenge.
* Review the [Pathways of Public Service and Civic Engagement](https://haas.stanford.edu/about/our-approach/pathways-public-service-and-civic-engagement) and discuss what you learned about the 6 Pathways from this challenge, including:
  + Identify the civic engagement pathway(s) your sustainability challenge primarily aligned with and discuss the connection(s).
  + Discuss how your sustainability challenge could be extended into the other civic engagement pathways (i.e., the ones that were not a part of your challenge). Brainstorm at least one action to address your challenge along each of the six pathways.
  + Discuss how the sustainability challenge impacted your understanding of civic responsibility and working for the greater good.
* Your response to [Paul Hawken’s speech “The Earth Is Hiring”](https://eric.ed.gov/?id=EJ1078017) based on your sustainability challenge.

**Additional experiences you encountered (discuss at least 3) (suggested number of slides: 3-5)**

Include the following in these slides:

* Describe the easiest and/or the most difficult aspects of your project.
* Describe the effects (positive, negative, or neutral) you experienced during the challenge.
* Discuss how the challenge changed you and/or others who were impacted by your challenge.
* Discuss whether or not you will continue this challenge and how you will engage with it going forward.
* Discuss new lifestyle habits you developed over the course of this sustainability challenge.

**List sources you consulted over the course of your challenge in APA citation style or as directed by your professor. (minimum number of slides: 1)**

The [COD Library Sustainability Challenge Research Guide](https://library.cod.edu/biolo1110/sustainabilitychallenge) has links to APA citation style guides.

**Make sure your slide presentation has sufficient text detail and visual elements to convey your sustainability challenge project and the insights you gained from completing it, given that the presentation needs to be self-explanatory.**

## Part 3: In-Class Discussion

Review your classmates’ presentations and bring your responses to the questions posted below to class on the day of the discussion:

1. Which challenge (other than your own) would you like to try? Explain why.
2. Robin Wall Kimmerer, a biologist and writer, says, “Action on behalf of life transforms. Because the relationship between self and the world is reciprocal, it is not a question of first getting enlightened or saved and then acting. As we work to heal the earth, the earth heals us.” Reflect on her statement and offer her a response based on the sustainability challenges that you and your classmates engaged in this semester.
3. What common themes did you discover among the different projects presented?
4. How will this assignment inform your choices in the future?