



Six Step Process

All Earth Force programs are based on a version of this core process that enables youth to take action in their communities and improve the environment.

1. Community Environmental Inventory—Identify local, community environmental problems or threats and related community information, including its strengths. *Example: Strengths might include a nature center, bike trails and numerous environmental organizations. Problems might include sprawl, water pollution and litter.*

2. Issue Selection—Select an environmental issue for further study from several choices. Research the issue, narrow and refine its definition. *Example: The chosen problem might be water pollution.*

3. Policy & Community Practice Research—Identify and analyze relevant public and private policies and community practices. Examine who makes policy and how. Understand different perspectives on the issue. *Example: After confirming that practices at the golf course are causing the water pollution, project participants decide to try to persuade the owner to change those practices.*

4. Options for Influencing Policy & Practice—Identify possible project options for affecting change in policy or practice and select one. *Example: After generating a list of possible strategies, participants decide to research alternative landscaping options and present this information to the golf course owner and other key decision-makers.*

5. Planning & Taking Civic Action—Develop and implement the plan of action. *Example: Some participants visit a university extension agent and some conduct internet research to find alternative landscaping options. Everyone then presents the alternatives to the club owner and other decision-makers. The course owner accepts the participants' landscaping recommendations.*

6. Looking Back and Ahead—Assess the project and CAPS process. Identify the next steps for addressing the problem. Celebrate success! *Example: The story of the successful project is posted on the Earth Force website.*