

Whitney M. Young High School

2023 Project Report



The Project:

Whitney Young Green Team counts this year a success for continuing to build upon their efforts to grow an environmentally responsible and aware community within their school. They've undertaken a range of projects, all suggested by club members, in order to educate students about both the local and global nature of the climate crisis.

Project Focus: Path to Net Zero

Location: Chicago, IL

Staff Involved: 5

Students: 45

New membership and leadership in the club has provided a wealth of creativity and new partnerships with other existing school clubs to spread their impact more widely throughout the school community.

The Process:

Two teachers sponsors and 2-3 leadership team members chosen by students meet 1-2 times a month to create programming for biweekly green team club meetings. During these meetings new projects were proposed, planned, completed and evaluated by students with teacher support where needed. After some research and pre-planning by the green team, they had a great initial meeting with our Green Schools mentor Ajit Naik, who led them through an energy audit of the school building. From the roof to the mechanical rooms, students got an inside peek at how the school's HVAC, water heating, and air systems run. In addition, students split off to test out the efficiency of the faucets, finding large discrepancies in the flow rate of faucets.

The Outcomes:

Whitney Young's Green Team is wrapping up their recommendations from the energy audit and selecting new leadership for next year's green team. They are also seeking out even more club and class partnerships to increase their impact next year. Later this spring Whitney Young's Green Team will be analyzing the data they collected together and planning some interventions they can take to lower their carbon footprint as a school building. An offshoot of our club this year was the newly established gardening club, so they'd like to work with them more formally in some capacity next year.

