

Course Overview

The YMP is divided into the following eighteen missions for students to complete.

Mission 1 – Hanna and Sustainability



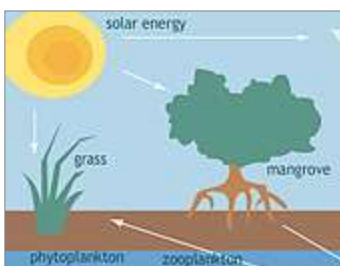
This mission shows how our everyday life is associated with environmental and social impacts. On the one hand, it illustrates how simple things like taking a shower can add to environmental problems such as global warming, acidification, and eutrophication. On the other hand, it shows how students can help to reduce the negative impacts of such activities.

Mission 2 – About Nature



The purpose of this mission is to better understand the connection between humans and the environment. The mission presents and explains some of the basic terminology involved in nature studies.

Mission 3 - About Ecology



This mission presents how interconnected everything is in the ecological systems (or ecosystems) we find in nature. If you change one thing many other things can be affected as well. And remember that humans are part of these ecosystems.

Mission 4 – About Biodiversity



The purpose of this mission is to present what biodiversity is and its importance. It describes how our activities can affect and threaten biodiversity and some of the main consequences of doing so. If we damage or destroy ecosystems, and negatively impact the organisms living there, we do ourselves a great disfavor – we “bite the hand that feeds us”.

Mission 5 – Environmental Challenges



In the previous missions students reflected about nature and how it works and also about the importance of ecology and biodiversity. The purpose of this mission is to better understand how human activities have created, and are still creating, extensive environmental impacts on Earth. The mission presents a brief introduction to a number of major environmental problems. The interconnection between all organisms, including human beings, is emphasized in respect to environmental changes.

Mission 6 – Socio-economic Challenges



In this mission we will focus on some of the major socio-economic challenges that we are facing and their connection to a number of environmental problems.

Mission 7 –Measuring Sustainability



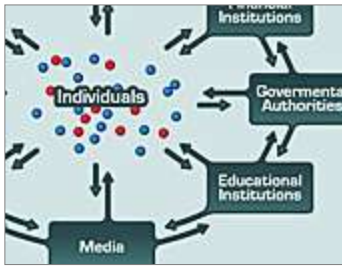
The purpose of this mission is to learn about measures and indicators used to assess and communicate different aspects of sustainability. This mission also presents some aspects of socio-economic analysis that will improve students' understanding of some of the social causes of environmental problems and the depletion of natural resources.

Mission 8 – Planning Sustainability



The purpose of this mission is to present the concept of sustainable development (although students have actually been working with these issues for all the missions) and the large worldwide plans that have been put together to try and solve the problems students have been studying. The World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD), the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC), and the Kyoto Protocol are international agreements discussed in this mission.

Mission 9 – Actors in Society



The purpose of this mission is to look at how different actors in society work with environmental and social matters. Often the complexity with solving sustainability issues stems from the different types of people involved: with diverse perspectives and interests, concerned with various ideas they would like to see succeed. So, in this mission we take a look at some of the main groups of actors in society.

Mission 10 – Communication for Sustainability



The purpose of this mission is to show students the importance of communication as a tool when working with sustainable development. Communication has always been an integral part of all human endeavours. Trust and a sense of community can be built with a good and effective communication. Further, given that today we live in the information age, communication has become an even bigger part of our daily activities.

Mission 11 Energy, Water, and Food



The purpose of this mission (and Mission 12) is to broadly present you with the main processes through which resources from nature are transformed into products and services that we use. The processes are presented along with examples of how resources are used in different sectors. This mission addresses three sectors: energy, water, and food. Later in the course you will continue working with the seven sectors introduced in this and the next mission.

Mission 12 – Transport, Waste, and Tourism



This mission continues from Mission 11 and presents three more sectors for you to learn about: transport, waste, and tourism. The transport section in this mission presents some of the drivers for the extension of urban transport infrastructure and points out the use of different resources for its construction. The waste section shows an overall look at the types of waste produced and then at different ways it is managed. The tourism section presents different interconnections in the use of resources among the different sectors studied in this and the previous mission.

Mission 13 – Solutions, Tools, and Strategies



The purpose of this mission is to present students with the process of how global solutions are created. It presents national, industrial, and individual solutions to the challenges that students have learned about to date throughout the YMP. The mission will also explain how and why tools and strategies are important to solve these challenges.

Mission 14 – Environmental Solutions 1



The purpose of this mission is to present students with the evolution of different approaches that businesses and industry have applied over time to solve some environmental problems caused by their activities. There are a large number of approaches to solve environmental problems. This mission specifically focuses on four commonly known methods used by industry to deal with pollution and waste problems. These are: dilution, pollution control, recycling, and preventive environmental strategies.

Mission 15 – Environmental Solutions 2



The purpose of this mission is to present to students with an overview of environmental solutions. This mission builds on the brief introduction to PES from Mission 14 and extends it to consumers. Three important concepts behind PES are introduced, namely: resource use efficiency, life cycle thinking, and root-cause analysis.

Mission 16 – Applying Tools and Strategies



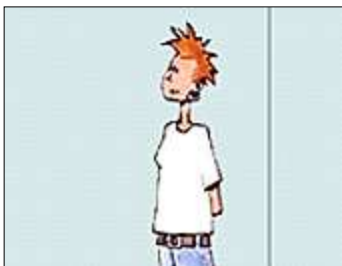
The purpose of this mission is to present to students how different actors in society have found solutions, and put into practice, some tools and strategies to solve environmental and social problems. The mission presents some examples and also challenges the students to propose their own tools and strategies.

Mission 17 – Design for Sustainability



The purpose of this mission is to focus on design as a tool and strategy for sustainability. The first part presents how products and services can be designed in an ecologically and socially friendly way. The second part presents the concept of sustainable cities, including sustainable housing. Examples are given of sustainable cities and related projects around the world.

Mission 18 – Sustainable Entrepreneurship



The purpose of this mission is to present notions, definitions, and examples of sustainable entrepreneurship. It encourages the students to think outside of the box in the search for creative sustainable solutions to the challenges they have been introduced to so far. The mission can be used as a guide for students to do a take action project and explore what is needed to put this into practice in their local community.