

Time: 20 - 30 minutes

Teams: 3 - 6 players

Location: Campus, neighbourhood or city area

Educational Objective

The purpose of this task is to enable participants to critically observe their everyday environment, recognize practices that do not align with the principles of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and propose realistic, sustainable alternatives.

The activity aims to raise awareness of how individual and collective behaviours influence environmental and social sustainability.

Moderator

Sustainability Detective

Step-by-Step Instructions

1. Introduction & Framing

Explain that everyday choices quietly shape the world we live in - revealing what often goes unnoticed and helping us imagine smarter ways forward.

Emphasise that the activity focuses on observation, not blaming.

Provide 1 - 2 concrete examples of unsustainable practices (e.g. energy waste, single-use plastics).

Methodological tip: Use this moment to activate prior knowledge and curiosity.

2. Organisation

Choose a space with clear sustainability gaps (waste, energy misuse, accessibility issues). Ensure the team has access to a smartphone and a notepad for taking notes.

3. Collect the Evidence (15 minutes)

Give the team these instructions:

- Walk around the campus or nearby neighbourhood.
- Identify five examples of unsustainable practices in the everyday environment.

Examples may include lights left on in empty rooms, lack of recycling bins, excessive use of disposable products.

- Take one photo of each example.
- Avoid photographing identifiable individuals; focus on the environment, not people.

Moderator's role: Stay available, observe group dynamics, and gently guide the team if they struggle to identify examples.

4. Analyse Like a Detective (5 minutes)

Ask the team to present one or two of their most interesting findings.

For each example, ask the team to present a more sustainable alternative (2 - 3 sentences).

Encourage short explanations rather than long descriptions.

Use guiding questions:

- What made you notice this example?
- Why is your proposed solution more sustainable?
- What might make this solution difficult to implement?
- What could each of us realistically change starting today?

Methodological tip: Focus on reflection, not 'correct answers'.

5. Summary & Consolidation

Summarize key observations made by participants.

Reinforce the message: sustainability is not only about big policies, but about everyday choices we notice and question.

Connect individual actions to broader sustainability goals.

Mission Equipment

Smartphone

Notepad or whiteboard for taking notes

Internet access (optional - for sharing results)



Role of the Moderator

The moderator acts as a facilitator, not an instructor. Your role is to:

- Create an encouraging and open atmosphere.
- Keep time and structure the activity.
- Ask reflective, open-ended questions.
- Help participants connect observations to sustainability principles.

Optional Enhancement

Link examples explicitly to specific SDGs (e.g. SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, SDG 13: Climate Action).

Encourage participants to think of who is responsible (individuals, institutions, cities).

Ask the team to share one identified case on social media with SDG hashtags to raise awareness.