



Municipal School of Sustainability CURITIBA

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND REFLECTION IN THE MIDDLE OF NATURE

Summary

The **Municipal School of Sustainability** is an innovative space that promotes environmental education in the city of Curitiba, located in a recovered natural landscape that implements diverse and intersectoral training actions, **intended for different audiences**, from children and teenagers to adults and the elderly. The activities can take place outside, in the park where the school is located, or in various rooms in the school (Land, Water and Fire).

The school offers activities and workshops related to sustainability,

in particular about: green spaces, biodiversity, fauna, flora, energy efficiency, generating renewable energy, climate change, urban forestation, animal protection, water resources and solid waste, among other topics, which contribute to **socializing the information, training and environmental reflection in the city.**

City: Curitiba
Country: Brazil
Inhabitants: 1.773.733
Topics: Environment,
Environmental
Education, Sustainable
Development





Context

Curitiba is the largest city in the state of Paraná and Brazil's South Region with 1,773,733 inhabitants (2022). The city is a point of reference in Brazil in terms of territorial planning and quality of life, and it is known for its large amount of green spaces, a fact that led it to earn the title of **Ecological Capital**. It is also known as one of the most environmentally sustainable cities in Latin America.

Based on a naturally regenerated green space that had been used for granite mining (since

1947), the **Zaninelli forest** was formed in 1992. Within this large expanse of native forest, the Municipal School of Sustainability of Curitiba was opened 30 years later in June 2022, giving new life to the building, which housed the Free Environmental University for three decades (focused on promoting sustainable development, currently located in another space in the city). The School marks the start of another cycle aimed at environmental education in the municipality.

Goals

- To raise awareness among citizens about the need to build a society committed to **improving the environment and creating sustainable living conditions**.
- To provide relevant information for environmental educators and the interested public about various **environmental awareness strategies**.
- To offer **guided visits and educational activities** to educational institutions and to the community.
- To promote **awareness among the public and to encourage them to reflect** on changing attitudes and social mobilization when faced with local, regional, state, and global environmental matters.
- To promote courses that incorporate the principles of sustainable development, contributing to **forming multiplier agents** capable of discussing economic and social alternatives.



Methodology

The School is surrounded by natural beauty that makes numerous educational experiences possible. It also makes it possible to implement diverse strategies to **raise awareness among the people** concerning socio-environmental issues through a wide variety of **informational materials, courses, workshops, training sessions, and debates**, as well as other activities aimed at promoting education focused on sustainability.

One of the School's target audiences are the **teachers and students from the educational centres** in the city. Along these lines, the school plans educational proposals related to the preschool and primary school curricula, through **educational pathways and scientific experiments**, which seek to stimulate a critical change in attitudes toward sustainability, strengthening every person's commitment to sustaining life and the planet.

The space provides experiences and possibilities of immersion in a place different from the daily pedagogical practices that occur in educational centres. Participants are encouraged to observe the environment through their senses: **hearing, sight, smell and touch**. Through this experience, the importance of the reconnection of human beings with the natural environment is highlighted, and generating **reflections on socio-environmental issues**, such as modes of production and consumption, causes and consequences of human actions, purposeful actions for the construction of healthy, sustainable and fair societies that allow the **sustainability of life**.



Evaluation

Since its founding in June 2022, the Municipal School of Sustainability has welcomed **10,639 participants** (December 2023 data); some of the activities that have received the most visitors are the exhibitions (2,783 people), the educational pathways (1,922) and the training sessions (1,163).

Based on the feedback from participants of various ages, the school has proven to be a place “with charm and magic” that is highly appreciated by the visitors. Furthermore, the possibility to participate in different activities encourages reflections on people’s modes of production and

consumption, which **promotes changes of habits, social mobilization, effective and differentiated actions**, which nurture awareness of the responsibility to care for life and the planet for current and future generations.

Future proposals

- **To broaden the activities to other educational spaces in the city**, which can host a greater number of participants.
- **To expand the integration of actions implemented with other existing environmental education projects and programmes.**
- **To increase the offer of services and activities for students**, education professionals and citizens in general.
- **To seek out new members and to strengthen partnerships**, especially with universities and private companies that have sustainability and reduction of environmental impact programmes.



Contact

Organization:

Curitiba City Council (Municipal Secretaries of Education and Environment)

Person in charge:

Maria Silvia Bacila and Marilza do Carmo Oliveira Dias (Secretaries)

E-mail:

emsustentabilidade@curitiba.pr.gov.br

[View the experience in the Bank](#)

