



## **Empowering Change, Nurturing Life Planet Green Force Master Plan**

**Authored by:**

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**Climate Science Literacy, Food Security & Sustainable Lifestyle**

**Participating School: Ananda College, Colombo 10**

### **Introduction:**

In today's rapidly changing world, the need for sustainable practices and environmental awareness has become increasingly urgent. As stewards of the planet, it is our responsibility to educate and empower future generations to implement solutions that will mitigate and address the environmental challenges exacerbated by climate change. With this vision in mind, we present Planet Green Force, a comprehensive program aimed at fostering a culture of sustainability. Planet Green Force embodies a holistic approach to sustainability education, integrating principles of environmental stewardship across various facets of our institution while embracing the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the UNESCO Green Academies' pillars of water security, waste management, clean energy, and biomass production and Climate Science Literacy. Rooted in the belief that education is key to driving positive change, our project seeks to engage students, teachers, and administrators in meaningful initiatives that promote environmental awareness, inspire action including improved food security, and cultivate a deep sense of responsibility not only within the school but also within the home, community, territory, nation and planet.

At the core of Planet Green Force is the recognition that sustainability and resiliency are not merely concepts to be taught, but a way of life to be embraced and practiced in daily life. Through hands-on activities, innovative teaching approaches, and collaborative research endeavors, we aim to create a dynamic learning environment where students are not only equipped with the knowledge and skills to address environmental challenges but also inspired to become active agents of change in their communities and beyond. In the following proposal, we outline the key components of Planet Green Force including student engagement initiatives, teacher training programs, and research endeavors focused on sustainability issues. By leveraging the collective efforts of our educational community, we aspire to create a brighter, greener future for generations to come.

**Rationale:**

Planet Green Force is a comprehensive initiative aimed at fostering a culture of sustainability/resiliency within each participating school and beyond. Recognizing the pivotal role of education in shaping environmental attitudes and behaviors, the project integrates sustainability principles across the curriculum and extracurricular activities. Central to this effort is the engagement of students through hands-on activities such as cultivating grow bags at home and seeding gardening projects (“Seeds of Security”) and organizing eco-competitions to promote creative problem-solving. Additionally, a select group of teachers and well-wishers, dubbed the “Green Guardians,” will undergo specialized training to lead sustainability initiatives within their classrooms and beyond, serving as catalysts for change and inspiring their peers and students alike.

Furthermore, the project includes the establishment of a dedicated Planet Green Force Center – a living research laboratory focused on soil health, composting, hydroponics, aquaponics, aeroponics, clean air, clean energy, use of predictive analytics with AI for precision agriculture to maximize yield and eliminate food waste, etc. At Ananda College in Sri Lanka, a partnership with CIC Holdings PLC curates innovative hands-on learning, research and analysis through home gardening “starter kits” and instruction. Through the collective efforts of students, educators, and administrators, Planet Green Force aims to create a transformative learning environment that “*nurtures life,*” while developing environmentally conscious leaders equipped to tackle complex challenges and deliver results.

**Green Targets:**

The following goals, aims, and objectives collectively form the foundation of Planet Green Force, guiding its implementation and measuring its impact on fostering sustainability within the school and beyond.

**Goals:**

1. Embrace the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and the UNESCO Green Academies’ pillars of water security, waste management, clean energy, and biomass production and Climate Science Literacy.
2. Foster a culture of sustainability within the school.
3. Empower students, teachers, and student researchers to become proactive agents of environmental change.
4. Cultivate a deep sense of responsibility and stewardship towards the planet.

**Aims:**

1. Integrate principles of environmental stewardship across the curriculum and extracurricular activities.
2. Engage students in hands-on activities and initiatives that promote environmental awareness and inspire action.
3. Provide specialized training to teachers to lead sustainability initiatives within their classrooms and beyond.
4. Establish the Planet Green Force Center, a dedicated living research laboratory focused on addressing pressing environmental challenges, particularly food security and sustainability.

**Action Items:**

1. Activity 1: **Seeds of Security**; Coordinate with CIC to distribute grow bags and seeds to facilitate at-home and school gardening projects. CIC conducts initial

instructional/training sessions with teachers and students to educate on the starter kit growing process and their part in advancing food security. Organize field trips to high tech agricultural centers including green houses, aquaponics and traditional farms. Have students complete reflections following to capture experience and exercise their creativity, improve writing, develop analytic skills, develop reporting skills. Manage weekly grow bag progress reports from students documenting growth, water, yield, etc. with photos if possible:

- Identify the required student data by collecting basic information via a Google form distributed by CIC. Students share one-minute oral updates on grow bag progress in class on a rotating basis, 10 per day/50 per week (coordinate with academic teachers as appropriate).
- Identify/nominate student leaders from each class to monitor the program.

2. Activity 2: **Green Challenges**; Organize competitions to promote creative problem-solving, create excitement and innovative solutions for sustainability, collaborating with relevant teachers/clubs where appropriate. Competitions areas include yield harvested/growth of grow bags, Gavel/oratory/debate, research, STEAM projects, essays, poetry, art, drama, dance, etc. Determine prizes and rewards.

3. Activity 3: **Green Educators**; Audit training needs and conduct teacher training sessions to empower teachers to integrate environmental education into their teaching practices. Coordinate toastmasters, webinars, retreats. Create Google Drive and WhatsApp group to ensure all are connected and sharing updates and activities (including full PGF team). Recognition/rewards to educators who exceed goals.

4. Activity 4: **Green Academies Research Hub**; Establish the Planet Green Force Center Living Laboratory embodying guidelines for Climate-Resilient Buildings, incorporating UNESCO Green Academies' four pillars. Develop accompanying programming. Include students in creation, i.e. they help construct aquaponics system, solar installation, etc. ("experiential modules"); have them craft reflections following. Conduct research, develop innovative solutions, and disseminate knowledge on sustainability issues. Offer field trips and tours to the community and students from other schools, lead by former Ananda alumni and Ananda teaching staff/administration.

5. Activity 5: **Green Explorers**; Create a dynamic learning environment that equips students with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to address environmental challenges effectively, including biodiversity.. Incorporate UN SDGs and the UNESCO Green Academies' pillars & Climate Science Literacy into curriculum. Create UNESCO Club. Develop science projects. Have students complete reflections following key activities. Launch Green Word of the Week and continue to research/develop new terms.

6. Activity 6: **Eco Advocacy**; Inspire students, teachers, and the community to embrace a sustainable lifestyle and become active participants in creating a greener future including "rethink, reduce, reuse, recycle." Encourage activism with letter-writing campaigns to parliament/president on environmental issues, organize PGF rally on ban of single-use plastic bags and plastic straws in front of parliament including student speakers from each grade, etc. Student essays to be shared on the danger of plastic pollution and importance of banning these items. Offer alternatives for banned items.

7. Activity 7: **Eco Voice**; Promote increased awareness via newsletters, broadcasting, YouTube channel, photography, marketing/business management, social media, while encouraging active participation, instilling environmental values, building capacity, fostering collaboration, and creating lasting impact within the school community. Share UNESCO education materials to communities as appropriate. Form PGF student and

teacher editorial board. Business managers to pursue advertising as well as secure graphic designers & other talent.

8. Activity 8: **Green Melodies**; Create a catchy and impactful green-themed song that raises awareness about environmental issues, inspires action towards sustainability, and fosters a sense of unity and collective responsibility among students, educators, and the broader school community.

**Green Guardians:** Groups focus on their areas and coordinate/collaborate with fellow Green Guardian groups where there is overlap.

Activity 1: **Seeds of Security:** Ms. Kusum, Ms. Jeevani, Mr. Bandara

Activity 2: **Green Challenges:** Mr. Roshan, Mr. Namal, Ms. Madagammana

Activity 3: **Green Educators:** Mr. Dunuarachchi, Mr. Shanaka, Ms. Wachira

Activity 4: **Green Academies Research Hub:** Mr. Sanath, Mr. Dunuarachchi, Mr. Nanayakkara

Activity 5: **Green Explorers:** Mr. Roshan, Mr. Shanaka, Ms. Wachira

Activity 6: **Eco Advocacy:** Mr. Lal Dissanayake, Mr. Shanaka, Mr. Roshan, Mr. Yohan (OBA), Mr. Wajira (OBA)

Activity 7: **Eco Voice:** Mr. Anura, Ms. Madhuwanthi, Mr. Sarath

Activity 8: **Green Melody:** Mr. Anil, Ms. Lanka, Ms. Ariyapala, Mr. Mahinda Lanerole (OBA), Mr. Bhatiya (OBA)

#### **Extension Activities:**

Schedule zoom meetings every other Thursday evening.

Provide weekly written reports.

Announce special awards to Green Guardians/Warriors who exceed goals.

#### **Green Finance Initiative: for 2024 (Budget breakdown with time line given in each activity plan)**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Budget Rs.</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
1: <b>Seeds of Security</b>		
2: <b>Green Challenges</b>		
3: <b>Green Educators</b>		
4: <b>Green Academies Research Hub</b>		
5: <b>Green Explorers</b>		
6: <b>Eco Advocacy</b>		
7: <b>Eco Voice</b>		
8. <b>Green Melody</b>		

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