

Maps From Lakes to Mountains

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GreenMapSwiss.org

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Background: Helping Youth Grow Roots in a New Community

Since 2005, the Earth Focus Foundation has been building an all-inclusive, cross-curriculum education program entitled “Green Map Swiss,” where high school students gain awareness of sustainable development with hands-on experience in building a Green Map from start to finish.

Geneva attracts influential residents from from all over the world. Many of our students have lived in several countries by the time they are teens and most are newcomers to this city.

So far we have worked with twenty schools and have published six maps of Geneva's communities. Because “Green Map Swiss” has

been so successful, we'd like to share with you the processes that these students go through.

In 2012, we organized mapmaking workshops for an area of Geneva called Petit Lancy, working with a private high school, the Institut de Florimont. Our intensive process begins with awareness sessions held in the classroom. Then we help students experience their community's resources by exploring and mapping the area with monitors trained by “Green Map Swiss” to allow students to put knowledge into practice and gain personal connections with their community in a more sustainable way.

Before the workshop ends, we all gather around a table and begin composing the Green Map of Petit Lancy. Students, teachers, monitors, and Green Mapmakers discuss which of the many potential sites should be included, which icons are most suitable and how local government's role in the community should be depicted. After the interactive Green Map has been made live to the public, students are taught how to update them annually. Finally, our finished map is displayed at the school and to the local authorities, drawing more awareness and demonstrating the progress toward a more sustainable Geneva.

The Green Map
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Work in progress:
Green Map,
Commune de Lancy
(left)

Presentation
for Sustainable
Development and
Green Map (right)



Interactive, digital
Open Green Maps
(center, below)

Impacts: Continual Expansion, Beyond the City's Borders

Participating teachers are excited to teach the same program again next year with a new group of students who continue expanding the map. Each year, we share this system with other schools and age groups at events such as Step into Action, which is hosted by Geneva education authorities and attracts more than eight hundred students.

We are finding new ways to adapt to adult audiences and busi-



nesses, such as setting up a Green Map booth at the Sustainable Cities conference held in Geneva in May 2013. We are currently in the developmental stage of a new map that protects our natural resources. Currently, the Open Green Map for mountain resorts in Switzerland is being charted, focusing on areas such as Verbier and Davos, aiming to inform skiers and other visitors to respect and protect the our beautiful mountains.

Environment Day
2009 Exhibition for
the public at our
Green Map tent
(left)



Green Map of the
United Nations Area
(right)

