



INNOVATIVE LEARNING TOOLKIT

PROJECT TITLE: The Environmental Health Clinic

Tags; art, communication tools

Overview:

The [Environmental Health Clinic](#) is an innovative project in NYC, designed by artist Natalie Jeremijenko. It uses a traditional medical health clinic as a model to educate and empower people to take practical environmental action.

A visitor to the clinic makes an appointment to talk about his or her specific environmental health concerns and after the consultation walks out with a prescription, not for pharmaceuticals but for actions: "local data collection and urban interventions directed at understanding and improving environmental health; plus referrals, not to medical specialists but to specific art, design and participatory projects, local environmental organizations and local government or civil society groups: organizations that can use the data and actions prescribed as legitimate forms of participation to promote social change."

It offers an innovative take on a health clinic, where the focus is on the environmental surroundings of the individual rather than his or her physiological or biological function. A person walks in with descriptions of their environmental symptoms, and walks out with a series of practical actions they can take to remedy the situation.

Just as with an ordinary health clinic, it's up to the individual to actually put the remedy into practice and take the recommended steps, but this is a great way to encourage people to think differently about the world they inhabit, and take small tangible steps towards helping it last.

Why is it relevant to PTS?

Is an innovative and interesting way to raise awareness about environmental issues and encourage long-term behaviour change

Ideas and tips for PTS:

This kind of concept could easily be adapted to suit a planting day - we could set up a mobile lab where people could drop in, discuss their situation and concerns, and be given a practical consultation on what they could do to address the situation

This idea would also tie in really well with some kind of [resource centre](#) - there could be certain days of the week or certain hours when the clinic was open and people could make appointments

It would be important to find the right mix of 'clinicians' who were able to discuss and 'diagnose' a range of environmental concerns and issues - maybe we could start a specialist model where people could make appointments with particular people for particular concerns



INNOVATIVE LEARNING TOOLKIT

Contact and further information:

The [Environmental Health Clinic](#)