



Sustainability Coordinator

Academy for Global Citizenship – Chicago, IL

The Academy for Global Citizenship (AGC) is a non-profit Chicago public charter school, located on the Southwest side. Our mission is to develop mindful leaders who take action now and in the future to positively impact their communities and the world beyond. Our innovative and holistic approach aims to foster systemic change and inspire the way society educates future generations.

AGC Values:



Serving the whole child



Modeling academic excellence



Developing inquirers



Cultivating international awareness



Fostering environmental stewardship



Facilitating collaboration within the community

Our Broader Vision

In addition to operating a K-8 school as a learning laboratory for the Chicago Public School district, AGC's bold vision is to serve as an incubator of innovation and center of learning for the entire community. Our mission is to reimagine community learning by building partnerships, providing services and establishing a living institution that model how to coexist peacefully and productively on a more sustainable planet. We envision a world where all have access to inspired educational opportunities, preparing communities to tackle local and global challenges and to live within our planetary boundaries.

Our Sustainable School of the Future

Leading up to this moment, AGC has not only been focused on helping its Chicago area students create lives full of possibility, but also has reached 5 million students in multiple states and countries by sharing our work openly and encouraging replication of our model. We are now poised to invigorate the AGC mission on a visionary new campus. Experts from all over the world helped us reimagine the nexus between inspirational learning and healthy communities, and we have attracted a \$31 million capital commitment from the State of Illinois.

The new AGC learning hub is one of the most architecturally ambitious projects in the U.S. today and is paving the way for reimagining the role of “school” and learning environments in cultivating the next generation of globally and environmentally minded leaders. AGC’s new learning hub will provide critically needed access to tuition-free early childhood learning, high quality K-8 nature-based public education, health care and mental health services, community wellness facilities and programming, neighborhood gardens and green spaces, and a fresh foods market featuring produce from the campus three-acre urban farm, food forest, orchard, apiary and greenhouses.

AGC worked with renowned architect, Jeanne Gang, to reimagine school design for the social and environmental needs of the 21st century. The “school of the future” design will be net-positive energy, featuring a renewable energy generating roofscape, wind turbine and geothermal system, and is set to be the first project in the entire Midwest to achieve the Living Building Challenge, the world’s most comprehensive sustainability performance standards that have only been achieved by 24 other projects globally. To learn more, we encourage you to visit www.agcchicago.org.



Job Description

The Sustainability Coordinator assumes responsibility for direct service and engagement of our students, staff, families and school partners on AGC's new net-positive energy campus. There will be an opportunity to develop partnerships and new programming as part of our expanded campus, production farm and teaching kitchens. The Sustainability Coordinator is part of the team of Specialist Educators (including music, art, wellness) and serves as a member of the Sustainability and Wellness Team, they report to the Director of Sustainability and School Food, they are responsible for the following:

Environmental Education & Programming

- Daily, hands-on lessons in the outdoor edible gardens, indoor hydroponics systems, orchards and naturoscapes on campus for K-5 Villages and occasional push-in or co-teaching in grades 6-8.
- Facilitate gardening and environmental learning experiences that leverage the energy and water net positive, sustainable features of our campus to relate to unit themes.
- Chaperone sustainability related field trips.
- Plan and facilitate garden and sustainability activities for summer camp/summer school.
- Ensure Food Safety and Garden to School Safe Harvest guidelines are followed by students, staff and cafeteria workers at all times.
- Collaborate with the Plant Forward Program coordinator for garden to school cooking education.
- Promote sustainable practices school-wide through support and facilitation of staff/student training and providing school wide communication to support these operations.
- Support care for our school chickens, along with our production farm partners and safely involve students at every opportunity.
- Collaborate with AGC's beekeeping partner to oversee AGC's hives and safely involve students at every opportunity.

Sustainable Operations

- Ensure gardens, orchards, compost systems, nature pathways, vermicompost, indoor growing, teaching and learning kitchens and all associated tools/infrastructure are organized, in good condition and ready to use.
- Collaborate on the development of the yearly crop plan in the edible gardens and production farm.
- Take a lead role in the maintenance, care, harvest and watering of our edible garden beds and adjacent edible landscapes.
- Take a lead role in inventory and packaging of fresh produce from our edible gardens and production for community distribution.
- Ensure safe food handling of ingredients from our edible gardens to the teaching and learning kitchens.
- Manage inventory and procurement of school wide cleaning supplies to meet AGC's Environmental Sustainability Policy
- Ensure teachers, custodial staff and operations staff have a clear line of communication if they require assistance or supplies related to sustainability

- Support regular waste and energy audits to make data informed strategic plans that strive for net positive energy and minimal waste

Partnerships & Communications

- Lead garden and campus tours for visitors who are interested in learning about our sustainable school model.
- Collaborate with the Director of Sustainability and School Food to design, document and facilitate workshops for other educators who are seeking to implement environmental education or sustainable operations in their schools.
- Celebrate AGC's sustainability related happenings on social media and AGC's blog.

Family Engagement & Education

- Facilitate learning opportunities and workshops for families to promote sustainable and healthy life choices at home.
- Write newsletter updates for families that inspire sustainable practices and highlights environmental education happenings at AGC.
- Oversee the weekly operations of AGC Summer Student-led Farmers' Markets with an emphasis on engaging students and families.
- Oversee AGC's annual honey sale enterprise and other related events such as the spring seedling sale.
- Engage families in adopting AGC garden beds during school breaks and supporting at-home gardening initiatives.
- Leverage social media platforms to tell compelling stories about sustainability and gardening at AGC.

New Sustainable Campus

- Take the lead in planning, planting and maintaining the AGC edible garden beds.
- Facilitate learning experiences in the edible garden and coordinate site visits and larger hands-on farm work opportunities with our farm partner Urban Growers Collective.
- Collaborate with our farm partner to order, inventory and transfer fresh farm ingredients for the AGC salad bar.
- Collaborate with our farm partner and onsite Health partner to order, inventory, pack, safely store and distribute a vegetable box prescription program.
- Duties and sub coverage as needed.

We are looking for staff who ...

- Have a big heart to match a big brain
- Are bilingual in English and Spanish (preferred)
- Want their work to define best practice
- Respect and thrive in a dynamic, changing, and growing environment
- Know extraordinary things can happen when people work hard together
- Are excited to participate in a laboratory for innovation in education
- Dream about what's possible for reimagining the future of learning

Working at AGC means ...

- Being surrounded by thoughtful, inquisitive students and hard-working, like-minded colleagues
- Thinking outside of the box to do what is best for our students
- Being held to high standards for continuous personal and school improvement, *and* being given the time and support to do so - AGC teachers receive twice as many professional development hours as their peers.
- Promoting student profile qualities of the International Baccalaureate Program: inquirers, thinkers, communicators, risk takers, knowledgeable, principled, caring, open-minded, well-balanced, and reflective.
- Gaining experience with interdisciplinary International Baccalaureate Units of Inquiry, balanced literacy, arts integration, yoga and mindfulness
- Having high academic expectations for every student in the school everyday
- Getting your hands dirty in our school garden and engaging students in outdoor learning
- Enjoying 100% organic, scratch made meals prepared by our on-site chef
- Working in an environmentally sustainable and health conscious school culture

Required Skills and Experience:

- 3+ years (ideal) experience as a school or community based educator
- A fervent commitment to environmental sustainability and green living
- Proven ability to communicate clearly, perform at a high level under pressure, and work efficiently as both a team member and as a leader
- Strong experience with vegetable cultivation and teaching and learning in the garden
- Bilingual and biliterate (English/Spanish) - preferred
- Familiarity with IB and inquiry-based learning - ideal
- Strong leadership, communication skills and personal drive

Education Requirements:

- Bachelor Degree in education OR related field OR equivalent experience (**4+ years of related work experience**)

Compensation:

\$48K-52K salary based on experience, references and credentials. Full benefits, free organic breakfast and lunch, wellness fund, innovation fund and professional development funds offered.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, gender, age, national origin, or disability.