

ethical and sustainable materials tour

Take a guided tour of the SANAA-designed River building and Barns that highlights ethical and sustainable material sourcing. The Design for Freedom movement was launched by Grace Farms in 2020 to address forced labor within the building materials supply chain. Combined with our LEED certification in building and operations, the River building and Grace Farms Foundation are striving for a more graceful and peaceful world.

This tour makes several stops along the River building, prompting the group to consider the design decisions that address environmental and ethical challenges. The group will also discuss the next steps and where limitations still exist.

Students on this tour are invited to take a closer look at timber, glass, brick, stone, and copper sources and learn how their class can create a more equitable and peaceful world through creative design and informed choices.

curriculum standards

NGSS ETS 1.B, ETS 1.C, 2.Eco.7.a., 6.Eco.1.a., 6.Eco.8.a., 7.Inq.4.f., MW.His.3.a., MW.Civ.12.a., CG.Civ.6.a.

Vocab List

Material Circularity: Using materials for as long as possible, then finding ways to reuse items after they have reached the end of their lifespan for a particular project or building. Mending, repairing, recycling, and reusing things are all a part of creating circularity.

Additional Resources to Explore

[Design for Freedom Report](#)

[Design for Freedom International Guidance & Toolkit](#)

explore more programming at gracefarms.org/events

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grace farms

name _____

found materials

Look closely at a building, maybe your school or home. How many materials can you find? Have you seen these materials in other places, too?

Material Life Cycle

What happens to the materials you found over time? Material circularity looks at using materials for as long as possible, then finding ways to reuse items to extend their lifespan. Mending, repairing, recycling, and reusing things are all a part of creating circularity.

Of the materials you found, what can be recycled, composted or decomposed, reused, or repurposed. What cannot be reused?

	recycled	composted or decomposed	reused	repurposed
Bricks	☐	☐	☐	☐
Concrete	☐	☐	☐	☐
Glass	☐	☐	☐	☐
Rubber	☐	☐	☐	☐
Steel	☐	☐	☐	☐
Stone	☐	☐	☐	☐
Textiles	☐	☐	☐	☐
Timber	☐	☐	☐	☐