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Student Handout - What are the different lenses we can use to view ecosystems?

Center for Urban Resilience

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Lesson 6

Name: _____ **Date:** _____ **Class/Period:** _____

6.4 What are the different lenses we can use to view ecosystems?

Purpose

Urban ecology is the study of cities as interactions among biological, chemical, and physical forces. Since there are multiple forces that influence an urban ecosystem, this means they can be studied from a variety of different perspectives or lenses. In this activity, you will focus on your field site using one of the following eight lenses: 1. biodiversity, 2. soil quality, 3. water quality, 4. energy, 5. political, 6. historical legacies, 7. environmental justice, or 8. public health. You will focus on your field site from that lens and consider what research questions you could ask using that lens.

Procedure

1. Site_____

2. Name of Lens:_____

3. Researchable Questions:

   a.

   b.

   c.

4. Choose one of the above questions, which you think is the strongest research question. Circle it. Explain below why you chose that question. Consider the different characteristics of good research questions that you discussed in class.