



## **ACTIVITY 1.A** ***Atmospheric Contamination Catcher***

### *for* **Module 1:** **What is Sustainability?**

**General description:** Students will complete an activity that will allow them to identify contaminating elements in the atmosphere.

**Materials:**

Index cards or light-colored posterboard  
Vaseline/solid petroleum  
Stick for spreading the vaseline/solid petroleum  
Adhesive tape

**Duration:**

Preparation of materials (10 mins).  
Observation time: One to two days.

**Location:** The materials are prepared inside the classroom and are left in contact with the air (can be put in the classroom windows or somewhere in the school's playground).

**Pedagogical method:** Observation, experimentation.

**Instructions:**

The teacher begins the activity by asking a question: **Is the air around us clean or dirty?**

The group participates by coming up with a hypothesis.

*The air is clean.*

*The air is dirty.*

The next step is to have the students prepare the materials for doing an experiment by following the steps described here:

1. Cut out 15 X 10 cm. white cards.
2. Spread a little bit of vaseline over them.
3. Place them with tacks or adhesive tape in various places outside.



### **Evaluation**

After a day or two, carefully observe the cards.

What do you observe about the cards?

What color are the cards?

What do you think caused the change?

As a group, discuss the causes of air contamination.