Osceola County, Florida is a diverse and rapidly developing county. Youth from urbanized areas of the county are unfamiliar with the area’s natural resources or possible environmental career paths. Without information or resources, many underserved high school students do not think they can attend college or pursue such careers.

The purpose of Teen Green is to introduce underserved high school youth to careers in natural resources. It is a fun and interactive 3-day workshop covering topics in water, soil, and plant sciences.

The 3-day workshop consisted of labs, lectures, games, tours, and activities. Each topic was explored with a variety of educational methods.

Water Science:
- Water sample collection and quality analysis (pH, chlorine, ammonia, phosphate, and nitrate)
- Florida’s water resources presentation

Soil Science:
- Soils 101 lecture
- Soil sample collection
- Analysis for soil texture and pH

Plant science:
- Plant cutting demo and DIY project
- Butterfly pea tea demonstration
- Tour of greenhouses and plant science labs

Career Education:
- Water resources careers game
- Guest speakers from researchers and students at the University of Florida Mid-Florida Research and Education Center (MREC)
- Connection with the UF MREC Undergraduate Success Coordinator
- Testimonies from non-traditional students

Youth participants are more likely to pursue stable career paths. These careers can provide them with economic stability which results in improved well-being. As future environmental professionals, the attendees will contribute to positive environmental impacts.