**Slide 1**

Environmental quality in the US has dramatically improved over the last 50 years

- No more rivers catching on fire,

- Much less acid rain, and

- Reductions in smog even in our big cities

The problems is that we’ve essentially taken care of all the low hanging fruit, what’s left are the REALLY hard problems

- Eliminate smog, yes, but what about the microscopic PM damaging our lungs?

- Rivers shouldn't catch on fire, but should we close a factory to protect an endangered species of salamander?

The aim of this certificate is to give you a crash-course in the skills you will need to productively engage in solving the really hard environmental problems in our community

**Slide 2**

PLSC 223 is an “exploration of how our environment shapes human behavior and how individuals and societies shape the environment.”

- In this class we tackle the big picture relationship between human beings and the environment

- What does it mean to be a “green” consumer? Is it actually possible?

- Should our goal be to “preserve” a natural environment or “conserve” it for use and production?

- How should problem-solving change when we come to recognize how environmental harms disproportionately impact poorer communities?

In BIOL 163 Dr. Jansen gives you a crash course in the science underpinning many of today’s most pressing environmental challenges.

- Always good to get a natural scientist’s view on this stuff even if we need to find a way to sell him on being a little more optimistic in class!

Your third course in the certificate is ECON 225

- Given the economic basis of our society there’s no way around it, you have to learn to speak econ if you want to engage in community problem-solving!

Finally you will take PLSC 323 which is the capstone in the certificate

- In this class I give you a crash course in public policy-making while we work through a current problem in our community

**Slide 3**

Our capstone class this semester has chosen to focus on the food waste problem in Springfield and here on Drury's campus.

- I've asked three students in the capstone to give you a quick intro to how we are attacking that problem

**Slide 4:** Why is food waste an important problem? (Joseph - 2 mins)

**Slide 5:** Why is food waste a public problem? (Marshall, Eric, 2 mins)

**Slide 6:** Why does food waste require a collective decision? (Briella, Austin, 2 mins)

**Slide 7:** What can we do about the food waste problem? (3 mins)

**Slide 8:** Q&A