



Action Plan: Curriculum Planning for K-12 Watershed Education Program



- **Audience:** Sonoma Ecology Center staff—education team (two educators and director).
- **Type of Product:** Resource guide and a planning meeting.
- **Description:** This action entails organizing and implementing curriculum planning for our K-12 Watershed Education Program, to determine updates for each of our current modules to include climate change science and the appropriate communication techniques for each audience we serve. Information and resources from ETS will be organized to use as a tool for this planning process.
- **Key message:** Climate change science can be and should be a piece of each of our existing education program elements, and we have the resources and tools we need to do this at our fingertips.
- **Message of Hope:** Through education, we can build the climate science literacy of the community we serve, enabling individuals to feel empowered to change behaviors and ultimately reduce community-wide contributions to climate change.
- **Measurable Objective(s):** element of climate change science will be included in each K-12 Watershed Education program module, staff will have awareness of and use climate science resources and communication techniques.
- **Links between local and global:** TBD through collaborative meeting
- **Communication Technique(s):** Norms of Collaboration, “4 Truths”
- **Target completion date (estimated):** End of August 2016
- **NASA Resource(s) you plan to use:** All gathered at ETS will be compiled in resource guide.
- **Collaborator (s):** SEC education team

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Progress Update: Curriculum Planning for Watershed Education



- Brief report back to team after ETS
- Curriculum planning week: 1st week of August
- Reviewed resources (Data & tools, activities, communication guides, lesson plans)
- Brainstormed connections in existing programs (2nd, 4th, and 5th grades)
- Realized need for more in-depth climate science learning
- Result: Develop *Climate Champions*, work to get it off the shelf!





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Climate Champions:

- 6th grade program, in-class lessons and field activities
- Hands-on, connected to NGSS with investigations and models
- Place-based: impacts on our local ecosystem
- Empower stewardship: connect to personal actions
- Partners: local schools, Sugarloaf Ridge State Park, Robert Ferguson Observatory

Draft curriculum covers:

1. Climate system basics
2. Plants & climate: phenology (citizen science with Project BudBurst)
3. The carbon cycle
4. Energy resources, fossil fuels
5. Ocean acidification



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Next Steps

- Piloting with 1 class this Spring
- Applied for funding (NOAA B-WET)
- Continuing to look for additional funding
- Collaborating with schools/teachers
- Collaborating with RFO docents and other partners
- Trial/training for *Project BudBurst* at Sugarloaf or Sonoma Garden Park
- Will continue pilot in 2017-2018
- Goal: full implementation in 2018-2019



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