



Welcome to the NNC Climate Partners Newsletter!

A part of the CREATE Connections project

Welcome to the first edition of the Climate Partners Newsletter! This quarterly newsletter will highlight the many people, organizations, and projects working collaboratively to address climate change and its effects in the Lehigh Valley. Climate action takes all of us, and no one person or group can do it alone - that's why it's important to CREATE Connections!

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What is CREATE Connections?

While we have been working on local climate action at the Nurture Nature Center (NNC) for several years, we just recently received federal funding from [NOAA's Environmental Literacy Program](#) for our current climate outreach and engagement project, CREATE Connections. [Read more about that project and our approach to climate action here.](#)

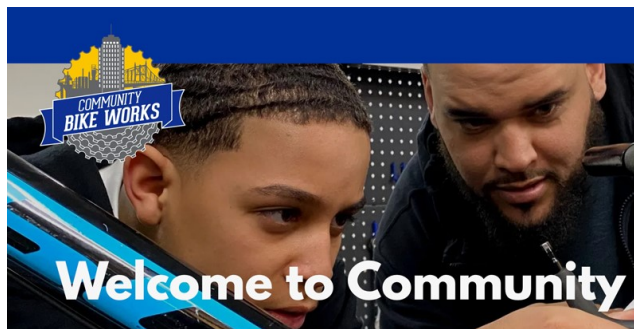
Celebrating Jobs Well Done

There is already a lot of positive momentum around taking care of our environment, improving our

Partner Spotlight:

Community Bike Works

In each newsletter we will feature one of our partners working with us on the CREATE Connections grant project. For this first edition, we will spotlight [Community Bike Works](#), an organization whose mission is to "teach life lessons through bicycles to the young people of the Lehigh Valley who could benefit most."



health, and addressing climate change in the Lehigh Valley. Here are some recent success stories!

- [Bethlehem to receive \\$10 million to revitalize Broad Street from heavy traffic passageway to pedestrian, biking corridor](#)
- [Buy Fresh Buy Local of the Greater Lehigh Valley](#) encouraged a more intentional and sustainable holiday season with their [2023 Local Food Holiday Gift Guide](#)
- [Bethlehem Food Co-Op plans to open their grocery store in North Bethlehem in early 2024](#)
- [Lafayette College earns STARS gold rating for its sustainability programs](#)
- [Lehigh Valley Planning Commission continues work on regional Priority Climate Action Plan](#)



Are you involved in a recent **success story** or **upcoming opportunity** for action related to climate change?

Community Bike Works has programs in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton. In addition to connecting students to new skills, mentorship, and leadership opportunities, Community Bike Works encourages more sustainable transportation by building young people's comfort with safely riding, maintaining, and repairing bicycles. This connection will also be reflected in a sustainability track at the [National Youth Bike Summit](#) they will host in Allentown on June 14-16, 2024, bringing up to 400 youth and their adult advocates to the Lehigh Valley from across North America. They describe the summit as "a supportive and inclusive space that encourages bicycling as a catalyst for the vitality of our communities through diverse perspectives in climate justice, transportation and mobility, job training, and more." Registration for the Youth Bike Summit will open soon!

In addition, the Nurture Nature Center is very excited to have Community Bike Works host an educational bike ride in Easton for participants in our [Youth Climate Summit on April 19 and 20, 2024](#).

You can look forward to future spotlights on our other partners who include Easton and Bethlehem's public library systems, Alliance for Sustainable Communities, Community Action Lehigh Valley, Community Action Bethlehem, the Fe Foundation, PAZA Tree of Life, the Boys and Girls Club of Easton, and many more.

Climate Action Plan Spotlight

Did You Know? Both Bethlehem's and Easton's Climate Action Plans (or CAPs) set goals for reducing the amount of energy used by homes, businesses, and government buildings by improving our energy efficiency. This is because energy used in buildings is responsible for more than 70% of total greenhouse gas emissions in each city.

As the temperatures drop, one action that can help meet the energy efficiency goals in Bethlehem and Easton's CAPs while saving homeowners and tenants money is weatherization. This involves preventing heat from escaping your home so that less energy is wasted. Weatherization can include placing weather-stripping around doors, improving insulation, or even hanging thick curtains over drafty windows at night. Community Action Lehigh Valley runs a weatherization program to educate people about these strategies and assist low-income people with carrying out these home improvements: <https://www.communityactionlv.org/homes>.

Local ordinances requiring large commercial and residential buildings to meet certain standards for energy use, incentive programs for actions like choosing more efficient appliances, and programs for benchmarking and monitoring large buildings' energy use can all help achieve energy efficiency goals.

Want to take a deeper dive? Both cities' CAPs are available to the public at the links below.

Bethlehem CAP: <https://www.bethlehem-pa.gov/Public-Works/Climate-Action-Plan>

Easton CAP: https://nurturenaturecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/EastonCAPDraft_7.7.2021_new.pdf

Please let us know by emailing Lauren at lfosbenner@nurturenaturecenter.org so we can consider including your project in the next Climate Partners Newsletter!

More Ways to Take Action

- **Middle school and high school students:** [Register for the Youth Climate Summit](#). The summit is designed to give middle- and high-school students the chance to develop climate leadership skills through collaborating with other students, exploring their own strengths and interests, speaking with experts and climate professionals, engaging in hands-on climate solutions activities, learning about sustainability and climate careers and developing related skills, and more. The summit is free to attend, and food will be provided. [View the full agenda here](#).
- **All Bethlehem residents:** [Become a Bethlehem Climate Champion](#) by taking the linked survey to commit to one or multiple climate actions. After completing the survey, participants can pick up their Climate Challenge yard sign from the front desk in City Hall and will have their names added to a list of Climate Champions on the challenge website.
- **Business owners in Bethlehem or Easton:** Take [this 5-10 minute survey](#) to help inform and connect with the CREATE Connections project and support sustainability and climate action in your community.
- **Attend a meeting of your local Environmental Advisory Council (EAC):**

[Easton EAC](#) - 6pm on the first Tuesday of each month at City Hall, City Council Chambers or the Mayor's Conference Room and on Zoom

[Bethlehem EAC](#) - 7pm on the first Thursday of each month at Northampton Community College Fowler Family Southside Center, Room 106 and on Zoom

Smaller municipalities - consult your township or borough's website for information on whether you have an EAC and when they meet

- **To learn more, check out these helpful resources:**

Climate Explorer - <https://toolkit.climate.gov/tool/climate-explorer-0>

This tool includes maps and charts that depict impacts of climate change at the city and county level.

U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit - <https://toolkit.climate.gov>

The Climate Resilience Toolkit provides a wide range of information on climate-related hazards and how individuals, communities, and governments can minimize and address their risks.

Realistic Ways You Can Combat Climate Change, Today - <https://cleanet.org/resources/58831.html> This tool allows you to enter the money, time, and effort you have available and then gives you a list of possible actions you can take that fit your resources.

Upcoming Events @ NURTURE NATURE CENTER



To learn more about Nurture Nature Center:

www.nurturenaturecenter.org

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