



Welcome
to the
NNC Climate Partners Newsletter!

A part of the [CREATE Connections project](#)

Welcome to the April 2024 Climate Partners Newsletter! As you might expect around Earth Day, there are lots of environmental and climate events to celebrate and get involved in this month. We're especially excited for the [5th Annual Youth Climate Summit of the Lehigh Valley](#) hosted at NNC on April 19 and 20, featuring a wide range of activities including a keynote address from Dr. Diane Husic of Moravian University, a bike ride led by Community Bike Works, and a tree planting as part of the City of Easton's Arbor Day celebration.

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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

Partner Spotlight:

Easton and Bethlehem Public Libraries

Both Easton and Bethlehem are fortunate to be home to active and welcoming public libraries - Bethlehem Area Public Library (BAPL) located at 11 W Church St, Bethlehem, PA and Easton Area Public Library (EAPL) located at 515 Church Street, Easton, PA. In addition to their vast offerings of books and movies to borrow, the libraries offer a wide range of programming, including children's story times and craft activities; homework help groups; youth clubs ranging from board/video games to chess to volunteering; adult book clubs and interest groups; and events in partnership with other community organizations, like BAPL's annual [webinar series in partnership with the Bethlehem Food Co-Op.](#)

There is already a lot of positive momentum around taking care of our environment, improving our health, and addressing climate change in the Lehigh Valley. Here are some recent success stories!

- [City of Easton Adopts Climate Adaptation Plan and Net-Zero by 2050 Emissions Goal](#)

- [Louise W. Moore Park Accredited as an Arboretum](#)

- [Community Action Development Bethlehem's Public and Green Space Committee](#) hosts monthly cleanups in parks in Southside Bethlehem - consider joining the next one April 13, 10am - 12pm Skatepark Plaza - 1325 Steel Ave. Register [here](#).

- [Easton Garden Works Hosts Annual Seed Swap](#) - For other upcoming gardening events and volunteer opportunities visit [Garden Works's website](#).



Public libraries are a community asset - one of the traits about a community (places, activities, people, history, etc.) that add to its quality of life. When thinking about climate action, libraries can serve as a valuable source of information and inspiration, a gathering place, and a spot for important discussions about what matters to the community.

NNC is partnering with BAPL and EAPL throughout the CREATE Connections project to offer joint programming on environmental and climate topics, add to the libraries' collections of climate-related books and DVDs, and bring people together around opportunities for action. Both libraries will also have an informational table at the Youth Climate Summit hosted by NNC in April.

In each newsletter we will feature one of our partners working with us on the CREATE Connections grant project. You can look forward to future spotlights on our other partners who include 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, Community Bike Works and many more.

Climate Action Plan Spotlight



Did You Know? [One-fifth of greenhouse gas emissions](#) from producing food come from transporting that food from where it is grown and processed to where it is sold and eaten. Eating locally grown food is one way to cut those emissions to nearly zero, whether you have a container garden on your porch, maintain a plot in a community garden, or frequent your town's farmer's market to buy local items. Consider setting a goal of having at least half of the items on your plate come from local sources. You will also support the local economy and enjoy fresher, tastier, and healthier food.



Spring is the perfect time to start a garden. Check out the starter resources in Penn State Extension's "Victory Garden Reinvented!" webinar here: <https://extension.psu.edu/victory-garden-reinvented-vegetable-gardening-basics-part-1>.

Farmer's markets are also reopening for the season and will soon be chock full of early spring foods like greens, rhubarb, asparagus, herbs, strawberries, and spring onions. Find your local market and farm stands here: <https://www.buylocalglv.org/find-local-food/>.

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

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

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

More Ways to Take Action

- **Realistic Ways You Can Combat Climate Change, Today** - <https://onlinepublichealth.gwu.edu/how-to-reduce-climate-change/>. 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.
- **Science Moms - Climate Change Solutions** - <https://sciencemoms.com/climate-change-solutions/>. Science Moms is run by women and climate scientists who are concerned about their children's future. They offer ideas for "swapping polluting stuff for clean stuff," sharing these ideas with those around you, and speaking up to your elected leaders.
- **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, but registration is required - Friday is full but we still have room for more attendees on Saturday! [View the full agenda here](#).
- **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.
- **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.
- **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

Upcoming Events @ NURTURE NATURE CENTER



To learn more about Nurture Nature Center:
www.nurturenaturecenter.org

This newsletter was prepared by the Nurture Nature Center under award NA23SEC0080002 from the Environmental Literacy Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Department of Commerce. The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of NOAA or the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Questions? Contact lfosbenner@nurturenaturecenter.org

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