

Kate Semmens

From: Nurture Nature Center <newsletter+nurturenaturecenter.org@icontactmail4.com>
Sent: Monday, July 1, 2024 11:30 AM
To: Kate Semmens
Subject: July Climate Partners Newsletter



Welcome to the NNC Climate Partners Newsletter!

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

Welcome to the July 2024 Climate Partners Newsletter! This packed full edition includes a spotlight on eight fifth-graders who worked for 3 years to get Styrofoam trays out of their school cafeteria, a long list of recent sustainability success stories, and the [first episode of our new CREATE Connections podcast](#) focused on single-use plastics with artist Kate Dodd as our guest.

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!

[Manage your subscription](#)



We are excited to announce that in June we started distributing our bookmark series with the Easton and Bethlehem public libraries. These bookmarks provide a list of recommended books to check out on a variety of topics - renewable energy, local food, living green, climate fiction, books for kids, and more! If you're visiting the Easton or Bethlehem library, keep an eye out for them!

**Celebrating Jobs
Well Done**

Partner Spotlight:

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!

- [Muhlenberg, Lafayette, and Lehigh partner to offset electricity use with Kentucky solar facility](#)
- [East Penn School District considers solar](#)
- [Meet the Penn State students partnering with Lehigh Valley communities on climate action](#)
- [Muhlenberg College student hub receives 1st-in-world designation for sustainability](#)
- [These Lehigh Valley businesses embrace Earth Day every day](#)
- [27th Annual Great Southside Sale held in Bethlehem](#)
- [Allentown's 2nd Annual Veg Fest](#)
- [Bethlehem Boys and Girls Club plants raised vegetable garden bed](#)

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!

William Penn Elementary's "Tray Trouble"

This month we want to highlight William Penn Elementary School's "Tray Trouble" group and their years-long effort to replace the Styrofoam trays in their school's cafeteria with a more sustainable option. Team Tray Trouble includes Emeline, Mason M., Mason S., Maya, Skylar, Sophia, Tyrian, Wren, and advisor Ms. Ashley Schellhaas. When the members were in 2nd grade, Skylar was working on a project for which the class was asked to persuade someone to do something. "I decided to look at problems with our school and eventually came across the trays," Skylar says. Other students who heard about this issue got on board, and Tray Trouble was born.



Asked what advice they would have for other students who might want to make something similar happen at their school, the students emphasized the importance of patience and persistence. "It might take a while, and there's a lot of trial and error. You might have to try different things, but it's all worth it in the end," Wren said. "Don't give up," Mason echoed. "When we were doing this I remember being told many times 'no that's not possible'." No matter what, just "try to keep going," Tyrian added. Tray Trouble serves as an inspiring example for other youth as well as adults of what can happen if you stick with something that really matters to you and keep trying until you find a solution that works. [Read about the project and these students' dedication here.](#)

To learn more about the impacts of plastics and Styrofoam once they escape into the environment and our oceans, explore NOAA's Marine Debris Program - <https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/what-marine-debris/plastic>.

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, and many more.

Climate Action Plan Spotlight



City of Easton Climate Action P



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.](#)

Did You Know? In addition to polluting our streets, rivers, and oceans, single-use plastics contribute to greenhouse gas emissions throughout their entire lifecycle - from the fossil fuels they are derived from through their breakdown in the environment. Both Easton and Bethlehem's Climate Action Plans call out reducing or eliminating single-use plastics as an important strategy for emissions reduction.

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



[Check out the first episode of our CREATE Connections podcast](#) with artist [Kate Dodd](#) to learn more about plastics and climate change through a thought-provoking and insightful conversation about our relationship to waste, disposability, and the quantity of "stuff" we produce.

More Ways to Take Action

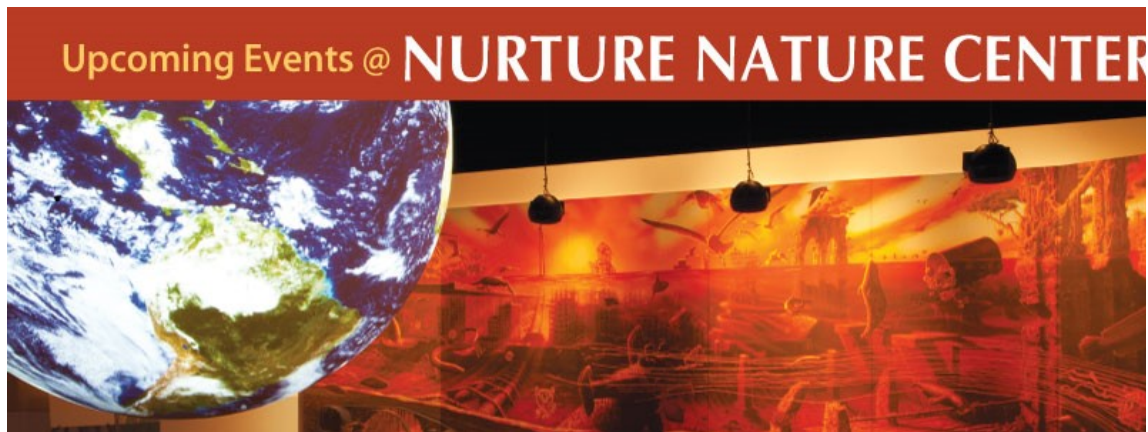
- **Join a community clean-up!**
 - Easton EAC hosts monthly Wednesday and Saturday clean-ups - check their [Facebook page](#) for details.
 - Southside Bethlehem's Public and Green Space Committee hosts monthly clean-ups - [see dates and times and register here.](#)
 - Check if there's an organization in your community that offers a clean-up. If not, consider organizing one with a group you are part of!
- **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

• **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.

• **Do you know a high school student interested in climate action**, sustainability, and/or getting involved in their community? Building on the energy from our recent Youth Climate Summit, the Nurture Nature Center is working to develop a year-round youth climate action and leadership program, and we need student feedback on what it should look like! Students can [indicate their interest and share ideas here](#).



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

Manage Your Subscription

This message was sent to Ksemmens@nurturenature.org from newsletter@nurturenaturecenter.org

Nurture Nature Center
 518 Northampton Street
 Easton, PA 18040

iConta