



April 2025 Climate Partners Newsletter

From Nurture Nature Center <newsletter+nurturenaturecenter.org@iccontactmail4.com>

Date Thu 2025-03-27 8:32 AM

To Kate Semmens <ksemmens@nurturenature.org>



Welcome to the NNC Climate Partners Newsletter!

A part of the CREATE Connections project

Welcome to the April 2025 Climate Partners Newsletter! This quarterly newsletter highlights the many people, organizations, and projects working collaboratively to address climate change and its effects in the Lehigh Valley. If you're a new subscriber, you can check out past newsletters by [clicking this link and scrolling down](#).

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](#)

What is CREATE Connections?

We have been working on local climate action at the Nurture Nature Center (NNC) for several years, and in 2023 we 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](#).

Partner Spotlight: Mosaic Youth Chorus

The Youth Climate Summit has grown each year, strengthened by our partnerships in the community and with teachers and youth. We are particularly excited this year for a new partnership with the [Mosaic Youth Chorus](#). Established in 2023, the Mosaic Youth Chorus (MYC) gives an outlet to youth in the Lehigh Valley, aged 11 through 18, who want to make a difference in their community through their singing. The MYC presents two annual concerts, featuring both individual and group performances. These concerts are designed around themes

Celebrating Jobs

Well Done

Now more than ever, it's important to acknowledge the 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.

- [Allentown awarded \\$100,000 grant to continue Youth Climate Action Fund in 2025](#)
- [Allentown officials laud youth-led climate projects, push for even more 'creativity' in 2nd round](#)
- [Feeding the Community at Any Price: The Work of Essentials Cafe](#)
- [Lower Nazareth passes first review of plan to protect 192 acres of farmland](#)
- [Parkland School District sources local, nutritious produce for student lunches](#)
- [From Delaware Water Gap to Dixie Cup, trail users and others to benefit from new grants](#)
- ['Clean, renewable energy': Lehigh Gap Nature Center hailed for sustainability](#)

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!

that amplify and explore social concerns relevant to today's youth. The choir also performs at community events and faith institutions throughout the Lehigh Valley.

This year, we are very fortunate to have Mosaic performing on both days of the Youth Climate Summit - for students and teachers on Friday, April 25th, and for all ages at our Community Day (open to the public) on Saturday, April 26th. The power of song provides new perspectives, understanding, and connections to our local environment and the need for climate action. The energy and passion of youth singing together around a common cause is one not to miss and brings a depth of engagement that is incredibly valuable for connecting others to climate and environment.

For more information about Mosaic, contact Mosaic's Artistic and Executive Director, Dr. Joy Hirokawa, at joy@mosaic-youthchorus.org, or visit their website: <https://mosaic-youthchorus.org/>. In addition, please join us for Community Day at the Youth Climate Summit on April 26th. Free to attend, but registration is strongly encouraged. [Click here to register.](#)

Community Day Agenda:

Performance by Mosaic Youth Chorus with Science on a Sphere (10am-11am)

Student Spotlight - short presentations by local youth (11-12pm)

Sustainability Expo - meet local organizations and learn how you can get involved (12-2pm)

Bike ride and tree planting to follow!

You can look forward to future spotlights on our other partners, both in this newsletter and [on our podcast!](#)

Climate Action Plan Spotlight - Reduce Waste Sent to Landfill

Did You Know? Decaying material in landfills releases greenhouse gasses - accounting for 3% of the City of Easton's total emissions and nearly 10% of the City of Bethlehem's emissions. Waste also contributes to transportation emissions as a result of the trucks that haul trash to landfills.

If you're doing some spring cleaning, it can feel tempting to pile everything you want to get rid of into a trash bag, drop it on the curb, and forget about it. However, we all know that bag of trash doesn't really just disappear - it has to go somewhere (the landfill), and both on its way and once it's there it will contribute to greenhouse gas emissions.

Instead, while cleaning out your old clutter, separate out what can be recycled, what may still be usable, and what really needs to go to the landfill. Reuse is one of the best options for being more sustainable when it comes to our "stuff." Donating unwanted items to a thrift store, posting them in a "buy nothing" group or similar community, or

swapping items with friends are great ways to refresh your wardrobe or home with a smaller footprint. Read more ideas for reducing waste here: <https://nurturenaturecenter.org/strategy-spotlights#efaq-reduce-waste-sent-to-landfill>.

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/2022/06/EastonCAPDraft_revision2024_final.pdf

More Ways to Take Action

- **Easton Residents** - Fill out the city's "[Safe Streets For All](#)" survey [here!](#)
- **Earth Stewards of Palmer** | <https://www.earthstewardsofpalmer.com/>
 - Earth Stewards of Palmer are a group of volunteers working to build a stronger community in Palmer Township and surrounding areas. They participate in a variety of activities in partnership with Trout Unlimited, watershed associations, recycling and hazardous waste collections, tree plantings, and more. Visit their website and reach out to get involved!
- **Bethlehem Rose Garden - Call for Volunteers**
 - Established in 1931, The Historic Bethlehem Rose Garden Park is one of Bethlehem's most beautiful urban parks. Volunteers have been working in the Rose Garden since 2020 to maximize this green space and expand the ecosystem in line with the City environmental concerns. The Garden now includes native plants, pollinator friendly perennials, annuals, trees and the famous roses.
 - Help Wanted! Volunteers are essential to maintaining the Rose Garden. No experience is necessary and there is no commitment requirement. We offer community service hours for students and welcome local organizations, scouting troops and interested individuals. Volunteers start work in the Garden in March and continue through the following months until the frost. Interested parties may email bjkozero@aol.com with questions or simply drop by the Rose Garden on a Saturday morning during group work hours.
- **Seed Saving and Garden Planning Workshop | Thursday, April 3, 6-8 pm | Nurture Nature Center (518 Northampton St., Easton, PA)**
 - Please register [here](#) if you plan to attend
 - This event will be the grand opening of a new seed library housed at NNC! The seed library was created in partnership with NNC, the [Greater Easton Development Project](#) and [Food to Flourish](#).
 - We will have a presentation from Amirah Mitchell, who is the founder of [Sistah Seeds](#) and a farmer, seedkeeper, and community educator, to learn about seed saving and its environmental and cultural importance. Then, we will have an all-season garden planning workshop led by NNC's Urban Gardening Program Coordinator, Pam Ruch. Come map out what you will plant this year and learn about how to plan for a successful harvest.
- **Community Day at the Youth Climate Summit | Saturday, April 26, 9:30-2:00 pm | Nurture Nature Center (518 Northampton St., Easton, PA)**

- Register [here](#)
 - Students can submit proposals for 5 minute presentations [here](#). Selected presenters will receive a \$50 stipend for their participation.
 - Performance by Mosaic Youth Chorus with Science on a Sphere (10am-11am)
 - Student Spotlight - short presentations by local youth (11-12pm)
 - Sustainability Expo - meet local organizations and learn how you can get involved in our community (12-2pm)
 - Bike ride with Community Bike Works and tree planting with City of Easton's Arbor Day celebration (to follow at 2pm)
- **Arborfest | Saturday, April 26, 1-5 pm | Lower Hackett Park (1913 Wood Avenue, Easton, PA)**
 - A free spring celebration with activities, plantings, vendors, and tours
 - **LV Sustainable Business Network Meeting | Wednesday, May 7, 6-7pm | Via Zoom**
 - Attention Easton and Bethlehem business owners! We will be hosting our next meeting/group discussion on May 7th to discuss ongoing sustainability efforts by local businesses. Businesses will be invited to help us pilot test our sustainable business recognition program application ahead of the meeting. If you are interested please email Lauren (lfosbenner@nurturenaturecenter.org) to request the Zoom link.
 - **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

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

 [Contact - Engage, wow, and grow your audience](#)