

Kate Semmens

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**From:** Nurture Nature Center <newsletter+nurturenaturecenter.org@icontactmail4.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 9, 2025 9:11 AM  
**To:** Kate Semmens  
**Subject:** July 2025 Climate Partners Newsletter



## Welcome to the NNC Climate Partners Newsletter!

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

Welcome to the July 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!

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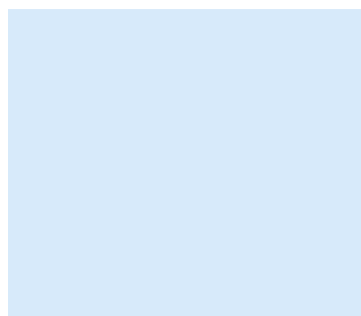
### The CREATE Connections Podcast is back!

We just released our first episode of season 2 featuring the 5 college interns who have worked with us on elements of the CREATE project for the last year. [Listen on Spotify here](#) or [on a web browser here](#). We will release a new episode every month through the summer and fall.



## Watch highlights from the Youth Climate Summit!

Nurture Nature Center is proud to grow our Youth Climate Summit programming. We held a successful event this past April engaging youth with music, food demonstrations, presentations, and an expo, among other activities. Check out some highlights in this video! We look forward to our 7th summit next spring!



## Partner Spotlight:

### The Lehigh Valley's Sustainable Businesses

We recently opened applications for the LV Sustainable Business Recognition Program. This program celebrates business owners in the Easton and Bethlehem areas for their commitment to sustainability and climate action. Local businesses have an important role to play in implementing both cities' Climate Action Plans (CAPs) through reducing their own emissions, making more sustainable options available to their customer base, and serving as leaders modeling climate action and sustainability in their communities.

### 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.

- [20 trees, all native species, planted in Palmer Township](#)
- ['Make it beautiful and keep it beautiful': D&L Trail's Quest for the Golden Grabber back for 2nd year](#)
- [Spin, scale, swing: Saucon Park in South Bethlehem spruced up with \\$200K state grant](#)
- [Allentown's working on a climate action plan. Survey launches to collect residents' input](#)
- ['Help Easton progress in the way it needs to': Meet the city's first sustainability coordinator](#)



Participating businesses submit an application detailing the actions they have taken to be more sustainable in the areas of energy, water, transportation, waste, food, and community. There are 4 levels of recognition depending how far along each business is in operating sustainably. Recognized businesses receive a window decal to display their accomplishment as well as digital promotional materials. View the current list of participating businesses here, and considering stopping by one or more to support!

<https://nurturenaturecenter.org/lehigh-valley-sustainable-business-program#efaq-participating-businesses>

Here are some examples of the actions our participating businesses are taking. Each of these businesses is doing much more than we have the space to list here!

- **Green Pond Packaging:** Established a distribution company focused on sustainable, plant-based packaging and dinnerware alternative solutions. Consolidate deliveries whenever possible and select carbon neutral shipping options.

- [Easton earns A- for environmental leadership, transparency from global nonprofit](#)
- [‘Easton achieves certification through Bird Town Pennsylvania](#)

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 [lfofbenner@nurturenaturecenter.org](mailto:lfofbenner@nurturenaturecenter.org) so we can consider including your project in the next Climate Partners Newsletter!



City of Easton  
Climate Action P



- **Nature’s Way Market:** Use all LED lights. Reach out to MetEd for an energy assessment. Plantings alongside the parking lot are mostly native plants, with some herbs. Installed a rain barrel. Do not buy plastic to-go bags, but reuse what customers donate.
- **Primordia Mushroom Farm:** Added 85 more solar panels for a grand total of 275 panels, which accounts for the majority of their electrical usage. Use electric vehicles for most deliveries and farmers’ markets. Only provide paper bags at market and sell mushroom powders in compostable containers.
- **The HodgePodge Croft:** Installed a brand new programmable heating and cooling system. Installed a low-flow toilet. Purchase alternatives to single-use plastics that are more sustainable - ex. Biodegradable, compostable, other options.
- **Zekraft:** Offer accessible bike racks in front of the business or in the parking area for customers and employees. Offer an incentive or discount for customers to bring a reusable bag or reusable containers or mugs. Provide a hydration station or tap that is available to all members of the public during high heat days.

If you are a business owner curious about ways to increase efficiency, reduce waste, and team up with your neighbors, please consider applying to the recognition program and joining our Sustainable Business Network! You can find the application here: <https://nurturenaturecenter.org/lehigh-valley-sustainable-business-program>, and reach out to Lauren ([lfofbenner@nurturenaturecenter.org](mailto:lfofbenner@nurturenaturecenter.org)) with any questions.

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

## Climate Action Plan Spotlight - Home Energy Efficiency for Summer

**Did You Know?** About 3% of global emissions trace back to AC, nearly twice as much as those generated by the airline industry. ([One5C, May 2025](#))

For many of us, summer can be the season with the highest electricity bills, primarily due to running air conditioners to stay cool. This makes it the perfect time of year to look into ways you can save money and energy. Some of the best ways to do this just involve improving efficiency - doing what you are already doing, but with less waste. You don’t have to give up A/C, turn off all of your lights, or stop charging your devices. But, you can use A/C in a more targeted way, upgrade to LED lightbulbs, or consider a smart charger or power strip to avoid “phantom” or standby power use.

Learn about these and more tips with our strategy spotlights: <https://nurturenaturecenter.org/strategy-spotlights#efaq-home-energy-efficiency> and with tips from the One5C climate action newsletter: <https://one5c.com/keep-house-cool-in-summer-136966378/>.

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](https://nurturenaturecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/EastonCAPDraft_revision2024_final.pdf)

## More Ways to Take Action

### • Easton's Sustainability Movie Night | Easton Historic Cemetery | July 10, 7:30-9:30pm

- Celebrate Plastic Free July with Nurture Nature Center and Easton's Sustainability Coordinator!
- We will watch the film *Microplastics Madness* which tells the story of how elementary school students in Brooklyn learn about plastic pollution and find ways to make a difference.
- Bring your own chairs or blankets for seating, and park at the 10th Street entrance to the cemetery.

### • CREATE Connections to Sustainability Library Programming | Easton and Bethlehem Public Libraries

- **BAPL, 7/12, 10:30am:** Green Spaces and Gardening. Come create your own sprout house and learn about growing your own food! Register here: <https://bethlehemarea.librarycalendar.com/event/nurture-nature-center-20611>
- **EAPL, Week of 7/7-7/11:** Pick up a take-home sprout house kit to learn about gardening, plants, and local food! Kits are available in the youth library. Register for yours here: <https://eastonpl.libcal.com/event/14407945>
- **BAPL, 7/19, 10:30am:** Green Dream Home. design your future dream house that supports sustainability! Youth will get a 'house kit' that allows them to plan and collage together their green dream home. Register here: <https://bethlehemarea.librarycalendar.com/event/nurture-nature-center-20612>
- **EAPL, 7/19, 1:30pm:** Green Dream Home. design your future dream house that supports sustainability! Youth will get a 'house kit' that allows them to plan and collage together their green dream home. Register here: <https://eastonpl.libcal.com/event/14407958>

### • 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](mailto:bjkozero@aol.com) with questions or simply drop by the Rose Garden on a Saturday morning during group work hours.

- **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



**FREE**

Rain date of Friday, July 11th |  
7:30 - 9:30 PM

## Easton's Sustainability Movie Night

**Easton Historic Cemetery**  
**Thursday, July 10th | 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM**



Bring your own chairs or blankets for  
seating!

Presented by Easton's Sustainability  
Coordinator & the Nurture Nature  
Center as a community film  
screening, come watch **Microplastic  
Madness** for free.

**Microplastic Madness** tells the  
story of plastic pollution and how  
we can make a difference. Watch  
some of Brooklyn's youngest lead  
the way!

PARKING  
OUTSIDE  
10<sup>TH</sup> ST ENTRANCE



### **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.](#)

## Upcoming Events @ NURTURE NATURE CENTER



**To learn more about Nurture Nature Center:**

[www.nurturenaturecenter.org](http://www.nurturenaturecenter.org)

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**Questions?** Contact [lfosbenner@nurturenaturecenter.org](mailto:lfosbenner@nurturenaturecenter.org)

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