"CELF helped our teachers connect core curriculum with environmental literacy; the ultimate outcome being active, informed students who grow into environmental stewards for years to come!"
- James Yap, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, Warwick Valley Central School District

2018 Program News

CELF Schools Honored

U.S Department of Education Green Ribbon School Award Nominees:

Warwick Valley High School and Park Avenue Elementary School are among the 46 schools, six districts and six postsecondary institutions across the county which are being honored for their innovative efforts to reduce environmental impact and utility costs, improve health and wellness, and ensure effective sustainability education. CELF partnered with WVCSD on a two-year initiative designed to integrate environmental literacy throughout the district’s curricula.

Western Connecticut Academy for International Studies Elementary Magnet School, Danbury, CT
CELF helped train and inspire WCAIS teachers to integrate environmental literacy across all disciplines, including art, music, and physical education. “Thank you for inspiring us at the CELF Summer Institute to find a way to work sustainability into our school.”
-Timothy Nott, WCAIS teacher

Celebrating 15 years and 1 million students!

CELF started 15 years ago with the idea that environmental literacy is essential for K-12 students and it has blossomed into empowering, systemic programs that have reached more than 1 million students! Our mission is to establish sustainability as an integral part of every child's K-12 learning experience and has been growing stronger every year. Since 2003, we have trained over 13,000 teachers in more than 4,000 schools. We will celebrate these milestone achievements during the Annual CELF Summer Institute: Education for Sustainability and at our 15th Anniversary celebratory event on July 11th at Reid Castle on the campus of partner, Manhattanville College. Our keynote speaker Anastasia Cronin, of the National Geographic Educator Network will discuss: “Educating the Next Generation of Change-makers”. To join us, click here.

There are so many people to thank who can share in our success. They include our staff, donors, program partners, advisors, board members, visionary administrators, dedicated teachers, students, interns, family and friends. We could not have done it without you! We’re working hard to reach 2 million students and we are looking forward to another 15 years empowering students to become environmental stewards and active citizens who are committed to building a sustainable future. To help us reach more students, please click here.
Whole-School Change
CELF’s mission is to establish sustainability as an integral part of every child’s K-12 learning experience.

By working with teams of administrators and teachers, CELF extends learning beyond classroom walls, facilitates interdisciplinary learning, and connects curricula to broader campus and community sustainability goals.

CELF Citizen Science in NYC
Together with the NYC DoE, Mount Sinai and CUNY Center for Urban Environmental Reform, CELF held a Citizen Science Student Symposium as a culminating showcase for findings from the NYSP2I-funded yearlong program. Middle school students enthusiastically presented their air quality monitoring projects and shared data and innovative solutions to combat air pollution in their school communities.

Los Angeles Union Free School District (LAUSD)
CELF Partner Schools concluded a three-year pilot program, establishing sustainability as a central theme and integral part of their schools’ curriculum and campus practices. Phase 2 includes two elementary schools that will be mentored by CELF Partner School, Wilmington Middle School. As a preferred service provider for the LAUSD, CELF’s work will support the statewide implementation of the CA Blueprint for Environmental Literacy Plan. Our 2019 goal is to scale CELF’s west coast operations to reach 20 new schools through increased educator staff and collaborative partner trainings.

Putnam Valley Central School District (PVCSD)
As part of CELF’s two-year project with PVCSD, a recent Sustainability week engaging students in campus wide sustainability initiatives. Examples include zero waste days, plastic straws and bags ban, and recycling art supplies.

The Hewitt School
On May 23rd, this NYC K-12 independent school engaged every student and teacher in a Sustainability Day as the culmination of a year of programs with CELF. The event launched new lessons on product life cycle, micro finance and fair trade and engaged students in community projects to build environmental stewardship.

Thought Leadership

- Katie Isaak Ginsberg, CELF’s Founder and Executive Director, will be a speaker this June at the 2018 AREDAY Summit: “Global Security, Conservation Capitalism & Regeneration: Whole Systems Solutions to Climate Change”, alongside world leaders and changemakers in renewable energy.

- CELF Student Ambassadors led a Walk-for-Water with Pace University Students to raise awareness of the global water crisis and raise funds to provide LifeStraw® Community Filters to schools in need.

- CELF anticipates a lively discussion at our annual Cocktails and Conversations: “Educating the Next Generation of Changemakers”, July 11 featuring keynote speaker Anastasia Cronin, National Geographic Educator Network.

- Notable among the forward-thinking schools seeking CELF’s services next year is Hillside Elementary School in Hastings. CELF will be co-designing K-4 curriculum to increase use of the school’s nature trails.