MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM
A PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY AND EDUCATING FOR SUSTAINABILITY
501(c)(3) organization with the mission to establish sustainability as an integral part of every child's K-12 learning experience.

Our programs are designed to succeed in a wide range of settings. These include multi-day Summer Institutes, schoolwide professional development workshops offered onsite and virtually, and custom curriculum and instruction consulting projects for K-12 educators. Our framework enables educators to seamlessly integrate sustainability tools, resources and projects into their curriculum with the support and guidance of CELF facilitators, while remaining aligned with the state-mandated curriculum standards.

CELF was founded based on the vision of a citizenry with a deep understanding of the dynamic interdependencies between human and natural systems, and the critical role education plays in establishing a healthy and equitable future.
Becoming a Member

EMBEDDING SUSTAINABILITY IN SCHOOL CULTURE & COMMUNITY

In winter 2021, CELF launched a Pilot Membership Model in response to school communities' expressed need for resources connecting timely topics to remote and in-person instruction. With a focus on equity, emotional and physical health, and knowledge growth, educating for sustainability (EFS) addresses the spectrum of disparities frequently determined by racial bias, poverty, food insecurity, and environmental health impacts. CELF Membership provides EFS digital resources, long-term curriculum and instruction support, team-based and 1:1 coaching support, and flexible program options.

CELF's Membership platform provides space and expert facilitation for teachers from diverse school communities to connect for thought-exchange, community building, and self-paced learning centered on ideas of sustainability and environmental literacy.

WHY EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY?

What if learning was connected to REAL WORLD issues and opportunities? What if kids learned math, science, ELA, history and technology both IN and OUT of the classroom? What if, as part of the core curriculum, they helped design solutions to make their communities healthier and more sustainable? Education for Sustainability (EFS) challenges students to prepare for their future today while stimulating academic engagement.

We are in a pivotal moment where the inextricable connections between public health, social equity and the climate crisis has been made abundantly clear. Those of us in education can feel and see this collective shift in awareness as young people emerge as vocal advocates for racial justice, environmental equity and a more sustainable future for all. The need to educate our students on the interdependence of environmental and social factors in an authentic and engaging way, is more urgent now than ever before.

Multiple studies demonstrate improvement in student performance and well-being when schools apply EFS principles and practices. Evidence suggests that students:

- Learn to engage with and care for their local environment, both in their school buildings and in their local community
- Find greater motivation for learning by connecting to real-world issues that matter to them
- Develop social and emotional skills like confidence, team work, and leadership
- Improve mental and physical health and well-being when spending time in the natural world
- Enhance critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills through inquiry- and place-based education
- Increased civic engagement and understanding of the ability to make a difference
- Improve academic performance in a range of subjects
Member Services

$2,500/YEAR*

CELF will work with an administrator or teacher liaison at your school who will serve as the point person for your CELF Membership*, communicating all upcoming events and opportunities to your school community. In addition, teachers can access resources and content on the CELF Member platform at any time. Some of Membership services are derived from CELF program design supported by National Geographic Society. Services include:

**Virtual Orientation**
Set the stage and gain common language for Education for Sustainability with a one-hour virtual orientation, open for any or all teachers in your school to experience together once a year.

**A One-on-One or Small Group Consulting Session (Virtual)**
We'll support your team in getting started with bringing project-based learning into the classroom, whether that means helping with a specific project or digging in to a particular topic of interest.

**The Benefits for Teachers**
- Build community and exchange ideas with educators in a variety of schools
- Team building and interdisciplinary planning with coworkers using the context of sustainability
- Self-paced learning
- Gain confidence in new teaching practices and reinvigorated curricula
- Opportunities to gain CTLE/GT/CTE credits
- Multiple access points for all—no matter where they are on their EfS learning journey
- Leadership and facilitation development, with opportunities to become a CELF Master Teacher

**Thematic Discussion Groups & Speaker Events (Virtual)**
Monthly thematic discussion groups, facilitated by CELF staff will highlight timely topics and feature prominent voices from the fields of sustainability, education and conservation.

**Members-Only Content & Certification**
Your school will have access to exclusive content and resources—such as teacher tips, premier videos, bilingual learning activities—via CELF's password-protected, digital platform. Membership provides a measurable pathway towards certification as a CELF Sustainable School.

**Exclusive Discounts for CELF Programs & Workshops**
Members will have access to exclusive discount codes for participating in additional CELF programs, such as the Summer Institute and Teacher's Environmental Literacy Series.

**Informal Community Events**
Build community amongst your teachers and other educators during these fun, informal events hosted by CELF (virtual or in person).

**Student “Exchange”**
($500 Membership Add-on, Included for Pilot Members)
Connect a class of students in your school to another group of youth—be it across town, across the country or in another country altogether!—building global citizenship into school culture.

*Annual Membership runs for the full academic year. Pilot schools receive spring/summer months remaining in the current school year as a bonus for participation in the Pilot program.

"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 U.S. Green Ribbon Award-Winning District)