New England Environmental Education Alliance Conference
AND THE
Sustainable Schools Summit

ACHIEVING
Environmental Literacy:
Health, Environment, Curriculum

The goals of the joint NEEEA Conference and Sustainable Schools Summit are simple, but bold – to create connections across environmental and educational fields that will increase the ability of students, citizens, and our environment to sustain and thrive in the 21st century. Let us leverage the environmental education community’s expertise and expand the conversation to build meaningful relationships across curriculum subjects, professional disciplines, and outside of the classroom into our rich and diverse communities. Together we can find ways to promote greater participation and stewardship in all the interconnected disciplines that impact school health and student success.
Achieving Environmental Literacy: Health, Environment, Curriculum

Our states’, our country’s, and our planet’s future relies on a well informed and engaged generation of stewards that can meet the challenges of the world they will inherit. In order to create environmentally literate citizens who can face these challenges, we must ensure that our students experience and understand the interconnectedness of human and natural systems by embedding environmental education into all strands of preK-20 curriculum.

Environmental Education In A Hotter Time: Conference Keynote by David Orr

The facts are straightforward, but the implications for educators are not. There is no quick fix, no magic bullet, and no technological miracle that will rescue us.

For the young people we purport to educate, the truth of the situation can be overwhelming. In conventional environmental education, the goal is to connect students to nature and particular places. It is important that we do so. However, we also have to equip students with the stamina to witness ecological losses and collateral societal damages without being immobilized by despair. They will need our help to form a stronger and deeper attachment to life and a more authentic hope that lies on a farther horizon.

The rising generation must have the capacity to think in systems and patterns. To comprehend causes of our plight and to craft better alternatives, they will need ecologically grounded courses in the humanities and social sciences. They must know how the world works as a physical system. In an educational system built to extend human mastery over nature we must somehow equip them for lives and careers as designers of a better, more humble and resilient civilization. We must enable them, in other words, to think clearly and deeply about the proper role of humankind on Earth over the long-haul.

The overwhelming fact of our time is that life on Earth is in peril, humans are the cause, and that no amount of tinkering at the margin of the status quo will do. We have every reason to re-examine our beliefs, worldviews, institutions, cultural foundations, and manner of living - and get down to work.

Conference Overview
Detailed schedule will be emailed to registrants.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1
Field Trips
EECapacity Consortium Workshop (see www.neeea.org/eecapacity for details)
Eco-Trivia at Buskers Irish Pub

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2
8:00am    Check-in, Breakfast
9:00am   Welcome, Keynote
10:30am   Workshop Session A
Noon    Lunch
1:00pm   Workshop Session B
2:30pm    Networking Break
3:00pm   Workshop Session C
4:45pm   State Associations
5:30pm    Silent Auction
6:00pm    Dinner
7:30pm    Entertainment

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3
8:30am   Breakfast
9:00am   Field Trips
9:00am   Workshop Session D
10:30am  Workshop Session E
12:00pm  Lunch (to go)

David Orr is the Paul Sears Distinguished Professor of Environmental Studies and Politics at Oberlin College. He is the author of seven books, including Down to the Wire: Confronting Climate Collapse. He has been awarded seven honorary degrees and a dozen other awards including a Lyndhurst Prize, a National Achievement Award from the National Wildlife Federation, and recently a Visionary Leadership Award from Second Nature. He headed the effort to design, fund, and build the Adam Joseph Lewis Center, which was named in 2010 as “the most important green building of the past thirty years,” and as “one of thirty milestone buildings of the twentieth century.” He is the executive director of the Oberlin project and a founding editor of the journal Solutions.
THE CONFERENCE IS ORGANIZED around three strands: curriculum, environment, and health. These strands are well aligned with the federal Green Ribbon Schools program, which evaluates and celebrates schools with Healthy School Environments, minimal Environmental Impact, and strong Environmental Education. These strands will cover a wide variety of topics, including:

- **Health** – Implementing programs and initiatives to improve health and safety at schools and their surrounding communities.
- **Environment** – Improving classrooms, schools, and the surrounding environment by reducing consumption, improving water quality, saving energy, and reducing waste.
- **Curriculum** – Teaching and learning about the dynamic relationship between human, environmental, and energy systems.

These strands, both separately and combined, are instrumental to creating a comprehensive approach to increasing awareness and knowledge about the interrelatedness of natural ecosystems, the built environment, and human behavior. This regional conference will provide a unique opportunity for cross-sector networking and collaboration to increase environmental literacy and help create and maintain effective, safe and healthy green schools throughout New England.

**Bringing New England’s Environmental Literacy Plans to the Next Generation** – Nicole Scola, New England Aquarium; Diana Payne, CT Sea Grant; Lauren Rader, Project Oceanology; Sarah Bursky, NEOSEC Program Manager; David Welty, Ocean Explorium

Environmental education organizations are uniquely positioned to help classrooms meet Next Generation Science Standards with experiences emphasizing the interconnectedness of human and natural systems. We will highlight the efforts of three institutions to advance environmental literacy through curricula that incorporate Next Generation Science Standards and state Environmental Literacy Plan priorities.

**Build It! Project-Based Environmental Education** – Adrienne Gagnon, DownCity Design

Want to build a garden for your school? Or a greenhouse? In this hands-on workshop led by 2013 RI Innovation Fellow Adrienne Gagnon, you'll learn how to facilitate student-driven design projects to bring environmental education at your school to the next level.

**Models for Successful Integration of High Quality Environmental Learning through the Expanded Learning Opportunity Approach** – Rebekah Greenwald Speck, Kelly Griffith, and Karen Barbosa; Riveredge Arts

The Expanded Learning Opportunity approach, widely applied in NH and being increasingly adopted in RI, offers a new pathway to high quality impactful learning that can better meet student needs through integration of in-school and out-of-school learning. We will explore different models for expanded learning programming and present strategies and tools for successful implementation.

**Engaging Youth in Gardens and Greenspaces** – Vanessa Venturini, URI Outreach Center

Learn to connect kids to the food they eat and the ecosystems surrounding them. This workshop is intended for all educators interested in tools that can be used to combat Nature Deficit Disorder. Three curriculum units - biodiversity in urban gardens, the water cycle and watersheds, and food literacy - are appropriate for use in outdoor and indoor settings and adaptable for grades K-12.

**Resources for Reducing, Reusing & Recycling in RI Schools** – Krystal Noiseux, Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation

We will highlight the ways in which Rhode Island’s quasi-public solid waste agency, the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation, works with RI schools to involve students in waste reduction, reuse, recycling and composting.

**Global Climate Change: Connecting Science, Social Studies and Choice** – Katie Alvarez and Tom Chen, Paul Cuffee School (CANCELLED)

We will highlight an in-depth interdisciplinary unit in which students investigate how individual choices affect their lives, communities and world. Through data centered activities, students investigate the connections between global climate change and everyday choices. Students present findings using the web tools, Glogster, and with an authentic written assessment.

**Beetles, Bugs and Blights! Practical Lessons for Scientific Problem Solving** – Kathy Murray, ME Dept of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Discover free curricula and service-learning projects on ecological solutions for pest problems such as invasive species, ticks, mosquitoes, and garden pests. See lessons for K-12 and explore...
ideas for incorporating them into science curricula. Pest ecology is a great way to involve students in science with practical applications for gardening, farming, conservation, and human health.

**Education and Health for a Sustainable Earth and Self** — Anneliese Mueller and Christopher Schoen, Salem State University  
Participants will engage in a selection of the cross curriculum projects employed in an inter-departmental college freshman learning community, while simultaneously presenting preliminary data collected on the impacts of this cross curricular approach to teaching sustainable health of the self and the planet.

**Integrating Sustainability into Teacher Education: Why It Matters and Efforts to Make it Work at Rhode Island College** — James C. Murphy and Alexa LeBoeuf, Rhode Island College and The Apeiron Institute for Sustainable Living  
In 2013 a team of masters students from Brown University worked closely with Apeiron Institute and Rhode Island College representatives to assess what sustainability education encompasses, why it should be integrated into the teacher education program at RIC, and what next steps were necessary for achieving this objective.

**Environmental Education in a Hotter Time** — David Orr, Oberlin College  
Responding to the issues raised in the keynote, we will draw on our experience with the Oberlin Project — a joint effort of the City of Oberlin, Oberlin College, and private and institutional partners to improve the resilience and prosperity of our community, and create a new, sustainable base for economic and community development.

**A Strategy for Climate Change Education** — John Anderson and Janan Evans-Wilent, New England Aquarium  
Learn an approach to education and communication about ocean change and climate change. Grounded in social and cognitive research, strategic framing and developing professional communities of practice are making a difference for many informal education centers that seek to engage audiences in fostering both learning and a sense of empowerment among their audiences.

**Assessing the State of Sustainability in K-12 Education** — Kirsten Rumsey, Clean Air - Cool Planet  
This assessment synthesizes the Green Ribbon Schools Honorees’ results from their applications, and creates a comprehensive report that identifies overall trends, key factors in successes and future areas of improvement.

**Teaching Environmental Literacy Through the Arts** — Audrey Eisenhauer, Margret & H.A. Rey Center; Cynthia Robinson, Eco Art a la carte  
Explore innovative ways to use the arts to teach, document and celebrate environmental literacy in and out of school. Participate in hands-on indoor and outdoor activities that highlight the ways an interdisciplin ary, arts-infused approach can achieve the goals of your state's Environmental Literacy Plan.

**Teaching Environmental Studies: Challenges and Opportunities** — Brentnall Powell, The Derryfield School (CANCELLED)  
The greatest challenge in teaching Environmental Studies to high school students is communicating the severity of the problems while empowering students to be optimistic agents of change. Come learn how one high school course has changed over time to create hope, energy, and engagement for a better world.

**Best Practices for Developing Environmentally Literate Students** — Robin Organ, Green Schools, Exec. Director/Founder; Eric Magers, Manchester Essex Regional School District, Green Team District Director  
Learn the recipe for success when developing environmentally literate students for the 21st Century! We will showcase multiple Award-winning EE programs for the environmentally literate student and teacher/informal Educator. Learn how to deliver best practices when it comes to experiential education in environmental education through service learning opportunities that truly engage K-12 students in innovative projects that impact our schools and communities.

**EcosySTEMs: Using Ecology as an Integrating Context for STEM Education** — Meg Edstrom, Ferry Beach Ecology School  
Workshop will demonstrate how field ecology provides the ultimate setting for an authentic application of real world STEM skills. Interactions between the scientific process, the use of technology, and the application of the Next Generation Science Standards will be addressed.

**One Boiler at a Time: Gas and Electric Energy Savings Opportunities for Public Schools** — Karen Verrengia, Cranston Public Schools; Michael Skinner, National Grid; Rachel Sholly, RI Office of Energy Resources  
We will demonstrate the potential for significant energy savings in Rhode Island’s public schools. Karen Verrengia, Energy Manager of Cranston Public
Schools, will describe taking advantage of the state’s energy efficiency programs through National Grid to achieve high energy and cost reductions. Michael Skinner from National Grid and Rachel Sholly from the RI Office of Energy Resources will outline the financial and technical assistance opportunities offered through the newly established RI Public Energy Partnership. Funded by the U.S. Dept. of Energy, RIPEP is a 3-year collaborative effort to achieve deep energy savings in state and municipal facilities.

Systems Thinking – From the Ocean Through Space — Annette Brickley, Ocean Explorium at New Bedford Seaport
At the Ocean Explorium you don’t learn just about the ocean; you learn about the ocean as part of the earth’s system. Learn how you can build your skills to think about how any event or action can affect the entire system, including the hydrosphere, atmosphere, biosphere, and lithosphere.

Environmental Education and the Next Generation Science Standards — Peter McLaren, RI Department of Education
The design of the Next Generation Science Standards is to help students build upon and revise their knowledge and skills to learn about their world. This workshop will help educators learn how to connect Environmental Education content and skills with the NGSS.

What Do You Notice? What Do You Wonder? — David Cappaert, Environmental Sciences Magnet
Elementary students are curious and thoughtful observers. What do they see in nature? What are their questions? We’ll view photographs and video clips of worm balls, snake eyes, rotted fruit, possum skulls, and other items of everyday occurrence. I’ll report what children see in these artifacts, and we’ll ask our own questions.

Environmental Education makes the New National Science Standards Exciting! — Patty O’Donnell, Helen Ann Sephton, Ted Watt, Hitchcock Center for the Environment
The Next Generation Science Standards are coming! Supported by a NEEEA-EPA sub-grant, the Hitchcock Center has developed three environmentally focused units aligned with the new national standards: 3rd grade - The Pond Ecosystem, 4th Grade - Energy is Electrifying, and 5th grade - Water and Water Conservation. Participants will leave with content, activities and teaching approaches designed to bring an environmental perspective to your teaching guided by the new science standards.

Exploring the Key Elements of Developing a Model Sustainable Elementary School in Rural Vermont
Joan Haley and Lou Lasciano, Shelburne Farms, Reading Elementary School and Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park
What are the essential elements needed for becoming a sustainable school? Learn about and share strategies and resources available to help you on this journey. Find out about one school’s hard fought path from threatened closure to the Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellent and the Green Ribbon School award.

Environmental Education is Dead. Long Live Collective Impact!
Drew Dumsch and Ryder Scott, The ELLMS Project
The days of environmental education being just an informational delivery system are over. Environmental literacy must inspire change for a sustainable planet and healthy humankind. We’ll challenge you to think beyond traditional EE definitions/boundaries towards a collective impact model using systems thinking as a holistic approach to living and learning.

Farm to School in the Cafeteria, Classroom and Community — Simca Horwitz and Lauren Wetherbe, Massachusetts Farm to School Project
Learn the benefits of serving locally grown fruits and vegetables in your school cafeteria. We’ll also address ways to engage classroom and community in your farm to school program. From planting seeds to taste tests and field trips to the bean patch, opportunities abound for educating students about the environment and nutrition, making learning fun (and delicious)!

Students Lead the Way Towards Environmentally Active Citizenship! — A Green Schools Student Council, Green Schools
Green Schools has the perfect recipe for creating Environmentally Innovative Students, who know how to impact schools and communities. Learn how to engage your students through out-of-box environmental leadership that is impacting our Nation one school at a time. Topics addressed: Environmental Education in K-12, Bridging Environmental Education in Higher Education and the Workforce, eSTEM [Environment + STEM] and more.

**Action Research: Improving your Practice** — Lily Fessenden, Lesley University

An introduction to action research as an approach to developing ecological literacy and sustainable practices in your community, classroom or workplace. Project examples include systems thinking, connecting children with nature, and place based education.

**High-Adventure Science — Free Simulations Exploring Earth’s Systems and Sustainability** — Amy Pallant and Sarah Prypniewicz, The Concord Consortium

Explore free, classroom-tested secondary school curricula on climate change science, water sustainability, air pollution, and hydraulic fracturing while exploring uncertainty as part of scientific argumentation.

**An Inter-curricular Framework to Explore the Environment through Moving and Writing** — Valerie Cookson-Botto

Throughout the centuries artists have presented society with unique ways of viewing our environment. Learn skills to lead students through movement sessions that integrate environmental issues with the creative process.

**Learning Through Outdoor Games** — Tim Grant, Green Teacher

Outdoor games provide sensory-rich introductions to important ecological concepts such as habitats, energy cycles, individual species, interconnections between species and food chains. They can also introduce us to other cultures. This workshop will introduce participants to a variety of games that are useful when working with kids aged 8-15.

**Evaluation Partnerships: Empowering Programs and Building Capacity** — Susan Zoll, Ph.D. and Katie Murray, MCRP - Murray / Zoll & Associates; Bridget Kubis, Save the Bay

Evaluation can be much more than the identification of performance indicators to measure program effectiveness. In this session we will review key elements of an evaluation partnership. Learn about a collaboratively designed evaluation model for Save The Bay’s 2013 Bay Institute, a week-long professional development opportunity for educators. We will discuss lessons-learned, as well next steps in the project. Discussion will include how your organization can better understand complex and essential aspects of its current capacity and its potential development by using a similar evaluation model.

**Animal Superheroes Come to Hartford’s Environmental Science Magnet School: Aesthetic Eco-social Justice Pedagogy in Action** — James Joss French and Nicholas Federici, Central Connecticut State University

The Environmental Animal Superheroes project at ESM combined the powerful portal of the arts and eco-social justice issues exploration, forming an exemplary teaching model to support interdisciplinary inspired instruction for diverse learners. This presentation will explore project experience pedagogy and curriculum, where attendees will be given instructional strategies for their specific school curricula while addressing core state science standards.

**Teaching and Learning in the Urban Ecosystem** — Jennifer Klein and Lisa Maloney, Audubon Society of Rhode Island

Fifty percent of the world’s population resides in urban areas; by 2050 this number is projected to increase dramatically. How can we, as environmental educators, address this growing trend? In this workshop we will explore the ecology of cities and the ecology in cities through interactive discussions and hands on activities.

**Reforest the Tropics** — Dr. Herster Barres, Reforest the Tropics; Desiree Derix, Head of the Science Department, Westerly Middle School

Reforest The Tropics is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that manages a UN program of promotion of farm forests in the tropics and environmental education in the U.S. The Westerly, RI Middle School participates in this program to develop more emphasis on climate change and its solutions, especially in reference to the reforestation of the tropics for managing U.S. emissions of CO2. We’ll show you how to calculate your school’s CO2 emissions and show you a forest in our program that is helping to reduce the net emission for the New London School system.
Zero Waste — Tom Twist, The Chewonki Foundation

Learn how a non-profit in Maine started a blossoming Zero Waste movement in schools by creating a contest to motivate student-centered, project-based learning. Join Tom Twist, the Chewonki Foundation’s Sustainability Coordinator, as he gives a behind-the-scenes look at this timely and transferrable project.

Sustainable STEM Education through Hydroponics — Jameson F. Chace, Madison VanOrden, Margaret Kane, Salve Regina University

Introduction to STEM curriculum and active inquiry-based education through hydroponic gardening; introduces students to botany, science, agriculture, healthy diets, sustainable local agriculture, and economics.

Return to Wonder: Embracing and Practicing Mindfulness as Science Educators — Helen Dalbeck, Amoskeag Fishways Learning and Visitors Center

We ask educators to teach science in an engaging, active way with the goal of graduating science literate students who want to learn and do more. Learning becomes dynamic when we practice paying attention on purpose. Being mindful enriches, deepens, and enlivens learning. Through careful noticing, wonder returns.

Better Together: Lessons Learned in Regional Collaborative Evaluation — Andrew Powers, PEER Associates

Following a NEEEA-EPA funded workshop in Acadia last May, a group of collaboration-minded EE leaders from all over New England began a project to build a user-friendly toolkit for implementing effective practices in professional development for EE and how to best evaluate process and outcomes. Join us and get involved as we look into concepts such as shared measurements across many programs, collaborative evaluation among multiple organizations, and achieving cross-sector collective impact.

Greeneengineering the Future — Steve Chinosi, The Greenengineers of Newton Public Schools

Big ideas, lessons learned, and action plans for creating an inspired, inquiry-based integration of the environment, science, and engineering through the flipped and blended Greeneengineering program.

No Compromises: Combining Challenging Academic Standards and Active, Authentic Environmental Learning — Joel Tolman, Common Ground High School, Urban Farm, and Env. Education Center

For five years, students at Common Ground – the nation’s oldest environmental charter high school, serving students from the City of New Haven – have made dramatic gains on state tests, while stepping forward as urban environmental leaders. Learn how one school integrates high academic expectations with active, authentic environmental learning and leadership opportunities.

Aquaponics in the Next Generation — Chris Asbell, Barnard School

The Next Generation Science Standards provide the framework for teachers to investigate questions with students, and practice the process of science. Barnard School has been using the practices of science to help guide our investigations of our world. Come see some of the project based learning activities that provide lasting experiences and science knowledge.

Green Futures: Stepping Up to Sustainability — William York, smallFEAT for Schools

So, you want to cut the edge of the planet’s greatest environmental challenges by getting a ‘green’ job? You know there’s a great road ahead, but where’s the on-ramp? Where will it take you? Students (and others) will engage in scenarios and interactive hands-on activities about passions, interests, needs, and skills typical of those willing to tackle the greatest issues facing the planet. Materials and specific resources also included for use back home.


NESS and US Sailing have partnered to share their collaborative effort to launch the US Sailing REACH program, a new program that utilizes sailing as an educational platform, challenging youth to embrace education, establish a love of learning and explore productive Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math based careers.
Roger Willams Park Zoo
Enjoy the Zoo at your own pace and join us for a guided tour of our newest exhibit. Featuring animals from across the globe, the Zoo provides guests with the opportunity to connect with wildlife and build a foundation of understanding and compassion for the natural world. The Zoo's newest exhibit, Hasbro's Our Big Backyard, focuses on making these connections for the very youngest of visitors, and the young at heart! Explore our fully accessible treehouse, build a fort or a fairy house, express yourself in Creativity Corner, test your agility on the stump jump, and learn how free-choice play and nature exploration have become a central (and very popular) part of the Zoo experience!

Fee: $13 per person, $8/child, children under 3 years are free
Time: On your own anytime between 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. Last admission is at 3:30 pm. Tours of Hasbro’s Our Big Backyard exhibit begin at 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.
Meet at: Hasbro’s Our Big Backyard exhibit entrance (for tours). Zoo is at 1000 Elmwood Ave. in Providence.

SVF Foundation Tour
The SVF Foundation (svffoundation.org) preserves germplasm (sperm and embryos) from rare and endangered breeds of food and fiber livestock. In collaboration with Tufts University’s Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, SVF elevates rare-breed conservation to a new level. With two historic properties in Newport, SVF’s facilities include exquisitely renovated animal buildings, a procedures laboratory, an infirmary, and a cryo-room.

Fee: Free    Time: 3:00 – 4:30 pm
Meet at: SVF Foundation, 152 Harrison Ave, Newport.
In order to assist in maintaining SVF’s biosecurity protocols please wear clean, non-farm clothing and shoes.

Claiborne Pell School Reception
Tour the Pell School to see why Rhode Island is leading the green schools movement! Since 2007 R.I. has made it a priority to build and maintain facilities that offer high-quality learning environments, conserve natural resources and energy, and are easier to maintain. Celebrate recent Northeast Collaborative for High Performance Schools verified schools including the Claiborne Pell Elementary School and Green Ribbon Schools awardees at a reception at the Pell Elementary School.

Fee: Free    Time: 4:00 – 6:00 pm
Meet at: Claiborne Pell School, 35 Dexter Street, Newport.
Register through the Conference online registration

Eco-Trivia At Buskers Irish Pub
Meet up with fellow conference goers for an exciting evening of trivia hosted by trivia master Austin Tracey at Newport’s favorite Irish bar. Start your conference experience off right — have some fun, test your general and environmental knowledge and enjoy delicious food and drink.

Time: 7:00 – 11:00 pm
Meet at: Buskers Irish Pub, 178 Thames Street, Newport

Fort Adams
Experience over 180 years of American History, military culture, architecture and engineering. This guided tour takes you from the top of the Fort walls to the depths of the underground listening tunnels. View the Quarters where officers and their families lived, ascend to the scenic overlook for a breathtaking view of Newport Harbor and Narragansett Bay and delve beneath the walls of the Fort into our underground tunnels.

Fee: $8 per person    Time: 10:00 am - noon
Meet: O’Hare Academic Center lobby

Green School Facility Tours:
Pell School & The Met
Learn about two of Rhode Island’s newest schools and how they are working to comply with the Green Ribbons Schools Initiative. Tour both facilities with a representative of the RI Dept. of Education.

Fee: free    Time: 9:00 am – 11:30 am
Meet at: O’Hare Academic Center lobby

History and Natural History of the Norman Bird Sanctuary
Join us for a guided hike through the many habitats on our property. We will highlight points of interest such as the historic cemetery, the circa 1750s farm house of NBS founder Mabel Norman, and evidence of the Wampanoag people on southern Aquidneck Island long ago. The tour will culminate in a breathtaking view from the top of Hanging Rock, where the Sakonnet River, Block Island Sound, and Purgatory Chasm are visible.

Fee: $7 per person    Time: 9:00 am - noon
Meet: O’Hare Academic Center lobby

Roger Willams Park Zoo
(available from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm)
See description in the Friday Field Trips section.
IN THE HEART OF THE OCHRE POINT-CLIFFS National Historic District, Salve Regina’s eighty acres encompass one of the most beautiful and unique campuses in the country. The campus is set on seven contiguous estates and features twenty-one historic structures that have been sensitively adapted. Most conference activities will be at the O’Hare Academic Center, which features classrooms, laboratories, lecture hall and a café. With waves crashing against the Cliff Walk, the oceanfront classrooms serve as a grand stage for conference workshops and other activities.

Aquidneck Island Explorations
Newport, Middletown and Portsmouth are the three communities on Aquidneck Island, the largest of Narragansett Bay’s 36 islands. There are a wide variety of wonderful places to explore and things to do on our beautiful island. We encourage you to bring your family, and come early or stay late for the conference so you have time to enjoy the amazing natural, historical and cultural aspects of our state. Among the highlights of Aquidneck are:
► The Cliff Walk – The 3.5 mile walk along the eastern shore of Newport is world famous for combining the natural beauty of the shoreline with the architectural history of Newport’s gilded age. The Cliff Walk passes in front of the conference site
► Norman Bird Sanctuary – A 300 acre wildlife refuge with 7 miles of trails. A hike to Hanging Rock offers breathtaking views of the ocean and surrounding area.
► Save The Bay’s Exploration Center & Aquarium – marine science center home to 14 exhibits and 140 species of Narragansett Bay creatures.
► Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge – 250 acre peninsula serves as an important stopover and wintering area for migratory birds, including sea ducks.
► Sakonnet Greenway Trail – 10 mile trail, the longest on Aquidneck Island and passes through recreational areas, active farmland, wetlands, and forest.
► Fort Adams State Park – offers spectacular panoramas of both the harbor and Narragansett Bay. The park is home to Fort Adams, the largest coastal fortification in the United States.

Saturday Night Entertainment
Zoo workers and banker by day, rockers by night! Don’t miss a live performance by Farm Dog, Rhode Island’s own classic rock cover band.
“Sometimes you need to recalibrate your musical palette with some straight up, heartfelt rock and roll, and that’s exactly what you get with Farm Dog. Covering a catalog of more than 200 tunes, from Bowie to Bob Dylan, Petty and Pink Floyd, and Zeppelin to Zappa, Farm Dog plays the music you made memories to with a feeling that makes it all their own.” SO Rhode Island!
REGISTRATION
Register online at www.neeea.org from August 26 through October 25. You may pay online by credit card or mail in a check. Registration is not complete until payment is received. Registrations will be confirmed by email. A detailed conference packet will be emailed to registrants.

Discounts — Current members of the state EE organizations (COEEA, MEEA, MEES, NHEE, RIEEA, VT-SWEEP) are eligible for a $10 discount.

NEEEA Scholarships, of up to 20% discount on full registration, are available for those who cannot attend the conference without financial assistance. Scholarships can be requested during the online registration process. Funds are limited and requests will be processed on a first-come first served basis. Registration deadline if requesting a NEEEA scholarship: September 30.

Sustainable Schools Network Scholarships
Thanks to generous sponsorship from National Grid, The Apeiron Institute is offering a limited number of full and partial need-based scholarships for those who have participated in the Sustainable Schools Summit in the past. Details and scholarship applications can be found at http://sustainableschools.apeiron.org. If you are granted a scholarship, you will be given a discount code to use when registering online.

FEES
Please note that registration fees do not include lodging.

Full Conference: $180
Saturday, Saturday evening, and Sunday, includes all meals
Saturday only: $99
Includes breakfast, lunch, and snacks
Saturday dinner event: $45
Sunday only: $75
Includes breakfast and lunch

Registration Deadline: October 25, 2013.
Space is limited so please register as soon as possible! Registrations will be processed on a first come, first served basis, upon receipt of a completed online registration form and full payment by check or credit card. Checks must be received by October 25.

Cancellation Policy: Refunds, less a $30 administrative fee, can be issued for cancellations received by October 15, 2013. No refunds can be issued after that date.

Sustainability Practices
In an effort to model our collective commitment to living within Earth’s means we are working hard to make this conference a “green” event:
• People’s Power & Light (www.ripower.org/greenevent) will be helping to reduce our impact by matching the electricity used during the event with 100% local wind power!
• We will be using compostable and reusable dishware.
• Our meals will include locally sourced foods as well as local Rhody Fresh milk, fair trade purchased and trans-fair certified coffee, and bulk rather than bottled water.
• The cooking oil is being converted into clean-burning Biodiesel to heat homes and power vehicles throughout Rhode Island.
• There will be composting and recycling options on site.

LODGING
NEEEA has guaranteed a block of Newport Harbor Hotel rooms and made a significant deposit to Camp Rocky Farm in order to secure the lowest possible rates for your accommodations.

Located in the heart of historic downtown Newport, rooms at the Newport Harbor Hotel, 49 America’s Cup Ave., can be booked at the reduced rate of $129/night. Call 401-847-9000 to make a reservation. Be sure to provide the Attendee/Block Code: NEEE2013. Make your reservation by October 1 to ensure room availability.

Tent camping sites as well as a limited number of bunks are available at the Girl Scout Camp Rocky Farm, 160 Carroll Avenue, steps away from Ocean Avenue and popular Newport destinations. The cost is $40/weekend for bunks; $30/weekend for tents and RVs. Camping reservations must be made through the online Conference registration process at www.neeea.org.

Questions?
registration@neeea.org
978-310-1170

A Silent Auction to support the NEEEA scholarships will be held. We invite you to donate items for the auction such as books, t-shirts, activity guides, posters, educational products, unique items from your state, or anything else you would like to share.

Special Dietary Needs: Be sure to include any dietary restrictions (e.g. vegetarian, gluten-free, etc.) when you register so that we may make the appropriate accommodations.

A Silent Auction
BIDDING DEADLINE: October 10, 2013
Items to be auctioned include:
• Books, t-shirts, posters, educational products, unique items from your state, or anything else you would like to share.

Auction will be held on November 2, 2013.

[Image of Silent Auction]
Six professional associations, representing each of the New England states comprise the New England Environmental Education Alliance: Connecticut Outdoor & Environmental Education Association (COEEA), Massachusetts Environmental Education Society (MEES), Maine Environmental Education Association (MEEA), New Hampshire Environmental Educators (NHEE), Rhode Island Environmental Education Association (RIEEA), and Vermont State-Wide Environmental Education Programs (SWEEP).

Continuing its long record of strengthening networks, building capacity, and providing professional development, NEEEA has been active in several key areas in the last year and a half:

- Funding nineteen environmental literacy capacity-building projects through a grant from the U.S. EPA. Many of those projects are featured at this conference.
- Coordinating Environmental Literacy Plans in the region — highlighted last year with the hugely successful New England Environmental Literacy Summit.
- Partnering with the Boston Youth Environmental Network, to develop the New England EE Capacity Consortium — a new professional network that aims to expand the EE community so that it is inclusive of all practitioners and organizations that aspire to a world of healthy, vigorous, and sustainable communities.
- SSN, Apeiron provides training and support to schools seeking to improve the health and learning readiness of students, reduce environmental impacts, and foster a culture of appreciation and respect for our shared ecosystems.

The SSN has organized Sustainable Schools Summits since 2008 in partnership with RI Department of Education and other key stakeholders bringing together upwards of 200 teachers, students, parents, administrators, facilities managers, and officials from school communities across Rhode Island showcasing successful local initiatives and giving participants the knowledge, resources, and support network to move their school toward greater sustainability.

With support from the NEEEA-EPA regional sub-grant program, the SSN combined this year’s Summit with the NEEEA Conference so that participants from diverse sectors will have access to new resources, share best practices, and build leadership skills for widespread environmental literacy adoption in the context of sustainable, healthy schools.

Thank you to the 2013 NEEEA Conference & Sustainable Schools Summit planning committee members, the Rhode Island Department of Education, the Rhode Island Environmental Education Association, and The Apeiron Institute for Sustainable Living for their time, energy, and commitment to this important event.
Thank You

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to our generous sponsors. We appreciate their support of the conference vision to cultivate engaged, healthy, and environmentally literate citizens and are grateful for their contributions.

Conference Co-Chairs
Elisabeth Bux
Director of Education
The Apeiron Institute for Sustainable Living
elisabeth@apeiron.org

Carrie Hawthorne
Manager of School Programs
Roger Williams Park Zoo
chawthorne@rwpzoo.org

Kristen Swanberg
Senior Director of Education
Audubon Society of RI
kswanberg@asri.org

We would also like to acknowledge the U.S. EPA Region 1’s support of environmental education and environmental literacy in New England through the Environmental Education Grant awarded to NEEEA. Sub-grants from that award are enabling nineteen organizations and schools to implement projects that enhance regional environmental education capacity and advance state education goals through environmental literacy plans. Many of those projects, including the Sustainable Schools Summit, are featured in this conference.

Board Chair:
Lisa Purcell
lisa@fourwindsinstitute.org

Special Projects Manager:
Adrian Ayson
adrian@neeea.org

New England Environmental Education Alliance
5D Walnut Street
Devens, MA 01434
978-310-1170

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