

# October 2016 CREEC Network Newsletter – Region 8

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## CREEC Network Mixer:

### November 16 – CREEC Network EE Provider & Teacher Mixer 4pm – 6pm at SLOCOE Training Room

Gathering of all environmental education providers and teachers in SLO County with the goal of sharing resources. RSVP here: <http://calendars.slococ.org/event/creec-network-ee-providers-mixer/>  
Mixers will be held at other counties throughout Region 8 during the school year.

Program includes alignment to NGSS and how the Next Generation Science Standards will fit with Environmental Literacy. The new CA Science Framework and the CA History/Social Science Framework both have Environmental Principles & Concepts in the state adopted instructional materials criteria for textbook publishers to adhere to. This is also in the works for the new CA Health Framework.

## Teacher Trainings:

### October 18 – EEI Training in Port Hueneme Contact Lucy Christensen

[lucy.christensen@calrecycle.ca.gov](mailto:lucy.christensen@calrecycle.ca.gov)

### October 20, 2016 - 8:00am - 3:00pm – Project WET/EEI Training FOR SECONDARY EDUCATORS!

**Location:** Kern County Water Agency, Bakersfield

**Sponsored By:** Kern County Water Agency's Improvement District #4; Kern High School District

**Register:** If you have questions about the workshop or would like to register, please contact Sarah Clayton at (661) 599-4715

**Description:** The Kern County Water Agency's Improvement District #4 and Kern High School District invite you to join us for this **FREE** water education workshop, which will include hands-on experience with the activities of Project WET (Water Education for Teachers)! Project WET is an exciting water education program that promotes awareness, appreciation, knowledge and stewardship of water resources. All Project WET activities are hands-on, investigative and easy-to-use. This workshop has been tailored to the region and will highlight local water.

Continuing Educational Units are available through CSU San Marcos for an additional fee.

<http://californiaeei.org/training/in-person-trainings/>

### November 2 & 3 – CA Green School Summit in Pasadena <http://www.green-technology.org/gcschools16/>

**November 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> - FIT+ at Camp Ocean Pines** - FIT+ is a new professional development program of the Northern California Society of American Foresters and UC Cooperative Extension Project Learning Tree FIT+ features Project WET and Project Learning Tree with an emphasis on Project WET.

<http://www.forestryinstitute.org/education.html>

### November 5 – EdTech Connect 2.0 from SLOCOE and SLOCUE at Arroyo Grande High School Register at

<http://goo.gl/eP7LCs>

### November 17 – PEAK Energy Training with Ventura County Office of Education Online registration at

<http://vcoe.k12oms.org/>

### November 17 – NGSS training – Digging Deeper with Patti Garrett at the SLO County Office of Education <http://slococ.k12oms.org/951-118757>

**December 1 & 2, 2016 3:30 pm – 6:30 pm both days** **Project WET - EEI Workshop: Santa Maria SOUTH COAST EDUCATORS!** The City of Santa Maria Utilities Department and CREEC Network Region 8 invite you to attend a wonderful professional development experience engaged in the activities of Project WET and the Education & the Environment Initiative (EEI)! The interdisciplinary Project WET are effective tools for integrating student knowledge of concepts and skills that provide strong foundations for STEAM and Service-Learning programs. Project WET activities are designed to supplement existing curriculum - including the use of EEI (Education & the Environment Initiative) curriculum units – and are correlated to Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards. *The workshop is FREE but spaces are limited - Please register by Nov. 23, 2016 by contacting Myra Ritchie: [mritchie@ci.santa-maria.ca.us](mailto:mritchie@ci.santa-maria.ca.us)*

**December 12 & 13 – NGSS Rollout #3 at Ventura County Office of Education**

<http://www.classroomscience.org/ngss-rollout-3-save-the-date-registration-opens-soon>

## Community Events:

**October 14 & 15 – Growing Edible Education (GEE) Symposium** in Ventura County this coming weekend. Don't miss out on going on field trips on Friday and workshops on Saturday at Fremont Middle School. Register today: [www.geesymposium.org](http://www.geesymposium.org)  
Next fall in 2017 the GEE Symposium will be held in SLO County and then we will return to Santa Barbara in 2018.

**Saturday, October 15 - Saturday Scientists at the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History** 20 State Park Road, Morro Bay Time: 2:00 Great event for all ages, 7 years and older <http://ccspa.info/events/>

**October 17 – UC Santa Barbara Sustainability Summit** - Loma Pelona Conference Center <http://www.sustainability.ucsb.edu/centralcoastsummit/>

Key players from local institutions and government agencies will gather to build collaborations for a sustainable central coast. The Summit is planned by partners from the Community Environmental Council; the Cities of Goleta, Santa Barbara, and Carpinteria; the County of Santa Barbara; and the University of California, Santa Barbara, and we seek to inspire and sustain action on complex environmental and economic issues in our region.

**October 21 – 23 – Deep Ecology Collaboratory**, Rancho El Chorro Outdoor School  
<http://ecologistics.org/deep-ecology-collaboratory/>

**October 21 – SLO Seed Savers Exchange** – SLO Library Community Room 5pm – 9pm  
Facebook.com/SloSeedExchange: <https://www.facebook.com/SloSeedExchange/?fref=ts>  
(Santa Barbara's Seed Exchange is in January.)

**October 22 – Seasonal Celebrations at Our Global Family Farm** at City Farm SLO 9am – 12noon  
Fall harvest celebrations including the cultural tradition of Latin America countries "Día de los Muertos." We will be planting marigolds to honor our ancestors. Also we'll have face painting and planting fall crops. Also "Make a Difference Day" volunteer projects at the farm. [Educational programs at City Farm](#)  
See attached flyer for upcoming seasonal celebrations on the farm for 2017.

**OCTOBER 22, 2016 – Skeleton Saturday** 11 AM - 3 PM Morro Bay Museum of Natural History A special family event to showcase the bone collections at the Museum of Natural History. Displays, games with prizes, owl pellet dissection, skull identification, art projects, all centered around skeletons. ALL AGES. Morro Bay Museum of Natural History. Adults \$3; children under 16, State Park campers and CCSPA members are free. For more information call 805-772-2694.

**October 22 - Golden Oak Honey Festival in Paso Robles** 9am – 3ppm  
<http://pasoroblesdowntown.org/downtown-calendar/paso-robles-eventgolden-oak-festival/>

### October 25 – Water Catchment Panel with SLO Permaculture Guild

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/895682213790375/>

### November 4 – Green School Gala at the Monday Club in SLO 6:00pm – 8:30pm

Register online here: <http://ccgreenbuilding.org/>

Come meet professionals, partners, and sustainable leaders in the community. There will be food, wine, and festivities as we gather to celebrate this year's local green school achievements.

### November 5 – Ventura Farm Day sponsored by <http://www.seeag.org/> 10am – 3pm

Free admission to over 20 farms. <http://venturacountyfarmday.com/>

Paid events on Friday and Saturday nights.

### SAT NOV. 5 - CSU CHANNEL ISLANDS PRESENTS THE ANNUAL SCIENCE CARNIVAL

5 to 8 p.m. at Thurgood Marshall Elementary School, 2900 Thurgood Marshall Dr., Oxnard, CA  
More than 80 different hands-on science activities for PreK-8 grade students and families Food available for purchase or you can bring your own

SAVE THE DATE! Event and Parking are FREE!

For more information, visit:

[www.csuci.edu/sciencecarnival](http://www.csuci.edu/sciencecarnival)

### November 15 – Farm to School Mixer in San Luis Obispo at Copeland Health Education Pavilion located behind French Hospital 6:30pm – 8:00pm (Save the Date – online registration coming!)

Sponsored by the San Luis Obispo County FarmtoSchool Working Group

Mission Statement : The SLO County FarmtoSchool Working Group Mission is to bring together a diverse set of stakeholders to promote and support Farm to School activities, specifically, school gardens, local food procurement, and agriculture and nutrition education that is integrated into academic standards.

We are looking to bring stakeholders together to start planning for the 2017 GEE Symposium!!!

Stay tuned! Exciting times ahead for all things green and growing and healthy for our schools!!!



SHARKS AFTER DARK

OCT 20 | NOV 17 | JAN 19 | FEB 18 | MAR 16 | APR 20 | MAY 18

Enjoy local wine and appetizers while learning about the Central Coast Aquarium's programs by experiencing their hands on marine lessons for yourself.

6:00 – 8:00 PM  
\$20 per person – 21 and over event  
Reservations: [kim@centralcoastaquarium.com](mailto:kim@centralcoastaquarium.com)

CENTRAL COAST  
AQUARIUM  
AVILA BEACH

### Grants & Contests:

#### Care for Our Earth Grants for Teachers in Santa Barbara County

Santa Barbara County K-12 teachers are encouraged to apply for 2016-2017 Care for Our Earth Grants, through a program that is a collaboration of the District, the Santa Barbara County Education Office, the Santa Barbara County Water Agency, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, and Southern California Gas

Company. Grant applications for 2016-2017 are due November 18, 2016. See more information, including a list of previous recipients and projects, at the County Education Office.

<https://www.ourair.org/resources-for-teachers/#Care-Earth>

The program offers \$300 grants to teachers to do environmental service projects with students to save energy, cut traffic and pollution, or save water. Contact Mary Byrd at 805-961-8833 for more information.

### Whale Tail Grants

The [WHALE TAIL® grants program](#) is accepting applications to support projects encouraging people to value and take action to improve the health of California's coast, marine life, or watersheds that connect with the coast. Educational projects improving the quality of beaches or coastal or marine habitats are also eligible. There is also a special subcategory for projects addressing climate change and/or ocean acidification. Emphasis is on reaching underserved students or members of the public. Applications mailed to the California Coastal Commission must be **postmarked by November 1, 2016**. Nonprofits, schools, and government agencies may apply. Applicants may request up to \$50,000, and 25-50% of the funding will be allocated in small grants up to \$12,000. A total of \$488,150 will be distributed.

[Click here](#) below to access the full application packet.

[https://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/plate/plgrant.html?utm\\_source=Grants+announcement+2016&utm\\_campaign=Grants+Announcement+2016&utm\\_medium=email](https://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/plate/plgrant.html?utm_source=Grants+announcement+2016&utm_campaign=Grants+Announcement+2016&utm_medium=email)

### California Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Grants

Proposals due on  
November 18, 2016

Successful projects provide meaningful watershed educational experiences for students and related professional development for teachers.

The California B-WET program is a competitive grant program that supports new and existing, high quality environmental education programs. The grant program also fosters the growth of innovative programs and encourages capacity building and partnership development for environmental education programs throughout the entire the San Francisco Bay, Monterey Bay and Santa Barbara Channel watersheds.

Priorities for the CA B-WET Program include:

- 1) Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience for Students
- 2) Teachers Professional Development for Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences
- 3) Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences for Students  
or Professional Development for Teachers focused on Climate Change Education
- 4) New Programs and Applicants

Grants range from \$30,000 to \$60,000

Eligible applicants include:

K-12 public and independent schools and school systems, institutions of higher education;

community-based and non-profit organizations and state or local government agencies, interstate agencies and Indian Tribal governments. Visit our Website for the Full Funding Announcement <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/news/bwet/>

### Forestry Challenge

The Forestry Challenge is an academic event for high school students in technical forestry and current forestry topics that connects classroom math and science to hands-on experiences with real-world applications. Participants spend four days in the forest learning about the ecology and management of the forested landscapes that provide communities with water, recreational opportunities, wood products, and wildlife habitat. Youth benefit by better understanding the relationship of the forested environment to their community, by exposure to natural resource management as a potential career option, and by undertaking a rigorous critical thinking exercise. [Click here http://forestrychallenge.org/what-is-forestry-challenge/](http://forestrychallenge.org/what-is-forestry-challenge/) for the "What is Forestry Challenge?" summary. There are somewhere between 471 and 578 students coming this year, up from 390 in 2015.

### Ca Water H2O Challenge

The Cal Water H2O Challenge is back for its third year with \$10,000 available in educational grant prizes! Register by January 31, 2017 to compete in this year's challenge. And for a chance to win one of twenty \$500 grants, register by the early deadline of October 31, 2016!

The [competition's](#) objective remains the same - engage students, parents, and educators to learn and teach about the importance of water conservation through science and fun.

The [program](#) has been developed in collaboration with the [North American Association for Environmental Education](#) (NAAEE) and with expertise and input from the WestEd K-12 Alliance to ensure educationally sound, grade-specific experiences that encourage connection with STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) learning.

Over the course of 4-6 weeks, classrooms will:

- Initiate, develop, and implement a project focused on water through a community-based endeavor, following project-based learning methodology.
- Create and submit a portfolio including: project goals, student research, science and/or engineering experimentation, actions to solve a local water issue, and public outreach efforts. The submission will also include student and teacher reflections.

To ensure educators have access to the support you need, teachers will be provided with technical, expert, and monetary support through:

- Online resources and logistical assistance.
- Targeted educational support and on-call teacher consultants from WestEd K-12 Alliance.

The grand-prize winning class will receive a \$3,500 classroom grant and an all-expense paid NatureBridge nature exploration trip to the Santa Monica Mountains, an ideal setting to discover the wonders of ecology, biology, and conservation.

As an added incentive, classrooms that [register](#) by **December 31** will be entered for a chance to receive a \$250 AMEX Gift Card. Recipients for the cards will be chosen by lottery.

Please help spread the word by sharing this information to your colleagues, friends and professional networks throughout California. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at [CalWaterChallenge@gmail.com](mailto:CalWaterChallenge@gmail.com).

**Keep America Beautiful** has opened registration for Recycle-Bowl, its national K-12 recycling competition that engages and educates youth. The competition runs from October 17th through November 15<sup>th</sup> (America Recycles Day) and includes School, Community, and District divisions. <https://www.kab.org/recycle-bowl/>

### **Keep California Beautiful K-12 Recycling Challenge** - <http://greencaschools.org/>

The California Recycling Challenge is a friendly competition with [cash prizes for winning schools](#) and a benchmarking tool for K-12 school recycling programs to promote waste reduction activities to their school location only. Over a one month period, schools report recycling and trash data which are then ranked according to who collects the largest amount of recyclables per capita, the largest amount of total recyclables. Throughout this website, you will find links to resources and information about successful waste prevention, composting, and recycling programs in schools throughout California.

### **Region 8 Winners in Keep California Beautiful Recycling Challenge!**

Last year schools that won in Region 8 include Oxnard High School, Kern HS District Food Service, The Thacher School in Ventura County, Rio Bravo Elementary in Kern County, Arvin High School in Kern Co, Grimmway Academy in Kern County,

## **Online Courses:**

### **Online Course in Sustainability & Systems Thinking for Educators starts on October 24!**

Join Compass Education Level 1 course: Sustainability & Systems Thinking for Educators, starting on October 24, 2016! More information can be found at <http://www.compasseducation.org/online-course/>  
Join me in the Compass Education Level 1 course: Sustainability & Systems Thinking for Educators, starting on October 24, 2016!

## **Curriculum Resources:**

### **PEAK Energy Program for Students**

PEAK is a comprehensive standards-based educational program designed to empower elementary and middle school students with the knowledge to manage energy use in their homes, schools and communities. Through hands-on learning, students are inspired to pursue green careers and motivate themselves and others to take action to create a more sustainable world.

<http://www.peakstudents.org/teachers-corner/>



### **Energize Schools Program**

We excited to share information on the [Energize Schools](#) program. Energize Schools, a program of our non-profit partner [Strategic Energy Innovations](#), offers a free-of-charge program to high schools in California who are served by PG&E, SoCalGas, SCE, and SDG&E.

[Energize Schools](#), a program of the non-profit [Strategic Energy Innovations](#), provides holistic services to help California high school communities green their facilities, conserve resources, and engage students in service-learning and environmental leadership who are served by PG&E



or SoCalGas. Energize Schools can provide your school with no-cost support through several key areas. <http://www.energizeschools.org/>

Energize Schools provide high school [project-based curricula](#), instructional support, teacher training, and energy career connections and sustainability conferences. Example projects: Zero Net Energy Certificate, which includes a student-conducted School Energy Audit and School Solar Design, or a Watershed and Water System Analysis in which students conduct water quality testing of their local watershed, develop a GIS map of their watershed and public water system, and analyze the impacts and benefits of water systems on the community. Energize Schools can also facilitate field trips to energy and sustainability centers in the region to learn about the latest in sustainable design and innovation.

Follow Energize Schools on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for information on resources and updates on upcoming events, and contact Energize Schools at [energizeschools@seiinc.org](mailto:energizeschools@seiinc.org) for more information.

## New Curriculum from Facing the Future “Big World, Small Planet”

We can't help but brim with happiness by the arrival of our newest curriculum, *Big World, Small Planet*. The first of four modules debuts as a conversant curriculum that offers teachers and students an introduction to perceptions and methods to issues related to sustainability.

<https://www.facingthefuture.org/collections>

*Big World, Small Planet* is a student reader organized into four modules. Each consists of two related units, supported by 10 lessons. Insightful and straightforward, the curriculum offers a frank approach to motivate and empower students to seek positive solutions to the challenges that evolve from the interconnectedness of environment, culture, society and economy.

Learn more about BWSP and [take a look inside](#).

[https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/1100/0740/files/BWSP\\_Module1\\_LookInside.pdf?17593597147074259861](https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/1100/0740/files/BWSP_Module1_LookInside.pdf?17593597147074259861)

We're also pleased with the delivery of a much-anticipated revision to a core curriculum, *Engaging Students through Global Issues*. The cornerstone of our sustainability program studies bridges social studies and science/environmental studies with cohesive lessons and delivers a current exploration of scientific research for deliberation about the connection between complex global issues and sustainable solutions. [Take a look inside!](#)

[https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/1100/0740/files/ESTGI-2ndEdition\\_LookInside.pdf?9755716664836323670](https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/1100/0740/files/ESTGI-2ndEdition_LookInside.pdf?9755716664836323670)

## Other Environmental Education News:

### How to Raise an Environmentalist

*by Jill Suttie | Yes Magazine | Sep 30, 2016*

New research is helping social scientists develop a deeper understanding of how to motivate children to care about nature and the environment. Study findings suggest early contact with nature, empathy for fellow creatures, and fostering a sense of wonder and fascination of nature through direct experiences are all important. [\[+\] read more](http://www.yesmagazine.org/planet/how-to-raise-an-environmentalist-20160924)  
<http://www.yesmagazine.org/planet/how-to-raise-an-environmentalist-20160924>

## Celebrate National Park Centennial With a Project

For teachers who want to start the year on a celebratory note, here's an idea that's rich with possibilities.

<http://www.edutopia.org/article/celebrate-national-park-centennial-project-suzie-boss>

### Makerspace Workshops at VCOE

**Are you a “maker” or want to learn about the makerspace movement?  
Want to connect students motivation, real-world problem solving &  
hands-on learning in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math?**

Ventura County Office of Education Stanley C. Mantooth, Ventura County Superintendent of Schools  
Coordinated by Curriculum and Instruction

Audience: All Elementary School Teachers & Classified Staff

Dates: October 17, 2016 January 25, 2017 & March 13, 2017

Whether in a Makerspace, STEAM Lab, fab lab, or other tinker space, this workshop series will focus on areas of ENGINEERING along with science and technology, to provide ideas and guidance for hands-on, creative ways to encourage ALL students to design, experiment, build and invent as they deeply engage in learning experiences school-wide and across the curriculum. Attendees will learn the basic logistics of creating a makerspace and see how it can support learning for all students in the curriculum, CA State Standards, STEAM goals and NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards), while it expands student problem-solving, critical thinking and literacy skills.

To register online go to <http://vcoe.k12oms.org/1846-122325>