Today’s Agenda

Welcome and Project Goals
What is Sustainability?

Lunch and Conversations

What is a Professional Learning Community?
Building Partnerships

Laurel Kohl
Dr. Charles Button and
Dr. Kurt Love

Laurel Kohl
Suzanne Huminski
What is the CT Green LEAF Professional Learning Communities Project?

A Teacher Quality Partnership Grant (TQP)
Funded by Connecticut Office of Higher Education (OHE) for $166,922 (potentially renewable!)

Project window April 1, 2014 to August 31, 2015

Fiscal Agent: Eastern CT State University (ECSU)
Project Manager: Laurel Kohl, Institute for Sustainable Energy (ISE)
Who is on the CT Green LEAF PLC Project Team?

A collaboration of ECSU, CCSU, SCSU, and UConn

Including faculty in Education, Science, Mathematics, Construction Technologies and administrative services through Eastern and Central

Dr. Diana Payne, Connecticut SeaGrant, UConn is our Evaluator
Who is on the CT Green LEAF PLC Project Team?

and many environmental educators and programs in CT, including

– Project Learning Tree (PLT) through Connecticut Forest and Park Association
– PLT’s GreenSchools! through eeSmarts
– Common Ground HS’s Garden Resource Center
– CRRA’s Trash Museum
– Food Land and People through Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
– Connecticut Audubon’s Science in Nature
Who is on the CT Green LEAF PLC Project Team?

and many master teachers

– Common Ground HS
– Barnard Environmental Studies Magnet
– Environmental Sciences Magnet at Mary Hooker
– Barrow STEM Academy
CT Green LEAF PLC Project Team

Teachers and Administrators from 13 Schools

Academy of Aerospace & Engineering Elementary, CREC (PK-5)
Barnard Environmental Studies Magnet, New Haven (PK-8)
Common Ground High School, New Haven
Environmental Sciences Magnet at Mary Hooker, Hartford (PK-8)
Greater Hartford Academy of Arts High School, CREC
Interdistrict Discovery Magnet School, Bridgeport (PK-8)
International Magnet School for Global Citizenship, CREC (PK-5)
Moriarty Magnet Elementary, Norwich (K-5)
North Windham Elementary, Windham (K-5)
Sedgwick Middle School, West Hartford
Two Rivers Magnet High School, CREC
Two Rivers Magnet Middle School, CREC
Western CT CT Academy for International Studies, Danbury (K-5)
1. Participants will incorporate NGSS and CCSS skills and practices in environmental education lessons used in their classrooms.
2. Participants will explore examples and create case studies of uses of their Professional Learning Community Topic in schools and the curriculum
3. Participants will expand their use of interdisciplinary approaches to topics taught in their classrooms—integrating multi-focal (i.e. Social Studies, Mathematics, and Science focused lesson) and/or utilizing both NGSS and CCSS pedagogies in a lesson.
CT Green LEAF PLC Project Goals

...through a lens of one of three Professional Learning Communities (PLC’s)

• Utilizing School Gardens in the Curriculum
• Utilizing School Yards in the Curriculum
• Utilizing the School’s Resources (energy, waste, water) in the Curriculum
How does the CT Green LEAF PLC Project work?

64-76 contact hours

Workshops common to all:

- Common Core Skills (CCSS)  June 25 or 26
- Next Generation Science Skills (NGSS)  June 30
- Mathematical Modeling  July 1
- Using the NAAEE Standards to Evaluate Curricula  July 1
- PLT Basics  July 10
- PLT GreenSchools! Energy Investigation  July 14 or 15

Recap meetings (2) Summer 2015  TBD June/July 2015
CT Green LEAF PLC Project

4 Workshops for each PLC:

School Yards in the Curriculum

Plants and Bugs  June 27
Planning Project and Assessments that use the local environment  July 17

Facilities and Best Practices Blitz  TBC Fall 2014
Science in Nature  TBD Spring 2015
CT Green LEAF PLC Project

4 Workshops for each PLC:

School Gardens in the Curriculum

- Plants and Bugs June 27
- School Gardens in the Curriculum July 18

Roots to STEMS, Connecting with Food, Land and People TBC Fall 2014

School Garden Basics and Composting TBD Spring 2015
4 Workshops for each PLC:

School Resources in the Curriculum
Building Science  July 11
Materials Science and Waste Basics  July 16
Facilities and Best Practices Blitz  TBD Fall 2014
Climate Change and Energy  TBD Spring 2015
CT Green LEAF PLC Project

Your Deliverables

Lesson enhancements using CCSS and NGSS skills on grade level focused on your PLC Topic

“Case Studies” of replicable practices in your PLC Topic

Participation in discussions and group work in workshops and through Blackboard

Complete all evaluations and surveys
CT Green LEAF PLC Project

Your Compensation:

- Payment of $100 a day for completing a full workshop during summer/non-school days
- Payment to your district of $100/day for workshops attended on school days (Fall and Spring workshops)
- Payment of $250 end of December 2014 and May 2015 for full participation and meeting deliverables

Payments made

End of July 2014 (eeSmarts sends its own payments)
End of December 2014
End of May 2015
After last workshop, Summer 2015
(up to $1500 payment, plus up to $400 sub reimbursement)
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What is Sustainability?    Dr. Charles Button and Dr. Kurt Love

Lunch and Conversations

What is a Professional Learning Community? Laurel Kohl
Building Partnerships Suzanne Huminski
A Professional Learning Community ....

“a group of people sharing and critically interrogating their practice in an ongoing, reflective, collaborative, inclusive, learning-oriented, growth-promoting way...”

“enhance(s) teacher effectiveness as professionals, for student’s ultimate benefit.”

from Professional Learning Communities: A Review of the Literature by Louise Stoll, et. al.
Qualities of Effective Professional Learning Communities

• Shared values and vision

• Collective responsibility which “helps to sustain commitment, puts peer pressure and accountability on those who do not do their fair share, and eases isolation”

from Professional Learning Communities: A Review of the Literature by Louise Stoll, et. al.
Qualities of Effective Professional Learning Communities

• **Reflective professional inquiry**, including “conversations about serious educational issues or problems” and “deprivatization of practice” and shared knowledge.

• **Collaboration**, “going beyond superficial exchanges of help, support, or assistance…”

• **Group, as well as individual, learning is promoted**

from *Professional Learning Communities: A Review of the Literature* by Louise Stoll, et. al.
Qualities of Effective Professional Learning Communities

- Mutual trust, respect and support
- Inclusive membership, “a school-wide community”
- Openness, networks and partnerships, “looking beyond the school for sources of learning and ideas”

from Professional Learning Communities: A Review of the Literature by Louise Stoll, et. al.
Your Professional Learning Community

• Get together with your PLC

• Introduce yourself

• Create a list of what you as a group would like to get out of your PLC
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