



SUMMER 2023

# THE EE EXCHANGE

Official Newsletter of the Alliance for New Jersey Environmental Education

## Getting to Know: New Jersey Kids In Nature Coalition!

New Jersey Kids in Nature Coalition is a newly formed collaboration with a vision to uplift, support and celebrate the organizations connecting all children with nature to improve overall physical, emotional and spiritual well-being. I met with Dale Rosselet, Vice President of Education at New Jersey Audubon to talk about this exciting endeavor.

### What types of organizations are part of New Jersey Kids in Nature Coalition? Are you actively recruiting more organizations for engagement to achieve your goals?

New Jersey Audubon is the convener of New Jersey Kids in Nature Coalition with ANJEE as the lead partner. Our steering committee includes:

- NJSACC: NJ's After-School and Out-of-School Time Professional Network
- Boys and Girls Club in New Jersey
- Johnson & Johnson
- NJ YMCA State Alliance
- Outdoor Equity Alliance
- SHAPENJ
- The College of New Jersey
- Waterspirit



These organizations represent a broad constituency across the state, and bring a wealth of knowledge, perspective, and network power to New Jersey Kids in Nature Coalition. As we solidify our messages and communication pieces, we will invite others to participate and add their voices.

### How was New Jersey Kids in Nature Coalition started?

There are so many wonderful organizations and agencies across the state devoted to connecting children with nature and the outdoors as well as getting kids involved in outdoor recreation - boating, fishing, hiking, birding, etc. But what New Jersey lacks is a collaborative vision for all these organizations to aspire to and work towards - especially around children's health. That is how New Jersey Kids in Nature came about. About 15 years ago, some of these same organizations were working on a Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights which was a resolution that we were hoping would be adopted by the State. We spent a lot of time explaining the importance of connecting children with the outdoors with elected officials, but unfortunately we were unable to get the resolution passed. This coalition is all about education, raising awareness and inviting people to participate.

*Cont'd on page 3*

## The Alliance for New Jersey Environmental Education Board and Staff

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Committees and Membership

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# ANJEE wants YOU! Join One of Our Standing Committees

GOT MAD SKILLS? USE YOUR POWERS FOR ANJEE!

## Conference Committee: SPOTS AVAILABLE!

Help plan our first IN PERSON Winter Conference in 3 years!

Contact Kelly Wenzel: [president@anjee.org](mailto:president@anjee.org)

## Sponsorship Committee: SPOTS AVAILABLE!

Build our fundraising sources to help fund our amazing conferences!

Contact Beth Stolting: [director@anjee.org](mailto:director@anjee.org)

## WELCOME NEW ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS!

Find ANJEE on Social Media



7th Annual  
Autumn Outdoor  
Conference  
*Together We Thrive!*

All outdoors. Zero PowerPoint.  
Maximum Inspiration.

Friday  
September 29, 2023  
8:30 am - 4:00 pm  
at  
Duke Farms

REGISTER TODAY!



**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Members also have the opportunity to be featured in this seasonal newsletter!

## **BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!**

Among the many benefits of being an ANJEE member is the exposure to environmental organizations, jobs, and projects throughout the state by way of:

- Post Your jobs in our Career Center
- ANJEE online electronic newsletter and weekly eblast
- Discounts to annual environmental education conferences
  - Regional program committees
  - Awards and recognition program
  - Annual Member's Retreat

Being apart of ANJEE not only means making positive impacts on our future, but also establishing and maintaining friendships and partnerships that last a lifetime! For more information, check out our website at [anjee.org](http://anjee.org)



We want everyone to see that connecting children with the outdoors for their physical, mental and spiritual well-being is a good thing, especially for children in marginalized communities who may not have consistent and safe access to green spaces. We are immensely grateful to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for their leadership in this area and the funding they have provided to get things started.

**What kind of publicity are you using to raise awareness of New Jersey Kids in Nature Coalition's existence and importance?**

The team is in the process of creating a website and toolkit for people to use. Our hope is that the website will provide basic information about the importance of this issue, access to significant and curated research articles, and opportunities or actions that various populations can take to be proactive in connecting kids with the outdoors. Think of it like this: What can health practitioners and providers do to support this? What can youth-serving organizations/agencies do to more effectively get the children in their charge outdoors to play and learn about the environment? What are some basic things that a caring adult (parent, grandparent, older sibling, etc.) do to engage kids in outdoor exploration and discovery?

**How is your current campaign shaping up? Are there any partner projects/events in the works?**

New Jersey Kids in Nature Coalition is solid. We will be launching the website and peripheral information this fall and plan to attend different conferences and events where members can raise awareness through their own networks - including the ANJEE conference at the end of September. The coalition itself is not planning any events, but instead we are looking to lift up everyone involved with a unified voice.

**How do you envision New Jersey Kids in Nature Coalition looking 5 years from now?**

There are a number of states across the nation that have an organization focused on these issues - some have been in existence for over a decade. I usually think that New Jersey is at the cutting edge of most things, but in this instance we have been behind; not in providing great opportunities for kids, but in creating a comprehensive, collaborative engine that can affect real change for millions of kids who have a right to have safe access to nature and the ability to revel in all that nature affords. In 5 years? I see a well-funded New Jersey Kids in Nature Coalition that celebrates all that is happening in New Jersey on behalf of "children in nature".



**You're Invited!**

**To Our Excellence in EE Awards Reception**

Following the  
7th Annual Autumn Outdoor Conference  
at

**The Landing**  
**311 Amwell Rd. Suite 6**  
**Hillsborough Twp, NJ 08844**  
5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

[\*\*REGISTER HERE\*\*](#)

**A Big Thank You to our Organizational Members, Partners and Sponsors**



# The EE Corner

## Voices of the Young People on Education for Sustainable Development.

**Written By Sonia Girshim**

*Sonia is a student at Brooklyn Technical High School*

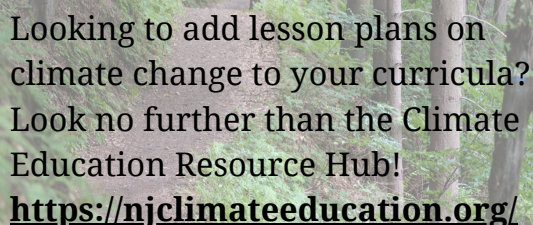
Education which brings kids to appreciate nature in a tangible and physical way would be most impactful and memorable for kids, in my opinion. In my own experiences, lessons that have stayed with me are the ones where I saw and understood them and their impacts. Thus, experiential learning through experiments and observation would be a great way to teach kids about sustainable developments and the earth.

Young people face the challenge of feeling helpless or incapable of creating change which oftentimes leads to inaction. Especially in a political system which oftentimes does not take into account everybody's perspective, young people and their opinions can be overlooked. For many, the lack of representation leads to indifference towards Climate Change. Another challenge is the fact that the younger population cannot force their families and parents to conform to their beliefs towards becoming more sustainable. For instance, if one child would like for the family to start composting but their parents are unwilling there is not much more they can do. Kids lack a way to make their own lifestyles more eco-friendly. Lastly, few children are exposed to the wonders of nature and the beauty of the earth. Most have not learned of the many things there are to love about nature and why we should protect it. This is a challenge because without the love for the planet it is unrealistic for kids to care deeply about sustainability.

Sustainable development is a holistic approach to climate change and environmental issues. Sustainable development puts an emphasis on growth and change while using resources more efficiently. To me the goal of sustainability is to live in a world where human needs are met without exploiting the earth or making it unstable. The Biden Administration is investing heavily in wind, solar, and geothermal energy, and is attempting to transition the United States from a fossil-fuel nation to a clean-energy one. It is adopting renewable energy that will support energy-poor regions of the country. Sustainable architecture includes features that enable buildings to use less energy like solar panels, greenery, etc. One example of green architecture is the Pixel Building in Melbourne, Australia. The building is "the first office building with zero carbon emissions" and was built using a special kind of concrete which contains half of the traditional concrete's carbon. In 1995, Sweden became one of the first countries to enact a carbon tax. This tax was placed on carbon excessive fuels like oil and has had a huge impact on the nation's carbon emissions.

As somebody who lives in an urban environment I focus on reducing the amount of things that I do which are harmful to the environment like driving instead of public transport, consumerism, and overuse of technology like my air conditioner. In addition, I try to be cognizant of the way our environment is changing by educating myself and informing the people around ME. Furthermore, respecting nature and the ecosystems around me is something I try to practice. For example, picking up litter in my neighboring park or simply not littering myself.

One limitation I face regarding sustainable development actions in my community is cost. Most initiatives aren't plausible for those who have to focus on making a living rather than how eco-friendly their home is. Future innovation will hopefully lead to methods which become cheaper and more realistic. Even for people who can afford to consider how they impact the environment many are unwilling. This is due to the fact that many people just do not prioritize the planet because it is simply easier not to. Lack of education on the topic plays a big role in the lack of interest. Educating people on how climate change will impact them and its real consequences will help people care. The more people begin to understand the long-term effects of their habits the more some will try and become less harmful towards the planet. Although it is unrealistic to expect everyone who is told to be sustainable to do so; even a small percentage who fight for change can create a ripple effect.



Looking to add lesson plans on climate change to your curricula? Look no further than the Climate Education Resource Hub!  
<https://njclimateeducation.org/>



**2023**  
**Conference Registration**

**ANJEE is a proud Affiliate of the  
North American Association for  
Environmental Education  
[NAAEE.org](http://NAAEE.org)**