

2026 Summer Teacher Institute: Ecology of Western New York

Workshop Resources



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Program Contacts:

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Tuesday, July 28

Design Activity: Design + Climate Change Challenge

[Self-Guided Design Field Trip | Design + Climate Change, Cooper Hewitt](#) [Cooper Hewitt]

Updates from the Field: Earthworm Ecology, Dr. Nick Henshue

[Powerpoint \(as PDF\)](#) (Includes earthworm extraction recipe)

[Soil Biodiversity Lab](#)

[Earthworm ID Chart](#)

[Life in the Leaf Litter](#)

[Berlese Funnel](#) [Soil Science Society of America]

[Pitfall Trapping: A Teacher's Guide](#) [Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park's Schoolyard Desert Discovery]

[Nematode Isolation - Baermann Funnel Technique](#) (Worcester Polytechnic Institute)

Pan traps

Climate Change Under Our Feet: Urban Heat Islands and More

Lesson Plans

[Solar Energy & Soil Temperature Lesson Plan](#) [Paleontological Research Institution]

[How Cool Is Your Schoolyard? Lesson Plan](#) [Green Schoolyards America]

[Cool It! Lesson Plan](#) [Outdoor Biology Instructional Strategies, UC Berkeley]

[Heat Waves and Urban Heat Islands Lesson Plan](#) [Cary Institute] *not reviewed today*

[Heating Things Up](#) [NASA]

[Do you feel the urban heat?](#) [Data Nugget]

Videos

[Urban Heat Islands](#) [Science Museum of Virginia]

[Why It's Usually Hotter In A City](#) [NPR]

[UB, Erie County, Delavan-Grider conduct study to map out hottest places in region](#) [WIVBTV]

Articles/Other

[Erie County Canopy Maps & Forestry Partnership Project](#) [Erie County Government]

[GLOBE Connections: Urban Heat Island Effect](#) [NASA]

["Erie County develops 'Extreme Temperature Plan' after community finds hot spots"](#) [WKBW]

[Chilling Science: Evaporative Cooling with Liquids](#) [Scientific American]

[Extreme Temperature Plan](#) [Erie County Government]

Wednesday, July 29

[Engineering Activity: Beaver Dam Challenge](#) [The Wild Center]

[Beaver Dams Versus Human Dams](#) [Iowa PBS]

Lake Trout Restoration in Lake Erie and Supporting Classroom Activities

[Powerpoint presentation](#)

[Re-Establishing Lake Trout in the Laurentian Great Lakes: Past, Present, and Future](#)

[Evidence of lake trout \(*Salvelinus namaycush*\) natural reproduction in Lake Erie](#)

[Additional Resource Links](#)

[Great Lakes Ecosystem Education Exchange Basin Bags](#)

Sign out a Great Lakes Basin Bag from Reinstein Woods: New online form coming soon!
In the meantime, email teachered@reinsteinwoods.org

[Lake Trout Run](#) [Modeled after Hooks and Ladders from Aquatic WILD]

[Lesson: Flexing Their Mussels – The population power of Dreissenid mussels in Lake Michigan](#)

Just Passing Through [Project WET]

[Request a Project WET workshop](#)

[Sample modification of Just Passing Through](#)

Beavers: Ecosystem Engineers

[Busy Beavers Resources](#)

Thursday, July 30

Engineering Activity: Engineer an Air Filter

DEC Community Air Monitoring Initiative

Community Story Maps

Explore maps for DEC's 2022-2023 Statewide Community Air Monitoring Initiative

Air Monitoring Supporting Resources and Activities

Videos: Air Pollution in Communities | WMHT's Climate Hub

Particle Pollution Activity – Paper Wad Game [EPA]

I Breathe WHAT?? [Teach Engineering]

Air strips lesson plan [EPA]

UB Air Quality Studies: More information

UB study finds Canadian wildfire smoke linked to fewer bird sightings

UB, EPA launch air quality study on east side

UB CLEAN AIR (UB Community Led Equitable Advancements in Neighborhood Air quality Investigation and Research)

UB launching study into persistent air pollution on Buffalo's east side

Air pollution harms mental health worse in NY's redlined neighborhoods

Air purifiers to go in homes of pregnant women for UB study

Do-It-Yourself Air Cleaners: Making Cleaner Air More Accessible [EPA]

How to make your own clean air fan [Washington Department of Ecology]

Additional Resources:

Air Quality Resource [University Corporation for Atmospheric Research]

"Lichen as Pollution Indicators" Activity

Interrelationships Hike

Gall of the Wild

Gall Lab Dichotomous Key

How Some Insects Turn Plants Into Pollution Detectors

Additional Resources

Activity Bins to Borrow from Reinstein Woods

CONTACT INFORMATION

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