

**Sustainable Jersey for Schools**  
**Education for Sustainability Integrated Unit Checklist (10/2018)**

Check off the Sustainability topic and EfS Enduring Understanding that the Unit addresses.

**1**

The unit must have addressed at least **one** of the **sustainability topics** listed below. Check off the sustainability topic(s) addressed by the unit, and for which there are documented results:

☐ **Ecological Systems**

Investigating natural environmental processes and systems – Students can investigate ecological systems at a local level – e.g. biodiversity in the school grounds – or link to studies occurring further away.

☐ **Climate Change**

Acquiring climate literacy – Learning climate science to understand the causes and consequences of global climate change; studying the impact of human activity on the climate and adaptations of man-made and natural systems in the face of climate change. Students can take action to address climate change by reducing their "carbon footprints."

☐ **Waste**

Reducing, reusing, recycling – Re-thinking consumption and product design to eliminate the very idea of "waste." Any school or community can reduce its environmental impact by analyzing the full life cycle of the products it uses, and acting to reduce packaging and transport distance, and to recycle or re-purpose as many items as possible.

☐ **Energy**

Addressing sustainable energy supply and use – Learning about the multiple factors that play a role in energy demand, supply and use and the impacts on ecosystems and socio-economic systems. In some municipalities, schools are the largest energy consumers, but up to 30 percent of that energy may be used inefficiently.

☐ **Health and Wellness**

Addressing issues that impact human health – Eliminating toxic and hazardous materials, while maximizing elements that promote health (e.g. providing clean air and good ventilation, providing clean water, promoting outdoor time and physical activity) will improve the school, work, and home environment for everyone.

☒ **Food Systems**

Improving nutrition and food sustainability – Many of the systems for producing, processing, and delivering the food we eat rely on practices that have deleterious effects on the environment, on livestock, on food-sector workers, and on consumers. Choosing local and whole foods impact both human health and the environment.

☐ **The Built Environment**

Addressing transportation, housing, and other infrastructure development – Raise awareness of sustainable solutions such as transportation and development plans that reduce fuel consumption, pollution, and car use.

## **Water**

Addressing water quality, availability, and use – Learning about the water cycle and how use of water and land development in one place impacts water quality and availability in other places.

## **Economic Systems**

Investigating how economic systems play a role in sustainability – History recounts the collapse of civilizations whose economic activity degraded the natural and/or social environments. Sustainable economies support a good quality of life for all and maintain healthy ecosystems.

## **Social and Cultural Systems**

Investigating the impact of social and cultural systems on sustainability – Social and cultural norms shape the interaction of different groups with each other and with the environment; and these practices are themselves influenced by changes in natural environments .

# 2

The unit must have taught about and assessed for at least **one** of the **enduring understandings** of education for sustainability listed below. Check off the enduring understanding that the unit addressed, and for which there are documented results:

## X   **A Healthy and Sustainable Future Is Possible**

We can learn how to live well within the means of nature. This viewpoint inspires and motivates people to act.

## **We Are All In This Together**

We are interdependent on each other and on the natural systems.

## **Healthy Systems Have Limits**

Rather than exceeding or ignoring the limits, tap the power of limits. Constraints drive creativity.

## **Recognize and Protect The Commons**

The Commons are the creations of nature and society that we inherit jointly and freely, and hold in trust for future generations. We all depend on them and we are all responsible for them.

## **Reconcile Individual Rights with Collective Responsibilities**

Responsible and ethical participation and leadership are required in order to make the changes we need to make. We must reconcile the conflicts that exist between our individual rights and our responsibilities as citizens.

## **Diversity Makes Our Lives Possible**

Diversity is required to support rich complex systems (like us), to build strength and to develop resilience in living systems. Biological diversity, cultural, gender, political and intergenerational diversity all serve this purpose.

## **Create Change at The Source Not the Symptom**

Distinguish problems from symptoms. Identify the most upstream problem within your sphere of influence.

### **\_\_\_\_\_ Think Far into the Future (1,000 Years)**

Envision the kind of future we want and start working towards it. We should not sacrifice our children's future to meet our needs.

### **\_\_\_\_\_ Read the Feedback**

We need to pay attention to the results of our behavior on the systems upon which we depend. If we keep our eyes on the feedback, we can adjust our thinking and behavior before we cross detrimental thresholds.

### **\_\_\_\_\_ It All Begins With a Change In Thinking**

Thinking drives behavior and behavior causes results. As Einstein had observed, the significant problems we face cannot be solved with the same level of thinking we used to create them. Think systems, cycles and out of the box.

### **\_\_\_\_\_ Live By The Natural Laws**

We must operate within the natural laws and principles rather than attempt to overcome them. It is nonnegotiable.

### **X We Are All Responsible**

Everything we do and everything we don't do make a difference.