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Virtual Workshop Series

# SYSTEMS THINKING FOR YOUTH CLIMATE EDUCATION & CIVIC ACTION

## Introduction to the Compass Tools

Are you looking to embed climate education in your curriculum? Do you want to empower your students to take civic action to address climate change? How can you be a leader of the climate education movement in your community?

This highly interactive workshop series is designed and FREE for educators in **Chesapeake Bay region**. Participants will leave this series with a plan to use systems thinking to integrate climate education into their work or engage their students in civic action for sustainability.

\$50 stipend, 1:1 consulting and free resources for those who complete all course requirements.



**DECEMBER 4 & 11, JANUARY 8  
4-6 PM EASTERN TIME (THURSDAYS)**



**Facilitator:**

**Nicole Swedlow**  
Executive Director  
Compass Facilitator

*"This workshop was well planned and implemented with a high level of professionalism. There was a great balance of instruction and practice, while also providing relatable examples and tools, which can be used long after the class finishes. This workshop has really made me feel more comfortable with looking at big, complex issues, alongside my school community, in order to affect change."*

—Renee F., Miami Country Day School



## ABOUT THIS WORKSHOP

This workshop series will be a unique version of our popular one-day workshop focused on climate education and civic action. This highly interactive workshop series will introduce participants to the fundamentals of systems thinking and teach them to use the versatile systems thinking tools, The Sustainability Compass and the Systems Iceberg, to integrate sustainability and climate issues into their work. Participants will leave this series with a plan to use systems thinking to integrate climate education into their work or engage their students in civic action for sustainability.

## WHAT YOU WILL TAKE AWAY FROM THIS COURSE

- A shared language for the whole faculty or school conversations about sustainability and systems and framework for reflecting on issues systemically.
- Powerful conversations make sense of complex issues.
- Lesson ideas that educators can use in their classrooms the next day, next week or as soon as they're ready!
- Useful tools that can integrate sustainability and systems into any curriculum and every class level.
- Access to our database of educator-sourced lesson plans.
- Connection to a global movement of educators for sustainability education.
- The opportunity to apply for additional free learning and certification as a Compass Practitioner.

## WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE

Any classroom educator or school administrator currently working in **the Chesapeake Bay Area (Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, or the District of Colombia)** is eligible to apply. We especially encourage educators working in public or government schools with limited access to professional learning funds to apply.

## WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

### Part 1: Introduction to Systems Thinking with the Sustainability Compass

This session highlights a tool called the Sustainability Compass which engages us in systems thinking- a way of looking at the world that emphasizes interconnectivity and interdependence.

### Part 2: Using the Iceberg to Deepen Our Understandings

This session dives deep into using the Systems Iceberg Model, a systems thinking tool designed to evaluate a problem or event by examining the root causes, underlying structures and mental models that can trigger it.

### Part 3: Action Planning and Curriculum Design

We will study examples of curriculum design in a broad range of topics, age groups and subjects. Participants will be able to work independently or in small groups to design an action plan or curriculum plan to engage their students in climate education and/or civic action using systems thinking.

**REGISTER:** [forms.gle/RsVEjgp5aZP78xzTA](https://forms.gle/RsVEjgp5aZP78xzTA)

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## WHAT OUR PARTICIPANTS SAY ABOUT THIS WORKSHOP

This course provided valuable tools for considering sustainability and climate change through systems thinking. By examining the natural and societal structures that affect human behaviors, we educators are better prepared to break down these large concepts into actionable pieces with students.

—Melissa Ait B., Bilingual International School of Texas

This workshop has been a great opportunity to share ideas and inspire my own work to keep implementing and pushing for the implementation of sustainability in our teaching subjects and methods. I loved that, even though the focus was climate education and civic action, it wasn't exclusive, and that the tools learned can also be implemented in various subjects and can be used to innovate the pace in our classes. Everyone who participated was passionate and eager to participate, which made the exchange so much richer and interactive. I learned a lot, and truly enjoyed our workshop days!

—Daniela Rivas C., American School of Durango