- lessons learned from an informal education institution
- systemic, school-based environmental education roll out
What is GreenKids?

Two-year partnership with schools in large public school systems;
- Naturalists in every classroom;
- Teacher professional development;
- Inquiry lessons linked to curriculum;
- Student fieldwork in the environment;
- Infrastructure projects that foster applied science learning.
What can GreenKids teach us about implementing NGSS?
Think Systemic – Start Small

- GreenKids started with 2 schools in 2005.
- By 2014, served 58 schools and 30,000 students.

Align with School System Needs

- Formal partnerships with the 16\textsuperscript{th} largest and fastest growing school systems in the U.S.
- Be flexible and evolve.
- Systems change over time.

Montgomery County Public Schools
Focus on What Teachers Must Do

- Teachers are thinking about this week’s unit and lesson plan.
Set Goals – Be Patient

- Attach program to concrete milestones.
- Takes full 2 years (sometimes 3!) to affect culture change.
- Foster self-reliance (through lesson modeling, co-teaching, lending supplies).
Make It Simple

- A Million Possibilities!
- Choose the best fit for what teachers must do.
- Provide the infrastructure.
GreenKids Lesson Plans anshome.org/greenkids

**SALAD SCIENCE**
Growing an Edibles Garden

**HABITAT RESTORATION**
Creating a Native Plant Garden

**COMPOSTING**
Observing Worms at Work

**GOING GREEN**
Creating a Green Classroom

**STREAM SCIENCE**
Investigating Water Quality

**POLLUTION PREVENTION**
Cleaning Up Our Watershed

**RECYCLING**
Making Your Own Paper

**ENERGY CONSERVATION**
Analyzing Energy Use
Enlist Partners

- Start within the school system.
- Find places where your goals intersect.
- Team up!

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Bring Resources to the Table
- GreenKids has delivered $1 Million Dollars in free environmental education to schools.
- Partnerships are the key to funding
Lessons Learned

- Think Systemic – Start Small
- Align with School System Needs
- Focus on What Teachers Must Do
- Set Goals – Be Patient
- Make It Simple
- Enlist Partners
- Bring Resources to the Table
GreenKids

and NGSS – a match made in science!

AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY
Connecting people with nature in the DC region | anshome.org