



What People Are Saying

Comments from our clients and workshop participants...

We want these curricula to live forever and get better and better over time. The region has committed significant resources for the development of the middle school curriculum -- it is well worth it. It is the most important work we can do. ~ Marla Gardner, Director of Curriculum Center, Putnam Northern Westchester BOCES

"I thoroughly enjoyed the week's instruction and found it one of the two most meaningful/transformative "inservice" sessions in my 30+ year career in education. I'm anxious to learn more." ~ Melanie Wallace, WiseWatt, LLC, ASI Participant

"I LOVE THE TRAININGS!!!! I feel I've gotten more out of this thus far, from a critical thinking perspective, than I did in obtaining the 27 graduate credits involved in my Administrative Licensing and Certification Program." ~Steve Ritz, High School Teacher

"I can't stop thinking about what we learned and the need for change." ~ Jeff Cowen, Community Liaison, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

"Thank you, again, for the incredible workshop you provided. I've looked at a lot of sustainability education models, formats, approaches, etc. and your stuff is way above anything I have seen. It's what I've been looking for and thinking about for the past 6 years. In addition, your facilitation skills are incredible. I feel fortunate to have participated and look forward to promoting your program and materials." ~Jeremy Solin, Wisconsin School Forest Education Specialist

"I've been talking about The Cloud Institute to a lot of people--my husband, my parents, friends and colleagues. The notion that sustainability is a mindset that sets into motion right action, is mind-boggling. It's like a Zen parable or something--it's quite simple yet profound. For some reason, I was looking outside of this type of distillation--mindset." ~Lisa Silverman, Highwater

You gave us a lot to think about today....and I love it!!! I just wanted to send you a blessing and thank you for the valuable work you are doing for our planet, for us, for our children and for generations to come!!! Thank you!!!" ~Veerle Matarazzo, Parent

"Thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in Working Toward a Sustainable Future. Prior to attending these workshops, I knew a good deal about the myriad challenges confronting our planet, but far less about the innumerable ways to build a sustainable future. I have been invigorated by the many examples of individual and collaborative efforts to improve quality of life for all human beings, while preserving earth's biodiversity. You have introduced me to some of the critical tools for planning and implementing sustainable economic, political, and social practices. As a consumer, I am now better able to make choices that encourage sustainable food production, energy use, or industry. As a political participant and civic activist, I am better equipped to envision creative solutions that effectively address the root causes of problems and the complex interconnectedness between

them. On a professional level, I have more to contribute whether it be in a high school or college classroom, or in an outreach department of a not-for-profit organization. I also appreciate the time I have spent at the Cloud Institute. Cloud has been a window to a world of ideas and actions that offer hope and inspiration." ~Sonia Cairo, Teacher, Parent, Cloud Volunteer

New Jersey Learns for a Sustainable Future Participants Feedback

"Experiences are much more effective in encouraging change than simply telling someone to change- or telling someone he or she should change. Engaging people in a shared experience is the way to go."

"Yesterday I made the connection about the inter-connectedness of education and the larger issues of spheres of influence. Change can travel from the individual to a larger and larger network. The boundaries between people such as nations, politics, belief-systems etc. can dissolve when we all understand the concept of our inter-connectedness. We have discussed that the idea of sustainability is connected to all the disciplines that we teach, not just science and this week that has become a more solid understanding based on practical understanding of ways I can integrate the Education for Sustainability framework into our curriculum."

"My "Aha!" moment from this training came during our discussion of the GDP (Gross National Product). I always thought that when the GDP was up, that was a good thing. I didn't realize how dysfunctional this model of the economy was. There is a total disconnect between this economic system and a healthy quality of life."

"This training has taught me that I can, should, want and need to present this message about Education for Sustainability to a larger audience than I first thought. I first thought it would be for my own students and teachers from my own school. Now I see it need to include administrators, parents, other schools, and the community! Sustainable Jersey equals sustainable communities and that's a huge order!"

"I've begun in my classroom- I've already begun realigning my units to the Education for Sustainability standards. I'll now focus on water resources and its economics and dynamics. Another big "Aha! Moment" for me was that there are more entry points than love on the earth. I need to be more patient and accepting of those other entry points."

"I slowly came to the realization that my organization has a huge audience and that we have an amazing opportunity to influence- and we are wasting it. I must do all I can to engender a change in how we educate our audience and how we operate as an education center. I am going to start by planting the seed and hopefully providing transformational moments to my colleagues using our combined energies to change the organization."

"I can be an agent of change now that I have a well-organized tool box. Systems thinking has really shifted me to a place where I can now use the carious experiences I have had, the energy I posses and belief that I can cooperatively learn as I go along. To bring sustainability education to my community." ~2009 NJ Learns Participant

The Cloud Institute Workshops for Educators, Students and Parents

Anonymous Feedback

"I attended your workshop at the Meadowlands today and truly enjoyed it (just like so many people at Unity said I would!!!). It is so wonderful to see people do so passionately what they were meant to be doing on this earth!!! ~ Anonymous

"I look forward to attending more of your workshops in the future and hope that we have established a lasting partnership between the Cloud Institute and Unity. It feels good to know that my children are attending a school that does more than just teach them. They are being educated along with their parents and everyone else in their community!!!" ~ Anonymous

I am a teacher and parent living in NYC and learned the work of the Cloud Institute through participation in the Creative Learning Exchange email discussions. The work you are doing is so important and exciting. I am a staff developer (K-3) and have a son who will enter middle school next fall. As a parent, I'd love to see my son participate in this type of learning; environment, design and sustainability are his passions. As a teacher and staff developer, I find the approach and direction of your work inspiring. ~ Anonymous

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Jamie Cloud at The Cloud Institute has the most comprehensive vision of sustainability, and she runs a variety of introductory workshops for boards, faculty, parents, and whole-school communities. ~ Sustainability Coordinator

The trainers were incredible. The presentations were diverse; incredibly professional; concrete at times and demonstrated for me styles that I will use with my classes. ~Teacher

The content is just what we need, ranging from the micro perspective (community citizenship) to the macro perspective (global awareness—the earth charter). ~ Teacher

I no longer litter, before this class I didn't care. ~ Student

We are the future: if we don't change it we are going to suffer the repercussions. ~ Student

I think about what I can do now that will make things better 20 years from now. ~ Student

"Copping out," means to me that you avoid fulfilling a commitment or responsibility. We are not going to do that. We see the impact we can make in our communities, whether it's making a responsible decision to help sustain the ecosystems that surround us, or learning about ourselves in the community through service projects. We see the change we can make simply by questioning the course of history that we have followed. We ask the question like a third party bringing an issue into the spotlight, and then the future that we visualize is in front of us. Would it be such a miracle to change the world? I don't know, what do you think? ~ Student