

NEWS RELEASE



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Center for Ecoliteracy Commemorates International Mother Earth Day with Launch of Two New ePubs on Food Systems and Climate Change at the United Nations

Two new free resources, launching on International Mother Earth Day and announced at the United Nations' "Harmony with Nature" dialogue explore climate change and its impact on our daily lives: Understanding Food and Climate Change: An Interactive Guide and Understanding Food and Climate Change: A Systems Perspective. These publications explore the fundamental relationships between climate change and the food systems that sustain human life, while considering the potential for food systems-oriented climate change mitigation and adaptation.

BERKELEY, California (April 20, 2018)—The Center for Ecoliteracy launches two new publications to commemorate International Mother Earth Day. As part of the launch, Karen Brown, creative director for the Center of Ecoliteracy and co-author of *Understanding Food and Climate Change: An Interactive Guide*, will be participating in the [Eighth Interactive Dialogue of the General Assembly on Harmony with Nature](#) to be held at the United Nations on April 23.

The *Understanding Food and Climate Change* publications are the first two in a suite of materials being developed by the Center for Ecoliteracy, a non-profit organization dedicated to cultivating education for sustainable living and systems change initiatives. These unique resources use the food on our plates to draw readers' attention to the impact of a changing climate on our ability to grow food and feed ourselves and the impact of the global food system on climate change.

“Agriculture has a huge impact on the environment—greenhouse gases as well as pollution of air, water, and soil. The Center for Ecoliteracy's *Understanding Food and Climate Change* is essential for finding out how this happens and what we can do about it.”

—Marion Nestle, PhD, MPH, Paulette Goddard Professor of Nutrition, Food Studies, and Public Health, emerita, New York University

Understanding Food and Climate Change: An Interactive Guide incorporates text, video, photography, and an array of interactive experiences to deliver climate science alongside multicultural, interdisciplinary viewpoints to promote awareness and understanding of global climate issues and their intersection with food systems. It contains connections to both the Next Generation Science Standards and the National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies themes.

<https://www.ecoliteracy.org/download/understanding-food-and-climate-change-interactive-guide>

A companion publication, *Understanding Food and Climate Change: A Systems Perspective*, explores the links between food systems and our changing climate with an emphasis on systems thinking. A systems approach illuminates how seemingly disconnected phenomena are often dynamically linked and can be understood best when viewed in a larger context.

<https://www.ecoliteracy.org/download/understanding-food-and-climate-change-systems-perspective>

About the Center for Ecoliteracy

The Center for Ecoliteracy is an internationally recognized leader in systems change innovations in education for sustainable living. The Center offers publications, seminars, curriculum development, and coaching for teaching and learning, keynote presentations, and technical assistance. Since 1995, the Center has engaged with thousands of formal and informal educators from across the United States and six continents. Its website features scores of resources on ecological education, food and sustainability, and systems change. Books authored or coauthored by the Center for Ecoliteracy include *Ecoliterate: How Educators Are Cultivating Emotional, Social, and Ecological Intelligence* (Jossey-Bass); *Smart by Nature: Schooling for Sustainability* (Watershed Media); and *Ecological Literacy: Educating Our Children for a Sustainable World* (Sierra Club Books).

The Center's Rethinking School Lunch initiative integrates systemic school food reform and learning about food systems and choices. Through its California Food for California Kids® initiative and California Thursdays® statewide network and program, the Center offers statewide conferences, work with individual districts, strategic consultations, and numerous resources for serving healthy, freshly prepared meals using regionally sourced foods. The Center's food-related publications include the *Understanding Food and Climate Change* suite of materials; the cookbook and professional development guide *Cooking with California Food in K-12 Schools*; the conceptual teaching framework *Big Ideas: Linking Food, Culture, Health, and the Environment*; and discussion guides to the Oscar award-nominee, *Food, Inc.* and the PBS-aired documentary, *Nourish*.

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