



Learning Inside Out

Information Session

October 23, 2023

RHODE
ISLAND

Today's Agenda

1:05PM – 1:30PM	Learning Inside Out Kickoff for Professional Development and Environmental Design		1:55PM – 2:00PM	Exploring connections to nature in urban settings	
1:30PM – 1:35PM	URI School Garden Academy and Mentor Program		2:00PM – 2:05PM	RI DEM Critter Kits + Pollinator Pathway resources	
1:35PM – 1:40PM	Successful planning for curriculum integration with HQIM and community partners		2:05PM – 2:10PM	The Rhode Island Environmental Education Association (RIEEA) supports and promotes high-quality environmental education for all ages and in both formal and informal settings throughout the state	
1:40PM – 1:45PM	How to integrate your outdoor classrooms with farm to school programming		2:10PM – 2:15PM	Additional resources available on the statewide Master Price Agreement	
1:45PM – 1:50PM	Professional Development resources available to GEMSNET		2:15PM – 2:30PM	Questions and Answers / Poll on Future Topics	
1:50PM – 1:55PM	Schoolyard Habitat Project Guide, community engagement/sustainability				

Learning Inside Out Kickoff for Professional Development and Environmental Design

Courtney Sevigny
VS America
sevignycourtney@gmail.com

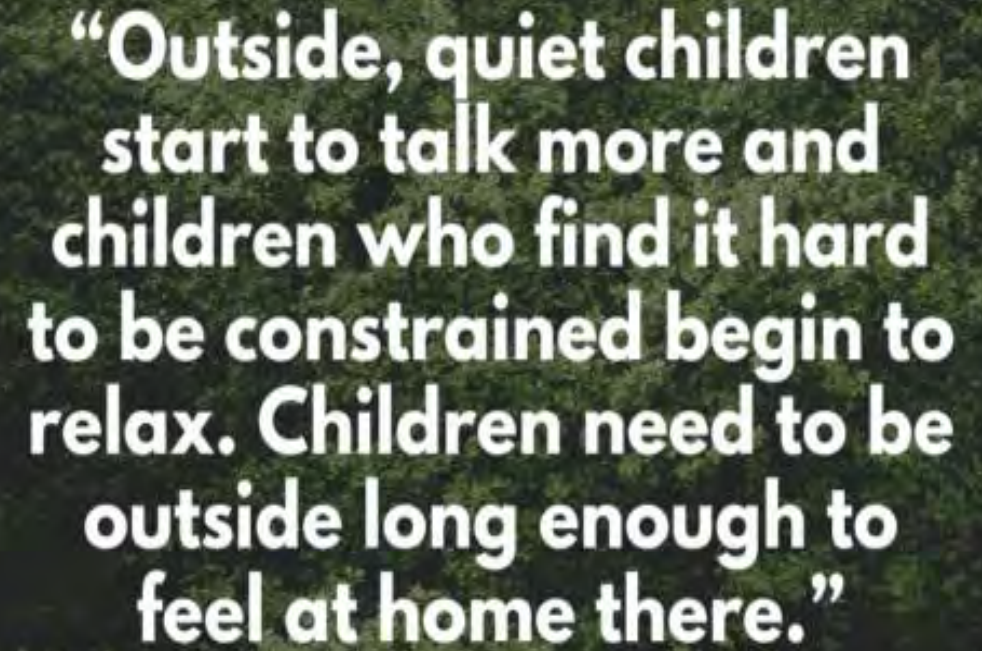


Educational Planning Services

Courtney Sevigny, Learning Environment Designer
and Consultant for VS America

The focus of this grant is to provide students with sustainable and educationally rich opportunities to get outside, engage with curriculum, use their senses to grow as global citizens.

My role is to work with each school to support with plan creation and execution, help educators implement authentic learning opportunities tied to HQIM in outdoor settings, collect data and connect with the community. Each awarded project is afforded approximately 6.5 hours of professional development.



**“Outside, quiet children
start to talk more and
children who find it hard
to be constrained begin to
relax. Children need to be
outside long enough to
feel at home there.”**

EMMA SHAW



Educational Planning Services

Primary Project Goals

Educational Commissioning Services

- Collaboration with landscape architects, LEAs, and teachers to develop a strategic plan that aligns with the Learning Inside and Out Initiative
- Collaboration with landscape architects and school administrators to develop outdoor classroom infrastructure that facilitates effective teaching and learning
- Provisioning of outdoor equipment and learning tools that support hands-on, experiential learning

Educational Planning Services

Primary Project Goals

Educator Workshops

- Collaborate with teachers and community partners to develop project-based learning opportunities that leverage natural resources and outdoor environments with HQIM
- Creation and implementation of sustainability plan
- Project visioning and spatial proficiencies
- Facilitation of cross curricula/ department collaboration
- School wide goal setting

Educational Planning Services

Primary Project Goals

Data Collection

- Development of a utilization plan and data collection
- Sustainability plan visioning and documentation
- Gather quantitative and qualitative data to evaluate academic outcomes, student engagement, and social-emotional well-being

Educational Planning Services

Primary Project Goals

Community engagement

- Design plans for common spaces with dual student and community utilization
- Collaboration with environmental experts and local organizations to establish pollinator gardens and nature trails within school grounds
- Design and facilitation of workshops, town hall meetings, and ongoing communication.
- Creation of opportunities for input, feedback, and the establishment of partnerships that extend the benefits of natural resources beyond the school environment

URI School Garden and Mentor Program

Joan Serra & Vanessa Venturini
URI School Garden Mentor Program
urismcoordinator@gmail.com;
vventurini@uri.edu

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Resources from URI Cooperative Extension

- School Garden Mentor
 - Volunteer support
 - Resources
- Training for your team
 - Basic: School Garden Academy (Free)
 - Intensive: URI Master Program → School Garden 101 (\$)
- Website - web.uri.edu/sgi



Request a School Garden Mentor

Now accepting partnership application until October 31

RHODE
ISLAND

School Garden Academy

Home

[Introduction to School
Gardens](#)

[Gardening for School
Gardeners](#)

[Planning for School
Gardens](#)

[Winter in School
Gardens](#)

[Building School
Gardens](#)

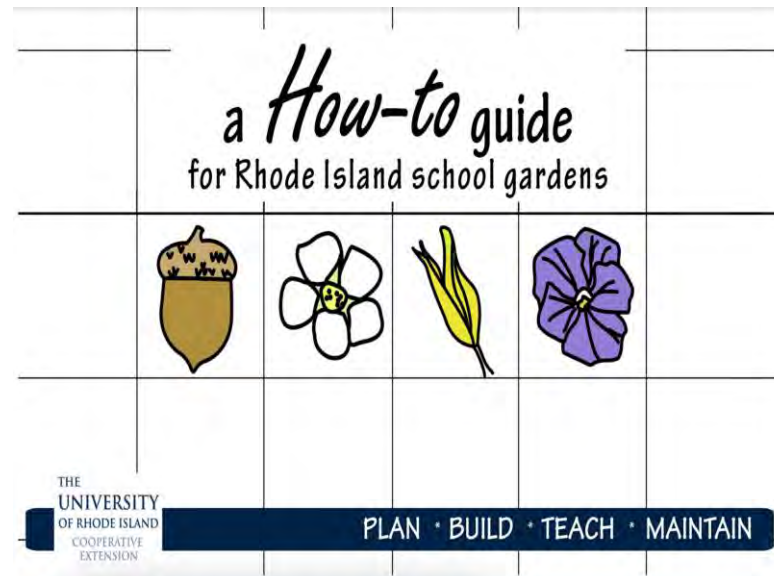
Welcome to the School Garden Academy!

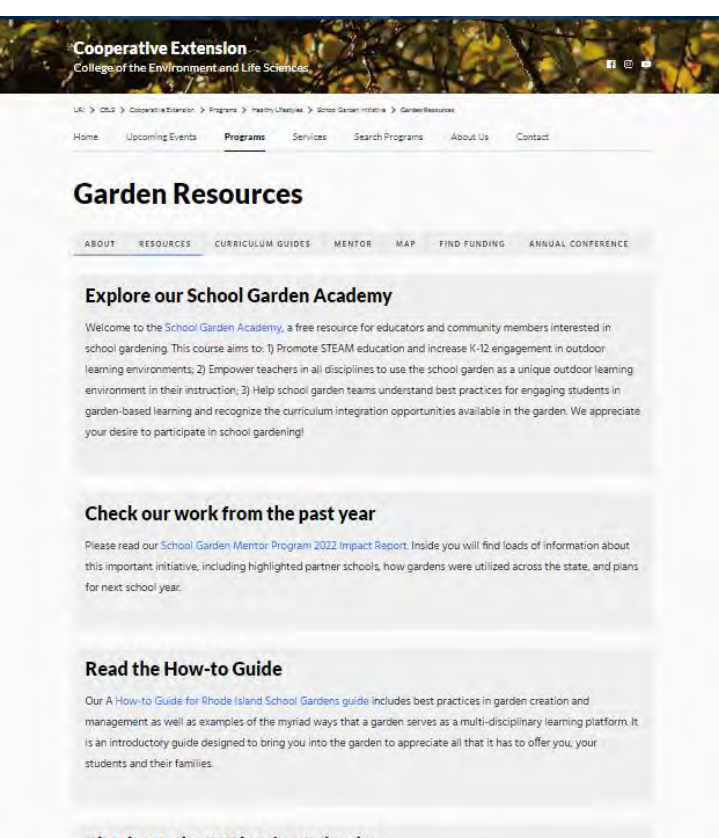
Thank you for visiting the School Garden Academy, and welcome! The set of training modules linked below aim to: 1) Promote STEAM education and increase K-12 engagement in outdoor learning environments; 2) Empower teachers in all disciplines to use the school garden as a unique outdoor learning environment in their instruction; 3) Help school garden teams understand best practices for engaging students in garden-based learning and recognize the curriculum integration opportunities available in the garden. We appreciate your desire to participate in school gardening!



School Garden Mentor 101

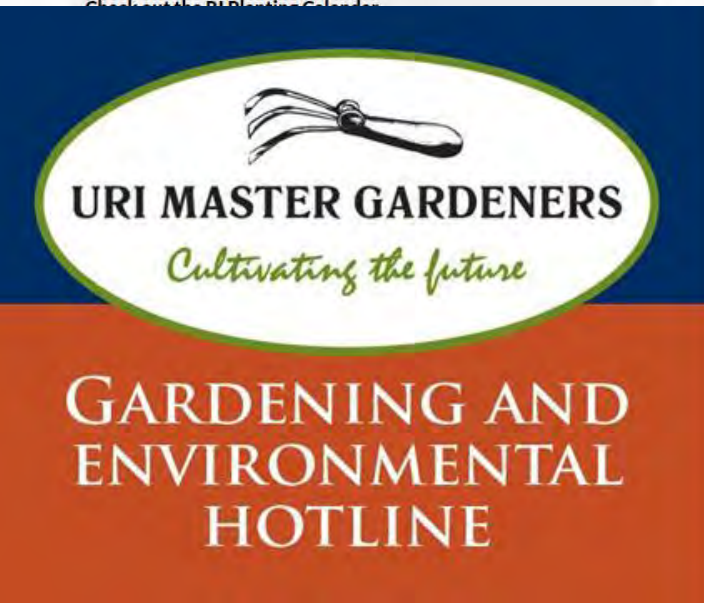
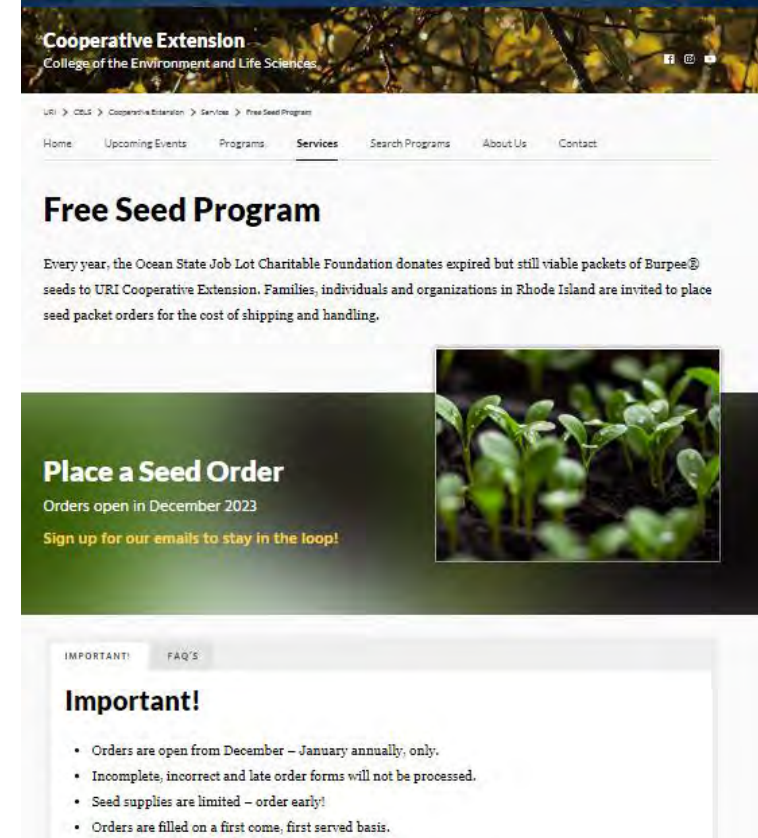
- 14 Week MGP Core Training
- SGM 101





Visit our website

web.uri.edu/sgi



Have a question?

Send an email and photos to our URI Master Gardener volunteer educators anytime, or call us for science-based answers to your gardening and environmental questions! Walk-ins by appointment only.

Call: 401.874.4836

Email: gardener@uri.edu

Address: URI Mallon Outreach Center, 3 East Alumni Ave., Kingston, RI 02881

Visit: uri.edu/mastergardener

Successful Planning for Curriculum Integration with HQIM and Community

Erin Escher

Rhode Island Department of Education

erin.escher@ride.ri.gov



Successful Planning for Curriculum Integration

HQIM and Community Partners

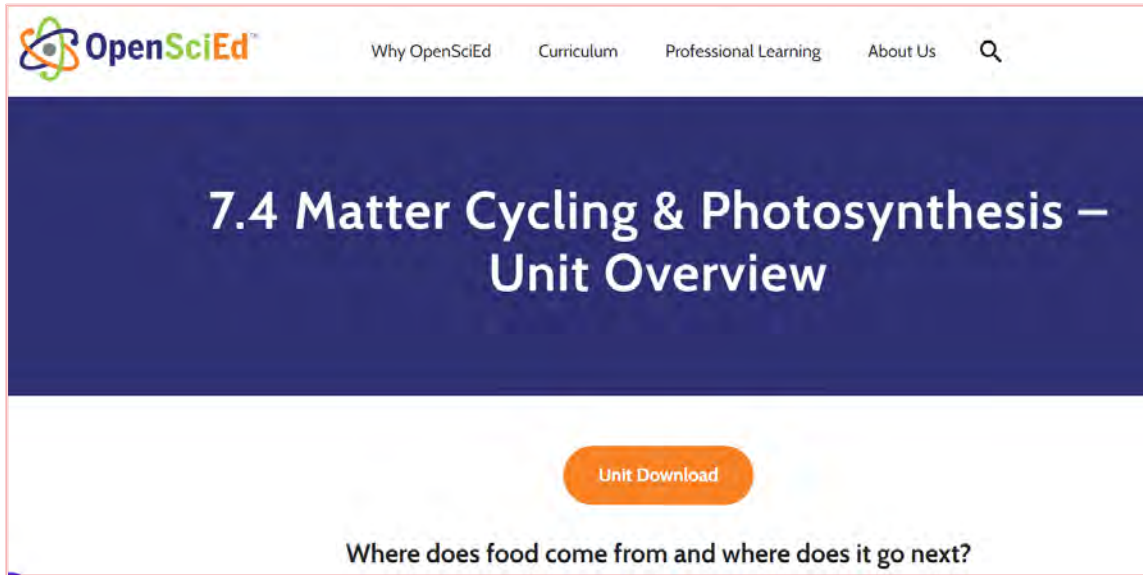


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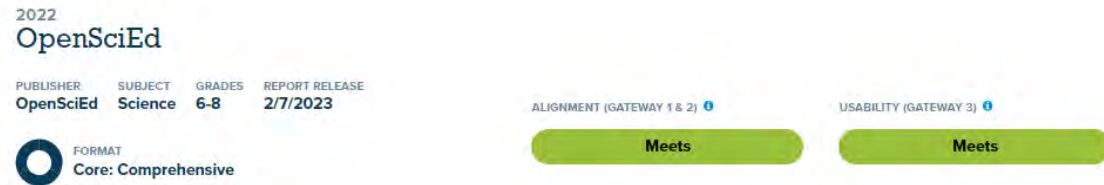
Funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

- Alignment
- Vertical Coherence
- Intentional and Sustainable Integration
- Phenomena Designed Learning by Grade Level NGSS Performance Expectations

HQIM Legislation



The screenshot shows the OpenSciEd website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: "Why OpenSciEd", "Curriculum", "Professional Learning", and "About Us", along with a search icon. Below the navigation bar is a large dark blue banner with the text "7.4 Matter Cycling & Photosynthesis – Unit Overview" in white. Underneath the banner is a white section with an orange "Unit Download" button. At the bottom of this section, the text "Where does food come from and where does it go next?" is displayed.



The screenshot shows the bottom section of the OpenSciEd website. It includes the "2022 OpenSciEd" logo. Below the logo, there is a table with the following information:

PUBLISHER	SUBJECT	GRADES	REPORT RELEASE
OpenSciEd	Science	6-8	2/7/2023

Below the table, there is a "FORMAT" section with a circular icon and the text "Core: Comprehensive". To the right of the table, there are two green buttons labeled "Meets". Above the first "Meets" button is the text "ALIGNMENT (GATEWAY 1 & 2)" and above the second "Meets" button is the text "USABILITY (GATEWAY 3)".


NGSS Performance Expectations

LS1-2 Construct a scientific explanation based on evidence for the role of photosynthesis in the cycling of matter and flow of energy into and out of organisms

LS1-6 Develop a model to describe the cycling of matter and flow of energy among living and nonliving parts of an ecosystem.

If you haven't adopted HQIM

Taking FOSS Outdoors



If we want children to flourish, to become truly empowered, then let us allow them to love the earth before we ask them to save it.

David Sobel, *Beyond Ecophobia*

Taking FOSS Outdoors Contents

What Does FOSS Outdoors Look Like?	2
Goals and Objectives.....	3
Managing Space	4
Managing Time.....	8
Managing Materials	10
Managing Students	13
Teaching Strategies	20
Flow of the Lessons	22
Extending Beyond FOSS Outdoors	23
Elementary-Level Environmental Education	25
References	27
Acknowledgments.....	28

Use existing curriculum to identify grade level entry points

- Considerations: Resources and Partners in PL
- Identify the fit with current scope and sequence
- Identify level of support teachers need
- Find appropriate PL provider content vs. practice
- Scheduling the use of outdoor spaces (long term vs. single session)

Curriculum – Intentional and Sustainable Integration

- Community Partners
- Vertical Coherence

GRADE K-5 VERTICAL ALIGNMENT – LIFE SCIENCE DRAFT						
	Grade K	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
LS1 – From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes						
From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes (Students will understand . . .)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What plants and animals (including humans) need to survive.• The relationship between the needs of plants and animals and where they live. (LS1.C)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How plants and animals use their external parts to help them survive, grow, and meet their needs.• How behaviors of parents and offspring help the offspring survive. (LS1.A, LS1.B, LS1.D)		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The similarities and differences of organisms' life cycles. (LS1.B)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction.• Animals use their perceptions and memories to guide their actions. (LS1.A, LS1.D)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plants get the materials they need for growth chiefly from air and water.• Food provides animals with the materials they need for body repair and growth and the energy they need to maintain body warmth and for motion. (LS1.C)
LS2 – Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics						
Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics (Students will understand . . .)			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What plants and animals need to grow.• How plants depend on animals for seed dispersal and pollination. (LS2.A)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• When the environment changes some organisms survive and reproduce, some move to new locations, some move into the transformed environment, and some die.• Being a part of a group helps animals obtain food, defend themselves, and cope with changes. (LS2.C, LS2.D)		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The movement of matter among plants, animals, decomposers, and the environment and that energy in animals' food was once energy from the sun. (LS2.A, LS2.B)

STEM/STEAM Courses

STEM/STEAM Electives & Supporting Courses K-12

Consider integration of Math, Engineering, Science, and ELA

Student-centered and based on community needs or student interests/curiosities where Teacher is facilitator, not explaining, but guiding students to solve a problem or sense-making discussion of a phenomena

Problem-Based Learning (PBL) - Real world challenge or objectives

Engineering Design Cycle- Iterative process of design, constantly taking new info and redesigning to create or improve a solution to a real problem

Contact erin.escher@ride.ri.gov or 222-8168 for assistance

How to Integrate Your Outdoor Classrooms with Farm to School Programming

Caitlin Mandel

Rhode Island Farm to School Network

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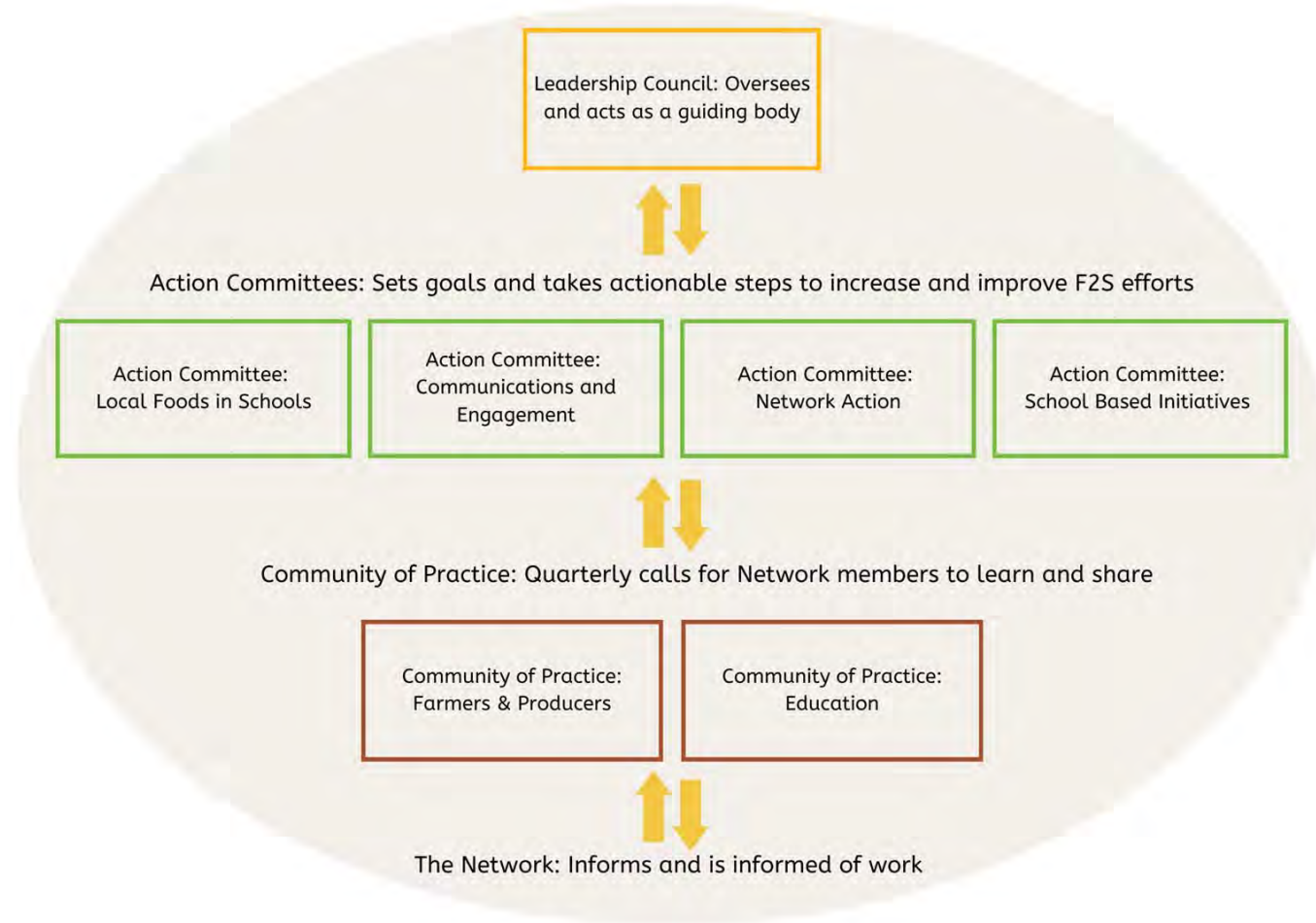


What is Farm to School?

Farm to School is an initiative that intentionally connects students, school communities, and local food producers, with the goals of improving student nutrition and academic outcomes, strengthening local food systems and communities, and protecting the environment.



RI Farm to School Network Structure



RI Farm to School Leadership Council

5 Organizational Seats



RIDE Child
Nutrition
Programs

FARM FRESH RI
A HUB FOR LOCAL FOOD SINCE 2004



RHODE ISLAND
C O M M E R C E



Sector Seats (up to 10)

- School based initiatives
- Growers/producers
- Environmental Impact
- Food Access
- School Community
- Education
- Regional/National F2S
- RIHSC
- Distributors/Supply Chain

The 3 C's of Farm to School

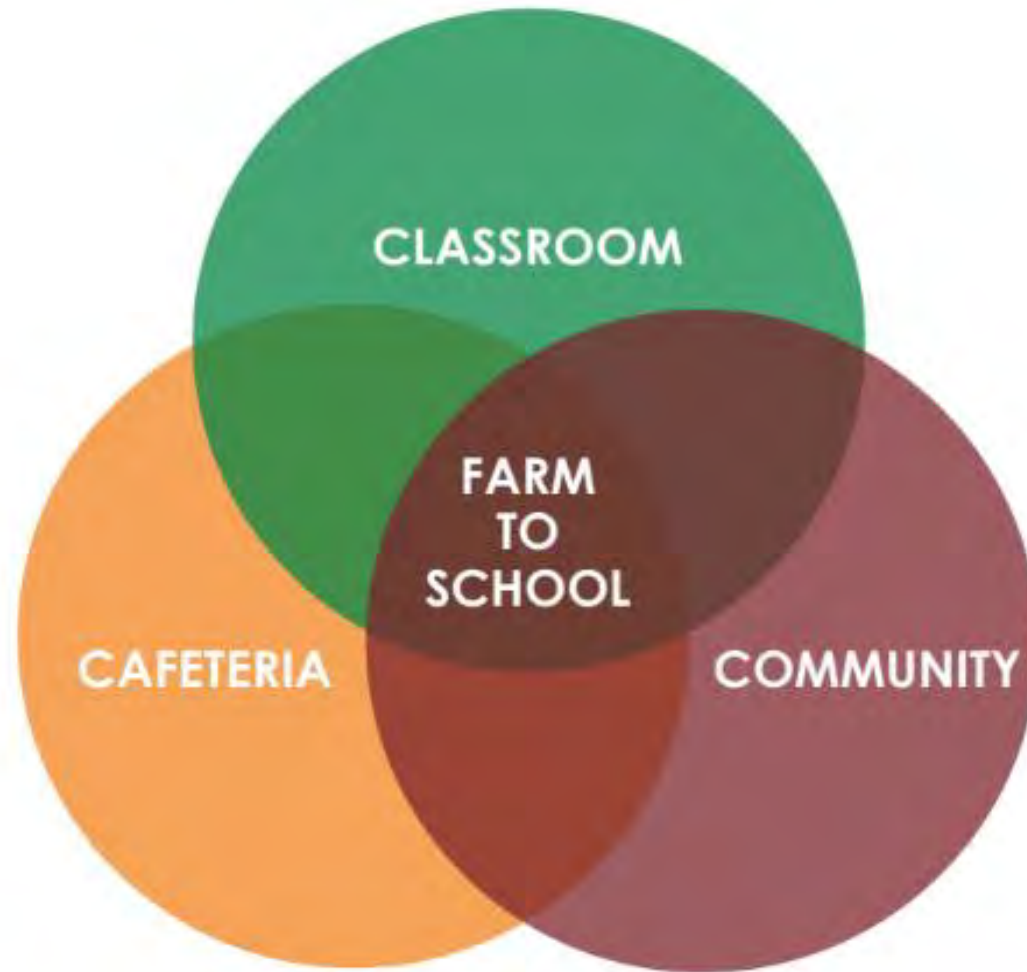


Image Credit: Vermont FEED

How can the RI Farm to School Network support your Outdoor Classrooms?



Cafeteria



Classroom

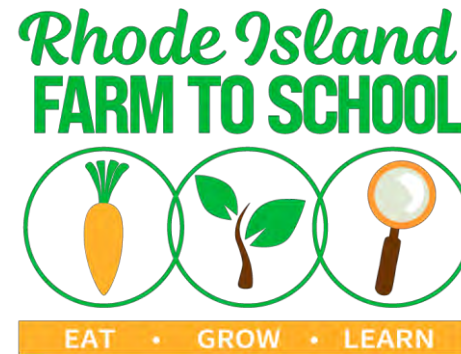


Community

Stephanie Pike (FFRI)

RI Farm to School
Network Chair

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Caitlin Mandel (RIDE)

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Network Co- Chair

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Thank You!



Sign up to receive updates
on all things Farm to School



<https://rifarmtoschool.org/enews/>

Professional Development Resources Available to GEMS-Net Districts

Kelly Houle
GEMS-Net
kellyhoule@uri.edu

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FEINSTEIN COLLEGE
OF EDUCATION



GEMSNET
GUIDING EDUCATION IN THE MATH AND SCIENCE NETWORK

GEMS-Net District Supports

Professional Learning Opportunities

- GEMS-Net team member available to join your planning meetings
 - Fresh perspective on your projects
 - Brainstorming curricula connections
 - Maintenance of space and utilization
- Cross-District Advanced Professional Development Workshops
- Individualized coaching for schools/districts
 - Outdoor teaching and learning pedagogy
 - STEM connections
 - Cross-curricular connections
- Be on the lookout for our **brief survey** to gather information about your specific needs
- Join our Principal Meetings to hear more...



Proudly partnering with:

Burrillville
Cumberland
Jamestown
Exeter-West Greenwich
North Kingstown
South Kingstown
Westerly

Chariho
Foster
Narragansett
New Shoreham
Paul Cuffee
Warwick

Schoolyard Habitats

Cindy Corsair
Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service
Cynthia_corsair@fws.gov



Schoolyard Habitat Program

A program designed to:

- **Connect** students with the outdoors
- **Restore** wildlife habitat on school grounds
- **Inspire** the next generation of environmental leaders



Key Elements

Every project is different, but all share several key elements:

- **Ecologically sound**
- Benefit people and wildlife
- Designed to encourage long-term stewardship



Common milkweed
(*Asclepias syriaca*)



Black swallowwort
(*Cynanchum louisea*)

Example: planting native species like milkweed supports local pollinators such as monarch butterflies

Schoolyard Habitat Project Guide

*A planning guide for creating
schoolyard habitat and
outdoor classroom projects*



The Schoolyard Habitat Project Guide

- **Initiate**
 - Form a team
 - Develop a master plan
 - Assess project site
- **Create**
 - Design project
 - Decide money matters
 - Install project
- **Incorporate**
 - Plan for maintenance
 - Use the project
 - Share your story

National Network of Schoolyard Habitats

Your schoolyard can contribute to ecosystem connectivity at a local, regional, and national scale!



Tell Us Your Story

Tell Us Your Story and Receive a Schoolyard Habitat Project Sign

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is providing signs to schools to identify Schoolyard Habitat projects throughout the nation. The information you submit will be entered into a database and used to promote Schoolyard Habitat efforts. Any woodland, meadow or wetland project qualifies for a sign.

Please fill out the following questions with brief responses and return to: Schoolyard Habitat Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2500 Cottage Way Suite 1916, Sacramento, CA 95825 or R&SSchoolYardHabitat@fws.gov



Students Restoring Wildlife Habitat

Tell us where you are and what you did:

1. School Name & Website if applicable: _____
Address: _____
Phone #: _____
Contact: _____
2. Date Project Started: _____ Date Completed: _____
3. What grade level students were involved? How many? _____
4. Describe the type of project(s) you completed and the size of each project in square feet.

5. List any other habitat features added to the project including the following: nesting boxes, brush trails, outdoor seating area etc. _____

continued on other side

Outdoor Education in Urban Areas



April Alix
Conservation Program Coordinator
Providence Urban Wildlife Conservation
Partnership

aalix@providenceri.gov

Providence Urban Wildlife Conservation Program

- Engaging youth in Providence with the natural environment
- Local environmental awareness
- Role as stewards
- Introduction to environmental and conservation-based careers



Providence Resources

- Over 100 city parks
- Parks within ½ mile of school
- 40 Parks Friend's Groups



Support for Outdoor Learning



Teacher Support

- Activity suggestions for a variety of outdoor areas
- Tips and Tricks for teaching outdoors
- Educator trainings available to Providence teachers
- Tools and Supplies for loan (binoculars, nets, bug jars, field guides, etc.)
- Connections to partner organizations in and around Providence



RIDEM Division of Fish and Wildlife

Dr. Katherine Burns

Pollinator Entomologist

katherine.burns.ctr@dem.ri.gov



Pollinator Pathway Resources

- Rhode Island Pollinator Atlas
 - A plan to comprehensively inventory Rhode Island's pollinating insects
 - Insect monitoring projects
 - Significant volunteer and outreach component
- Outreach
 - Events and consultations
 - Wildlife factsheets
 - “Pollinator Pals” Rhody Critter Kit



Pollinator Pathway Resources

- Rhode Island Pollinator Atlas webpage
 - Information for signage and materials
 - Pollinator factsheets
 - Bees, wasps, flies, and butterflies
 - Plant lists and other resources
 - Information about monitoring projects
- Rhode Island Wild Bee Observer
 - iNaturalist project
 - Learn how to ID bees
 - Contribute to community science



RIDEM – Division of Fish & Wildlife



Rhody Critter Kits – Tools for Educators

- What is a Rhody Critter Kit?
 - Free wildlife curriculum kit for educators
 - Contains lesson plans, activities, videos, and hands-on learning materials
- What is in a Rhody Critter Kit?
 - Books
 - Natural Artifacts
 - Laminated Resources
 - Educator Packet
 - Puppets, figurines, other fun stuff ...

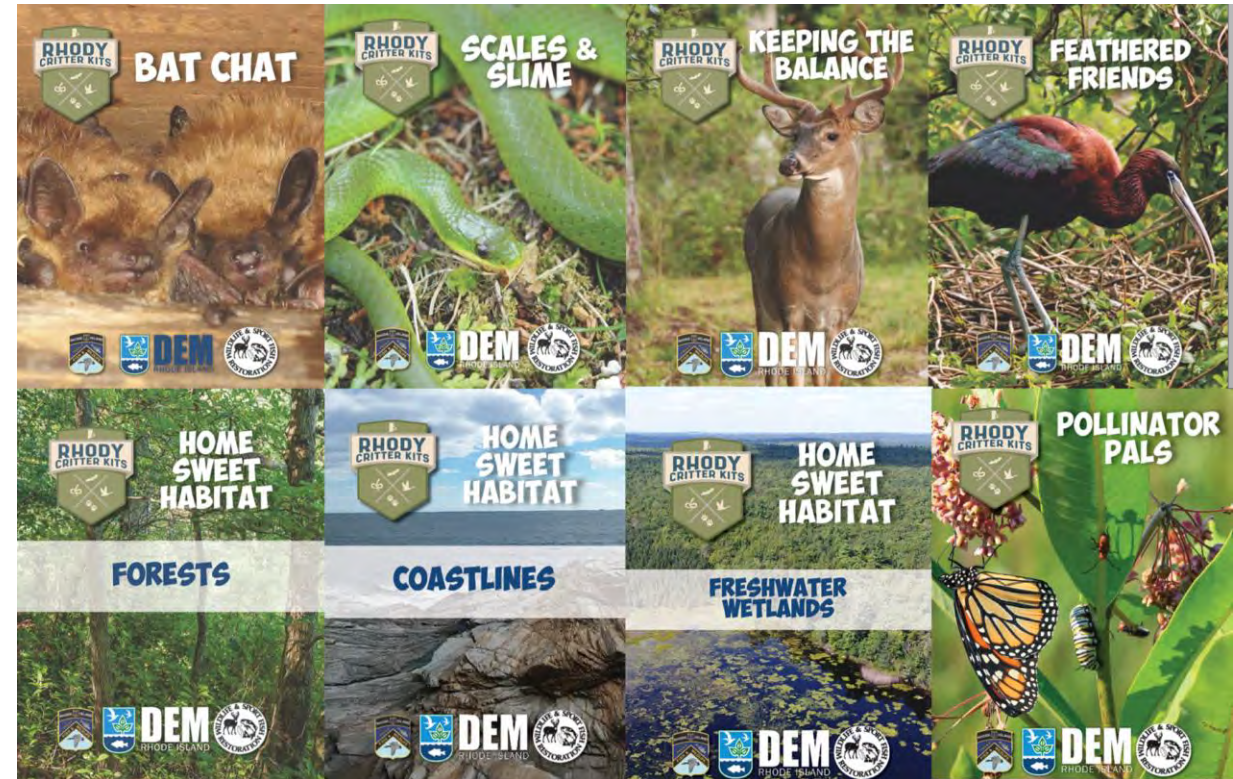



RIDEM – Division of Fish & Wildlife



Rhody Critter Kits – Tools for Educators

- How to get a kit?
 - Educator training
 - Visit our website to reserve
 - Can borrow for two weeks at a time
- How many kits do you have?
 - Currently six kits available
 - Two are coming soon!
 - Two versions of each kit
 - Washington Park Library (Providence)
 - Louttit Library (West Greenwich)





Rhode Island Environmental Education Association

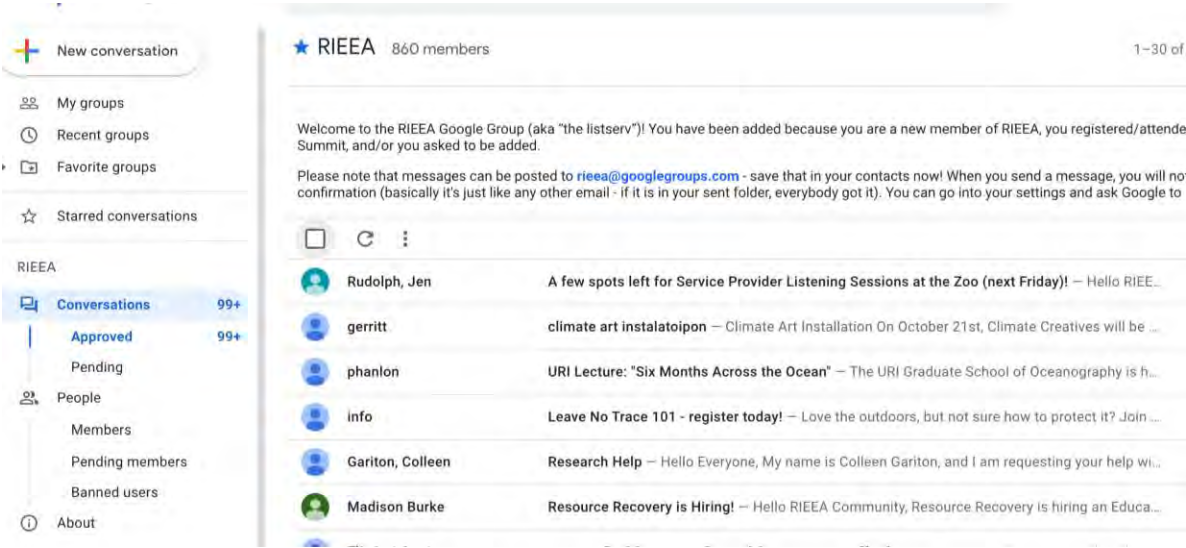
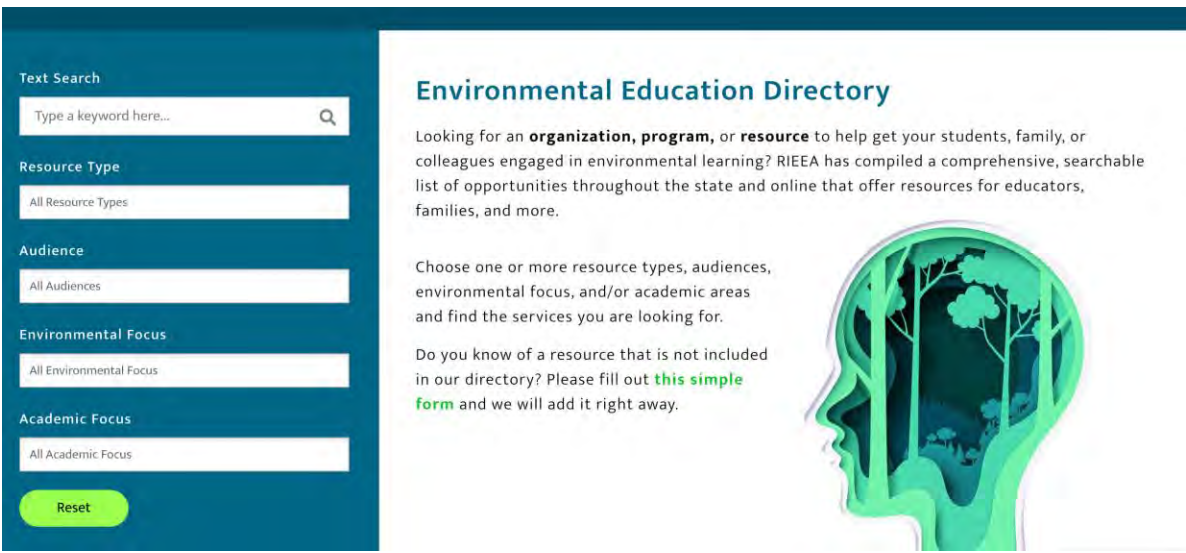
Jeanine Silversmith, Executive Director
jsilversmith@rieea.org
401-569-8758





RIEEA

Rhode Island Environmental
Education Association



Advancing Environmental Education Through Collaboration





RIEEA

Rhode Island Environmental
Education Association

Jeanine Silversmith
jsilversmith@rieea.org
401-569-8758
www.rieea.org

Additional Resources Available on the Statewide Master Price Agreement

Keelia Kentor

Rhode Island Department of Education

keelia.kentor@ride.ri.gov



Learning Inside Out Grant Professional Support

LEAs have several options for implementing their new outdoor learning spaces:

RIDE-provided services:

- Project management: Leftfield
 - Design: KBA Architects
 - Professional Development/Ed. Commissioning: VS America
- Services provided at no extra cost to LEA

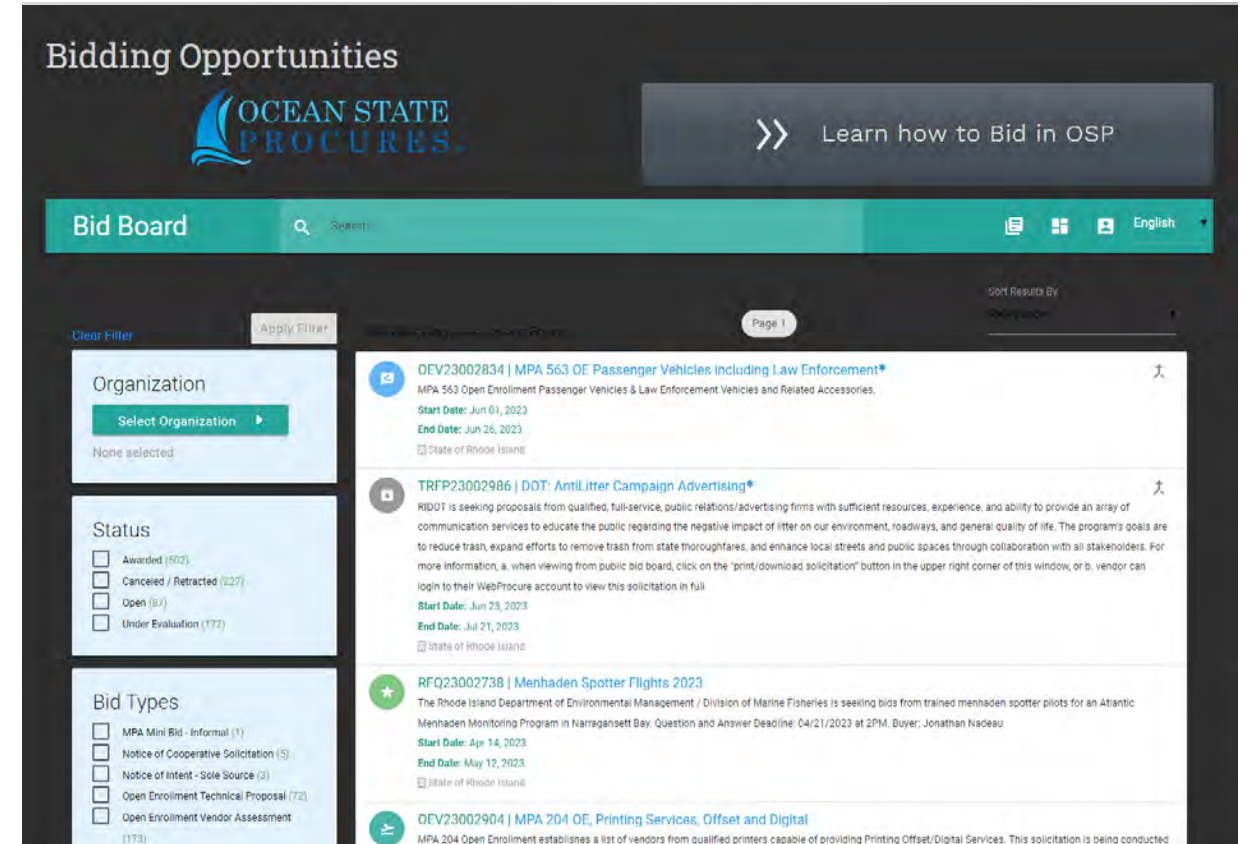


Learning Inside Out Grant Professional Support

LEAs have several options for implementing their new outdoor learning spaces:

LEAs may also select their own consultants

- Can use a portion of the LIO grant funding to pay for these services
- Must adhere to all applicable procurement laws
- Master Price Agreement (MPA) listings:
<https://ridop.rh.gov/vendors/bidding-opportunities>
 - 494 Open Enrollment Architectural Services
 - 621 Ed Commissioning/Professional Dev.
 - 596 Child Nutrition Consultant Services
 - 425 Sand, Gravel, and Loam
 - 492 Site Improvements





Thank you!