Preparing Students for Climate Change: A Critical Look At Climate Change Educational Programs

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inspired by kids who explore in all directions
How to teach about climate change:

The general trend:
○ scientific frame
○ intrasystemic solutions

The proposed frame:
○ issue, not problem focus
○ complexity of the roots
○ collaborative efforts
○ fostering creativity
The general trend: the focus of the Federal government and the Cool School Challenge

- scientific frame
  - how to understand climate change
  - how to teach climate change
- intrasystemic solutions
  - how to 'solve' climate change
The proposed frame: a holistic focus that addresses complexity and creativity

- issue, not problem focus
- complexity of the roots
- collaborative efforts
- fostering creativity
Issue Focus: what would the world be like if the problem were 'solved'?

- Climate change is a symptom of greater problems that exist, not the problem itself.
- 'Problem' framing limits the focus of efforts and the ability to grow as unique and creative individuals.
Complexity of the Roots: 

*diverse values and backgrounds determine perception*

- Spatial, temporal, and social dimensions of climate change
- Unique experiences influence the way information is understood
- Education of climate change as a two-way conversation
Collaborative Efforts: global issue requires global participation

- Issue is embedded in social, political, economic, cultural systems
- Cooperative group work in educational settings improves achievement and interpersonal skills
- Incorporation of cultural awareness
Fostering Creativity:
*-growing individual skills and passions*

○ For adaptation and growth

○ For personal fulfillment and exploration
How do we move forward?

Photos from an experiential learning field trip in HJ Andrews Experimental Forest. Credit: Devon Bonady