

**“Are We Educating for a Sustainable Future?
CELF Summer Institute for Sustainability Education Helps
Teachers Generate Curriculum for Change**

White Plains, NY, June 19, 2007- The Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation (CELF) announces it will conduct its *2007 Summer Institute for Sustainability Education* for K-12 teachers/administrators on July 16-20th. Co-sponsored by Manhattanville College School of Education and hosted by program co-sponsor New York Power Authority at its LEED gold certified (EB) green building in White Plains, this third annual professional development program responds to the well-documented and compelling need for improved and relevant K-12 education. Nationally renowned presenters, Susan Santone (Creative Change Educational Solutions) and Scott Beall (Scott Beall Educational Consulting), along with science consultant, Mary Elizabeth Wilson, will work with a select group of 35 participants from districts throughout the lower Hudson Valley region, as well as from outside of New York State. Participants will learn *how* and *why* business, higher education, and government is increasingly embracing sustainability initiatives. Educators will learn about the critical resource consumption and equity challenges of our growing world and how to bring these concerns into their classroom curriculum and extracurricular programs.

The Institute will focus on six crucial areas of sustainability: **Ecological Footprint:** fundamentals of human/environmental interactions, **Food Systems:** economics, human health and the environment; **Green Chemistry:** chemical alternatives that promote sustainability; **Ecological Economics:** linking science, social studies, and civics; **Climate Change:** biodiversity, economics and policy; **Genetic Engineering:** ethics and health and **Energy:** technology, economics and future projections.

Environmental, social justice (equity) and economic issues pose critically important questions for the future. With funding from the Clarence E. Heller Foundation, a California-based foundation dedicated to improving education through teacher training and to environmental sustainability, plus a NY State Special Legislative grant from Adam Bradley and private funding, the Institute provides teachers with an in-depth understanding of how, via systems thinking, sustainability education (SE) provides the lens through which existing curricula, subject areas and processes are tied together to address these issues.

By bringing sustainability into the classroom, teachers will create globally competitive and environmentally literate citizens beginning in kindergarten. The extreme relevance and timeliness of this Institute is clear: “As more and more companies create sustainable products, they are looking to staff their sales, product development, and manufacturing teams with graduates who understand sustainability principles. Leaders in a variety of industries are vying for candidates who *understand green*. Adding sustainability to curriculum produces graduates that manufacturers' desire.” (Society for College and University Planning-2005 Report) CELF's Institute extends well beyond this goal with its emphasis on *systems thinking* and its application to lifelong learning and decision-making. Teaching students to make critical and informed decisions provides them with complex, responsible problem solving skills that can lead to economic vibrancy, social equity and fundamental eco-literacy. Students learn consideration of one's impacts beyond themselves to their community and beyond.

CELf was selected for participation in a national EPA grant, "Building Leadership Capacity for Sustainability Education," along with two Westchester schools districts, Scarsdale and Somers. These districts are at the forefront of becoming "sustainable schools" across campus, curriculum and school community. The goal of this grant is to provide guidance and an exemplary model for others pursuing sustainability education. Somers will have ten teachers participate in the CELf Institute this year. Scarsdale has hired CELf to conduct a weeklong Institute for its faculty during the week of July 9th.

"CELf's approach to education will make our children think ...about our earth and the way that we are all interrelated and dependent upon one another," said State Assemblyman Adam Bradley.

The Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation ("CELf") is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization that collaborates with public school districts and individual teachers to raise awareness of sustainable development and to help incorporate related principles into K-12 curricula and programs. Visit www.celfoundation.org for more information about CELf's programs and initiatives and partnerships.

###