

# Connecticut Environmental Action Day: Making a Lasting Impact on Students and the Environment

UConn Co-op Legacy Fellowship Change Grant

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**UConn** | COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,  
HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES

EXTENSION



# Introduction: Meet the recipients!

Margaret Sanders is a junior at UConn studying natural resources and human rights.

Maggi Anstett, senior, Agriculture and Natural Resources major interested in the Teachers Certificate Program for Graduate Students.

Madeline Williams has her bachelors in Structural Biology and Biophysics. She is looking into the Master's of Public Health Fast-Track Program. She plans to continue her education to earn her Juris Doctor and pursue a career in human rights law.



# Connecticut Environmental Action Day (CEAD)

- Connecticut Environmental Action Day is a yearly one-day conference that takes place on the Storrs UConn campus.
- Faculty and UConn students provide different environmental workshops for groups of Connecticut middle schoolers



# Connecticut Environmental Action Day (CEAD)

- Our goal is to teach students about the environment and encourage them to make an environmental plan that they can implement in their school, home, and community with hands-on learning activities



Meg and Maggi instructing small groups of students on a 4-H Environmental lesson on CEAD

# What is an Educational Kit?

The goals of CEAD are to educate and reach more students who could not attend the one-day conference in person. This is where the educational kits come into play. The educational kits contain a copy of the 4-H Weather and Climate Youth Learning Lab enclosed in a three ring binder. This learning lab contains 9 different lesson plans about the environment.

As a group, we specifically chose to provide materials for three out of the nine lesson plans.

- Those lessons were 6, 8, and 9
- Each kit included a binder with the lessons, extra worksheets needed to complete those lessons, notebook paper, and golf balls
- These kits were designed to be sent out to 32 schools, 4 per county in Connecticut.

# Goals of the Educational Kits

1. Teach students how to be environmentally-minded
2. Encourage students to make environmental changes in their home, school, and community.
3. Provide teachers with additional environmental education materials that they are able to implement in their classrooms

# Piloting Program

- Before we sent the kits out to schools, we reached out to teachers from Mansfield Middle School to see if they would be able to pilot some of the 4-H lessons we included in a classroom setting
- We included post-teaching questions to evaluate the effectiveness of the materials of the kit
- After receiving feedback, we implemented the changes to our kits and were prepared to send them out



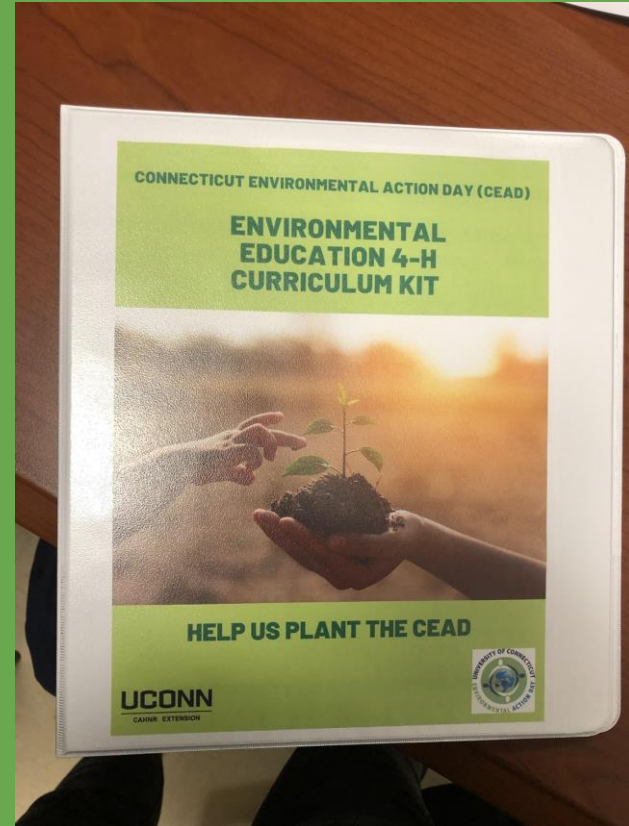
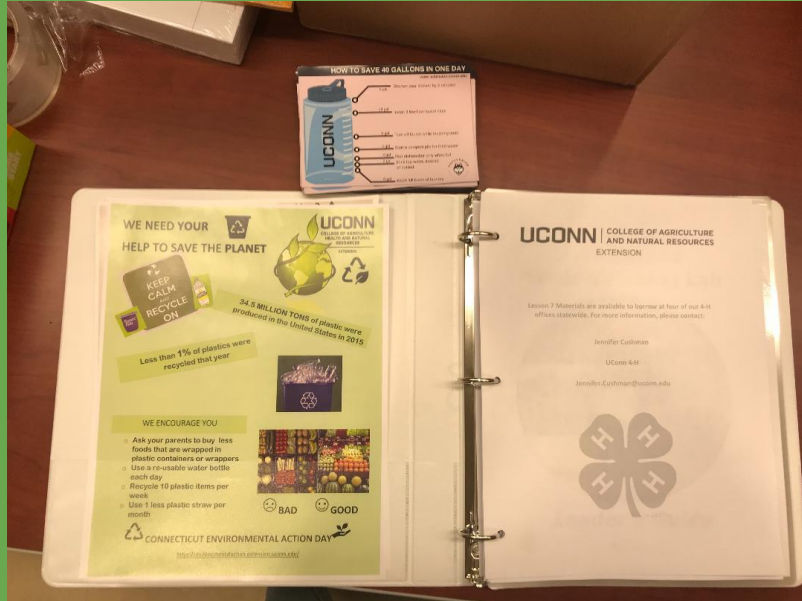
# Testing out the kit at Connecticut Environmental Action Day (CEAD)

- On February 28th, 2020, more than 100 students from CT middle schools came to Storrs campus for environmental education programming
- We taught a group of about 20 students two lessons from our educational kits
- Students participated, asked questions, and enjoyed the material from the 4-H kit





# Creating the Educational Kits



# Effects of COVID-19

- Due to the closure of Connecticut schools, the kits were unable to be sent out spring of 2020
- In the fall of 2020, we decided to reach out to the 32 respondents to see if they were still willing to accept the kits
- 14 out of the original 32 respondents said they would be still willing to receive a kit
  - 14 kits were sent out, fall 2020, via mail to the new respondents
- A new advertisement and survey was send out via Facebook to advertise for the remaining 18 kits
  - These 18 kits were quickly spoken for and sent out to the recipients in the Fall of 2020
- A total of 32 kits were sent out to middle school teachers and homeschooling parents in all 8 counties throughout Connecticut

# Sign Up Survey and Advertisement for 9/17/19

- The questions for the survey are as follows:
  - Do you teach science at a CT public middle school?
  - What county did you teach in?
    - Litchfield, Fairfield, Hartford, New London, New Haven, Middlesex, Tolland, and Windham
  - Would you be interested in receiving a kit with curriculum and materials?
  - What is your school name?
  - What town is your school located in?
  - What is the best email to reach you at for future correspondence?

## Advertisement



**UConn**  
CAHR EXTENSION



Offering **FREE** environmental education 4-H curriculum kits to middle school and homeschool teachers in Connecticut!

Limited time only, first come first serve

**APPLY TODAY!**

Link to apply: <http://bit.ly/CEADKit>

# Survey for Original Applicants 10/22/20

- The questions for the survey are as follows:
  - Are you interested in receiving a CEAD Educational Kit?
  - If the respondent selected no
    - Please explain why you no longer would like to receive an Educational Kit from CEAD
    - If you know of anyone who wants to receive an Educational Kit from CEAD please leave their contact information below
  - If the respondent selected yes
    - What is the address you prefer us to send the Educational Kit to?
    - If you know of anyone who wants to receive an Educational Kit from CEAD please leave their contact information below

# Survey for new Applicants and new Advertisement 10/31/20

- The questions for the survey are as follows:
  - Are you interested in receiving a CEAD Educational Kit?
  - If the respondent selected no
    - If you know of anyone who wants to receive an Educational Kit from CEAD please leave their contact information below
  - If the respondent selected yes
    - What is the address you prefer us to send the Educational Kit to?
    - If you know of anyone who wants to receive an Educational Kit from CEAD please leave their contact information below

## Advertisement



**UConn**  
CAHNR EXTENSION



**Offering FREE environmental education 4-H curriculum kits to middle school and homeschool teachers in Connecticut!**

Limited time only, first come first serve

**APPLY TODAY!**

Link to apply: <http://bit.ly/CEADKit>

# 4-H Educational Kits

- With our remaining budget we decided to create 4 additional educational kits for 4-H offices in 4 different counties in Connecticut.
- These kits included
  - A copy of the 4-H Weather and Climate Youth Learning Lab enclosed in a three ring binder
  - Materials for lesson 6, 8, and 9
  - Additional materials
    - Two boxes of assorted tree rings
    - Infrared thermometers
    - Light meters
    - Beakers
- These kits can be accessed by anyone in the education system
  - The goal to these kits was to provide more materials to be able to complete these lessons within the lab protocol.
- Due to safety precautions, the 4-H offices are not open to the public and therefore the decision was made to not send those kits out until they opened.

# **Lastly, Thank You!**

**We would like to extend a HUGE thank you to Jen Cushman, Stacey Stearns, Marc Cournoyer, Melissa Berkey and others who helped us accomplish this program!**

**We have so many thanks for helping us plan, organize, purchase, educate and re-visit due to COVID-19! Thank you for leading us and assisting us become better educators equipped with knowledge and experience! We had so much fun working with you and have infinite gratitude for all of the help!**