

Poster Title: Rutgers 4-H: Climate Change Programs

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Abstract: 4-H teaches climate change science to youth across New Jersey. 4-H climate change programs are delivered through many of the NJ county extension offices and are brought to communities through different delivery modes including school enrichment, afterschool, and on campus at the annual 4-H climate change summit. The curriculum focuses on teaching the causes, impacts and evidence of climate change in addition to the solutions that we can apply to our daily lives. Service-learning projects are integrated into all of our programs and allow youth to demonstrate their understanding of issues related to climate change. Our programs are accomplished through collaboration within Rutgers University including; Cooperative Extension and the departments of marine science, geography, and environmental science. Community organizations and partnership are also a vital component to successful climate change programming. A variety of evaluation tools have been developed for analysis of our programs including; retrospective pre-post tests to measure science and life skill perceived changes, knowledge tests, post-post tests, and observation technique. This presentation will introduce the NJ 4-H climate change programs and will look at the impact our programs have on our students and the community.