



Project Learning Tree®



Kathy McGlaulin
Project Learning Tree

American Forest
Foundation

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What is Project Learning Tree?

A Comprehensive EE Program

High quality, PreK-12 EE curriculum materials

Diverse, international network of partners

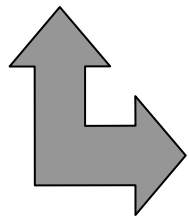
Implementation via a successful delivery system of professional development



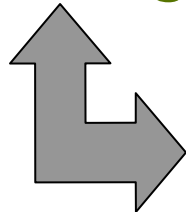
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PLT's Environmental Education Goals

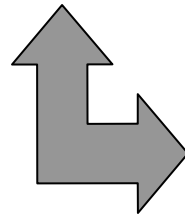
Awareness



Knowledge



Challenge



**Responsible
Action**

“Teaching students how to think, not what to think about complex environmental issues.”

~Rudy Schafer, Founder PLT



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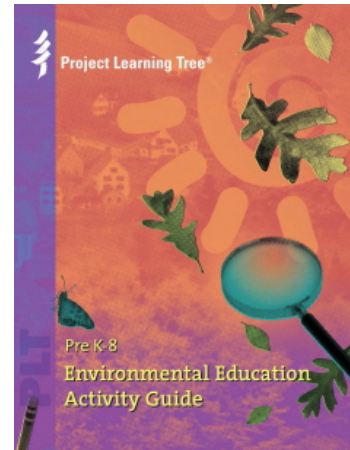
PLT Program Evaluation

1. Curriculum Materials

2. Professional Development

3. Teacher Use

4. Student Impact



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Evaluation Limitations

- **Issue Complexity**
- **No Direct Conclusions**
- **Non-Linear Relationships**
- **How to Define and Measure “Success”**



What Do We Know?

REPORT CARD				
GRADING PERIOD	1	2	3	4
READING	A			
WRITTEN COMMUNICATION	A			
MATHEMATICS	C			
SCIENCE/HEALTH	B			
SOCIAL STUDIES	B			
ART	A			
MUSIC	A			
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	C			
Grade Average	B			
Attendance:				
Present	48			
Absent	0			
Tardy	1			
<small>A = Excellent • B = Good • C = Satisfactory • N = Needs Improvement U = Unsatisfactory • I = Insufficient / Incomplete</small>				
<small>Student: _____ Grade: _____ Year: _____</small>				

Workshop Satisfaction

– 2 Studies, 1995, 2000

Educational Materials

– 1 Study, 2000

Educator Use

– 2 Studies, 1996, 2002

Student Achievement

– 2 Studies, 2005, 2009



Workshop Satisfaction



- **Participants view activities as relevant (73%)**
- **Activities are practical or very practical (76%)**
- **Facilitators were knowledgeable (90%)**
- **Workshop meets participant needs (4.6 out of 5)**



Educational Materials



- 93% Rated excellent or very good
- 95% Feel format is “teacher friendly”
- 77% Say curriculum aligns to state standards
- 45% Use suggested supplemental resources



Educator Use



- **75% Conducted PLT Activities**
- **Most educators use 3-6 activities per year**
- **Use in science classes; but also with language arts, math, and social studies**



Student Achievement



- **Students show statistically significant knowledge gain ($p < .0001$)**
- **Increase in students' self-assessed knowledge and attitudes**
- **Teachers also gain self-assessed knowledge**



What's Missing?

- Longitudinal Studies
- Workshop Model Evaluation
- Pre-Service Program Evaluation
- Others?



Project Learning Tree Works!

30,000 educators trained per year

60% of workshop participants are referred to PLT by another educator

Half of users report using PLT at least once a month

Recipient of national awards

National network of committed sponsors and volunteers



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Thank You!

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