



Theme Four: Nature's Design

Systems, Cycles, Patterns, Relationships, and Adaptations in the Garden System

Theme Four explores the physical and biological sciences of the natural world. “How would nature do it?” is an important question for inventors, engineers, and designers of ideas, products, and processes. These processes hold essential knowledge for creating a more sustainable world. Acquiring that knowledge requires observation and exploration of nature’s systems. The school garden is the perfect nexus of the big four: Food, Water, Energy, and the Recycling of Natural Resources. Today we call this “education for sustainability.” Themes Two and Four engage students with Next Generation Science and Engineering Practices that examine disciplinary core ideas and crosscutting concepts. The School Garden Curriculum Map provides an instructional strategy to explore ecological interdependence, growth and development of organisms, structure and function, energy and matter, adaptation, and the environmental impacts of human activity.