



Project Learning Tree Facilitators Step into the Future of PLT!

On Thursday, June 28th facilitators from across the state stepped into the future of PLT. Last summer, National PLT introduced three new E-Units for grades Kindergarten-2nd, 3rd-5th, and 6th-8th. An E-Unit is a self-contained unit of instruction that is fully online, making it easy for teachers to access and use. SC PLT facilitators were trained in the Energy in Ecosystems E-Unit for grades 3-5 so that they can lead workshops for educators.

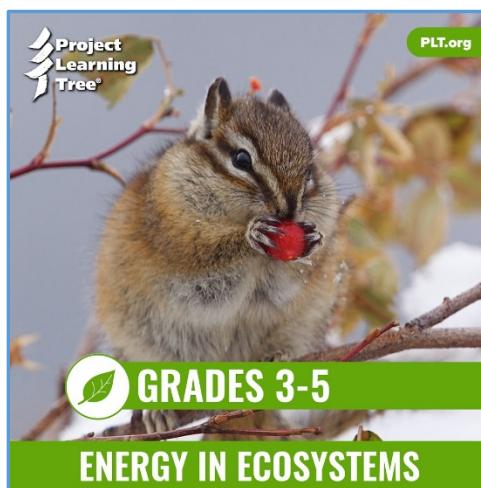


"Home for Many" E-Unit activity

"Web of Life" E-Unit activity

"Home for Many" E-Unit activity

"Designed for 3rd-5th grade teachers, the Energy in Ecosystems e-unit investigates ways in which organisms depend on each other to survive and thrive. Students focus on forests (one of the largest and most complex types of ecosystems) and come to understand some of the interactions present in all ecosystems. In doing so, they learn to appreciate the natural systems on which we depend and begin to widen their circle of compassion to include all of nature."



Facilitators also learned about the job of a forester and practiced the skills of forestry led by Janet Steele (Forestry Association of SC). Facilitators calculated the volume of wood in a tree by measuring its diameter and total height.

Diameter was measured at DBH (Diameter at Breast Height - 4.5 feet off ground) using a "D-tape" and total height was measured using a clinometer. Facilitators then used a volume table to calculate the tons of wood in their tree. Many facilitators didn't know so much math and estimation was involved in forestry!



Other activities included an update on the program, a delicious lunch from Zorba's Greek restaurant, time to share, and prize drawings for facilitators who led or helped with workshops in 2017...congratulations Natalie Ashenfelter, Cynthia Deaton, and Vikki Pasco!

Thank you all who attended this year's Facilitator Refresher/Reunion: Janet Steele, Ed Donovan, Sharon Donovan, Krista Eckley, Russell Hubright, Melinda Beach, Renee Chewning, Norma Rockwell, Chanda Cooper, and Beth Foley.

We hope to see you all next year!

(picture of awesome Delorean from Amazon.com)

