

# Allamuchy School District

## Allamuchy Township, Warren County

Allamuchy School District is tucked away in a beautiful corner of northern New Jersey, bordered by mountains, creeks and a nearby state park. These surroundings make it especially convenient to connect student learning to the outdoors. The team leader in this district is a master at place-based learning. Children in Allamuchy have restored vernal pools, maintained a school garden, raised chickens that fertilize the plants, tracked and recorded compostable weight totals and have helped build a solar-powered fence to protect a honey bee hive. Some projects were funded through grants and others were moved forward through grit and determination.

The team leader in Allamuchy had a clear goal, worked hard to achieve it, and found ways to make it successful by engaging the students. It is critical that board of education members and administrators know about sustainability projects in their districts. It is also important for green champions and team leaders to explore what is needed and ask for support in order to maintain and continue progress. These initiatives, if scaled across the district, could result in reduced tipping fees, thus shrinking district operating costs. Outdoor education could motivate and develop the next generation of environmental scientists, biologists, botanists and landscape architects. By working together with the team leader to outline values and objectives, staff can provide regular updates to track and highlight progress and challenges. Additionally, sustainability work can feel lonely and isolating. When the administration and board of education commit to support the work, results are far superior, compared to when several champions work in isolation in the district.

### MEASURABLE OBJECTIVE

Reduce food in waste stream by **10%**

### SKILLS FOR SUCCESS

curiosity  
assertiveness  
penchant to learn  
well-organized  
ability to seek outside support



### WORDS OF WISDOM

*Students need to be involved and [sustainability] needs to be a part of the learning experience. It is more effective when district leaders share the time, commitment, project expectations, responsibilities and intended outcomes while building a team. Regular meetings with district administration and the green team establish a level of importance, open communication and support.*

Deb DeAngelis,  
team leader

