

New London County School Garden Network

2015 School Garden Survey

Farm to School Support Program has been working to build the capacity of both our School Garden Network and school gardens across New London County. We want to periodically take a “snap shot” of the number of school gardens, how teachers and children are interacting with the garden and the needs of school garden programs for various kinds of support. Your input is needed to create this picture of school gardens, as we will be creating a resource map of all garden programs in the county, applying for support funding so we can continue to offer our Outdoor Classroom School Garden Mini-Grants to local schools, and most of all continue to build a strong and flourishing school garden network. This questionnaire should take approx. five minutes to complete and if you have one, should be completed by your school garden coordinator or food service manager. Thank you in advance!

1. First and Last Name:

2. Name of School:

3. Address:

4 City/Town:

5. Position at School:

6. What is the type of school you represent?

7. Which best describes your school garden (please select only one answer)

_____ We have no school garden, and not interested at this time.

_____ Our garden is in the planning stages with growing enthusiasm.

_____ Our garden is used as part of an afterschool program only.

_____ Our garden is managed by one teacher or two teachers and is limited to a small number of classes using the garden for one subject (math, science, etc.)

_____ Our garden is used by multiple grades and teachers and integrated into multiple learning subjects.

_____ Our garden reaches all children (or nearly all children) and connecting the school to the larger community.



8. If you do not have a school garden but are interested in starting a school garden program, please list the name and contact information.

Name and Email address _____

9. If you do not have a school garden, what in your opinion are some of the barriers to starting a school garden program?

10. Do you pay someone as a designated school garden coordinator? (This is a person who is paid to be your school garden coordinator, even if they have a separate role)

Yes _____ No _____ Unsure _____

If yes, please list person's name and email address (this will be used to contact you for school garden network activities and will not be provided to a third party)

11. Do you have a school garden team? Yes _____ No _____ Undecided _____

If yes, please list the members by job title.

12. What other school garden activities are included in your program? (Select all that apply)

- _____ The PTA manages it and hosts events
- _____ We grow food for the school cafeteria
- _____ We grow food to donate to food pantries
- _____ We invite the larger community to use the garden in the summer months
- _____ We grow food to send home with students and families
- _____ Classrooms use it during the day for lessons
- _____ We have an afterschool garden program
- _____ Other (please specify)

13. How is your garden funded? (Please choose all that apply)

- _____ Grants
- _____ Donations
- _____ School budget
- _____ Fund raising
- _____ Corporate sponsor
- _____ Civic sponsor
- _____ Other (Please explain)

14. Are you a member of the New London County School Garden Network?

Yes _____ No _____

15. What type of support would be helpful to you to more effectively use an existing garden or begin a new garden program at your school? (Please choose all that apply)

- _____ Help with regular maintenance of the garden
- _____ Lesson plans and ideas on integrating garden into core curriculum
- _____ Materials such as seeds, soil, tools and educational supplies

- Workshops on gardening
- Professional development opportunities for teachers on teaching using the garden (offering CEUs)
- More engagement from staff
- More engagement from administration
- More engagement from parents
- A garden educator to run an after-school program
- A garden educator to support teachers during the school day
- A professional garden coordinator, as part of paid school staff (not a teacher)
- Funding opportunities
- Evaluating garden classroom learning
- Other (please specify)

16. Would you be interested in joining a statewide or regional school garden network? (to share resources, best practices, bulk ordering, fund raising, create promotional campaigns and events etc.)

Yes No Undecided

If yes, or if you already belong, what type of activities would be of interest to you or your school garden team?

- Professional development
- Join and attend Network meetings
- Submit photos and write articles on various garden themes for the Network Blog
- Help to recruit for and grow the Network
- Host a meeting at my school
- Facilitating future Network meetings

17. Are you interested in mentoring others or taking a leadership role on the School Garden Network?

Yes No Undecided

18. Your email address:

19. Your phone number:

20. Do you have any other comments or suggestions for the Farm to School Advisory Council?

Thank you for participating in this survey! Please mail this survey back to Cindy Barry, Farm to School Project Director, at Ledge Light Health District. 216 Broad Street. New London, CT 06320. Contact Cindy at 860-448-4882 or cbarry@llhd.org with any questions.