



Success  
Story

## Sustainability Studies: Media Literacy and Science Communication

May 3rd and 6th, 2023

Can your students tell if a climate news story is real? Do they know how climate change is impacting their own communities? Ten secondary teachers from Pierce, King, and Snohomish counties recently tackled these questions and more in a workshop using PEI's interdisciplinary Sustainability Course.



*Participants playing The Greenhouse Game at the Sustainability Studies workshop.*

**"The entire Food Waste unit is a fantastic addition to my culinary course."**

**-- Teacher on  
Special  
Assignment  
(TOSA)**

The teachers, who met both virtually and in-person for this professional learning experience, were a dynamic mix of science, arts, and CTE teachers, as well as specialists at multiple grade levels.



Katie Moxley, Senior Manager for Environmental Remediation and EHS Policy at Boeing, spoke during the online session to share Boeing's work in the Duwamish River and surrounding community.

**"There was a nice combination of hands-on activities, collaboration with peers, and work time -as well as opportunities to explore the grounds and see the animals."**

Boeing has been a key player in cleaning and restoring riparian zones along the Lower Duwamish Superfund Site, and Katie emphasized the importance of partnerships and collaboration in sustainability work. For the second session, the group met in person to get experience with the activities included in the course.

They kicked off the morning at [Kelsey Creek Farm](#) with Mood Meters and Sit Spots, which help to address Social and Emotional Learning needs and target the eco-anxiety that can come with learning about climate change.



*Kelsey Creek Farms was an ideal setting to practice Sit Spots.*

Of course, no media workshop would be complete without a chance for teachers to test their media literacy skills!

Using a (fictitious) news story about the [Endangered Pacific Northwest Tree Octopus](#), teachers talked about how their students might react to the article, what made it seem real, and how they could teach lateral reading strategies to help their students determine that it's false.

Teachers will receive stipends for implementing individual lessons and full units of the course through December 2023, and each educator received five STEM clock hours for their participation. The Stocker Foundation and the Tulalip Foundation provided funding for the workshops and stipends.