



How do changes in the climate make you feel?

This word cloud reflects responses from 1,300 Stamford Public School sixth grade students when asked to select from a list of words that best describes their feelings towards climate change. The larger the word is displayed in this image, the more frequently it was selected by students.

Based on this informal survey conducted by SoundWaters over the course of the 2022-23 school year, climate anxiety is a very real and very concerning influence on students.

SoundWaters helps students confront climate anxiety through education, action, and joyful learning. *School Days* is a review of the past school year, focused on teaching the science of a rapidly changing climate.



Knowledge = Perspective

Climate change can be scary, but for high school students knowledge brings perspective. They are on the Sound every week throughout the school year - right through the bitter cold winter - collecting data on water conditions and animal populations to better understand the impact of even the smallest environmental changes. They are doing college-level science as they prepare to take responsibility for our planet.

Climate change really scared me, but it's also the reason I'm so passionate about environmental science today. Because I want to be part of that solution.

- Owen, High School Class of 2023



High school students - on the water year round - understand the complex concepts of climate change.

Kids love science, they just don't know it yet.

- Ira Flatow, Public Radio's *Science Friday*,
May 15 Climate Science Education Panel

Joyful Learning

Elementary school students - some of whom claimed to "hate science," found plenty of joy in learning about Long Island Sound ecosystems and microscopic organisms during Science Stars over April school vacation week.



New friends, fun new experiences, and a whole new appreciation for science.



Great Oaks High School students are still talking about their first canoe trip.

The School Day No Student Wants to Miss

Learning outdoors is fun and memorable. It's joyful and that makes it powerful. At any age, from any zip code, it's hard to hold a horseshoe crab and not smile. Students crane their necks with anticipation to see the animals in their dip nets. They go totally quiet with awe when they see a pod of dolphins from the deck of the Schooner. Who would want to miss this?

I wish this is what school was like every day.

- Ariel, 11th grade student,
Great Oaks High School



Thumbs-up for their first-ever high school field trip.



What do you think these students said about school this day?

This was the best field trip EVER! Very organized. So much fun. The kids loved it!

- First grade teacher, Royle School

When Education is the Answer, Scale Matters

Behind these somewhat silly numbers is a compelling fact: **We teach a lot of students** throughout the school year.

Our goal is for these thousands of students, like the hundreds of thousands of students before them, to grow up much more aware of the impact of their actions on the planet and better prepared to take action against a warming climate.

10,251

Students in life jackets



576

Microscopes used by students



1,728

Canoes launched



5,219

Crabs identified by students



0

Outside learning days lost to rain



Holding a horseshoe crab

Priceless



Ready to Work

SoundWaters Harbor Corps graduated its inaugural class this June in a ceremony at the Cohen SoundWaters Harbor Center. The graduates trained for 16 weeks in core marine skills, such as carpentry, fiberglass repair, welding, engine maintenance, and boat handling. All are interviewing for entry level positions in the marine industry. Very exciting. Very inspiring.

The next Harbor Corps team will begin in July.



Harbor Corps graduates: proud and ready.

It's Like Paddling Downhill!

Join hundreds of paddlers on a gorgeous 4-mile, 90-minute paddle down to Stamford Harbor and we'll bring you back. Need a rental? We've got one for you. The Flotilla will be your best paddle of the summer. Check it out at SoundWatersFlotilla.org.



Understanding Climate Science Education



Judging by the large attendance, climate science education is a hot topic.

SoundWaters has been teaching climate science for three decades, but soon, the subject will anchor curricula at schools across Connecticut. What does that mean for students and for teachers? With over 100 people in attendance, SoundWaters welcomed Ira Flatow of Public Radio's *Science Friday* to lead a panel of education authorities in examining the impact and the challenges of preparing the next generation for their future in an era of a rapidly changing climate.

Climate education is potentially a more effective way to reduce emissions than many other single solutions. This is because the behavior changes of a 15-year-old will resonate for decades.