



Water and Energy Education Newsletter

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Hello Teachers,

We hope this newsletter finds you well as you wrap up lessons for winter break. Looking to schedule lessons for next semester? [Register for free programs on our website.](#) January and February are great times to schedule our interactive [TK/K](#) and [3rd grade](#) programs. Register soon to secure a spot! [Steelhead School Tours](#) at Lake Sonoma also start in January and are available for all grades. See below for more information. We also invite you to forward this newsletter to other teachers who might be interested in our programs.

In this newsletter:

Teacher Opportunities

- **Grant: A Call to Action** – up to \$1,000 for environmental projects, Jan. 14, 2026
- **Marin Water Project WET Workshop** – grades 3-12, Jan. 24, 2026
- **Summer Climate Resilience Workshop** – save the date, Jul. 27-31, 2026

Student Programs

- **High School Video Contest** – students and schools win prize money
- **Lake Sonoma Steelhead School Tours** – all grades, tours start Jan. 2026
- **Middle and High School Programs** – space available next semester

Events

- **Steelhead Festival** – free day of family fun, Mar. 7, 2026
- **North Bay Science Discovery Day** – free day of hands-on activities, Mar. 7, 2026

Activity

- **Steelhead Trout Hat** – color, cut, and staple your own fish hat

We wish you all a happy and restful winter break. Thank you for collaborating with us to foster the next generation of scientific thinkers and environmental stewards.

- The Water and Energy Education Team at Sonoma Water



A young steelhead with parr marks for camouflage.

Teacher Opportunities

Grant: A Call to Action

A group of children and an adult are gathered around several large blue water barrels outdoors. The scene is set in a wooded area with a stream or pond in the background. The children are looking at the barrels with interest. One child is kneeling on the ground, possibly examining something. The barrels are stacked on a concrete base. The overall atmosphere is educational and hands-on.

**Apply by
Jan. 14**

A CALL TO ACTION
Grant program for teachers & students
sonomawater.org/ACallToAction

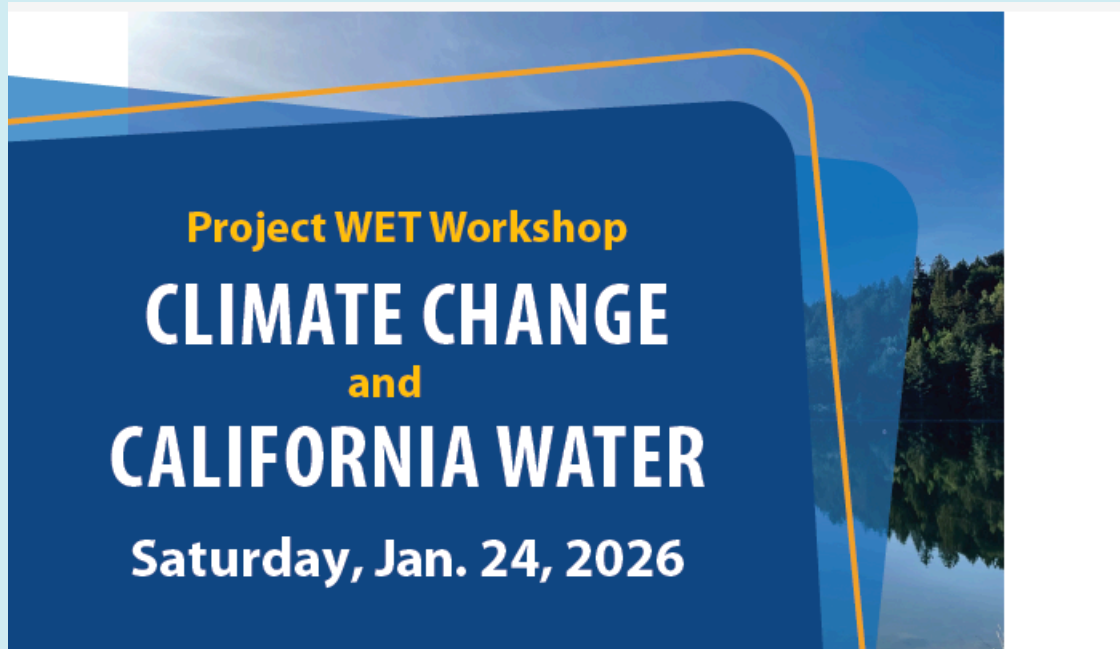
The logo for Sonoma Water, featuring a stylized blue wave icon to the left of the text "Sonoma Water" in a white box with a blue border.

A Call to Action is a small grant program for teachers and their students to take on solution-focused projects related to water or climate change in their schools or neighborhoods. With this program, we hope to inspire a sense of ownership and hopefulness in students as they work together to make a positive impact. Grants range from \$100 to \$1000.

Applications are due by January 14, 2026.

Apply for a Grant

Marin Water Project WET Workshop



The California Department of Water Resources (DWR), Marin Water, and Water Education Foundation's California Project WET program invite educators working with students in grades 3 through 12 to join us for a special workshop on climate change and its impact on California's water resources.

Understanding climate change and its link to flood, drought, water quality, and more is crucial for all Californians. In this workshop, you will interact with DWR climate experts and engage in activities that will help your students understand the impacts of climate change on water and how to adapt to our changing environment.

Project WET activities are designed to engage students in the study of water through interactive simulations, use of models, and reality-based scenarios. The interdisciplinary activities supplement existing curriculum, are correlated to Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards, and provide strong foundations for STEAM, Project-Based, and Service-Learning programs.

For a \$25 registration fee, participants will receive a copy of the Project WET Foundations of Water Education guide, a continental breakfast and lunch, an opportunity to receive 0.8 CEU credit - and a \$120 stipend following completion of the workshop!



**Saturday, Jan. 24, 2026
8:00 am to 4:00 pm**

Marin Water Administrative Building
Mt. Tamalpais Room
220 Nellen Avenue
Corte Madera, CA 94925

Registration is limited to first 30 individuals to register. Additional registrants will be placed on a waiting list.

**Registration closes
Friday, January 16, 2026**



Questions? Contact:

Nic Russo,
CA Project WET Coordinator
(916) 444-6240 x 205
NRusso@watereducation.org

This workshop includes:

- A wealth of current information on climate science and its application
- An opportunity to interact with experts from DWR's Climate Research staff
- A copy of the new Project WET 'Foundations of Water Education' guide
- Continental breakfast and lunch
- An opportunity to receive 0.8 CEU credit and a \$120 stipend following completion of the workshop

- Learn more on the [workshop website](#)

Register by January 16 for the workshop on January 24, 2026.

Register for Project WET Workshop

Summer Workshop for Teachers: Climate Resilience in the North Bay



Elementary and middle school teachers are encouraged to apply for a paid, five-day workshop that offers opportunities to learn from local organizations involved in climate change education throughout Sonoma County. Field trips will explore topics such as land stewardship informed by Traditional Ecological Knowledge, teaching climate literacy in the garden, changing ocean conditions, renewable energy and electrification, and more. Each day includes a morning tour followed by an afternoon work session supported by staff from the Sonoma County Office of Education, with expertise in equitable science education, NGSS, and STEAM.

Teachers will receive a stipend of \$750 for the week, plus an additional \$250 upon delivering a lesson created during the workshop.

For more information and to apply, visit the [Climate Resilience in the North Bay website](#).

Workshop Dates: July 27-31, 2026

Applications are due **May 8, 2026**.

"My head is so full of ideas and my heart is so full of hope after spending a week with other passionate educators learning about local climate actions. The presentations were varied and inspiring, and the collaboration time was invaluable. Climate change can be a

heavy topic, but after this week I feel more confident tackling big topics in a positive way."
- 2024 teacher testimonial

Learn about the Climate Resilience in the North Bay Workshop

Student Programs

High School Video Contest



The poster features a central graphic of a smartphone displaying a video of a creek with various social media icons (likes, hearts, thumbs up) overlaid. To the right, the text reads: "2026 HIGH SCHOOL VIDEO CONTEST". Below this, it says "CREATE A 55-SECOND PSA VIDEO ON THIS YEARS' THEME: THE FUTURE FLOWS THROUGH US". Further down, it states "Caring for our creeks protects our whole watershed for future generations!" and "See website for contest details". At the bottom, it provides the website "SONOMAWATER.ORG/VIDEO-CONTESTS", lists "CASH PRIZES!" and "AWARDS SHOWCASE" with a hand pointing icon, and sets the "SUBMISSION DEADLINE MARCH 26TH 2026". The RRWA logo is in the bottom left corner.

2026 HIGH SCHOOL VIDEO CONTEST

CREATE A 55-SECOND PSA VIDEO ON THIS YEARS' THEME:
THE FUTURE FLOWS THROUGH US

Caring for our creeks protects our whole watershed for future generations!
See website for contest details

SONOMAWATER.ORG/VIDEO-CONTESTS

CASH PRIZES!  **AWARDS SHOWCASE**

SUBMISSION DEADLINE MARCH 26TH 2026

 **RRWA**
RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Sonoma Water and the [Russian River Watershed Association](#) are pleased to announce the 2026 High School Video Contest. Students and schools can win prize money! Winning videos will be used on social media and featured at public venues.

The 2026 contest theme is, "The Future Flows Through Us."

High school students (grades 9-12) who attend school in Sonoma County, Northern Marin, or Mendocino County are invited to create a 55-second Public Service Announcement (PSA). The goal of the PSA is to inspire people to take care of our local creeks and protect the watershed for future generations.

See Contest Guidelines on the [High School Video Contest website](#) for more information on how to enter your video and access resources to inspire and assist your production.

The video submission deadline is March 26, 2026.

Learn about the High School Video Contest

Lake Sonoma Steelhead School Tours



Steelhead will be making their way up Dry Creek and returning to Warm Springs Hatchery to spawn- this is an incredible opportunity for students to see adult steelhead and watch as they are sorted inside the hatchery. Spawning season will last for 16 weeks, ***all grade levels are welcome!*** Each School Tour starts at 10:00 am and lasts for approximately 90 minutes.

Learn more about this experience and book online at the [Steelhead School Tours website](#).

Tours start January 6, 2026.

Book a Lake Sonoma Steelhead School Tour

Middle School Programs



6th Grade, Climate Extremes: Drought

This 60-minute, hands-on, inquiry-based lesson has students explore the environmental impacts of drought on salmon in California. Working collaboratively, students build creek models representing both drought-affected and healthy streams. They measure key water quality parameters such as temperature, pH, and turbidity to analyze how drought conditions alter stream habitats.

Learn more about the [Climate Extremes: Drought lesson](#).



6-8 Grade: Electricity & Climate Change

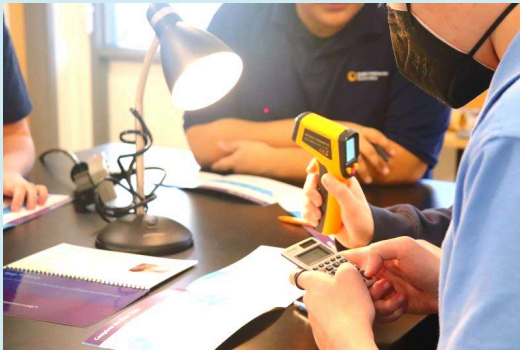
This lesson explores the relationship between the electricity we depend on and the impacts of climate change. Students learn about the nonrenewable and renewable energy sources that power California and investigate the state's progress toward its 2045 target of generating 100% renewable energy. Students work in small groups on a hands-on engineering challenge to generate electricity with wind and a small turbine. In collaboration, students design, build, and test wind blades to generate electricity. Through experimentation with key variables, they gain insight into real-world wind energy engineering. The lesson also highlights Sonoma Clean Power's efforts to advance the state's clean-energy transition. Learn more about the [Electricity and Climate Change lesson](#).

Available as one 90-minute lesson or two 50-minute lessons.



Register for Middle School Programs

High School Climate Action Challenge



The [Climate Action Challenge](#) is a free two-part program designed to help students understand the link between energy use and climate change.

Part One: an in-class lesson where students explore how electricity use affects the climate by comparing the energy demand of an incandescent lightbulb versus a LED lightbulb. This is a hands-on way to learn about energy efficiency and associated greenhouse gas emissions.

Part Two: students visit Sonoma Clean Power's Customer Center in downtown Santa Rosa, where they work together to solve escape-room style puzzles. They learn about community climate actions we can take to reduce emissions. Bus transportation is provided!

This program is funded by Sonoma and Mendocino County's public electricity provider, [Sonoma Clean Power](#), a local organization fighting for lower electric rates and more renewable energy.

Register for High School Programs

Events

Lake Sonoma Steelhead Festival

Free family fun!

The 17th Annual
**Lake Sonoma
Steelhead
Festival**

Saturday, March 7, 2026
10 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

A free, family-friendly event offering environmental education, hands-on art and science activities, great food, all in a beautiful outdoor setting.

Milt Brandt Visitors Center &
Congressman Don Clausen Fish Hatchery
3288 Skaggs Springs Road, Geyserville



LAKE SONOMA STEELHEAD FESTIVAL



steelheadfestival.org



**Festival
Hosts:**



The [Lake Sonoma Steelhead Festival](#) is one of California's biggest and best celebrations of the endangered steelhead trout, which return annually to the Congressman Don Clausen Fish Hatchery at Lake Sonoma to spawn the next generation of fish.

Activities and exhibits at this **free** event have included the Bird Rescue Center, Sonoma Water, CAL FIRE, the Coast Guard and Sonoma County Bowmen. Live music, an ever-popular bubble show, arts and crafts, and fishing-themed games keep everyone entertained.

We look forward to seeing you on **March 7, 2026!**

[Learn about the Steelhead Festival](#)

North Bay Science Discovery Day



North Bay **SCIENCE** DISCOVERY DAY

Saturday, March 7, 2026

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sonoma County Fairgrounds in Santa Rosa, California

Free parking and admission



Experience **WONDER**

**With 150+ hands-on science, technology,
engineering, and mathematics activities!**

www.northbayscience.org

A University of California public
education event brought to life by
100+ organizations, 70 sponsors, and
150 volunteers.



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

The [North Bay Science Discovery Day](#) is a one-day, free community science festival to spark curiosity and wonder in children and families. The festival brings together 100+ organizations and 10,000 attendees — supported by 70 sponsors and 150 volunteers — for youth to talk with scientists and engineers while exploring 150+ interactive exhibits, from rockets and beehives, robots and sharks, catapults and hearts, animation, animals, art, and more. Admission and parking are free, and no tickets are required. Rain or shine.

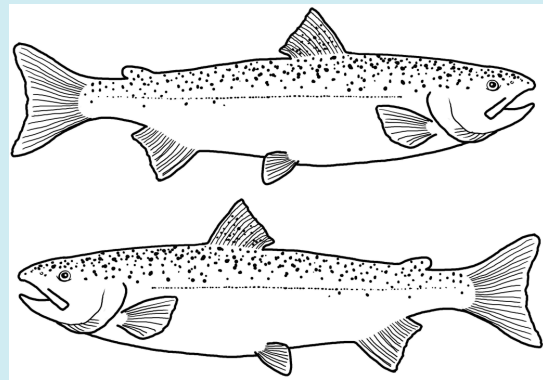
Learn about North Bay Science Discovery Day

Activity

Steelhead Trout Hat



Get ready for steelhead trout migration by transforming these [fun coloring pages](#) into a hat with a few simple instructions!



Steelhead Trout Hat Activity

**Happy Holidays from the
Water and Energy Education Team**



Back row, left to right: **Mayla Romano, Brittany Rosales, Monique Walker, Trisha Meisler, Ryan Hohne, Janeen Delsid, Carlos Tellez**
Front row, left to right: **Sarah Wickersham, Brianne Brawley, David Berman, Audrey Fry, Eva Brown**

Questions? Email us at: WaterEd@scwa.ca.gov

Sonoma Water | 404 Aviation Blvd. | Santa Rosa, CA 95403 US

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