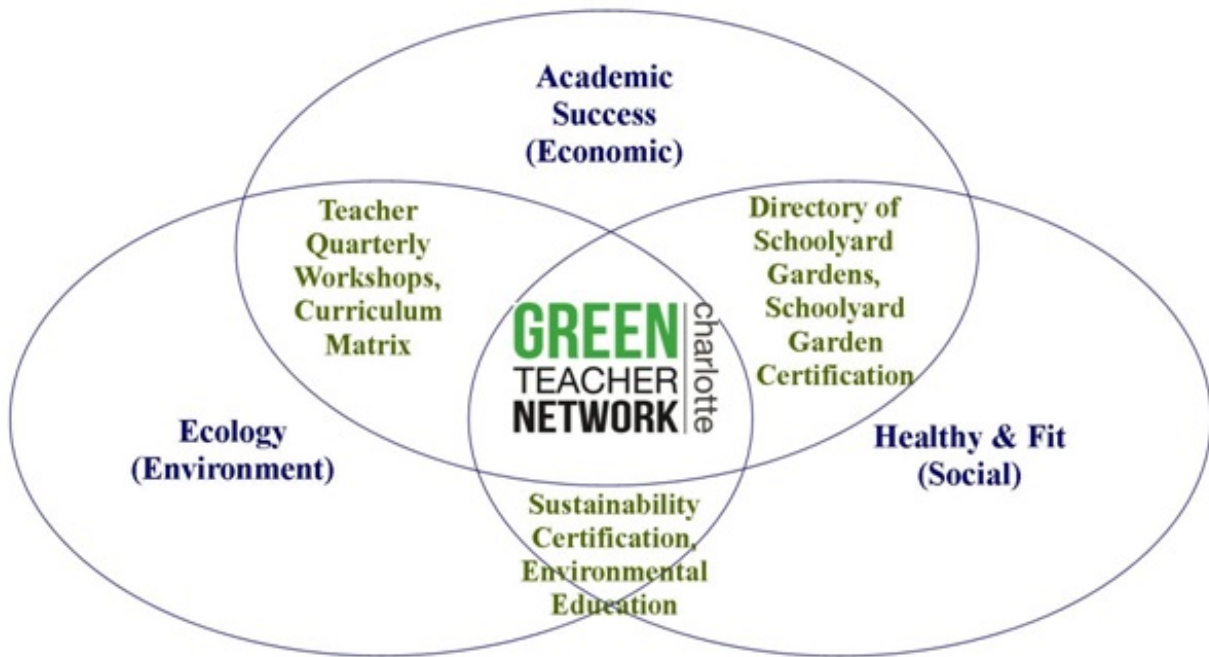


## Green Teacher Network Charlotte

MISSION: To establish and facilitate a collaboration of educators throughout the Charlotte region through quarterly workshops and other initiatives to share information, network and collaborate to enhance hands-on learning, supporting local foods, and expanding current health and wellness initiatives through school-based gardening.



## Accomplishments To Date

- ◆ Quarterly Workshops Held 2013-2014 academic school year :
  - August 20, 2013 – Introduction to Gardening – First Ward Elementary – 23 attended
  - November 1, 2013 – Gardening 101 – CPCC Harris Campus – 79 attended
  - February 18, 2014 (in the snow) – Gardening 201 – The Park Expo – 86 attended
  - May 3, 2014 – Gardening Skills Outside – Garinger High School Urban Farm – 49 attended
- ◆ Established Collaborative Resource Partner Network – 18 area organizations and growing.
- ◆ Assembled a Communications Database of “Green” teachers– began with 65, now 450.
- ◆ Established [www.GTNCharlotte.org](http://www.GTNCharlotte.org) as a central location for schoolyard gardening resources, partners, funding ideas and curriculum connections.
- ◆ Designed and Hosted the Ultimate Schoolyard Garden Display At Southern Spring Home and Garden Show Feb/Mar 2014 – winning two awards from the American Horticultural Society: Environmental and Showcase.
- ◆ Attended Emerging Green Schools National Network conference in Sacramento, CA

### **Affiliated *Catawba River District* Accomplishments:**

- ◆ Annual STEM Outdoor Learning Field Trip for 540 5<sup>th</sup> graders – 4<sup>th</sup> year scheduled for September 26, 2014 at the Duke Energy Explorium.
- ◆ Coordinated & supported schoolyard gardens at Whitewater Academy, River Oaks Academy, Tuckasegee Elementary, Whitewater Middle and West Mecklenburg High School for the past 3 years.
- ◆ Developed and Implemented Eco-Footprint Challenge Competition [www.schoolecochallenge.org](http://www.schoolecochallenge.org).
- ◆ Developed and coordinated West Mecklenburg Uptown Green Tour with 75 Earth Science Students April 22, 2013.
- ◆ Coordinated the team which designed, built and showcased the *Ultimate Schoolyard Garden Display* at the 2014 Southern Spring Home and Garden Show.



## 2014 Program of Work

### Annually:

1. Coordinate Quarterly Workshops in support of schoolyard gardens.
2. Maintain & Grow communications through web, social media and email distribution to reach 1,000 by the end of 2014-2015 academic school year.

### 2014-2015 School Year

1. Maintain and annually update the Directory of Schoolyard Gardens.
2. Develop web-based matrix – connecting curriculum recommendations/resources to schoolyard gardens for each grade level and each subject. Focus is academics, health/wellness/movement and environmental education.
3. Develop and implement certification programs – to expand effectiveness and further the sustainability of schoolyard gardens year round :
4. Designation—for schools beginning their garden experience
5. Certification—for schools seeking to expand their garden experience
6. Publish the Piedmont Edition – Schoolyard Garden, Tasting and Resource Guide.

### NEAR FUTURE

Identify a location(s) for an Ultimate Schoolyard Garden Display, where teachers and students can visit to garner additional ideas for their garden experience.

Expand Eco-Footprint Challenge from 11 to 25 schools and develop web-based eco-footprint model for school buildings and campuses - allowing each to become a learning tool.



## Leadership Team

The *GTNCharlotte Leadership Team* has made a 3-year commitment to strive to achieve the vision outlined within this document. This Team meets monthly to coordinate the implementation of the program of work, communications strategy, and further the mission of the GTNCharlotte.

- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| ◆ Mecklenburg County Health Department   | Allison Nelson                 |
| ◆ Friendship Gardens                     | Henry Owen                     |
| ◆ Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools          | Wayne Fisher                   |
| ◆ Mecklenburg County Food Policy Council | Erin Brighton                  |
| ◆ Charlotte Mecklenburg Field to Fork    | Tyler Harding                  |
| ◆ Catawba River District                 | Edna Chirico, Managing Partner |

## Resource Partners

Support the implementation of the GTNCharlotte quarterly workshops and other programs as determined in alignment with the Resource Partners' individual goals and mission.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ◆ 100Gardens  | Sam Fleming, Ron Morgan   |
| ◆ Carolina Raptor Center                              | Michelle Houke  |
| ◆ Clean Air Carolina                                  | June Blotnick   |
| ◆ CMS Schoolyard Garden Coordinators                  | Bobbie Mabe (Garinger & Shamrock)<br>Jeffie Hardin (Whitewater Academy) |
| ◆ Communities in Schools                              | Cynthia Marshall  |
| ◆ Central Piedmont Community College                  | Harris; Ann West – Cato; Tony Hayes - Harper                            |
| ◆ Do Your Part  | Terri Bennett   |
| ◆ Johnson and Wales Charlotte Outreach                | Megan Lambert   |
| ◆ Mecklenburg Cooperative Extension                   | Catherine Daniels   |
| ◆ Mecklenburg Master Gardeners                        | Margaret Jenkins, Bill Sloan  |
| ◆ NC Farm Bureau                                      | Darlene Petranick   |
| ◆ NC Wildlife Federation and Great Outdoor University | Mary Bures  |
| ◆ UNC Charlotte Center for STEM Education             | Alisa Wickliff  |
| ◆ Wipe Out Waste                                      | Nadine Ford   |

