

# ABOUT APEIRON

The Apeiron Institute for Sustainable Living is a non-profit education and advocacy organization working to transform Rhode Island into a sustainable state where the needs of the present are met without compromising the needs of future generations. By promoting sustainable living practices we act as a catalyst to creating healthy communities. We lead by example and serve as an information portal that educates, connects and inspires individuals, families, schools, businesses, communities, governments and other institutions. Hallmarks of our efforts since 1994 include spearheading Sustainable RI a consortium of organizations, institutions and agencies collaborating on sustainability projects and visions for the future; building our award winning Center for Sustainability in Coventry, RI that features trails, edible landscapes and an ecological housing model showcasing 50 green building systems; delivering science and art Enrichment Programs to underserved schools to bring sustainability principles and practices to environmentally sensitive populations; creating the Sustainable RI Web Directory that links over 1,000 product, service and practitioner listings with their most dedicated consumers; and presenting the RI Sustainable Living Festival & Clean Energy Expo, an annual outdoor education and arts extravaganza.

## Apeiron Institute Education Programs

help people of all ages discover and experience their connection to the world around them, choose courses of action that promote health, well being and the environment, and become leaders of sustainable living in their communities. Participants:

- form lasting connections to nature
- learn about science and culture
- look with new eyes at the world around them
- develop critical thinking and problem solving skills
- take better care of themselves and their environment
- feel empowered to act
- live high quality lives with low environmental impacts
- HAVE FUN!!!!

Visit [www.apeiron.org](http://www.apeiron.org) to find out more!

## RI Sustainable Schools Network

Apeiron Institute  
for Sustainable Living  
17 Gordon Ave., Ste. 207  
Providence, RI 02905



THE Apeiron Institute  
FOR Sustainable LIVING  
[www.apeiron.org](http://www.apeiron.org)

Whole community  
learning for a  
sustainable world

## RI Sustainable Schools Network



THE Apeiron Institute  
FOR Sustainable LIVING  
[www.apeiron.org](http://www.apeiron.org)



Information  
Membership  
Green Mentors  
Trainings  
Events

[www.apeiron.org](http://www.apeiron.org)

The RI Sustainable Schools Network unites educational institutions working to implement environmental and sustainability programs throughout their campuses and curricula.

## Overview

Teams of administrators, teachers, parents, students, maintenance staff, school board members and others in the community join together to conserve energy, reduce toxics, introduce local foods into cafeterias, implement environmentally themed lessons, and develop resource use reduction plans. Membership in the Network enhances team effectiveness by maximizing information exchange, accelerating existing efforts and bringing new partners on board. Working together we create a road map to a sustainable RI for our most precious resource, our children! To find out more about what your educational institution can do visit [www.apeiron.org](http://www.apeiron.org).



The Sustainable School Network provides members with technical assistance and support to:

- Strive for toxics-free environments;
- Use resources sustainably;
- Create green and healthy spaces; and
- Teach and engage a community of practitioners.

## Goals

The Network also facilitates on-going exchange of best practices, strong partnerships and a community of co-practitioners to ensure long term sustainability and success in the "greening" process.

Ultimately, the objective is to help schools enhance learning readiness, teaching environments and community outcomes. By creating positive feedback loops in response to very real and interconnected social and environmental concerns, the Network will help schools to better prepare students to compete in the 21st century green economy.

## RI SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS NETWORK

Did you know...

- The RI Department of Education now mandates that construction of new school buildings and renovation of existing buildings must comply with the Northeast High Performance School Protocol
- Seventeen schools in RI use solar panels to meet some of their energy needs. For a complete list of those schools, visit <http://www.sunviewer.net/portals/RIREF/>.
- A \$280,000 federal appropriation is now supporting the growth of school gardens in RI. To find out about starting a school garden in your community, visit <http://www.childrengardennetwork.com>.

Research shows integrated environment based education and learning environments boost school performance, enhance overall learning skills and help to close achievement gaps. In addition, students are better prepared as citizens to live and work in the 21st Century!

## Commitment to Action

Member schools in the RI Sustainable Schools Network are asked to make a commitment to initiating or advancing sustainability projects in their facilities and curricula, and engage their communities as they do so. To find out more about customizing your commitment to action visit [www.apeiron.org](http://www.apeiron.org).

## Green Mentors

Want to make a difference now but not sure how to begin? Let our cadre of green school mentors help you. We provide free and fee based services to schools, colleges and universities on everything from where to find locally grown foods to more effective waste management practices. We can help with team formation, auditing and assessment, planning, fundraising, program design as well as with developing appropriate monitoring systems.

## Replicable Results

Everything we do in one school is replicable in others, but there are no one size fits all solutions for decision making and resource allocation. We provide a green school road map, including: effective materials and approaches, best strategies, and extension of the learning curve to prevent repetition of mistakes. The learning experiences and successes of one project can be transferred to another via the Network.

## Join Us Now

Joining the RI Sustainable School Network is as easy as filling out a membership form, and then following up with a commitment to action to get you started. To find the form and suggested formats for your action plan, please visit [www.apeiron.org](http://www.apeiron.org).



## Membership

Any school may become a member by filling out a membership form, cataloguing existing assets and programs on the form, and then following up with a statement of commitment to new programs and actions.

Membership benefits include:

- Technical support and assistance
- On-line and networking resources
- Free or reduced entry to Network trainings and events
- Recognition for greening efforts