

Carbon Cycle Update

The Carbon Cycle Team spent the summer of 2009 training teachers from Los Angeles, California and New Hampshire. The purpose of these workshops was 3-fold: first, teachers would walk away with a wealth of knowledge on the carbon cycle and specific activities that could be used in their classrooms, second, one brand-new Carbon Cycle activity was introduced at each workshop, which will be piloted by students and teachers in classrooms throughout the school year, and third, it was an opportunity for the GLOBE Carbon Cycle Team to advance and then evaluate their professional development methods.



With the help of GLOBE partner Henry Ortiz and his professional development colleague Dave Hicks the Carbon Cycle Team traveled to Catalina Island off the coast of California where high school science and special education teachers participated in a 3-day Carbon Cycle training. Ortiz and Hicks provided a range of strategies for improving teacher learning and likelihood of appropriate classroom implementation. The highlight of the workshop was the introduction of the tree measurement protocols for assessing carbon in urban environments.



As a follow-up the Carbon Cycle Team and New Hampshire partner Jen Bourgeault held a workshop for local teachers. The workshop began with the question: **Is there more carbon stored in the global human population or New Hampshire trees?** All activities teachers performed during the workshop lent evidence toward answering this question. Teachers measured tree cookies, each other and then trees, they set up a field plot, and used a global carbon cycle model. They traveled through the carbon cycle by moving around the classroom and discussed the challenges and solutions to perform plant-a-plant photosynthesis experiments in the classroom.



As part of their continued commitment to professional development opportunities for the GLOBE Carbon Cycle materials the team is currently creating an online course for the Biomass-NPP Model, which looks at carbon storage and uptake in global biomes. They also are in conversations with the GLOBE Europe Annual Conference Committee and the GLOBE Annual Meeting Committee about running face to face workshops during the upcoming year.

