

## Beth Sauerhaft: Why I Give Time and Support to CELF

When Advisory Board Member, Beth Sauerhaft, learned about CELF through one of her neighbors, she immediately connected with its mission. As Senior Director of Corporate Sustainability for PepsiCo, Beth leads integration of sustainability to the Research & Development innovation process and then focuses on key levers to move change with a current focus on sustainable agriculture. Innovating in a global organization of this scale requires a deep understanding of complex systems. With this career focus, Beth sees CELF's mission as a no-brainer, "it seems obvious to me that an understanding of systems and processes impacting them should be part of what students are learning. There are no singular or monolithic issues."



Beth believes that it is critical to incorporate sustainability into education because, while it's easy to talk about sustainability with like-minded people, it is harder when people don't share a common vocabulary or have misconceptions about what sustainability means. She explains, "the whole way that CELF integrates sustainability into K-12 curricula and makes it part of students' DNA, means they are not just considering environmental or social issues, but are developing a systems approach to how they look at everything we do."

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CELf's approach to education for sustainability strives to prepare students for the future workplace they will enter. This resonates with Beth as she explains, "the more dimensions one considers, the better prepared you are to solve problems and consider unintended consequences upfront." This can result in time and cost savings when applied in the workplace.

Beth was a guest presenter at one of CELf's recent professional development programs for NYC teachers and noted that, "it was fun to see teachers from a whole variety of backgrounds come together to work on curricula. The sum of the collective minds became more powerful." Building a community is part of the process. She adds, "CELf lets teachers know they are not in it alone."

Beth Sauerhaft served on CELf's board of directors for five years before recently joining its Advisory Board.

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