



SOUTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
 5775 Main Street
 Center Valley, PA 18034

Scope and Sequence for **Environmental Science**

Pennsylvania Long-Term Transfer Goals for Science

1. Approach science as reliable and tentative way of knowing and explaining the natural world.
2. Weigh evidence and use scientific approaches to ask questions, investigate, and make informed decisions.
3. Make and use observations to analyze relationships and patterns in order to explain phenomena, develop models, and make predictions.
4. Evaluate systems, in order to connect how form determines function and how any change to one component affects the entire system.
5. Explain how the natural and designed worlds are interrelated and the application of scientific knowledge and technology can have beneficial, detrimental, or unintended consequences.

Big Idea: Organisms grow, reproduce, and perpetuate their species by obtaining necessary resources through interdependent relationships with other organisms and the physical environment.

Essential Question: How and why do organisms interact with their environment and what are the effects of these interactions?

NGSS Performance Expectations	PA Academic Standards for Science
<p><u>HS-LS Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics</u></p> <p>LS2.A: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems HS-LS2.1 Use mathematical and/or computational representations to support explanations of factors that affect carrying capacity of ecosystems at different scales. HS-LS2.2 Use mathematical representations to support and revise explanations based on evidence about factors affecting biodiversity and populations in ecosystems of different scales.</p> <p><i>This section continues on the next page...</i></p>	<p><u>4.1 Ecology</u></p> <p>The Environment 4.1.10.A Examine the effects of limiting factors on population dynamics. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze possible causes of population fluctuations. • Explain the concept of carrying capacity in an ecosystem. • Describe how organisms become classified as threatened or endangered. • Describe how limiting factors cause organisms to become extinct. 4.1.12.A Analyze the significance of biological diversity in an ecosystem. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain how species adapt to limiting factors in an ecosystem. • Analyze the differences between natural causes and human causes of extinction. • Research wildlife management laws and their effects on biodiversity. <p><i>This section continues on the next page...</i></p> </p>

NGSS Performance Expectations

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LS2.B: Cycles of Matter and Energy Transfer in Ecosystems

HS-LS2.3 Construct and revise an explanation based on evidence for cycling of matter and flow of energy in aerobic organisms in an ecosystem.

HS-LS2.4 Use mathematical representations to support claims for the cycling of matter and flow of energy among organisms in an ecosystem.

HS-LS2.5 Develop a model to illustrate the role of photosynthesis and cellular respiration in the cycling of carbon among the biosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere, and geosphere.

LS2.C: Ecosystem Dynamics, Functioning, and Resilience

HS-LS2.6 Evaluate claims, evidence, and reasoning that the complex interactions in ecosystems maintain relatively consistent numbers and types of organisms in stable conditions, but changing conditions may result in a new ecosystem.

HS-LS2.7 Design, evaluate, and refine a solution for reducing the impacts of human activities on the environments and biodiversity.

LS2.D: Social Interactions and Group Behavior

HS-LS2.8 Evaluate evidence for the role of group behavior on individual and species' chances to survive and reproduce.

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PA Academic Standards for Science

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Materials Cycles

4.1.10.B Explain the consequences of interrupting natural cycles.

4.1.12.B Research solutions to problems caused by interrupting natural cycles.

Energy Flow

4.1.10.C Evaluate the efficiency of energy flow within a food web. Describe how energy is converted from one form to another as it moves through a food web (photosynthetic, geothermal).

4.1.12.C Research how humans affect energy flow within an ecosystem.

- Describe the impact of industrial, agricultural, and commercial enterprises on an ecosystem.

Succession

4.1.10.E Analyze how humans influence the pattern of natural changes (e.g. primary secondary succession and desertification) in ecosystems over time.

4.1.12.E Research solutions addressing human impacts on ecosystems over time.

4.2 Watersheds and Wetlands

Watersheds

4.2.10.A Examine the interactions between abiotic and biotic factors within a watershed.

- Describe how topography influences the flow of water in a watershed.
- Describe how vegetation affects water runoff.
- Investigate and analyze the effects of land use on the quality of water in a watershed.

4.2.12.A Examine environmental laws related to land use management and its impact on the water quality and flow within a watershed.

Wetlands

4.2.10.B Examine how human interactions impact wetlands and their surrounding environments.

- Describe how land use decisions affect wetlands

4.2.12.B Analyze the effects of policies and regulations at various governmental levels on wetlands and their surrounding environments.

- Examine various public policies relating to wetlands.
- Investigate the intended and unintended effects of public polices and regulations relating to wetlands.

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Aquatic Ecosystems

4.2.10.C Explain the relationship between water quality and the diversity of life in a freshwater ecosystem.

- Explain how limiting factors affect the growth and reproduction of freshwater organisms.

4.2.12.C Analyze the effects of policies and regulations at various governmental levels on water quality.

- Assess the intended and unintended effects of public policies and regulations relating to water quality.

4.3 Natural Resources

Use of Natural Resources.

4.3.12.A Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of using renewable and nonrenewable resources.

- Explain how consumption rate affects the sustainability of resource use.
- Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of using renewable resources such as solar power, wind power, and biofuels.

Availability of Natural Resources

4.3.10.B Analyze how humans manage and distribute natural resources.

- Describe the use of a natural resource with an emphasis on the environmental consequences of extracting, processing, transporting, using, and disposing of it.
- Analyze the impact of technology on the management, distribution, and disposal of natural resources.

4.4 Agriculture and Society

Food and Fiber System

4.4.10.A Explain the relationships between and among the components of the food and fiber system. (i.e., production, processing, research and development, marketing, distribution, and regulations.)

4.4.12.A Research and analyze the social, political, economic, and environmental factors that affect agricultural systems.

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NGSS Performance Expectations

PA Academic Standards for Science

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Importance of Agriculture

4.4.10.B Analyze the effects of agriculture on a society's economy, environment, standard of living, and foreign trade.

4.4.12.B Research and evaluate laws and policies that affect the food and fiber system.

4.5 Humans and the Environment

Integrated Pest Management

4.5.10.B Describe the impact of integrated pest management practices on the environment.

4.5.12.B Evaluate pest management using methods such as cost/benefit analysis, cumulative effects analysis, environmental impact analysis, ethical analysis, and risk analysis.

Waste Management

4.5.10.D Evaluate various methods of managing waste as related to economic, environmental, and technological factors.

Big Idea: Biological evolution explains both the unity and diversity of species and provides a unifying principle for the history and diversity of life on Earth.

Essential Question: How can there be so many similarities among organisms yet so many different kinds of plants, animals, and microorganisms?

NGSS Performance Expectations

LS4.C Adaptation

HS-LS4 Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity

HS-LS4-4 Construct an explanation based on evidence for how natural selection leads to adaptation of populations

HS-LS4-5 Evaluate the evidence supporting claims that changes in environmental conditions may result in (1) increases in the number of individuals of some species, (2) the emergence of new species over time, and (3) the extinction of other species.

HS-LS4-6 Create or revise a simulation to test a solution to mitigate adverse impacts of human activity on biodiversity.

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PA Academic Standards for Science

3.1.C Evolution

1. Natural Selection

3.1.10.C1 Explain the mechanisms of biological evolution.

4.1 Ecology

The Environment

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- Analyze possible causes of population fluctuations.
- Explain the concept of carrying capacity in an ecosystem.
- Describe how organisms become classified as threatened or endangered.
- Describe how limiting factors cause organisms to become extinct.

4.1.12.A Analyze the significance of biological diversity in an ecosystem.

- Explain how species adapt to limiting factors in an ecosystem.
- Analyze the differences between natural causes and human causes of extinction.
- Research wildlife management laws and their effects on biodiversity.

Energy Flow

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Succession

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NGSS Performance Expectations

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PA Academic Standards for Science

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4.5.12.B Evaluate pest management using methods such as cost/benefit analysis, cumulative effects analysis, environmental impact analysis, ethical analysis, and risk analysis.

D. Waste Management

4.5.10.D Evaluate various methods of managing waste as related to economic, environmental, and technological factors.

Pennsylvania Inquiry and Design Practices (Grades 9-12)

Asking questions and defining problems

- Ask questions that arise from careful observation of phenomena, or unexpected results, to clarify and/or seek additional information.
- Ask questions that arise from examining models or a theory, to clarify and/or seek additional information and relationships.
- Ask questions to clarify and refine a model, an explanation, or an engineering problem.
- Evaluate a question to determine if it is testable and relevant.
- Ask questions that can be investigated within the scope of the school laboratory, research facilities, or field (e.g., outdoor environment) with available resources and, when appropriate, frame a hypothesis based on a model or theory.
- Ask and/or evaluate questions that challenge the premise(s) of an argument, the interpretation of a data set, or the suitability of a design.
- Define a design problem that involves the development of a process or system with interacting components and criteria and constraints that may include social, technical, and/or environmental considerations.

Developing and using models

- Evaluate merits and limitations of two different models of the same proposed tool, process, mechanism or system in order to select or revise a model that best fits the evidence or design criteria.
- Design a test of a model to ascertain its reliability.
- Develop, revise, and/or use a model based on evidence to illustrate and/or predict the relationships between systems or between components of a system.
- Develop and/or use multiple types of models to provide mechanistic accounts and/or predict phenomena, and move flexibly between model types based on merits and limitations.
- Develop a complex model that allows for manipulation and testing of a proposed process or system.
- Develop and/or use a model (including mathematical and computational) to generate data to support explanations, predict phenomena, analyze systems, and/or solve problems.

Planning and carrying out investigations

- Plan an investigation or test a design individually and collaboratively to produce data to serve as the basis for evidence as part of building and revising models, supporting explanations for phenomena, or testing solutions to problems. Consider possible confounding variables or effects and evaluate the investigation's design to ensure variables are controlled.
- Plan and conduct an investigation individually and collaboratively to produce data to serve as the basis for evidence, and in the design: decide on types, how much, and accuracy of data needed to produce reliable measurements and consider limitations on the precision of the data (e.g., number of trials, cost, risk, time), and refine the design accordingly.
- Plan and conduct an investigation or test a design solution in a safe and ethical manner including considerations of environmental, social, and personal impacts.
- Select appropriate tools to collect, record, analyze, and evaluate data.
- Make directional hypotheses that specify what happens to a dependent variable when an independent variable is manipulated.
- Manipulate variables and collect data about a complex model of a proposed process or system to identify failure points or improve performance relative to criteria for success or other variables.

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Pennsylvania Inquiry and Design Practices (Grades 9-12)

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Constructing explanations and designing solutions

- Make a quantitative and/or qualitative claim regarding the relationship between dependent
- Construct and revise an explanation based on valid and reliable evidence obtained from a variety of sources (including students' own investigations, models, theories, simulations, peer review) and the assumption that theories and laws that describe the natural world operate today as they did in the past and will continue to do so in the future.
- Apply scientific ideas, principles, and/or evidence to provide an explanation of phenomena and solve design problems, taking into account possible unanticipated effects.
- Apply scientific reasoning, theory, and/or models to link evidence to the claims to assess the extent to which the reasoning and data support the explanation or conclusion.
- Design, evaluate, and/or refine a solution to a complex real-world problem, based on scientific knowledge, student-generated sources of evidence, prioritized criteria, and tradeoff considerations.

Analyzing and interpreting data

- Analyze data using tools, technologies, and/or models (e.g., computational, mathematical) in order to make valid and reliable scientific claims or determine an optimal design solution.
- Apply concepts of statistics and probability (including determining function fits to data, slope, intercept, and correlation coefficient for linear fits) to scientific and engineering questions and problems, using digital tools when feasible.
- Consider limitations of data analysis (e.g., measurement error, sample selection) when analyzing and interpreting data.
- Compare and contrast various types of data sets (e.g., self-generated, archival) to examine consistency of measurements and observations.
- Evaluate the impact of new data on a working explanation and/or model of a proposed process or system.
- Analyze data to identify design features or characteristics of the components of a proposed process or system to optimize it relative to criteria for success.

Using mathematics and computational thinking

- Create and/or revise a computational model or simulation of a phenomenon, designed device, process, or system.
- Use mathematical, computational, and/or algorithmic representations of phenomena or design solutions to describe and/or support claims and/or explanations.
- Apply techniques of algebra and functions to represent and solve scientific and engineering problems.
- Use simple limit cases to test mathematical expressions, computer programs, algorithms, or simulations of a process or system to see if a model “makes sense” by comparing the outcomes with what is known about the real world.
- Apply ratios, rates, percentages, and unit conversions in the context of complicated measurement problems involving quantities with derived or compound units (such as mg/mL, kg/m³, acre-feet, etc.).

Engaging in argument from evidence

- Compare and evaluate competing arguments or design solutions in light of currently accepted explanations, new evidence, limitations (e.g., trade-offs), constraints, and ethical issues.
- Evaluate the claims, evidence, and/or reasoning behind currently accepted explanations or solutions to determine the merits of arguments.
- Respectfully provide and/or receive critiques on scientific arguments by probing reasoning and evidence, challenging ideas and conclusions, responding thoughtfully to diverse perspectives, and determining additional information required to resolve contradictions.
- Construct, use, and/or present an oral and written argument or counter-arguments based on data and evidence.
- Make and defend a claim based on evidence about the natural world or the effectiveness of a design solution that reflects scientific knowledge and student-generated evidence.
- Evaluate competing design solutions to a real- world problem based on scientific ideas and principles, empirical evidence, and/or logical arguments regarding relevant factors (e.g. economic, societal, environmental, ethical considerations).

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Pennsylvania Inquiry and Design Practices (Grades 9-12)

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Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information

- Critically read scientific literature adapted for classroom use to determine the central ideas or conclusions and/or to obtain scientific and/or technical information to summarize complex evidence, concepts, processes, or information presented in a text by paraphrasing them in simpler but still accurate terms.
- Compare, integrate and evaluate sources of information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words in order to address a scientific question or solve a problem.
- Gather, read, and evaluate scientific and/or technical information from multiple authoritative sources, assessing the evidence and usefulness of each source.
- Evaluate the validity and reliability of and/or synthesize multiple claims, methods, and/or designs that appear in scientific and technical texts or media reports, verifying the data when possible.
- Communicate scientific and/or technical information or ideas (e.g. about phenomena and/or the process of development and the design and performance of a proposed process or system) in multiple formats (i.e., orally, graphically, textually, mathematically).

Big Ideas	Essential Questions
Big Idea 1: Asking questions and defining problems are essential to developing scientific habits of mind.	What kinds of questions do scientists and engineers ask?
Big Idea 2: Scientists construct mental and conceptual models of phenomena to represent current understandings, aid in developing questions and experiments, and to communicate ideas to others.	How do scientists and engineers develop and use models?
Big Idea 3: Scientists and engineers plan and investigate the world to systematically describe it and to develop and test theories and explanations about how the world works.	What do scientists and engineers do to find out more about our world and how it functions?
Big Idea 4: Data must be presented in a form that can reveal any patterns and relationships and that allows results to be communicated to others.	In what ways are data analyzed, interpreted, and communicated?
Big Idea 5: Mathematics enables numerical representation of variables, symbolic representation of relationships between physical entities, and prediction of outcomes.	How is mathematics utilized in doing science?
Big Idea 6: Scientific theories are developed to provide explanations about the nature of particular phenomena, predict future events, or make inferences about past events.	Why are theories valuable constructs in helping scientists understand and explain our world?
Big Idea 7: Scientists and engineers use reasoning and argumentation to make a justified claim about the world.	How do scientists and engineers communicate to others in order to advance science and engineering?
Big Idea 8: Science and engineering are ways of knowing that are represented and communicated by words, diagrams, charts, graphs, images, symbols, and mathematics.	In what ways do scientists and engineers communicate their knowledge?

Pennsylvania Core Standards for Reading in Science and Technical Subjects

Key Ideas and Details

CC.3.5.11-12.A. Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts, attending to important distinctions the author makes and to any gaps or inconsistencies in the account.

CC.3.5.11-12.B. Determine the central ideas or conclusions of a text; summarize complex concepts, processes, or information presented in a text by paraphrasing them in simpler but still accurate terms.

CC.3.5.11-12.C. Follow precisely a complex multistep procedure when carrying out experiments, taking measurements, or performing technical tasks; analyze the specific results based on explanations in the text.

Craft and Structure

CC.3.5.11-12.D. Determine the meaning of symbols, key terms, and other domain-specific words and phrases as they are used in a specific scientific or technical context relevant to grades 11–12 texts and topics.

CC.3.5.11-12.E. Analyze how the text structures information or ideas into categories or hierarchies, demonstrating understanding of the information or ideas.

CC.3.5.11-12.F. Analyze the author’s purpose in providing an explanation, describing a procedure, or discussing an experiment in a text, identifying important issues that remain unresolved.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

CC.3.5.11-12.G. Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., quantitative data, video, multimedia) in order to address a question or solve a problem.

CC.3.5.11-12.H. Evaluate the hypotheses, data, analysis, and conclusions in a science or technical text, verifying the data when possible and corroborating or challenging conclusions with other sources of information.

CC.3.5.11-12.I. Synthesize information from a range of sources (e.g., texts, experiments, simulations) into a coherent understanding of a process, phenomenon, or concept, resolving conflicting information when possible.

Range and Level of Complex Texts

CC.3.5.11-12.J. By the end of grade 12, read and comprehend science/technical texts in the grades 11–12 text complexity band independently and proficiently.

Pennsylvania Core Standards for Writing in Science and Technical Subjects

Text Types and Purposes

CC.3.6.11-12.A. Write arguments focused on *discipline-specific content*.

- Introduce precise, knowledgeable claim(s), establish the significance of the claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that logically sequences the claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.
- Develop claim(s) and counterclaims fairly and thoroughly, supplying the most relevant data and evidence for each while pointing out the strengths and limitations of both claim(s) and counterclaims in a discipline-appropriate form that anticipates the audience's knowledge level, concerns, values, and possible biases.
- Use words, phrases, and clauses as well as varied syntax to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships between claim(s) and reasons, between reasons and evidence, and between claim(s) and counterclaims.
- Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.
- Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from or supports the argument presented.

CC.3.6.11-12.B. * Write informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/ experiments, or technical processes.

- Introduce a topic and organize complex ideas, concepts, and information so that each new element builds on that which precedes it to create a unified whole; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., figures, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.
- Develop the topic thoroughly by selecting the most significant and relevant facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic.
- Use varied transitions and sentence structures to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts.
- Use precise language, domain-specific vocabulary and techniques such as metaphor, simile, and analogy to manage the complexity of the topic; convey a knowledgeable stance in a style that responds to the discipline and context as well as to the expertise of likely readers.
- Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation provided (e.g., articulating implications or the significance of the topic).

Production and Distribution of Writing

CC.3.6.11-12.C. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

Research to Build and Present Knowledge

CC.3.6.11-12.F. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

CC.3.6.11-12.G. Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the strengths and limitations of each source in terms of the specific task, purpose, and audience; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and overreliance on any one source and following a standard format for citation.

CC.3.6.11-12.H. Draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

Range of Writing

CC.3.6.11-12.I. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for reflection and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.