Climate and Climate Change

Objectives

- Students will develop an understanding of how climate influences and shapes biotic communities.
- Students will understand that change is an essential part of ecology and that climate change can spur ecological change at an exponential rate.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of the carbon cycle.
- Students will understand the effects climate change poses to local ecosystems.
- Students will demonstrate understanding of both greenhouse gases and the greenhouse effect
- Students will understand that they have the power to make positive changes for themselves and their environment.

Key Concepts

- Climate
- Climate change
- Carbon cycle/Carbon sinks
- Natural vs. Human caused change
- Ecosystem/Community
- Green house gasses
Activities may include

- Globe and differential heating
- Carbon Cycle simulations
- Ecosystem or forest community mapping
- Climate Models
- Participation in one of AMC’s Citizen Science programs