Community Action Gives Eels a Lift

American glass eels migrate from the Atlantic to the fresh waters of the Hudson River each year and are critical members of the aquatic ecosystem. Over the past century, however, dams like the one on Sparkill Creek in Piermont have become serious obstacles in their journey. This led local citizens to work with the Hudson River Reserve and partners on an innovative solution—an "eelevator" to transport eels over the dam and on their way.

That locals would want to give eels a lift on the journey is due in part to the Hudson River Eel Project. Supported by 44 partner organizations, this project builds awareness of environmental issues and trains volunteers to monitor the eel population. Since 2008, thousands of Hudson Valley citizens of all ages have caught, counted, and released more than 500,000 juvenile eels at 14 sites, from Staten Island to Hudson River tributaries near Albany.

Teachers Bring the Outside In

In an estuary, teachable moments are everywhere, if you know where and how to look. The Hudson River Reserve's Teachers on the Estuary Program (TOTE) gets teachers out of classroom and into wetlands where they can explore, restore native plants, integrate art and science topics, and develop lesson plans to take back to their students.

Through TOTE and other workshops, the Hudson River Reserve introduces hundreds of classroom teachers and informal educators to the basics of estuary science, environmental monitoring and stewardship, and the science and impacts of climate change each year. Use of the Hudson River Environmental Conditions Observing System (HRECOS) in the classroom is an increasingly popular way for educators to get technology, real-time data, and critical thinking into their river curriculum. A little more here about impact of this.
National Estuarine Research Reserve Education

Change on the Ground in 2017

Connects
People to Estuaries

1 million+ ACRES of natural classrooms & living laboratories with
28 INTERPRETIVE CENTERS

RESEARCH RESERVES

ALASKA  PUERTO RICO  HAWAII

650,340 VISITORS learn about estuaries through Research Reserve outreach & education

Aloha to our Hawai‘i Reserve, designated in 2017!

Prepares
the Next Generation

87,899 STUDENTS take learning out of the abstract & into the outdoors

3,079 TEACHERS are trained in the estuary & supported in the classroom

ESTUARY SCIENCE  LOCAL DATA  LAB WORK  FIELD INVESTIGATION

SKILLS BUILT

Observation
Asking research questions
Problem solving
Data driven decision making

Improves
the Environment

12,849 CITIZENS are trained & inspired to protect their coasts & estuaries

28 RESEARCH RESERVE EDUCATORS lead programs that foster coastal stewardship in communities in 23 states

Creating value through education 39,035 volunteer hours = $942,305*

*Value of a volunteer hour is calculated at $24.14 based on data from the Independent Sector.

coast.noaa.gov/estuaries