



# Estuary Education

Estuary education programs range from exciting demonstrations to critical thinking projects to encourage sustainability in schools and in the wider community. Students learn about estuary and watershed basics, pollutants, marine debris, and ways to create a more sustainable future for everyone. Along with informative presentations, programs utilize engaging, hands-on methods to promote meaningful experiences with students and community members. All educational materials are aligned to Mississippi State Education Standards.

 Estuary basics explain what makes an estuary, what makes it special, and why it is important while watershed basics showcase how water moves through a watershed and through a variety of surfaces. This highlights pollutant transport and fate.

 Marine debris education brings the realities of mismanaged and escaped trash to the community by connecting it to real world examples of local relevance. This includes microplastic sampling and quantification, community cleanups, and waste reduction methods.

 These activities promote school and community engagement projects where students use critical thinking skills to implement programs to work toward sustainability. These projects include, but are not limited to, school gardens, rain barrels, recycling initiatives, rain gardens, and awareness campaigns.