About the program

Join the vibrant and growing community of 3rd – 5th grade Bay Area teachers in the Teacher Institute on Science and Sustainability. TISS is a transformative two-year professional development program that provides teachers with best practices in science pedagogy, adult-level content knowledge, and school site support to enhance teachers' and students' understanding of topics ranging from energy to food systems to water issues. Become a life-long science learner, improve your science instruction, and ignite in your students a passion for science - apply to the Institute today.

Features & benefits

- $2,000 annual stipend
- School site coaching by Academy educators
- Complimentary Academy Membership
- Five continuing education credits per year (fee paid by participant)
- A class set of science notebooks
- Guaranteed Academy field trip for students

Be a leader in science & sustainability

Summer Sessions

July 20, 2015–July 31, 2015
Two-week summer session 1
June 20, 2016– July 1, 2016*
Two-week summer session 2
June 12, 2017– June 14, 2017*
Three-day summer session 3

High-Quality Science Teaching
Improve your teaching practice and reflect on the process using innovative tools and methods.

School Year Professional Development & Coaching Cycles
Continue your professional growth through the Academic year with pedagogy-themed workshops and support from an Academy Coach.

Community of Learners
Join an ever-increasing community of motivated teachers in the Bay Area for collaboration and support.

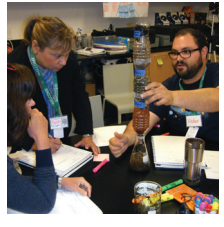
Contemporary Science Issues
Deepen your understanding of the nature of science and ways to integrate sustainability and other disciplines into your science curriculum.

Science Notebooks
Learn a structured methodology for using science notebooks that encourages individual student thought and reflection.

*2016 and 2017 dates are subject to change

"My coach helped me to debrief the lessons, was not judgmental and made me feel safe."
—Cohort 2 participant

"I've definitely changed in how I approach science. I'm discussing science in a bigger context, and tying it into other subjects."
—Cohort 3 participant



"Students definitely own the work; it's theirs. When they own it, they process it better and can connect more easily."
—Cohort 4 participant

"I learned more in the last two weeks than I did in a whole year of my credential program...not a moment was wasted. If only all of our PDs were this well orchestrated, teaching would be a lot different!"
—Cohort 5 participant

The California Academy of Sciences' mission compels us to engage in scientific research relevant to sustainability, raise public awareness about urgent environmental problems, improve science education, and minimize our environmental impact.

"I feel a swell of pride in knowing that I have been a part of the ideal in professional development, a sustained and focused program that created a community of teacher–learner–researchers discovering best practices through collaboration."

—TISS 4th grade teacher and alumnus

Find out more

To learn more about the Teacher Institute on Science and Sustainability, visit www.calacademy.org/educators/teacher-institute-on-science-and-sustainability or contact the Institute at tiss@calacademy.org.

Applications will be available online at the URL listed above starting January 2015 and are due March 15, 2015. Priority is given to teams of three to four teachers applying from schools located within 20 miles of the Academy.

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Teacher Institute on Science and Sustainability

California Academy of Sciences