

SARAH DUFFER

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

I have spent my career researching topics about energy and climate change. I am passionate about teaching high school students solutions to global environmental problems like climate change. I am known by my colleagues and community as a trusted leader who is deeply committed to advocating for public education, the environment, and equitable access to quality instruction.

EDUCATION

1998-2003

BS in Environmental Studies

Emphasis: Natural Resource Management; Minors: Economics and Management
University of North Carolina at Asheville; WNC Leadership Scholar Program
Asheville, North Carolina

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2004-present

Earth & Environmental Teacher, Science Department
National Board Certified Educator
Asheville High School, Asheville, North Carolina

RESEARCH / FIELD WORK EXPERIENCE

Advanced Placement Reader: Environmental Science. June 2026

Advanced Placement Reader: Seminar. June 2025

Co- Author: "Wildfires and Human Health" UNC Chapel Hill's Office of the Environment - one of three teachers in NC to pilot this lesson and made substantial changes, was added as a co-author - Spring 2025

UNC Institute for the Environment's 2018 Energy Literacy Fellow

A year-long intensive study with a cohort of NC educators. We met online and in person and took numerous field trips to learn, first hand, about our state's changing energy landscape.

Leadership Academy, Asheville City Schools

A year long leadership development academy offered by Asheville City Schools to individuals seeking to expand and deepen their leadership skills. 2016-2017

Go Global NC

I was one of 30 educators in North Carolina who traveled to Germany to study their educational system and renewable energy economy. June 2014

UNC Institute for the Environment's 2013 Climate Literacy Fellow

A year-long intensive study with a cohort of NC educators. We met in person and took numerous field trips to deepen our knowledge of climate change and develop our climate change pedagogy.

[Blue Ridge Parkway Scenic Experience Survey](#)

I worked with my economics professor to survey parkway visitors. The data quantified the scenic valley of vistas along the parkway. Her research was cited in the Clean Smokestacks Act. Fall 2003

PRESENTATIONS

[Co-facilitated a Webinar Book Discussion for UNC Chapel Hill's Energy Literacy Fellowship class 2023-2024](#) - February 13th, 2024

[Schools for Climate Education: Teaching and Learning for Drawdown \(Presented by Ecochallenge.org & Project Drawdown\)](#) - panel discussion, October 19th, 2023

Hope Matters A Discussion with Author and Environmental Educator Elin Kelsey, PhD - panel discussion through UNC's Institute for the Environment, May 19th, 2021

Interview: Senior Sunday Episode 1 - [interview with Senior Lana Lemell](#) (start at 41:47) about AHS's renewable energy advocacy work, May 2nd, 2021

An Introduction to Project Drawdown - presentation to WNC Climate Action, March 9th, 2021

Engaging Students with Drawdown Solutions - presentation to UNC Chapel Hill Institute for the Environment's Energy Literacy Fellows, July 16th, 2020.

Drawdown Solutions - presentation to the Western North Carolina Sierra Club, November 7, 2019

A Call to Integrate Drawdown's Solutions into your High School Science Classes - a presentation for the Climate Change Education Solutions Summit, Grand Valley State University, June 2nd, 2019

Drawdown and Climate Education - 90 second, daily radio program for the *Yale Center for Environmental Communication produces Climate Connections*, April 2019

Drawdown EcoChallenge - [National web call](#) for the North American Association of Environmental Educators, March 2019

[Chapel Hill Drawdown Teen Summit](#) - University of North Carolina's Institute for the Environment; Chapel Hill, North Carolina, March 2019

Drawdown EcoChallenge Win - Drawdown Learn Conference; Omega Institute, Rhinebeck, New York, October 2018

Drawdown Curriculum - Drawdown Learn Conference; Omega Institute, Rhinebeck, New York, October 2018

Drawdown Curriculum - North Carolina Environmental Educators Conference; Durham, North Carolina, September 2018

Drawdown EcoChallenge win and Curriculum - [National web call](#) with the Climate Literacy and Energy

Drawdown Curriculum - UNC Institute for the Environment's Energy Literacy Fellows;
Chapel Hill, North Carolina, July 2018

HONORS / AWARDS

- Educator of Excellence Award, Rotary Club, January 2025
- Board Member of the Asheville City Schools Educator Advisory Council, 2021-2023
- Asheville High School Teacher of the Year, 2021-2022
- Sierra Club's "Renewable Energy Champion" Award, January 2021
- North Carolina Science Teacher Association Teacher of the Year (District 8), 2018
- Winner of the Inaugural Drawdown EcoChallenge, April 2018
- 13 WLOS/ABC affiliate Teacher of the Week, January 2018
- Solar Schools Competition, High School Winner, January 2015
- Asheville High School Teacher of the Year, 2008-2009
- Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce Innovative Teacher or the Year, 2007-2008

MEMBERSHIPS / AFFILIATIONS

- Climate Reality Leadership Corps Training, 2021
- Professional Educators of North Carolina, member and school representative
- North Carolina Science Teacher Association, member
- Sierra Club, member