Cover Image by Rick Brown from Pixabay Crystal DiMiceli is the founder of Forces for Nature, LLC, an environmental education company that utilizes educational programming and podcast production to teach people how to incorporate sustainability into their everyday lives. Learn more about her offers at www.forcesfornature.com! I help teachers who are looking to incorporate sustainability education into their curriculum by providing programming designed to take your students beyond just learning the facts and figures of climate change to answering their question, “But what could I possibly do about it?” My new education program, the EcoAction Lab, is a standards-aligned, turnkey program based on behavior-change psychology that focuses on the highest-impact actions they can take as individuals to reduce their carbon footprint. It’s adaptable for in-class, after-school, or as a club activity. Incorporating climate change education in schools involves several key challenges, which require a multi-faceted approach to solve. Here are some of the primary challenges and their potential solutions: Fitting climate change education into an already packed curriculum can be difficult. Schools must balance a wide range of subjects and may struggle to find time for additional content. Resources that make suggestions on how to frame lessons that are already being taught through the lens of climate change can kill two birds with one stone, so to speak. Not all teachers feel confident in their understanding of climate science and, therefore, may be hesitant to teach it. Administrations will need to offer the time and resources for teachers to take advantage of professional development opportunities on the subject to improve their confidence and effectiveness in teaching the topic. Climate change has become a politically and socially charged topic. Misinformation and differing opinions can make it a sensitive subject to approach in the classroom. Developing and disseminating high-quality, engaging, and scientifically accurate educational materials can support teachers and help captivate students. This includes interactive resources, digital tools, and project-based learning opportunities. Resources where students use evidence to then draw their own conclusions is strongest. Encouraging critical thinking and open discussion about climate change can help address misinformation and controversy. Teaching students to analyze sources critically and engage in respectful debate is key. There is an endless amount of climate change resources available on the internet but the challenge is wading through them all to find ones that align to the standards you need to teach to and that are of sufficient quality. Climate change can be an overwhelming and distressing topic for students. To help avoid this, incorporate into your lessons the good news, the solutions, and the success stories that are happening (they are out there!). Teach them what actions they can take and engage them in local environmental projects in order to empower students and foster a sense of control and agency. Involving the wider school community and parents in climate education can reinforce learning and broaden the impact. Community projects, events, and education sessions can build a supportive network for climate education.