



Tamela Trussell

Environmental Educator

Founder of Trussell Learning and Community Education & TLC Foundation and the Move Past Plastic campaign

Tamela has been a science educator for youth and college level students for over 30 years. She was born in Virginia and had the privilege of running wild in the wilderness of NM during her youth. After completing her master's in science education from Virginia Tech, she moved to Redmond, Washington where she experienced daily precipitation and sun that grew 35 different plants and vegetables on her small third-story balcony. For the past 25 years she has embraced the lush green forests and streams of Central Pennsylvania while homeschooling her now three grown, children with her husband Larry.

Having the opportunity to live in four distinctive areas has given her a deep appreciation of the different ecological and cultural needs of different places. She describes herself as an animal of the Earth, no more worthy than other living and nonliving things. She has always loved nature, learning, and sharing knowledge with youth and the community. She is an advocate for environmental civic action and has promoted this through programs like Boy Scout of America when she was a Venture Crew advisor and the numerous sport and science programs, she's developed for TLC Education and Foundation and other teaching experiences.

For the past year she has immersed herself in hundreds of webinars, conferences, and courses such as the Beyond Plastics course by Judith Enck at Bennington College. She has also become a Climate Reality leader, Master Watershed Steward, and serves on several Conodoguinet Creek Watershed board committees. She also serves as an executive member of Carlisle Climate Action Commission and with Cumberland County Climate Action Commission.

As an innate systems thinker, she knew that plastic was connected to many positive and negative aspects of our lives. Intuitively she realized that plastic is in our environment and water and in particular the oceans as trash. But what she's learned over the past year is that plastics are the **Keystone issue** facing the globe. It is a ubiquitous part of our lives that impacts every system on Earth including all of us and the organizations we represent. It impacts our environment, social, cultural, institutional, legislative, and economic fabric of our lives. It is for this reason that she founded Move Past Plastic, MPP. This group of individuals and partners seek to educate, design municipal policy, legislation, and research alternatives while supporting initiatives of their "Big Sisters" like Beyond Plastic. She is grateful for the opportunity to speak to you on behalf of those without a voice.

- i) Founder of TLC Education and Foundation, an organization dedicated to developing an inclusive civic action community, through education.
- ii) I have been a Venture Crew Scout Advisor, Sunday school leader, and big sister.
- iii) During the past 6 mo. + I have emersed myself in further education about the environment, environmental justice, organization structure, NGO's, industry and government.
- iv) I have done this, by attended 100's of educational webinars, conferences, forums and coursed on everything from climate change, watersheds, forestry and pond management, social justice, MWEE (Meaningful Watershed Educ. Exp.), Earth Force training, and all things plastic, beginning from fracking and extraction to disposal including **Judith Enck's Beyond Plastics College course.**
- v) Most recently I have become a

b) Keystone problem

c) Teacher couldn't say global warming and 20 yr. later could not say climate change

d)

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- i) Most of you know me because it was though your organizations that I receive my experiences. Attending and participating in your organizations are where I had the opportunity to learn and grow in my knowledge and desire to contribute more to what has troubled me for the past 10+ years. The Plastic Crisis.
- ii)
- iii) It is this awareness that has brought me hear tonight to speak to you.
- iv) I am honored, privileged and overjoyed by what you have shared with me and by allowing me to give back to you by sharing with you this evening about what I've learned about the plastic dilemma. Thank you for coming and letting me share with you about the MPP campaign.