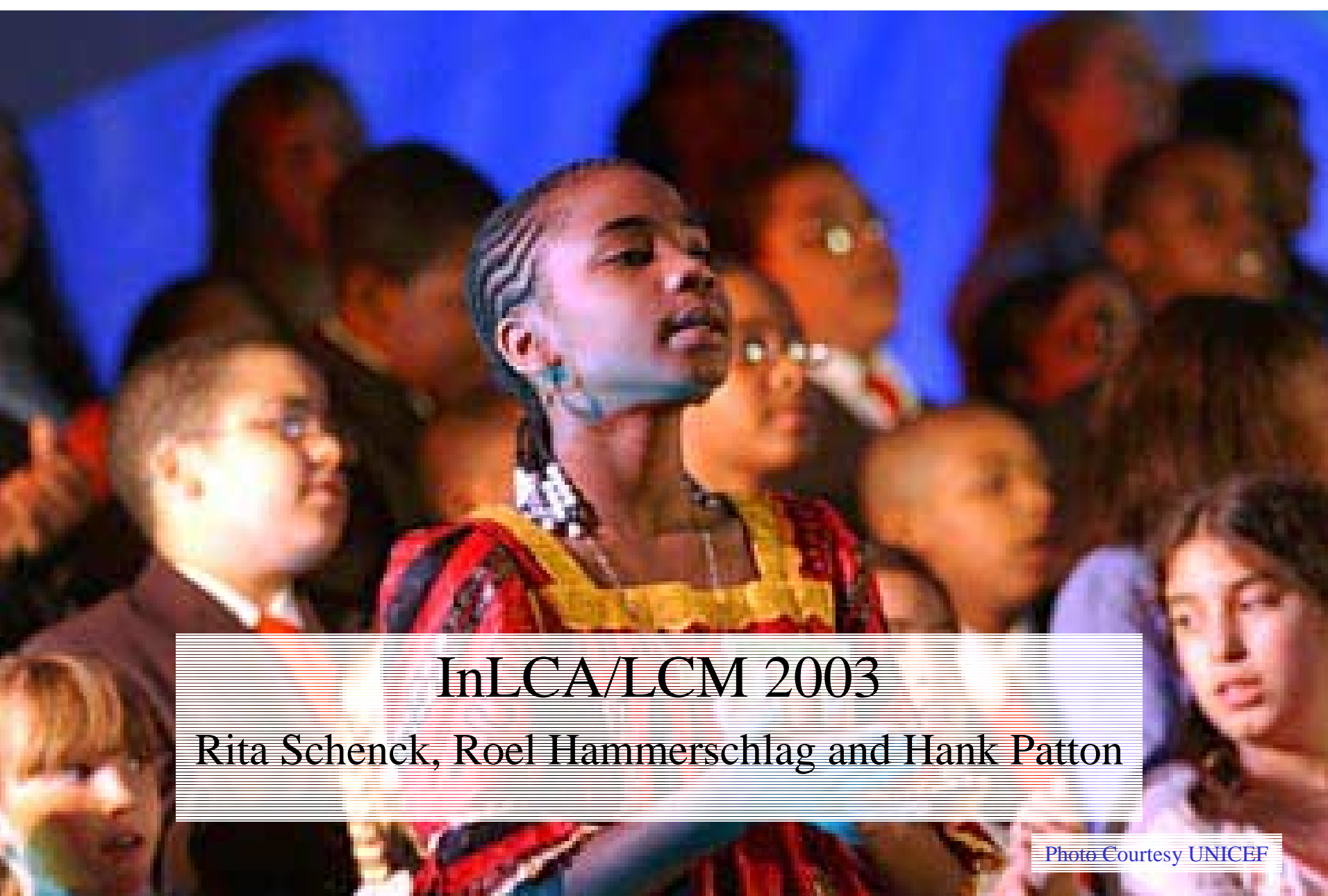


# Teaching Life Cycle Concepts to School Children



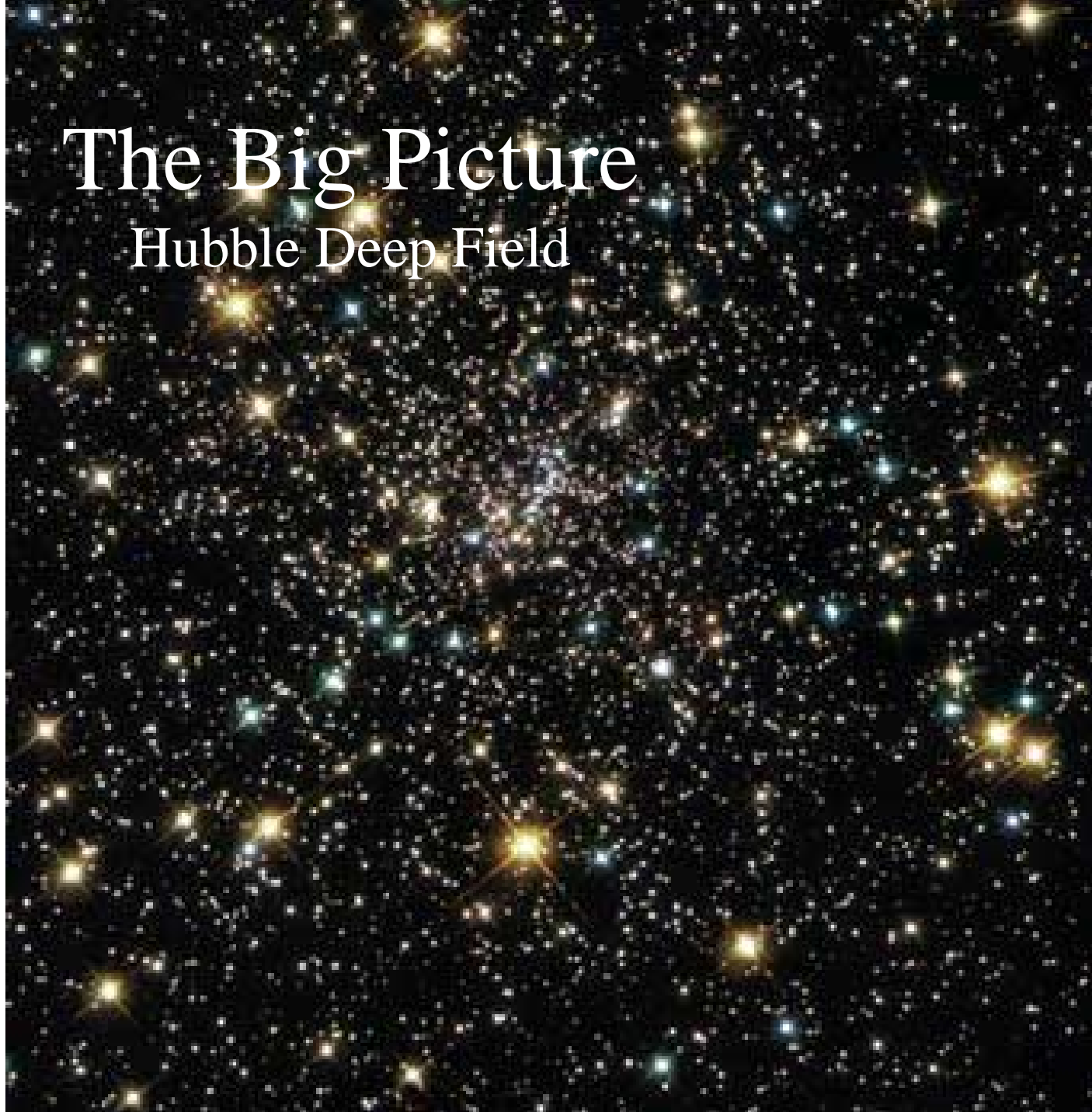
InLCA/LCM 2003

Rita Schenck, Roel Hammerschlag and Hank Patton

LCA and Life  
Cycle Thinking  
Are About  
Seeing the Big  
Picture

# The Big Picture

## Hubble Deep Field



Kids Need to Learn  
About Thinking Big



# And About Their Place in the Big World



Photo Courtesy UNICEF

# Our LCA Training for Kids is About

- Teaching kids about systems thinking
- Catalyzing interest and expertise in math and sciences
- Giving teachers the tools they need to inspire kids to learn

We are IERE, ILEA and World Steward

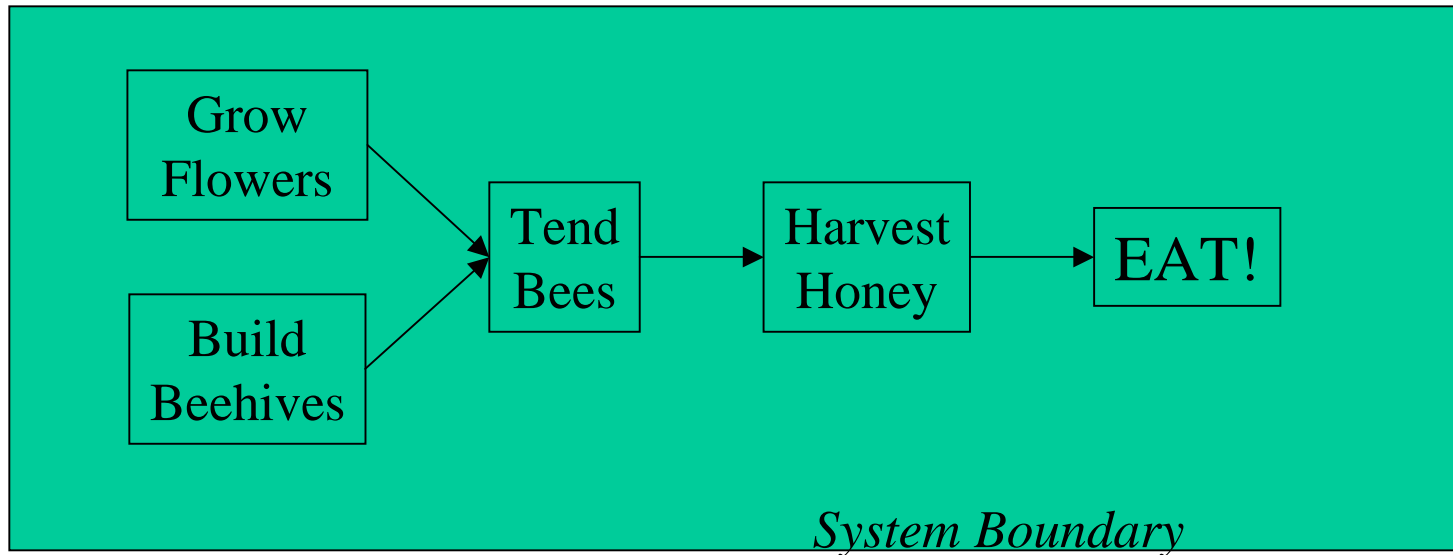
# We Do This by

- Providing 2-day workshops for middle school teachers– away from the classroom
  - Teaching the elements of LCA
  - Teaching basic environmental science
  - Providing a roundtable for feedback from teachers
- Providing real life examples of LCA's for products familiar to kids
- Making learning FUN

# Potential LCA's for Workshop

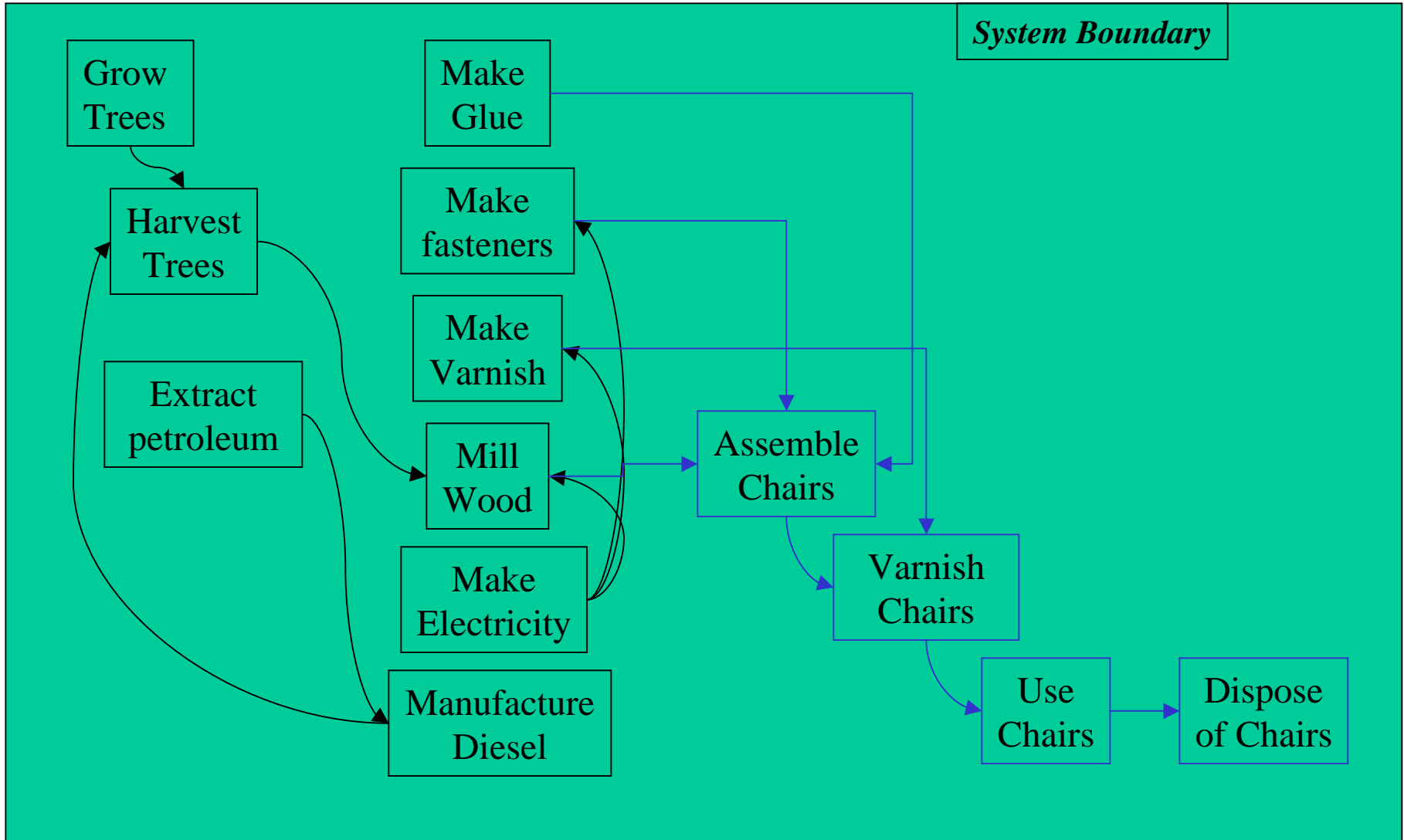
- Electricity from wind vs. from natural gas turbines
- Transportation choices
- Farm vs. river-run salmon
- Wood chair vs. metal chair
- Sugar vs. honey (World Steward beekeeping program)
- High-efficiency construction vs. traditional construction
- Forest harvest strategies

# System for Making Honey





# System for Wooden Chairs



# Math and Science Education

- Middle School is where math and science goes beyond the bare minimum
- LCA gives a framework for algebra, chemistry, physics, biology
- LCA thinking gives children a reason to WANT to learn these topics

# Teachers Need to Have Fun, Too

# Vashon Island



# Outcomes

- 1 *Dissemination of life-cycle thinking to middle-school students*
- 2. *Increased skills among middle-school teachers*
- 3. *Creation of a replicable teaching resource. The project will generate an LCA “toolbox”*
- 4. *A platform for national implementation*
- *Support of a strong new alliance in Pacific Northwest environmental education*

# Some of the Toolbox

- LCA for Mere Mortals
- Work done by Edie Sonne at UW
- Chappy program from Australia
- Environmental education materials from Alberta
- We welcome additional ideas/material

# Why are We Doing This? Recap!

- LC thinking needs to be integrated into our culture to support sustainability
- Eventually all school children should understand the concepts of systems thinking– the BI G picture
- LCA can give kids a reason to pursue math and science