

Ken Leinbach

Ken Leinbach is a nationally recognized science educator and leader in community-based environmental education. He has had fun facilitating the grassroots effort to create and grow the Urban Ecology Center. The Center's formula of using environmental education as a tool for inspiring urban revitalization has captured the attention of urban planners and educators across the globe.

Ken and the Urban Ecology Center have been featured in local and national media outlets, including *The New York Times*, *Milwaukee Magazine*, *Orion Magazine*, Milwaukee Public Television, and in Richard Louv's best-selling book, *The Last Child in the Woods*. His recently published Amazon best-seller book, *Urban Ecology: A Natural Way to Transform Kids, Parks, Cities, and the World* is being used as a case study in college courses as well as in leadership circles in for-profit and non-profit arenas.

Ken is a certified high school teacher and has over 30 years of experience teaching and developing environmental science programs in Wisconsin, Michigan, and Virginia. He holds a biology degree, a master's degree in environmental education, and an honorary doctorate of fine arts. His awards list is long, and includes the Thomas Jefferson Medal for Natural Science (Virginia), Nature Educator of the Year from the Roger Tory Peterson Institute (New York), the Martin Luther King Award from St. Mark African Methodist Episcopal Church (Milwaukee), and Green NonProfit Leader of the Year from the *Milwaukee Business Journal*.

Ken is a member of the Governor-appointed Wisconsin's Coastal Management Council, and is a founding member of the Academy for Systems Change, an international leadership program focused on global change. He lives in the community in which he works and runs an Airbnb location out of his home, called the Hawks Nest, which overlooks the Milwaukee River.

Because he chooses not to own a car, Ken can be seen commuting to work by bike, unicycle, or, on occasion, kayak.