

## **Discovery Charter School of Sustainability Executive Summary**

*This is prepared by the founding group of the proposed Discovery Charter School of Sustainability.*

**Mission:** Our Mission is to nurture and graduate youth who display academic excellence in all subjects, are self directed dynamic thinkers, and are actively engaged in sustainable practices in their lives, their school, and their communities. We empower the diverse elementary students of Franklin County to thrive and excel in school connecting all members of the school family with the interdisciplinary methods of Educating for Sustainability. Discovery School graduates are lifelong learners and systems-thinking problem solvers meaningfully involved with and aware of their interconnection with world around them prepared for living in the emerging green economy.

**Educational Plan:** Discovery will offer a fully integrated placed-based curriculum focusing on Education for Sustainability. Students will experience outdoor class, group movement, individual exploration, and philosophical inquiry on a path to lifetime learning. As such, all members of the Discovery Community are empowered to be Dynamic Thinkers: Curious, Creative, Caring, Collaborative, Critical thinkers (C5) working together to implement the best sustainable practices for their community (Lipman, 2003; Brundtland Commission, 1987).

**Need:** The Discovery Charter School of Sustainability is needed in this region and community. Sustainability needs to be a focus of this and future generations as never before in modern life. Franklin County schools continue to struggle to provide education to meet the needs of area families. Gill-Montague is considered under-performing, Greenfield is a targeted area, and school choice options in higher performing schools are not readily available. At the elementary level, the closing of high performing schools have further reduced options.

**Founding Board Capability:** The Founding Board of Discovery Charter School of Sustainability has a multitude of talents and is highly impassioned by this mission. We continue to find inspiration from others in our region who is excited about our mission, anticipating the possibility of such a school. We understand that we are only at the beginning of this journey, but we are well-rounded in talents and committed to the success of this school.