

Systems Scramble

One change can affect everything else!

Set up: To play this game you'll need a leader, 8-10 players (or more!) and a large open space to move around in.

Objective: Players participate by creating a moving system. If the group can keep the system scrambling according to the simple rules, everybody wins!

Let's Play!



Gather in a large open space. Each player should look around at the group and privately pick two other players. Don't tell them (or anyone else) who you have chosen.

When the leader says “*Start*,” move so that you are in-between the two players you chose. Try to position yourself so you are always in the middle of these same two players. What happens? Do you ever stop moving?

When the leader says “*Freeze*,” stop where you are. The leader will choose one person and move them. When the leader says, “*Unfreeze*,” start playing again. What happens now?

Systems thinking helps us understand our complex world and plan for a more sustainable future.

Systems have many interrelated parts and connections. When you play this game, you experience the dynamic and interconnected nature of systems. One small change can affect an entire system—or several systems! Examples of familiar systems include food, water, transportation, and electrical power.

To produce and distribute food, we need farms, equipment, roads, stores, banks, and many other things. These all work together in the food system—and each one is also part of other systems. A disruption such as a drought can have many different effects, including making it harder for farmers to grow food and raising the cost of energy for your home.



Food production and distribution is one example of a system.

Sustainability scientists use *systems thinking* to study the interaction between people and the planet and find innovative and responsible solutions. They look at the way different parts of a system work together over time and how they are related to other systems. As we plan for our future, we need to consider all the social, economic, and environmental systems that support our lives.



We all have a role in building a more sustainable future!

Families and students all over the country are participating in special events where they choose to walk, bike, or roll to school and work. Instead of using cars (and fossil fuel) to get where they need to go, these kids are using their own energy and creativity.



Students biking, scooting, and walking to school.