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The National Science Foundation awarded TERC a \$1.3 million grant to develop Biocomplexity and the Habitable Planet. This capstone course will engage high school teachers and students in the science of coupled natural-human systems (CNH).

"In an era of global human impact on the environment, there is a real urgency for understanding the complex fabric of relationships between humans and the environment," said Principal Investigator Dr. Gilly Puttick. "This curriculum makes a unique contribution to the field because of its focus on CNH systems, situated in urban, rural, and other settings. Students will experience authentic scientific inquiry, exploring the same fundamental ideas that engage scientists and researchers."

Working in partnership with the Institute for Ecosystems Studies, TERC will draw on two sources to design the curriculum: an extensive body of data accumulated by the Long-term Ecological Research sites, and by current research on Biocomplexity. Materials for the full-year curriculum will be developed as a series of four cases, each providing a different view of CNH systems. The cases could also be used as supplemental or replacement materials in existing science courses.