



The Washington State Comprehensive Environmental Education Planning Process

**Optimizing environmental education
for everyone who lives, learns,
works, and plays in Washington State**

Why Do We Need a Plan?

EE is fundamental to creating thriving environments for all of Washington State schools, communities, and businesses. Currently the environmental education efforts in the state are under-funded, fragmented, disjointed and, in some cases, redundant. This initiative is designed to optimize environmental education for everyone in Washington State by linking and leveraging current resources, identifying areas that need improvement and/or development, and gaining increased commitment and funding to ensure success from both private and public entities.

Our Mission

Our Mission is to optimize environmental education for everyone who lives, learns, works, and plays in Washington State—to create thriving environments for schools, communities, and businesses.

Our Vision

Our Vision is to inspire community behaviors, business practices, legislative policies, and educational opportunities that support sustainable and thriving environments for everyone in the state of Washington.

How Will We Succeed?

We will succeed via state and local leadership summits for environmental education attended by key leaders in education, state, and community-based programs, agencies and businesses. These summits are action oriented strategy sessions designed to get input from leaders and constituents to ensure that environmental education meets the unique needs of schools (preK-20), communities, and businesses throughout the state. They also are designed as the first step in building environmental education leadership communities throughout the state at, and between, the state and local level to ensure plan implementation and success.



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Objectives:

1. Develop one state and many local-level plans to strengthen environmental education programs across and between formal (preK-20), non-formal, and informal education.
2. Develop a strategy and infrastructure to ensure plan implementation.

Outcomes of the *process* include:

- Increased awareness and promotion of quality environmental education programs at the state level and in communities across Washington.
- Increased efficiency, networking, synergy, and new initiatives among providers of environmental education.
- Mobilization of thousands of practitioners and stakeholders to address the link between education and sustainability.
- Clarified roles of environmental education stakeholders responsible for addressing strategies identified in the state and local plans.
- Stronger leadership for environmental education initiatives.

Outcomes of *plan implementation* include:

- Advancement toward environmental literacy and a sustainable society.
- Improved test scores and graduation rates as more students are exposed to rigorous, relevant, hands-on, interdisciplinary programs of study and assessment.
- Enhanced teacher training as environmental education resources are utilized to address outcome-based curriculum and assessment.
- Increased awareness of and involvement in environmental education programs provided by communities throughout the state.
- Increased public and private funding for quality environmental education programs.
- Use of quality environmental education programs, tools, and materials to address the missions and priorities of the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and other state agencies.
- Collaboration across sectors to provide a seamless program for “life-long learning” about both the natural and built environments.

For more information, please contact the Environmental Education Association of Washington (EEAW) at eeaw@eeaw.org or 360-943-6643. www.eeaw.org

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