

IMPLEMENTING THE ELP: Community Organizations and Conservation Groups





Suggested Strategies



- 1 Use existing and tested environmental education curricula and activities when planning programs and NAAEE's Guidelines for Excellence in environmental education when creating new curriculum.
- 2 Support collaborations and partnerships between schools and community organizations, nonformal educators, state-level agencies, environmental education centers, institutes of higher education, and conservation organizations.
- 3 Incorporate environmental science and other STEM content into family or out-of-school programming. (e.g., do a quick lesson on erosion before a trail maintenance project with a youth group.)
- 4 Provide opportunities for students to participate in service-learning projects and internships related to the environment and environmental issues. Partner with schools and nonformal environmental education programs to engage youth.
- 5 Offer opportunities for career shadowing or volunteering for K-12 students and their families to inform and excite them about pursuing environmental careers.
- 6 Provide students with opportunities to create environmental solutions using new technologies in engineering, environmental science, sustainable energy, ecotourism, geosciences, biotechnology, forestry, agriculture, and other STEM fields.
- 7 Partner with schools to enhance and maintain school grounds, whether through grants, or volunteer coordination.





- 8 Share opportunities for funding and resources with school audiences as available. (For example, inform schools when you give away trees or host free rain barrel workshops.)
- 9 Provide opportunities for students and teachers to investigate their local environment through field experiences and citizen/community science and outreach programs that foster the development of critical thinking skills and encourage the exploration of careers in the sciences.

10 Connect teachers with citizen/community science programs so students can authentically engage in scientific research while observing phenomena in their schoolyard. Provide opportunities for students and teachers to make science-based connections to statewide and regional environmental issues, participate in real-world scientific research through citizen/community science projects, and explore environmental justice issues at both a global and local level.

11 Encourage program providers to use the NAAEE Guidelines for Excellence when developing outdoor learning experiences and resources.

12 Increase the awareness of local conservation efforts among teachers about so they may incorporate that information into their instruction.

13 Provide guest speakers and topic experts for students and teachers. Identify barriers, and work with schools and nonformal education providers to develop speaker policies.



- 14 Create partnerships with guidance school counselors, CTE teachers, science teachers, guidance counselors, and career coordinators to enhance student learning and success. Provide CTE teachers with professional development and resources in environmental science and other STEM topics related to environmental careers.
- 15 Support staff in attending workshops and training to strengthen their pedagogy practices, expand their environmental education and content knowledge, and strengthen outdoor teaching practices.
- 16 Offer training and resources to other educators in your area of expertise--whether that's conservation content knowledge, cultural responsiveness, Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge, etc.

