

IMPLEMENTING THE ELP: Nonformal EE Providers





Suggested Strategies

- 1 Provide teachers with access to high-quality environmental education resources and professional development correlated to the NC Standard Course of Study.
- 2 Use the NAAEE's Guidelines for Excellence when developing or revising environmental education programs, outdoor experiences, and resources. Use environmental education lessons, activities, and curricula that focus on critical thinking, not issue advocacy.
- 3 Actively reach out to school audiences with concise summaries of available opportunities for programs and partnerships to make teachers aware of available resources.
- 4 Provide opportunities for students and teachers to investigate their local environment through field experiences and citizen/community science and outreach programs.
- 5 Speak at school career days and build partnerships with instructional coordinators and CTE teachers to encourage students to pursue environmental careers.
- 6 Provide resources and training to teachers on how to use school grounds and facilities for teaching the curriculum.
- 7 Develop lending programs for outdoor classroom materials (clipboards, magnifying glasses, portable whiteboards, etc.) and tools for community days (trail maintenance, garden days) for use on school property.
- 8 Improve your site, trails, facilities, and signage to improve accessibility for students with disabilities.



- 9 Provide resources, materials, training, and administrative support for teachers to use existing fields, woods, wetlands, creeks, landscaped areas, mowed greenspaces, and other natural areas on or near their schools for teaching across disciplines.
- 10 Support environmental education throughout a student's educational career through enrichment activities, track-out and summer camps, afterschool programs, volunteer opportunities, virtual learning days, Scout programs, family events, etc., so that there is a consistent, developmentally appropriate progression in each grade level.
- 11 Provide support via mentoring, additional staff support, additional planning support, etc., for teachers to design and implement lessons that gradually introduce students to the outdoors within the regular daily schedule.
- 12 Partner with schools to complete your community partnership project for North Carolina Environmental Education Certification.
- 13 Partner with local library programs to promote environmental education and science centers to families.
- 14 Review the environmental education programs of other organizations and facilities in your area before developing new services to understand gaps and opportunities.
- 15 Encourage staff to attend training on assessment and evaluation, classroom pedagogy practices, and the correlation of programming to the K-12 science standards,
- 16 Incorporate Methods of Teaching Environmental Education or other pedagogy courses in training plans for new staff members
- 17 Provide professional development for classroom teachers and other educators who use environmental education curriculum linked to the NC K-12 Standard Course of Study, providing ready-to-use lessons and activities that will help students achieve the learning outcomes in our state standards across multiple subjects and grade levels.



- 18 Provide documentation for professional development opportunities to fulfill the requirements for NC professional educator's license renewal (i.e., content, digital literacy, etc.) and for NC Environmental Education Certification credit.
- 19 Build relationships with instructional coordinators to better understand the needs of local teachers and share resources with teachers.
- 20 Evaluate workshops and other professional development in environmental education using the NAAEE Guidelines for the Preparation and Professional Development of Environmental Educators to ensure they are quality programs using best practices in the field.
- 21 Support universities and colleges that offer pre-service environmental education content and professional development: be a guest speaker, partner with classes on projects, and invite these classes to shadow your work.
- 22 Support staff in attending professional networking events, educator round tables, and other events that build relationships and promote the exchange of ideas.
- 23 Encourage staff to enroll and complete the NC Environmental Education Certification and recognize staff when they complete the program. For example: share newsletter articles, videos, or other communications features with your larger staff team and external contacts.
- 24 Use EE Certification for preference in hiring, advancement, and for performance reviews and offer pay incentives for employees to complete the program.

