


Environmental Education


Helping to meet a need in our communities



NC State University
A&T State University
**COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION**
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What is Environmental Education (EE)?


- The basic aim of EE is to help individuals and communities understand the complex interactions between natural and built environments.



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Environmental Education also:


- Includes biological, physical, social, economic, and cultural/historical aspects
- Helps anticipate environmental problems by helping people acquire the knowledge, values, attitudes, and skills to participate in solutions



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EE Objectives


- From the Tbilisi Declaration (1977)
 - ✓ Awareness
 - ✓ Knowledge
 - ✓ Attitudes
 - ✓ Skills
 - ✓ Participation



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Benefits of EE


- Building real-world skills
- Active and direct learning
- Learner centered
- Multiple health benefits



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What is Good EE?

- National Project for Excellence in EE
 - Guidelines to evaluate programs, materials, and professional development
- Teaches how, not what, to think
- EE is not just for k-12 students
 - Lifelong learning and direct experiences are important at all ages



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Lifelong Learning for Teachers

- Sustainable Forestry Teachers Academy (SFTA)
- NCFA, CES, FEOP, NC DFR
- Week-long immersion into forest industry
- www.ncsu.edu/sfta (Applications accepted till April 8)

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Are YOU an Environmental Educator?

- Do you often find yourself correcting others misconceptions about management techniques?
- Do you receive professional development regarding the latest research in your field?
- Can you site local examples of good and bad management?

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Why EE in Your Community?

- Advocate for your profession
- Assist teachers
- Bring curriculum to life
- Reach future voters
- Be a role model

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Forestry in the Community: NCSU FOR172 students visit classrooms

- Take info learned in class
- Prepare a tree measurement lesson
- Work with 3rd – 7th graders
- Lasting impression!



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EE in North Carolina

- Project Learning Tree
www.ces.ncsu.edu/plt
- Project WILD
www.ncwildlife.org/Education_Workshops/
- Project WET
www.ncwater.org/Education_and_Technical_Assistance/
- Food, Land, and People; Leopold Education Project; State Parks

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EE in North Carolina


- North Carolina Office for Environmental Education and Public Affairs
 - State office for EE
 - Created the North Carolina EE Plan; 1973 North Carolina EE Act
 - Serves as a clearing house for programs, professional development, consumer info, grants, event calendar

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Environmental Literacy Plan


- Puts NC at the forefront for federal funding with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act
- Will need local resource professionals to share information in the classroom, lead local field trips, or programs on school grounds



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NC EE Alphabet Soup


- OEEPA – Office of Environmental Education and Public Affairs
www.eenorthcarolina.org
- EENC – Environmental Educators of North Carolina
www.eenc.org
- North American Association for Environmental Education
www.naaee.org



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4-H Connections

- 4-H Agents and Volunteer Leaders
- Forestry and Wildlife programs
 - State 4-H Forestry Contest
 - State 4-H WHEP Contest
 - Horticulture/soils, too!
- Guest speaker or assist with projects
- www.ces.ncsu.edu



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Cooperative Extension Communications


- www.ces.ncsu.edu/forestry
- Woodland Owners Update newsletter and blog
www.ces.ncsu.edu/forestry/resources/woodland_owners_update.php
- Facebook Groups (Woodland Owners Update or NCSU Extension Forestry)



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