



YEAR 2 EECAPACITY STATE CONSORTIA PROGRESS REPORT

Oregon State Consortia

Names and Affiliations of State Consortia Co-Leaders

Name: Traci Price (Co-Lead)

Affiliate: Environmental Literacy Initiative - The Gray Family Foundation (Also, Board Co-Chair EEAO)

Name: Alison Heimowitz (Co-Lead)

Affiliate: Clackamas Community College (Also, EEAO Board Member)

Name: Jim Adriance (Co-Lead)

Affiliate: Latino Partnership Program (The Oregon Community Foundation)

Name: Caitlin Blethen (Co-Lead)

Affiliate: Growing Gardens

Summary of Major Accomplishments

State consortia partners were invited to participate in our EECapacity project because of their commitment to building a sustainable planet through healthcare, education, social services, food & agriculture, and spirituality. Our purpose in coming together was to learn from one another how to be ecologically sustainable and in doing so, weave a network and bring new vitality to all of our unique and shared endeavors.

During our first meeting, partners were invited to share personal stories about what they do and what inspires them about their work. We heard personal accounts of your connections to nature.

In our second meeting, we explored transformation on a societal scale. Partners appreciated the following from our discussion:

“Being able to listen to others and see how we have a common interest.”

“Opportunity for dialogue on the deeper dimensions of environmental education, in the context of cultural change.”

“Hearing and feeling how stuck we are in our ways of viewing sustainability as primarily a social rather than an ecological issue.”

During our third meeting we explored themes from our past meetings and began framing a common vision. Partners valued:

leaders in the environmental education field.

- Our leadership team is interested in keeping our conversation going and is working on coordinating a book/article/discussion club.

Things that might help improve the State Consortia Program:

- Coordinated or universal support for trainings on equity, diversity and inclusion
- Multi-year grants
- More flexibility in allowing the partners who gather to determine the outcomes of the project and/or process

Outcomes and Outputs

Outcomes

Short-term:

- Increased number of non-traditional providers in the environmental education field – *non-traditional providers participated in our State Consortium* (completed)
- Increased cultural competency among EE providers – *we did not end up with enough time during our meetings to comprehensive provide cultural competency training* (in process – to be supported by pending grants mentioned above)
- Increased understanding of EE by non-traditional providers – *partners heard from Akiima Price about EE and the developing Community Guidelines for Excellence* (completed)
- Increased awareness of common goals across program providers – *common vision developed and described above* (completed)
- Increased communication among program providers – *providers spent three meetings together* (completed)
- Increased number of partnerships around innovative practices in EE – *we intended to highlight a number of local innovative examples during our meetings but shifted the agendas to meet the needs of the consortium* (in process and hoping to support through pending grant projects)

Medium:

- Increased diversity of students pursuing careers in environmental and/or community work – *EECapacity instigated a group of practitioners who continue to gather to explore internship, mentoring and job training opportunities for youth from communities of color* (in process)
- Increased diversity in EE leadership – *core team members and partners have expressed interested in remaining engaged* (completed/in process)
- Increased number of environmentally aware and responsible citizens – *this was unfortunately not covered during project evaluation, would be difficult to capture* (to be completed, potentially through support for a “Place-based evaluation” of the Portland-Metro region through The Intertwine to determine a baseline and tracking for connectedness to nature for Portland-Metro residents)

Long-term:

- Improved environmental quality – *not completed during project* (may be part of the Place-based evaluation described above)
- Development of healthier communities – *not completed during project* (may be part of the Place-based evaluation described above)

Outputs

- List of identified needs of non-traditional providers – *will hopefully be explored through our extended evaluation project* (to be completed by June 30, 2014)
- Strategic action plan – *defined our common goals* (completed)
- Community Covenant – *did not end up including as part of our agenda* (output changed)
- Enhanced, accessible on-line Resource Directory – *we did not have time to explore improvements to EEAO’s web-based directory in this project* (to be completed as part of pending grant work)
- Program/Organizational links – continuum – *partners names and contact info were shared with all consortium members* (completed)
- Professional Learning Community – *partners worked together for three meetings and continue to be connected* (completed and in process, to be supported through pending grants and book club)

Evaluation Results

Surveys were completed by participants at the first and second meetings. The third meeting focused on developing a common vision and included a compilation of notes (*our evaluator was unfortunately unable to attend the third meeting to conduct a more comprehensive evaluation).

Results are highlighted on the attached documents.

Environmental Education and Community Leaders Reached and Demographics

	Number of environmental educators and community leaders who participated in professional development through the consortium.	Estimated size of audience the environmental educators and community leaders listed in the column to the left reach.
Total	1 st Meeting: 24 people answered the question <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 46% < 25% on EE • 38% > 75% on EE • 16% = 25-75% on EE 2 nd Meeting: 9 people answered the question <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 44% < 25 % on EE • 44% > 74% on EE • 11% = 50% on EE 	This information was not requested

	For the number stated above under total indicate estimated percentage for each of the categories listed below.	For the number stated above under total indicate estimated percentage for each of the categories listed below.
	This information was included in the percentages above.	<p>1st Meeting: Percentage reached in formal settings such as schools: 43% Percentage reached in non-formal settings such as parks, zoos, nature centers, etc: 22% Percentage reached in other types of settings: 35%</p> <p>2nd Meeting: Percentage reached in formal settings such as schools: 46% Percentage reached in non-formal settings such as 0parks, zoos, nature centers, etc: 14% Percentage reached in other types of settings: 41%</p>
	This information was not requested	<p>1st Meeting: Percentage reached in urban settings: 65% Percentage reached work in suburban settings: 23% Percentage reached rural settings: 12%</p> <p>2nd Meeting: Percentage reached in urban settings: 63% Percentage reached work in suburban settings: 24% Percentage reached rural settings: 13%</p>
	<p>1st Meeting: Percentage who are persons of color (Black, Latino, Asian, Native American, etc): 17%</p> <p>2nd Meeting: Percentage who are persons of color (Black, Latino, Asian, Native American, etc): 22%</p>	<p>1st Meeting: Percentage of your audience who are persons of color (Black, Latino, Asian, Native American, etc): 40.2%</p> <p>2nd Meeting: Percentage of your audience who are persons of color (Black, Latino, Asian, Native American, etc): 40.6%</p>

Milestone Timeline

MILESTONE INDICATORS TOWARD COMPLETING TASK	Month and Year Completed
Learn from other state consortia	Sept-Oct 2012
Outreach to EECapacity partners	Sept-Nov 2012
Recruit core partners – attend NAAEE conference	Sept 2012
Coordinate and host initial EECapacity Partner Meeting	Sept-Jan 2013
Coordinate and host second EECapacity Partner Meeting	Jan-Apr 2013
Develop and host professional learning opportunities	Apr-July 2013
Compile results and share best practices	July-Aug 2013

Appendices

Please find the following documents attached with this report:

- Invitations
 - March 13th
 - April 24th
 - April 29th with Akiima
 - May 21st
 - June 3rd
 - November 12th
- Final communication – February 2014
- Evaluation
 - April 2014 EECapacity Feedback
 - June 2014 EECapacity Feedback
 - EECapacity Feedback Form
- April 30th agenda
- EECapacity Partners

A. State Consortia Representatives

Oregon Zoo/Metro Regional Government
Center for Diversity and the Environment
Sauvie Island Center
East & West Multnomah Soil & Water
Conservation Districts
City of Portland
Latino Partnership Program
Portland State University
Metropolitan Family Service
Portland-Metro STEM Partnership
Outdoor School
4H Extension
Portland Public Schools
Ecumenical Ministries
Upstream Public Health

The Intertwine
Columbia Slough Watershed Council
Play Again
Groundworks
Confluence Environmental Center
Gray Family Foundation
Portland Audubon
Sustainability for All
Earth Wisdom Alliance
Friends of Tryon Creek
Wiconi International
Earth & Spirit Council
Columbia Land Trust
Clackamas Community College
Growing Gardens

*See attached for a complete list of representatives

B. EE Capacity Tools and Resources

The following resources were shared through this project:

- Guidelines for Excellence in Environmental Education
- Community Environmental Education Guidelines
- Urban Environmental Education. The Environmental Education Toolbox--EE Toolbox Workshop Resource Manual
- What's Good in Your Hood
- EPA Environmental Education & Environmental Justice
- Environmental Scorecard
- Earth 911
- MEERA
- The Early Childhood Environmental Education Rating Scale
- Evaluating Your Environmental Education Programs: A Workbook for Practitioners
- Metro Regional Government
- *The Oregon Environmental Literacy Plan: Toward a Sustainable Future*

Contact Information

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