

# ALLIANCE FOR NEW JERSEY ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



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## 2018 WINTER ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE THEMES AND STRANDS

Our 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference will build on more than four decades of work in our field to think creatively and collectively about how we can create a more sustainable future.

We will pay tribute to the importance of the first international conference on environmental education, which was held in Tbilisi, Georgia, in 1977. Environmental Education leaders from around the world came together and framed how education can help address the growing environmental and social challenges facing society.

During the conference, we will share ideas and innovation about how we can imagine a better future and create a path forward for the field in the coming decade and beyond.

### **Applying Research to Increase Our Impact**

Using research to inform how we design, develop, refine, and promote environmental education programs—including methods to engage new and under-represented audiences—for maximum effectiveness

Sessions appropriate to this strand address such topics as:

- Cutting-edge research that is important and relevant to all environmental educators
- Linking research and practice: applying what we know to what we do
- Strategies for evaluating and improving environmental education programs
- Using research results to influence decision makers and demonstrate the value of EE
- Developing shared outcomes that allow us to better measure our collective impact
- Research and case studies about the benefits and challenges of learning and teaching in outdoor settings and in a culturally relevant context

### **Building Leadership for Environmental Literacy**

Strategies for building leadership and infrastructure to further EE on the state and provincial levels, and for advancing efforts to motivate the public to take informed actions on environmental and other civic issues

Note: This strand is part of the ee360 Leadership and Training Collaborative and predetermined sessions will provide training and skill development in organizational development, cultural competency and inclusiveness, civic engagement, and strategies for teaching about environmental issues. A limited number of additional proposals will be considered by a special review team looking to enhance training in ee360's priority areas.

Sessions appropriate to this strand provide training in such areas as:

- Diversifying and strengthening the field of EE

*Promoting and Improving Environmental Education for people of all ages in New Jersey  
Since 1985*

- Strengthening organizations that deliver and coordinate EE, especially on the local, state, and regional levels
- Cultivating and supporting leadership in EE
- Providing career pathways that promote diverse EE workforces, including trade skills for green careers and opportunities in community colleges
- Building our capacity to deliver effective, relevant environmental education for and with diverse audiences
- Engaging the public (adults and youth) in strategies that lead to problem-solving, building community resilience, and creating more equitable and sustainable communities

### **Conservation and Environmental Education**

Achieving conservation goals through education, communication, social marketing, and ecotourism strategies, including public participation in scientific research (PPSR) and place based community action

Sessions appropriate to this strand address such topics as:

- Strategies for building capacity for education within the broader practice of conservation
- Increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion in the conservation movement
- Current research and case studies on behavior change as it relates to conservation education
- Successful tools, approaches, and educator preparation for bringing PPSR (citizen science) into the classroom or community improvement projects
- Successful collaborations between conservation educators and practitioners in all settings, from rural to suburban to urban, as well as wild spaces, public lands, and beyond
- Education strategies for addressing specific issues such as climate change, energy, water, biodiversity, and food systems

### **Educating for Sustainable Communities**

Creating sustainable and equitable communities through partnership building, informed civic engagement and personal decision making, developing sense of place, systems thinking, connecting community and environment, and understanding historical impacts on communities of color

Sessions appropriate to this strand address such topics as:

- The role of environmental education in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Achieving environmental integrity, social equity, environmental justice, and economic prosperity through education and authentic engagement of historically underrepresented communities
- Grassroots partnerships for community improvement; characteristics of successful community action projects
- Sense of place, inclusion, and cultural relevancy in urban, suburban, and rural communities
- Strategies for addressing controversial issues and finding common ground
- Incorporating culturally rooted practices into our work and understanding how people from different backgrounds relate to, engage with, and care about the environment

### **Green Schools**

Using environmental education to transform education, enhance student achievement, conserve resources, support national and international education trends, link schools and communities, and build support for environmental education on K-12 campuses

Sessions appropriate to this strand address such topics as:

- Green Schools as a pathway to service learning, student leadership, civic engagement, outdoor learning, and other effective education practices
- Exemplary initiatives for greening the campus and the curriculum, including facilities management practices, district and administrative commitments, and student involvement
- Green Ribbon and other recognition programs
- Advancing the Green Schools movement worldwide
- Promoting interdisciplinary instruction
- Integrating EE into pre-service teacher preparation and in-service professional development

### **Inspiring Connections to the Outdoors**

Cultivating partnerships and providing outdoor education experiences that connect people of all ages and backgrounds to nature

Sessions appropriate to this strand address such topics as:

- Early childhood environmental education and nature preschools
- Creating and using green spaces and nearby nature in urban areas
- Overcoming challenges associated with getting students and young children outside
- Outdoor programs that promote physical or spiritual health and wellness
- Developing outdoor programs that are inclusive and relevant to all audiences
- Partnerships that increase connections to nature