



Supported by ee360+ and The Cedar Tree Foundation

NAAEE Launches Fellowship Program

We are excited to announce the launch of the 2023 CEE-Change Fellowship Program, NAAEE's latest initiative to support leadership and innovation in civics and environmental education across the country. CEE stands for Civics and Environmental Education. NAAEE recognizes the value in bringing together environmental and civic engagement educators to learn from each other and collaborate to scale up our impact as we work to create a more equitable and sustainable future. The 2023 Fellowship program will include a special focus on climate change and education.

This fellowship program will bring together a diverse and inspiring cadre of formal and nonformal educators and community leaders working to address today's complex environmental and social concerns at the local, state, and national levels. The fellowship program is a partnership with U.S. EPA and the Cedar Tree Foundation to help strengthen environmental education and civic engagement. Participants will learn civic engagement (CE) skills together with environmental education (EE) skills, and look at how the two fields can collaborate more deliberately. This work is intended to foster leadership within schools and at the community level, promote civic engagement and environmental responsibility, and ultimately build more resilient, equitable, and healthy communities.

Each Fellow will design a Community Action Project, using both civic engagement and environmental education strategies to address a local climate change issue. Projects will emphasize climate change education, community and civic engagement, sustainability, and resilience. Additionally, each project will address U.S. EPA's core mission to provide Americans with clean air, land, and water. Fellows will have access to a limited pool of mini-grant funding to support their work. Grant funds will be prioritized for the most innovative ideas and effective strategies for using CE and EE to address a climate-related community issue, lead to progress on civic engagement, and strengthen community resilience to address environmental concerns. Grant funds will also be available for Fellows seeking additional leadership training and professional development, including professional learning exchanges with other Fellows.

Learn more about EPA's mission

The twelve-month fellowship will provide opportunities to learn, network, and share through online professional development, technical assistance, and face-to-face training. The fellowship will also build a strong foundation for continued professional growth after the program ends. The twelve-month fellowship will take place July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024. Fellows will have the option to extend an additional six months (through December 2024), and will receive continued professional development, networking support, and scholarship funds to attend the 2024 Annual NAAEE Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



Benefits of Becoming a Fellow

Each Fellow accepted into the program will receive training and individualized support for their work, including the following:

- Professional development and leadership training with a focus on civic education, environmental education, climate change education, climate justice and other equity and inclusion issues in the environmental movement, partnership building, participatory planning strategies, community engagement, leadership, strategic communications, fundraising, project planning, grant management, mapping power, coalition-building, design-thinking, and evaluation (Professional development will be designed based on a needs assessment.)
- An enhanced professional network of CEE-Change Fellows and leaders in civic education, environmental education, conservation, community resilience, and other disciplines
- Increased access to relevant practices and resources through NAAEE's professional development opportunities on eePRO
- An in-person, week-long Leadership Institute and the financial support to attend (The Leadership Institute will be held August 20–25 at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.)
- Monthly virtual training webinars on priority topics
- Scholarship funds to attend the 2023 Annual NAAEE Virtual Conference October 8–20; scholarship funds to attend the 2024 Annual NAAEE Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (for Fellows that request the optional extension)
- Technical assistance in planning and implementing a Community Action Project
- Opportunities to apply for mini-grant funds to implement a Community Action Project; grants will range from \$3,000 for a planning grant up to \$10,000 for a collaboration grant where two or more Fellows work together to promote a larger-scale effort
- Access to professional development funds to seek additional leadership training and to support learning exchanges between Fellows
- Mentoring and networking opportunities within the Fellows cohort and NAAEE network
- Individual and organizational recognition through ee360+ and NAAEE

Fellowship Requirements

All participants must commit to the full twelve-month fellowship (July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024) and the following activities:

- Take part in all networking and training opportunities throughout the twelve-month fellowship
- Attend an in-person Leadership Institute August 20–25, 2023
- Design a Community Action Project using an innovative CE and EE strategy that addresses a local, state, or national climate change issue
- Complete a Community Action Plan to outline strategies the Fellow will use to work with the intended audience(s) they are planning to reach
- Develop a fundraising strategy to raise the support necessary to implement the plan
- Reach at least 100 participants through a Community Action Project
- Complete mid-term and final progress reports and other evaluation activities as needed
- Attend the 52nd Annual Virtual NAAEE Conference October 8–20, 2023
- Fellows who select the optional six-month extension will attend the 53rd Annual NAAEE Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Fellows will participate in a workshop and present about their experiences as a CEE-Change Fellow and how the fellowship contributed to their work as a leader

Eligibility Requirements

All applicants must have the following:

- At least five years of experience in CE, EE, conservation, or community engagement
- A partner organization. A partner organization can be an ee360+ Partner, NAAEE State Affiliate, or other community or national organization whose goals and practices make a positive contribution to the field of CE and/or EE. Applicants must submit a recommendation letter from their partner organization describing how they will work together to design and implement a Community Action Project. Partner organization must also explicitly agree the Fellow can attend the in-person Leadership Institute August 20–25, 2023. In most cases an applicant's partner organization is also their employer.
- A creative idea for a Community Action Project that addresses a civic and environmental issue related to climate change. The project should propose a new or innovative solution to a climate-related environmental problem, including strategies for reaching new audiences, applying new pedagogy or instructional frameworks to improve student action, engaging new audiences in civic life, achieving greater impact in addressing community sustainability and resilience issues, or new strategies for developing effective partnerships. Applicants can present current projects but must describe how they will use the fellowship to add a new twist or strategy that will make the project more innovative and effective. Fellows will use fellowship training, networking, and resources to build on this vision.
- Two letters of recommendation. One letter must come from the applicant's partner organization. The other letter can come from any professional contact familiar with the applicant's experience in CE, EE, conservation, community engagement, or leadership ability.

How to Apply

We will begin accepting applications in March 2023. All application materials are due by May 15, 2023, 11:59pm ET. Applicants will be notified of their status early July 2023.

Start your online application

NAAEE will hold an informational webinar on Thursday, April 6, 3–4 PM ET.

Register for the webinar

Contact Us

Please contact us at CEEchangeFellow@naaee.org.

About EPA

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is a federal agency that has been protecting human health and the environment for over 50 years. For over 30 years, EPA has supported environmental education (EE) and training for teachers and other education professionals through the National Environmental Education and Training Program (NEETP), created by The [National Environmental Education Act](#) of 1990. The purpose of this program is to provide EE training and long-term support to formal and nonformal education professionals across the United States, bolstering their ability to effectively teach about environmental issues. The NEETP is managed by EPA's Office of Environmental Education (OEE). Learn more about current projects managed by OEE: www.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-office-public-engagement-and-environmental-education-opeee.

About Cedar Tree

The Cedar Tree Foundation is a family foundation created in the mid 1990's by the late pediatrician and entrepreneur, Dr. David H. Smith. Dr. Smith believed in the power of individuals and organizations to make significant changes in the world and Cedar Tree's grantmaking continues to reflect that belief. To learn more go to www.cedartreefound.org.

About ee360+

ee360+ is an ambitious multi-year strategy to bring innovative leaders in the environmental education field together through leadership clinics, webinars, online modules, professional development workshops, and more to ultimately advance environmental literacy. ee360+ is supported through funding from the US EPA, as well as matching funds from partner organizations; which include Project Learning Tree, Project WET, Project WILD, Antioch University, the University of Oregon, the University of Florida, Florida Memorial University, Cornell University, University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point, Earth Force, the Center for Diversity and the Environment, the NAAEE Affiliate Network, the Lifelong Learning Group at COSI, and NAAEE. The project is guided by an expert advisory group representing universities and nonprofits across the country. Together we bring over five decades of expertise to our effort to grow, strengthen, and diversify the field of environmental education. Learn more at <https://naaee.org/programs/ee360>.

About NAAEE

For more than five decades, NAAEE has promoted excellence in environmental education throughout North America and the world. We are dedicated to strengthening the field of environmental education and increasing the visibility and efficacy of the profession.

NAAEE's influence stretches across North America and around the world, with members in more than 30 countries. NAAEE and its 54 state, provincial, and regional Affiliate organizations in the United States, Canada, and Mexico have more than 20,000 members. These members are professionals with environmental education responsibilities and interests across business, government, higher education, formal (K–12) education, nonformal education, early childhood education, science education and STEM, and other sectors of society. Learn more at <https://naaee.org/about>.

