



Supported by ee360+ and The Cedar Tree Foundation

NAAEE Launches Fellowship Program

We are excited to announce the launch of the 2025 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 healthy and sustainable future.

This fellowship program will bring together an 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 ee360+ 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 and healthy communities.

Each Fellow will design a Community Action Project, using both civic engagement and environmental education strategies to address a local civic and environmental issue. Projects will emphasize environmental education, community and civic engagement, sustainability, and resilience. 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 community issue, lead to progress on civic engagement, and strengthen community resilience to address environmental concerns.

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, 2025–June 30, 2026. Fellows will have the option to extend an additional six months (through December 2026), and will receive continued professional development and networking support. If funding allows, we will also provide scholarships to attend the 2026 annual conference.

Learn more about the CEE-Change Fellowship

At this time, we can only accept U.S.-based applicants for the 2025 cohort (see Eligibility Requirements).



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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, partnership building, participatory planning strategies, community engagement, leadership, strategic communications, fundraising, project planning, grant management, 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 24–29, 2025, at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.)
- Monthly virtual training webinars on priority topics
- Scholarship funds to attend the 2025 Annual NAAEE Virtual Conference November 3–6
- 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 \$2,000 for a planning grant up to \$8,000 for a collaboration grant where two or more Fellows work together to promote a larger-scale effort.
- Mentoring and networking opportunities within the Fellows cohort and NAAEE network
- Individual and organizational recognition across NAAEE's platforms

Fellowship Requirements

All participants must commit to the full twelve-month fellowship (July 1, 2025–June 30, 2026) and the following activities:

- Take part in all networking and training opportunities throughout the twelve-month fellowship
- Attend an in-person Leadership Institute August 24–29, 2025
- Design a Community Action Project using an innovative CE and EE strategy that addresses a local, state, or national civic and environmental 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 2025 Annual Virtual NAAEE Conference November 3–6, 2025



Eligibility Requirements

All applicants must have the following:

- For the 2025 cohort, applicants must be within the United States.
- At least five years of experience in CE, EE, 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 organizations must also explicitly agree the Fellow can attend the in-person Leadership Institute August 24–29, 2025. In many 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. The project should propose a new or innovative solution to a civic and 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, community engagement, or other leadership experiences.

How to Apply

We will begin accepting applications in February 2025. All application materials are due by April 23, 2025, 11:59 PM ET. Applicants will be notified of their status in June 2025.

Start your online application

NAAEE will hold an informational webinar on Thursday, March 20, 3–4 PM ET.

Register for the webinar

Contact Us

Please contact us at CEEchangeFellow@naaee.org.

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.



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About ee360+

The ee360+ Leadership and Training Collaborative (ee360+) is an ambitious multi-year initiative that connects, trains, and promotes innovative leaders dedicated to using the power of education to create a more healthy and sustainable future for everyone, everywhere. Led by the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE), ee360+ is made possible through funding and support from U.S. EPA and twenty-five partner organizations representing universities and nonprofits across the country, and five federal agencies. Through this partnership, ee360+ brings together more than five decades of expertise to grow, strengthen, and diversify the environmental education field.

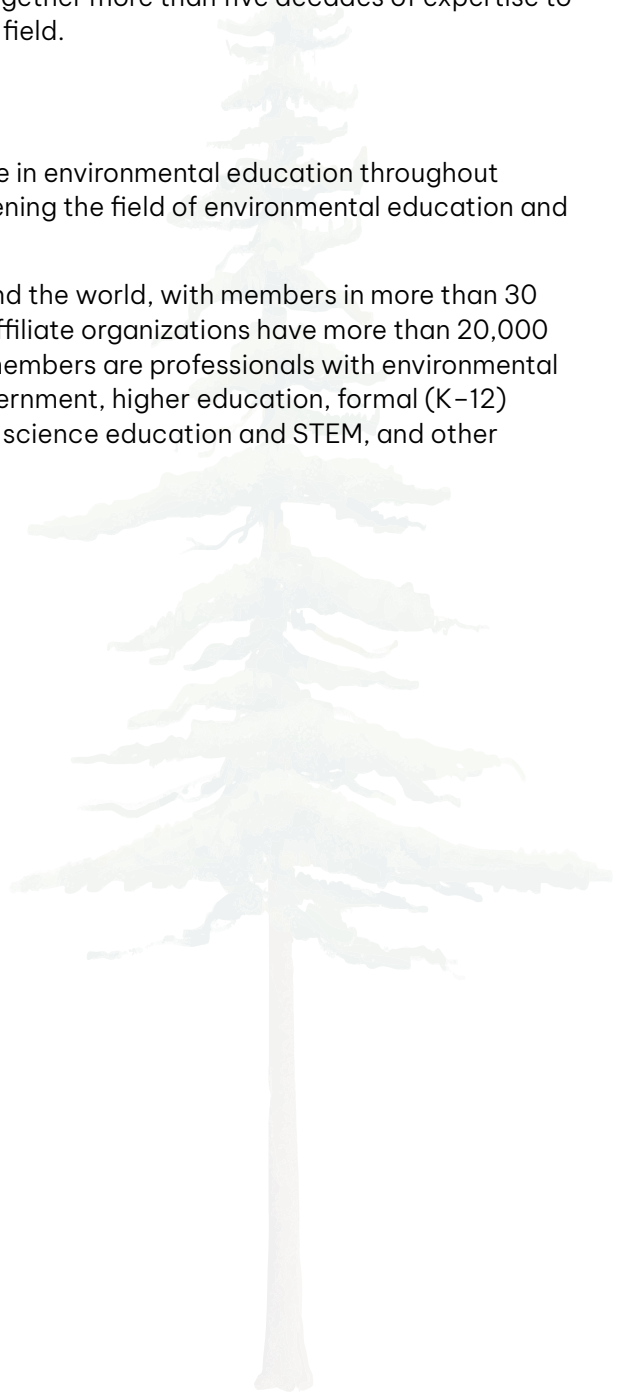
Learn more at <https://naaee.org/programs/ee360>.

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 have more than 20,000 members in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. 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>.



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