

SUSTAINABILITY

Goal: Sustain environmental literacy by ensuring effective implementation of the *2010 Environmental Literacy for Illinois Plan*.

Objectives:

- 1. Develop an educated populace that will preserve, protect and enjoy the environment through sound personal and environmental decisions.**

Strategies:

- a. Inform decision-makers of the existence of the *2010 Environmental Literacy for Illinois Plan* and educate them of its relevance to all projects they undertake.

Date of completion: 12/2011.

Collaborative partners: All agencies/organizations. Coordination of this strategy will be through the Illinois State Board of Education.

- b. Provide people with the information and incentives needed to make healthy personal and societal choices.

Date of completion: 12/2015.

Collaborative partners: Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and Illinois Department of Agriculture will be responsible for carrying out the strategy.

- c. Offer a variety of training opportunities for educators.

Date of completion: 12/2015.

Collaborative partners: All agencies/organizations. Coordination of this strategy will be through the Illinois State Board of Education.

- 2. Pursue funding opportunities and resources for governmental, for-profit and non-profit partners.**

Strategies:

- a. Incorporate objectives of the *2010 Environmental Literacy for Illinois Plan* as part of the State's Race to the Top proposal, particularly in the development of the Agriculture Science Technology Engineering and Math Learning Exchange. *For more information on Race to the Top visit <http://www.isbe.state.il.us/racetothetop/default.htm>.*

Date of completion: 12/2011 (or one year after funding is received).

Collaborative partners: Illinois State Board of Education.

- b. Pursue funds through the *No Child Left Inside Act* to develop a distribution and evaluation plan for the funding and implementation of the plan. *To view the No Child Left Inside Act visit <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=s111-866>.*

Date of completion: 6/2011.

Collaborative partners: Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

- c. Coordinate with the Governor's appointed P-20 (prekindergarten through PhD) Council to build connections and alignment with post-secondary programs. *For information on the P-20 Council visit <http://appointments.illinois.gov/appointmentsDetail.cfm?id=211>.*

Date of completion: 12/2011.

Collaborative partners: Illinois State Board of Education.

- d. Develop partnerships that integrate the Illinois State Board of Education Green Career and Technical Education Program into the *2010 Environmental Literacy for Illinois Plan*. *For more information on the Programs of Study visit <http://www2.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2009/06/06222009f.html>.*

Date of completion: 1/2011.

Collaborative partners: Governor's Office of Sustainability.

- e. Connect with the State Energy Sector Partnership, Illinois' public-private task force established as part of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act to develop a 21st Century green workforce.

Date of completion: 1/2011.

Collaborative partners: Governor's Office of Sustainability.

3. Promote networking and participation in existing and future programs, initiatives, standards and curriculum development to provide better information for educators.

Strategies:

- a. Incorporate the relevant Common Core Standards in all subject areas as soon as they are developed. *For more information on Illinois' Common Core Standards visit <http://www.isbe.state.il.us/ADP/default.htm>.*

Date of completion: 12/2011 (or within one year of the development and release of these Standards).

Collaborative partners: Illinois State Board of Education.

- b. Work with the Illinois State Board of Education to adhere to the relevant guidelines of the Partnerships for 21st Century Learning. *For more information on the Partnership for 21st Century Skills visit <http://www.p21.org/>.*

Date of completion: 12/2011.

Collaborative partners: Illinois State Board of Education.

- c. Integrate the Plan with existing and developing science, engineering, technology, and math education reform efforts.

Date of completion: 1/2011.

Collaborative partners: Office of the Governor of the State of Illinois.

4. Use innovative technologies to enhance cooperation and make resources and/or information available to all.

Strategies:

- a. Coordinate with the State Board of Education to include *Environmental Literacy for Illinois* curriculum resources, work-based learning opportunities, problem-based learning challenges, career development guidance, and professional development as part of the State's proposed Learning and Performance Management System, which will be hosted on a cloud computing-based environment and longitudinal data system. *For more on Illinois' Race to the Top application visit <http://www.isbe.state.il.us/racetothetop/default.htm>.*

Date of completion: 12/2011.

Collaborative partners: Illinois State Board of Education.

- b. Provide centrally-located information that is accessible to all.

Date of completion: 12/2012.

Collaborative partners: Illinois State Board of Education.

- c. Use innovative technologies to provide efficient, inexpensive working environments.

Date of completion: 12/2012.

Collaborative partners: Illinois State Board of Education.

EVALUATION

Goal: Establish mechanisms for assessing, analyzing and evaluating the status of environmental literacy in Illinois and the effectiveness of the *Environmental Literacy for Illinois Plan*.

Objectives:

1. Interpret the current and on-going status of environmental literacy in Illinois for students and their teachers.

Strategies:

- a. Create an Environmental Literacy Assessment Advisory Subcommittee to oversee development, collection and analysis of current and future state-level assessment data, pertinent to achieving the Illinois definition of students' environmental literacy.

Date of completion:

Collaborative partners: All agencies/organizations. Coordination of this strategy will be through the Illinois State Board of Education.

- b. Provide mechanism to publicly communicate disaggregated statewide assessment data and trends.

Date of completion:

Collaborative partners: All agencies/organizations. Coordination of this strategy will be through the Illinois State Board of Education.

- c. Create an Environmental Literacy Certification Advisory Subcommittee to oversee development, collection and analysis of state-level teacher-quality data, along with baseline sampling of these issues at onset of *Environmental Literacy for Illinois Plan* and at ensuing regular intervals.

Date of completion:

Collaborative partners: All agencies/organizations. Coordination of this strategy will be through the Illinois State Board of Education.

2. Ensure that *Environmental Literacy for Illinois Plan* committee plans, timelines and outcomes are evaluated on an annual basis.

Strategies:

- a. Establish an Environmental Literacy Advisory Board with authoritative oversight to document the progress of state's *Environmental Literacy for Illinois Plan*.

Date of completion:

Collaborative partners: All agencies/organizations. Coordination of this strategy will be through the Illinois State Board of Education.

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GRANTS AND LONG-TERM FUNDING

Goal: Secure adequate funding from grants to be used for implementation of the 2010 *Environmental Literacy for Illinois Plan*.

Objectives:

- 1. Expand opportunities for schools to capture grants from local sources, state and federal government and private foundations.**

Strategies:

- a. Establish a clearinghouse through the Illinois State Board of Education and Illinois Department of Natural Resources to disseminate grant information identifying potential funding resources.

Date of completion:

Collaborative partners:

- b. Identify potential funding sources and opportunities to provide training for grant writers.

Date of completion:

Collaborative partners:

- c. Pursue ways to inform alliances through collaboration with other agencies such as conservation organizations, wildlife and hunting organizations to strengthen funding applications and opportunities.

Date of completion:

Collaborative partners:

- d. Encourage cooperative grant applications which would involve school districts, state agencies, regional offices of education, colleges, universities and other appropriate agencies.

Date of completion:

Collaborative partners:

- 2. Provide professional development opportunities for grant writing for formal educators.**

Strategies:

- a. Collaborate with environmental organizations to sponsor and present seminars for grant writing for environmental grants.

Date of completion:

Collaborative partners:

- b. Encourage science teachers and science curriculum coordinators to attend grant writing workshops.

Date of completion:

Collaborative partners:

3. Establish grant programs with both short-term (one year) and long-term (3-5 year) funding opportunities.

Strategies:

- a. Collaborate with funding sources to create more long-term grant opportunities so that schools can establish and implement long-term environmental projects and programs.

Date of completion:

Collaborative partners:

4. Establish training in environmental education for teachers who are non-science majors.

Strategies:

- a. Through environmental education workshops, familiarize non-science teachers with environmental concepts so that they can meet Leave No Child Inside goals. *The No Child Left Inside Act can be view here <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=s111-866>.*

Date of completion:

Collaborative partners:

- b. Collaborate with Illinois colleges and universities to create non-science major environmental education classes in pre-service programs.

Date of completion:

Collaborative partners:

ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING SITES AND CENTERS

Goal: Environmental Learning Sites and Centers will support and improve the facilitation of environmental literacy efforts statewide.

Objectives:

- 1. Continue to provide professional, standards based, environmental education opportunities, services and information for teachers in Illinois.**

Strategies:

- a. Provide opportunities for professional networking and recognition, virtual or live, in order to create environmental literacy learning communities.

Date of completion: 2010-2015.

Collaborative partners:

- b. Operate as an accredited Illinois State Board of Education recertification provider facility.

Date of completion: 2010-2015.

Collaborative partners:

- c. Ensure environmental education trainings/programs utilize evaluation controls in accordance with the North American Association for Environmental Education Guidelines for Learning. *For more information on these guidelines visit http://www.naaee.org/npeee/learner_guidelines.php.*

Date of completion: 2010-2015.

Collaborative partners:

- 2. Expand the reach of existing networks to include integration of non-formal and formal partners.**

Strategies:

- a. Promote environmental learning sites and centers as hands-on extensions of environmental curriculum.

Date of completion: 2010-2015.

Collaborative partners:

- b. Develop a marketing plan and promote enhanced communication.

Date of completion: 2010-2015.

Collaborative partners:

3. Establish partnerships among Environmental Learning Sites and Centers.

Strategies:

- a. Recruit environmental learning sites and center partners to actively participate in environmental literacy opportunities.

Date of completion: 2010-2015.

Collaborative partners:

- b. Identify and solicit funding opportunities in order to provide environmental literacy training for formal educators.

Date of completion: 2010-2015.

Collaborative partners:

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ELECTRONIC INFORMATION RESOURCES

Goal: Electronic Information Resources will establish an internet based environmental literacy resource to maximize effectiveness of environmental literacy programs statewide.

Objectives:

1. **Identify or develop a system by which key stateholders will collect and disseminate environmental literacy information using a web based central repository.**

Strategies:

- a. Establish website to used for access point.

Date of completion: 2010

Collaborative partners:

- b. Identify key stakeholders and website to access central repository for links to environmental literacy information.

Date of completion: 2010-2015

Collaborative partners:

- c. Determine keeper(s) of the repository (i.e. webmaster and/or database administrator).

Date of completion: 2010

Collaborative partners:

- d. Research and promote existing and new electronic resources and tools (social networking and others).

Date of completion: 2010-2015

Collaborative partners:

- e. Establish links to identified resources.

Date of completion: 2010

Collaborative partners:

- f. Investigate potential links to new environmental literacy sites and centers.

Date of completion: 2010

Collaborative partners:

2. Assure access to quality environmental literacy resources.

Strategies:

- a. Identify environmental literacy needs for diverse audiences and populations.

Date of completion: 2010

Collaborative partners:

- b. Develop and implement marketing and social networking strategies to promote awareness and access to environmental literacy internet resources (i.e. youtube and social networking tools, such as facebook, twitter, etc.).

Date of completion: 2010

Collaborative partners:

- c. Evaluate the effectiveness, quality and utility of environmental literacy internet resources and encourage reporting of methodologies and results to electronic clearinghouses. *For more information on electronic evaluation tools visit <http://meera.snre.umich.edu/>.*

Date of completion: 2012

Collaborative partners:

- d. Identify emerging environmental literacy concepts or issues that require access or development of new resources.

Date of completion: 2013

Collaborative partners:

PRESERVICE TEACHER EDUCATION

Goal: Preservice teacher education programs will provide future educators with the knowledge, skills, abilities and resources to develop environmentally literate students.

Objectives:

1. **Provide resources to Illinois universities and colleges to incorporate environmental literacy in their teacher education programs.**

Strategies:

- a. Assist institutions with access to environmental literacy funding.

Date of completion:

Collaborative partners:

- b. Establish a communication network among preservice environmental literacy instructors.

Date of completion:

Collaborative partners:

- c. Establish and maintain an inventory of preservice environmental education programs.

Date of completion:

Collaborative partners:

- d. Agencies and organizations assist with identifying instructors/facilitators and sponsor curriculum enhancement projects such as WET, Wild, Project Learning Tree, H2O and others. *For more information on Project WET visit <http://www.projectwet.org/>, Project WILD visit <http://www.projectwild.org/>, Project Learning Tree visit <http://www.plt.org/>, the H2O Project visit <http://www.theh2oproject.org/>.*

Date of completion:

Collaborative partners:

- e. Familiarize preservice teacher instructors with the nationally recognized Guidelines for Preparation and Professional Development of Environmental Educators. *For more information on these guidelines visit <http://www.naaee.org/programs-and-initiatives/guidelines-for-excellence/materials-guidelines/educator-preparation>.*

Date of completion:

Collaborative partners:

2. Support environmental literacy opportunities for preservice teachers.

Strategies:

- a. Provide reduced organizational membership and conference registration fees, internships, scholarships, field experiences, independent study, and practica.

Date of completion:

Collaborative partners:

- b. Market learning opportunities to preservice teachers and faculty.

Date of completion:

Collaborative partners:

- c. Survey current providers of environmental courses or components.

Date of completion:

Collaborative partners:

- d. Develop and implement assessment tools to determine the effectiveness of these programs.

Date of completion:

Collaborative partners:

3. Support the efforts of preservice teachers in providing environmental literacy opportunities during their student teaching experience: clinical experience, practicum, student teaching.

Strategies:

1. Provide cooperating schools and teachers with research results on benefits of environmental education.

Date of completion:

Collaborative partners:

2. Assist cooperating schools and teachers to remove barriers to environmental education.

Date of completion:

Collaborative partners:

INSERVICE TEACHER EDUCATION

Goal: Inservice Teacher Education efforts will promote incorporation of environmental literacy programs into Prekindergarten through 12th grade teaching and learning.

Objectives:

- 1. Provide support for development and implementation of effective programs, activities and resources for standards-led environmentally literate classroom.**

Strategies:

- a. Market resource opportunities to teachers and administrators.

Date of completion: 2010-2015

Collaborative partners:

- b. Develop and implement supplemental models, if needed.

Date of completion: 2011-2015

Collaborative partners:

- c. Develop, conduct and analyze classroom needs assessments for environmental literacy resources and options.

Date of completion: 2010-2015

Collaborative partners:

- 2. Support opportunities for Prekindergarten through 12th grade classroom teachers to deepen and broaden their own expertise in environmental literacy concepts, strategies, and resources.**

Strategies:

- a. Analyze and respond to teacher needs assessments for inservice professional development.

Date of completion: 2011-2015

Collaborative partners:

- b. Use nationally recognized criteria, evaluate effectiveness of opportunities.

Date of completion: 2010-2015

Collaborative partners:

- c. Document and publicize student achievement by illustrating the value and outcomes of Environmental Education programs.

Date of completion: 2010-2015

Collaborative partners:

- d. Access and sustain funding sources by marketing best practices to decision makers.

Date of completion: 2010-2015

Collaborative partners:

- e. Create opportunities for Prekindergarten through 12th grade educators with attention to underserved audiences.

Date of completion: 2010-2015

Collaborative partners:

- f. Develop partnerships for delivery and networking implementation of environmental literacy strategies.

Date of completion: 2010-2015

Collaborative partners:

3. Establish a master environmental literacy designation for educators.

Strategies:

- a. Develop criteria for qualifications and responsibilities required for master environmental literacy designation.

Date of completion: 2011

Collaborative partners:

- b. In partnership with providers, develop accredited curricula to address educator needs.

Date of completion: 2011-2015

Collaborative partners:

- c. Develop strategies to fund, promote, select, and recognize master environmental literacy initiatives.

Date of completion: 2012-2015

Collaborative partners:

INTEGRATION

Goal: Provide a framework and options for effective district/building/classroom integration of environmental literacy curricular studies and professional development for formal and informal educators, including mechanisms to measure integration successes and challenges.

Objectives:

1. **Develop a framework that effectively integrates authentic environmental education / environmental literacy classroom implementation to the interdisciplinary theme of environmental literacy into the 21st Century Student Outcomes.** For more information on the Partnership for 21st Century Skills visit http://www.p21.org/index.php?Itemid=120&id=254&option=com_content&task=view.

Strategies:

- a. Create an Environmental Literacy Integration Advisory Sub-Committee to oversee the development, collection and display of research-based and standards-led curricular, instructional and assessed environmental literacy resources.

Date of Completion: 12/2011 - 12/2015

Collaborative partners: Illinois State Board of Education Advisory Sub-Committee

2. **Assure high-quality, research-based, place-based (specific to Illinois) and meaningful environmental education / environmental literacy activities for students and professional development for teachers.**

- a. Illinois State Board of Education – Environmental Literacy Integration Advisory Sub-Committee shall oversee the development of a designation mechanism, training, record-keeping and evaluation/analysis of environmental education / environmental literacy service providers.

Date of Completion: 12/2011 - 12/2015

Collaborative partners: Illinois State Board of Education advisory sub-committee

EARLY CHILDHOOD: BIRTH TO FIVE YEARS

Goal: Environmental Literacy integration efforts will increase the amount of exposure to the natural environment for children from birth to five years by educating and providing resources to parents, caregivers and providers serving that population.

Objectives:

1. **Develop an understanding of options for environmental literacy integration with respect to families' places of residences and centers' locations, i.e. rural, urban, safety factors and culture.**

Strategies:

- a. Research existing birth to five environmental literacy integration models.

Date of completion: 03/2011

Collaborative partners:

- b. Convene parents, family childcare providers, center staff and birth to five experts to collaboratively determine options for Environmental Literacy integration to be recommended as best practice.

Date of completion: 10/2011

Collaborative partners:

- c. Construct an early childhood definition for environmental literacy.

Date of completion: 09/2011

Collaborative partners:

- d. Develop a position paper for Early Childhood on Developmentally Appropriate Practices for Environmental Literacy.

Date of completion: 01/2012

Collaborative partners:

2. **Content development, design and dissemination for providers in environmental literacy integration.**

Strategies:

- a. Develop environmental literacy integration resources which focus on the definition, application, supporting research and the advantages of environmental literacy integration.

Date of completion: 06/2012

Collaborative partners:

- b. Develop action plan to disseminate environmental literacy Integration resources.

Date of completion: 08/2012

Collaborative partners:

- c. Provide training on environmental literacy integration into programs curricula.

Date of completion: 06/2014

Collaborative partners:

- d. Embed environmental literacy integration and tutorial information in all trainings.

Date of completion: 06/2014

Collaborative partners:

3. Content development, design and dissemination of materials for parents and caregivers that demonstrate appropriate activities for environmental literacy.

Strategies:

- a. Develop an on-line data bank with links to appropriate infant/toddler environmental literacy resources.

Date of completion: 06/2012

Collaborative partners:

- b. Provide opportunities for “hands on” learning about environmental literacy for parents and caregivers in communities.

Date of completion: 06/2014

Collaborative partners:

4. Develop “Green Standards” using the Illinois Early Learning Standards for preschool and ages 0 – 3 using the Illinois Birth to Three Program Standards. For more information on Illinois Early Learning Standards visit <http://illinoisearlylearning.org/standards/index.htm>, and Illinois Birth to Three Program Standards visit http://www.isbe.net/earlychi/html/03_standards.htm.

Strategies:

- a. Using the kindergarten through 12th grade model, create green standards that align with Early Learning and Birth to Three Standards.

Date of completion: 10/2013

Collaborative partners:

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NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

Goal: Non-formal Education Program efforts will provide a framework for non-formal education initiatives to bring awareness of the unique opportunities and programs available to formal classroom educators, to investigate fairness in providing funding opportunities to both formal and non-formal educators, to investigate the possibility of allowing participants/students to earn credits for their participation, and to establish funding mechanisms for formal educators to take advantage of non-formal education opportunities.

Objectives:

- 1. Bring awareness of non-formal education's unique opportunities and programs available to formal classroom principals and educators and provide a linkage between what is being taught in the classroom and non-formal opportunities to enhance classroom lessons.**

Strategies:

- a. Establish a centralized database (resource guide), divided into regions, of non-formal programs/organizations/websites outlining available activities or upcoming events and site locations that can be accessed by formal educators. Example: Illinois Science Teachers Association event calendar on the Illinois Science Teachers Association website.

Date of completion: 8/2013

Collaborative partners: Illinois State Board of Education, Regional Offices of Education, and Environmental Education Association of Illinois will be responsible for carrying out this strategy.

- b. Embark on an awareness campaign to make formal educators aware of available options. This may be as simple as a flyer or newsletter distributed to Regional Offices of Education for distribution to constituent districts.

Date of Completion: 8/ 2013

Collaborative partners: Illinois State Board of Education, Regional Offices of Education and Environmental Education Association of Illinois will be responsible for carrying out this strategy.

- c. Provide a mechanism to make it easier for formal educators to incorporate non-formal programs into their curriculum without it becoming burdensome.

Date of Completion: 8/2013.

Organization responsible: Illinois State Board of Education will be responsible for carrying out this strategy

- d. Ensure that when advertised on database, non-formal programs state which learning standards and benchmarks are being met by their individual program, thus allowing formal educators to see what programs will best fit their needs.

Date of Completion: 8/2013.

Organization responsible: Environmental Education Association of Illinois will be responsible for carrying out this strategy

2. Investigate fairness in providing funding opportunities to both formal and non-formal educators and ensure non-formal educators have access to new funding sources for environmental literacy programming.

Strategies:

- a. Illinois State Board of Education and Department of Natural Resources create a non-formal educator advisory board.

Date of Completion: 8/2011

Collaborative partners: Illinois State Board of Education and Department of Natural Resources will be responsible for carrying out the strategy.

- b. Illinois State Board of Education and Department of Natural Resources create a distribution list (electronic or non-electronic) to notify non-formal educators of funding opportunities.

Date of Completion: 8/2011

Collaborative partners: Illinois State Board of Education and Department of Natural Resources

- c. Establish criteria for equitable distribution of funding between formal and non-formal educators as well as between non-formal facilities.

Date of Completion:

Collaborative partners:

- d. Establish rubric for needs assessment for the schools in order to provide opportunities for students who are least likely to have those opportunities. This can then naturally divide students into low income, and distance from, non-formal education opportunities.

Date of Completion:

Collaborative partners:

- e. Establish a funding application form where applicants apply for funding in a grant type format to be evaluated for need and relevance.

Date of Completion:

Collaborative partners:

- f. Establish a database of grant opportunities to facilitate trips to non-formal facilities that can be made available to both formal and non-formal educators.

Date of Completion:

Collaborative partners:

3. Investigate the possibility of allowing participants/students to earn credits for their participation.

Strategies:

- a. Provide opportunities for classroom credit for classes where the trips to non-formal facilities are incorporated into the regular classroom curricula. For example a trip to the field museum as part of a natural history survey.

Date of Completion:

Collaborative partners:

- b. Provide classroom credit where the non-formal education experience is a component or base of a research project.

Date of Completion:

Collaborative partners:

- c. Provide criteria where stand alone credit can be given for non-formal education trips.

Date of Completion:

Collaborative partners:

- d. Provide funding mechanisms that will facilitate the use of non-formal education opportunities by formal educators.

Date of Completion:

Collaborative partners:

4. To support fairness and equal partnerships between, and for, formal and non-formal educators. To ensure that fairness (between formal and non-formal education) in partnerships and funding are a part of any legislation involving the distribution of funds for environmental education.

Strategies:

- a. Ensure the proper language that will make funds available to both formal and non-formal educators on an equal basis is inserted into any legislation. Continuous monitoring, legal and language should be written into any documents.

Date of Completion: timeline for this strategy depends upon legislation, could be ongoing

Collaborative partners:

- b. Work to include language in any documents that recognize non-formal education opportunities as valued and of equal significance as formal education opportunities. Continuous monitoring will be necessary.

Date of Completion: timeline is ongoing as documents and legislation is developed

Collaborative partners:

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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR NON-FORMAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS

Goal: Professional Development efforts will provide training and support for nonformal environmental educators in an effort to assist formal educators in meeting the guidelines of the *Environmental Literacy for Illinois Plan*.

Objectives:

1. Continue to promote and provide quality professional development opportunities for non-formal educators.

Strategies:

- a. Provide statewide training and enrichment opportunities.

Date of completion: 2010-2015

Collaborative partners:

- b. Provide opportunities for professional networking and recognition, virtual or live, in order to create environmental literacy learning communities.

Date of completion: 2010-2015

Collaborative partners:

- c. Promote and advertise existing training opportunities through cooperative established networks.

Date of completion: 2010-2015

Collaborative partners:

2. Establish, promote and maintain an accreditation program for Illinois environmental educators.

Strategies:

- a. Investigate adoption of an Illinois professional certification process utilizing the existing certificate model from North American Association of Environmental Educators. *For more information on the North American Association of Environmental Educators certification visit <http://www.naaee.org/programs-and-initiatives/professional-certification-and-accreditation>.*

Date of completion: 2010-2011

Collaborative partners:

- b. Establish an accountable process for educators and providers to earn this professional certification.

Date of completion: 2011-2012

Collaborative partners:

- c. Disseminate information to educators as certification becomes available through existing networks.

Date of completion: 2012-2015

Collaborative partners:

- d. Develop partnerships with other organizations in a position to assist participants in meeting requirements for this professional certification.

Date of completion: 2010-2015

Collaborative partners:

3. Equip non-formal educators with tools, terminology and resources to integrate and provide services and training for formal educators.

Strategies:

- a. Provide training which focuses on the definition, application and supporting research of formal pedagogy, and the advantages of environmental education integration.

Date of completion: 2010-2015

Collaborative partners:

- b. Provide training on the incorporation and correlation of Learning Standards into non-formal programming. *For more information on Illinois Learning Standards visit <http://www.isbe.state.il.us/ils/>.*

Date of completion: 2010-2015

Collaborative partners:

4. Sustain long term oversight of non-formal professional development.

Strategies:

- a. Create and fund a salaried position within Environmental Education Association of Illinois to oversee the direction of nonformal professional development opportunities.

Date of completion: 2011

Collaborative partners:

- b. Identify and designate an implementation team to achieve non-formal professional development of *Environmental Literacy for Illinois Plan* strategies.

Date of completion: 2011-2015

Collaborative partners:

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CAREERS

Goal: In order to achieve environmental sustainability, environmental careers will be identified, supported and promoted.

Objectives:

- 1. Coordinate development and dissemination of environmental career programs that link the stages of career knowledge to kindergarten through PhD.**

Strategies:

- a. Encourage links between current web sites to broaden the circulation of information on environmental community service programs, field experiences, scholarships, internships/externships, conferences and other similar opportunities.

Date of completion: 1/2012

Collaborative partners: Chicago Wilderness and Environmental Education Association of Illinois.

- b. Build a webpage with links to environmental careers, training sources, internships, projects, partnerships and other career-related opportunities.

Date of completion: 1/2013

Collaborative partners: State agencies

- c. Extend the occupational areas of the Career and Technical Education Division at the Illinois State Board of Education by including an area that focuses on environmental careers.

Date of completion: 6/2012

Collaborative partners: Illinois State Board of Education

- d. Integrate environmental careers into applicable established programs at regional Education for Employment Centers.

Date of completion: 6-2012

Collaborative partners: Illinois State Board of Education

- 2. Identify and promote career partnerships between and among business, government, community members and kindergarten through college providers.**

Strategies:

- a. Provide models that integrate environmental careers into learning experience through: job shadowing, career day programs, internships and similar opportunities.

Date of completion: 1/2013

Collaborative partners: Illinois Chamber of Commerce and the Illinois Board of Higher Education

- b. Promote environmental careers by creating an educational Illinois Department of Natural Resources Career Trunk and expand existing educational trunks to include subject-related environmental career information. *For more information on Resource Trunks visit <http://www.dnr.state.il.us/education/index.htm>*

Date of completion: 1/2012

Collaborative partners: Illinois Department of Natural Resources in cooperation with businesses and non-government organizations related to environmental careers

- c. Use service project requirements to expose students to environmental careers (National Honor Society, graduation requirements).

Date of completion: 6/2011

Collaborative partners: Illinois State Board of Education in cooperation with businesses and Non-Government Organizations related to various trunk themes

- d. Broaden understanding of environmental careers to include such vocations as environmental law, sustainable building design and construction, green agriculture, law enforcement, entrepreneurship, tourism and other careers.

Date of completion: 1/2014

Collaborative partners: Illinois State Board of Education and Illinois Board of Higher Education in cooperation with businesses and non-government organizations related to environmental careers