

## Ecology and Education Summit - *Environmental Literacy for a Sustainable World*

Oct 14-16, 2010 Washington DC  
National Education Association HQ

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**Purpose:** The Ecological Society of America (ESA), in partnership with national organizations, propose to organize an Ecology and Education Summit on to:

- Disseminate best practices that will advance *Environmental Literacy for a Sustainable World*,
- Reduce duplication of efforts, and
- Coordinate strategies to build capacity and pathways of support for green careers for the next generation.
- Integrate technology in the study of earth and nature
- Develop strategies to increase the participation of underrepresented minorities and women into the environmental agenda
- Develop public policy and funding opportunities to advance environmental literacy
- Accelerate the transformation of teaching and lifelong learning in formal and informal settings

The Summit aims to create a national dialogue to accelerate the transformation of teaching and learning among K-20+ audiences in both formal and informal settings in response to today's urgent and complex environmental challenges. The first half of the summit will be open to participants from national/regional/state organizations. Invited participants will remain for the second half of the summit to draft a Decadal Plan of Action for 2010-2020 based on the discussions.

**Audience:** The Summit will bring together leaders of diverse national ecology and environmental education organizations, scientific and social science societies as well as organizations of scientists, teachers, technology experts, and the business sector that serve the spectrum of K-gray audiences.

**Participants:** Jointly involved in the planning of the event are: Ecological Society of America (coordinating partner), National Education Association (host partner), American Association for Advancement of Science, American Institute of Biological Sciences, Carey Institute for Ecosystem Studies, Center for Embedded Network Sensing, National Institute for Food and Agriculture, National Geographic Society, National Wildlife Federation, North American Association for Environmental Education, National Environmental Education Foundation, and the US Forest Service, among others.

**Outputs:** The products of the summit will include (1) a report of a pre-Summit survey of national organizations, (2) a directory of national organizations, (3) an online showcase of best practices highlighting the use of technology, multidisciplinary programs and efforts to engage diverse audiences, (4) an interactive networking site, (4) a Decadal Plan of Action and the formation of an Implementation Task Force, and (5) an article in *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*, ESA's highly cited multidisciplinary journal, to be submitted as part of an education series.

**Outcomes:** Within the next three years, national organizations will prioritize the focus of their programs based on identified gaps and needs to achieve environmental literacy among the citizenry. The summit will set in motion a plan for greater integration of programs horizontally (where one cohort experiences multiple and reinforced programs) and vertically (across age groups at developmentally appropriate stages). In the longer term, effective use of new technologies and pedagogies will be incorporated and an increased national capacity developed to promote greater and more diverse participation in environmental monitoring, stewardship and careers.

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