

**DC Environmental Education Consortium (DCEEC)**

**-- General Meeting Agenda --**

**May 18, 2016 @ US Botanic Garden**

**In attendance:**

Kurt Moser, DCEEC

Sam Woolford, CBF

Alexis Dickerson, CBF

Sarah Holway, DCGreens

Gussie Maguire, Casey Trees

Lauren Meyer, Casey Trees

Genora Givens, Earth Force

Naamal De Silva, GWU

Karen Grajales, Landscape Architect Association

Rebecca Davis, DCEEC

Pri Ekanayake, DCEEC

**Executive Committee:**

Co-President: Kurt Moser and Naamal DeSilva

Treasurer: Ariel Trahan  
Secretary: Pri Ekanayake

**Ways and Means Chair**: Karen Vernon  
**Outreach Chair**: Karen Grajales  
**Education Co-Chairs**: Genora Givens and Jim Serfass

**Schoolyard Greening Co-Chairs**: Sarah Bernardi and Sam Ullery

**Updates**

* Anacostia Environmental Youth Summit - Genora-Earth Force, Trinh Doan-DOEE
* OSSE - NGSS
* Principal’s Institute
* Committee updates

**Business**

* DCEEC Mission and Vision
* DCEEC Teachers Night 10th Anniversary – Rebecca Davis, Lee Coykendall
* July meeting
* Other business

**Upcoming**

Anacostia Environmental Youth Summit – Friday, May 20

Save the date: DCEEC next meeting Wednesday, July 13 @ TBD

**Existing DCEEC Mission and Vision Statements:**

*Section 1:  Mission Statement*

*The mission of the DCEEC is to bolster a network of environmental and conservation educators, increasing their capacity to provide meaningful environmental education for the residents of the District of Columbia.*

*Section 2:  Vision Statement*

*DCEEC’s vision is to be a model of cooperation increasing environmental literacy for youth and adults of the District of Columbia. DCEEC is an inclusive network of teachers, DC schools, environmental education providers, dedicated individuals, and supporters from businesses, universities, and the political arena.*

**Proposed (draft) Vision Statements**

We envision the DIstrict of Columbia as a city where inhabitants of all ages and backgrounds continually develop the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to make informed decisions relating natural and urban systems, enjoy the nature around them, and take action to restore and protect the well-being of human communities and the interwoven environmental systems that sustain us.

We envision a city where people of all ages and backgrounds actively explore nature with a sense of wonder. We envision residents collaborating to restore and sustain their natural environment.

**From the ELP:**

Environmental literacy is the development of knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to make informed decisions concerning the relationships among natural and urban systems.

An environmentally literate person:

* discusses and describes ecological and environmental systems and human impacts on these systems;
* engages in hands-on, outdoor learning experiences that involve discovery, inquiry, and problem solving;
* formulates question and analyzes information pertaining to his or her surrounding environment; and
* understands how to take actions that respect, restore, protect, and sustain the health and well-being of human communities and environmental systems.

AGENDA:

* Updates:
  + Anacostia Environmental Youth Summit (May 20, 2016)
  + OSSE-NGSS
  + Principals Institute
  + Committee Updates
* Business:
  + DCEEC Vision and Mission
  + DCEEC Teacher’s Night 10th Anniversary
  + July Meeting—July 13, 2016 @ TBD

MEETING NOTES:

Updates:

* Anacostia Environmental Youth Summit (May 20, 2016)
  + Website: http://doee.dc.gov/event/participate-2016-anacostia-environmental-youth-summit
  + Event hosted this Friday, from 10am – 2pm (set up by about 9:15am)
  + includes 20+ partners
  + Expected attendance of over 500 students for over 12 schools (4th – 8th grade)
  + Boats provided by Anacostia Watershed Society and Riverkeepers
  + Finals of Earth Force’s Caring for Watersheds projects
  + E&F Rangers performing at lunchtime
* OSSE/NGSS
  + Bart from NOAA and Dave from Inspired Teaching developed a 3-day workshop for Maryland teachers using extra money from OSSE
    - Shows educators how to align their programming to NGSS
  + Want to work with DC to host a workshop as well (potentially full day)
    - Tentative time: either mid-June or early-mid August
    - Small fee/cost will be associated
    - Ideal audience: EE providers and other education providers in DC region
* Principal’s Institute
  + Initiative to organize a group of principals to give them and experience for EE programming, specifically focused around the Chesapeake Bay
    - Want to align programming to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement and specifically the MEEWE outcome
    - Will have a STEM component (i.e. an activity that includes data collection)
  + Institute goal: Have principals learn what EE is and how it can help educators teach science and environmental issues more effectively.
  + At minimum, looking for a group of at least 10 Principals from the DC area
    - Ideally looking for a good mix, especially middle and high school teachers because currently MEEWE outcomes being met most often at the elementary level
  + There has been good luck in Maryland with the Principals Institute
    - The principals are empowered to work with teachers to expand school-wide EE efforts.
  + If you know of any Principals, please let them know about the Institute
    - Note: Sam will forward the flyer to the listserv
* Executive Committee Updates
  + The retreat occurred shortly after the previous general meeting:
  + Main takeaways:
    - Need to update the vision of DCEEC—currently it reads more like a description
    - What could committees focus on in the future, since ELP support has been the main focus of the organization previously.
    - Wants to have a 25 year celebration

Business:

* DCEEC Teachers Night—10th Anniversary
  + Date: September 29, 2016 from 6:00 – 8:00pm
  + Lee Coykendal presented on how to make the 10th anniversary unique and formed a committee for event planning and preparation
    - Looking for more volunteers for the committee
  + How to do we enhance the event? What tweaks can we make?
    - Due to federal regulations, cannot host any raffles
  + Last year registration was 300+, but attendance was 105…how can we ensure capacity or higher attendance?
    - Note: due to regulations, USBG can’t advertise the event on their site because it is not public
    - Lee will still create a Save the Date and reach out to teachers
    - Promote event through DCEEC
    - Encourage participation through a more interactive format:
      * Develop a passport that teachers have to fill out as they visit each exhibitor..framed after the National Geographic model
        + The passport will be a way for teachers to gather contact info of organizations and have something to take away from the program
        + USBG could develop the written passport
      * Develop thematic modules or threads that teachers have to complete
        + Ex. Water, Air, Food, Energy
        + In order to get a goodie bag at the end, teachers must visit a certain number of organizations (i.e. three from thread of choice, and one from each of the other thematic areas)
      * Garner donations in order to create the give-away bags
        + Looking for quality over quanitity…for example, a refract meter with an associated lesson plan
        + Due to restrictions, there cannot be formal sponsors of the event, but the organizations can put their logos or info on the products they provide
        + Estimated # of donations needed: 250 of each item
        + Rebecca will create a google doc to organize the donation outreach.
  + Other discussion topics: looking forward, what does Teacher’s night look like? Ex. Should it travel? Would it be possible to do a high school event using the same model?
* DCEEC Vision Statement

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* + The current vision statement needs to be edited to encompass the overall vision of the organization.
  + Looked at two proposed statements and considered:
    - What do we like about the proposed statements?
    - What could be changed?
    - What is missing?
  + Rounds of editing—2 minutes individually, 2 minutes sharing in pairs, 2 minutes in quartets, and a final group discussion

Notes from whiteboard:

General Ideas/suggestions for vision statement:

-we want to do more than restore and sustain…we want to grow/enhance from there

- maybe a blend of the two statements

- use bullets to make it more concise

Like Missing/Dislike

Impact Impact (in shorter statement)

Shorter statements Network

Tangible outcomes in longer statement Too wordy (long statement)

Empower

Develop knowledge, skills, and attitude

Explore nature w/sense of wonder

Human + natural environment interaction

* + The notes from the vision brainstorming will be used to edit the statement, and we will be able to vote on a final version at the July meeting.

How to stay involved until July meeting:

* Attend the Youth Summit!
* Contact Rebecca about OSSE-NGSS workshop
* Recruit or nominate principals for the Principal’s Institute
* Join the Teacher’s Night planning committee
* Send in any edits for the vision statement