MISSOURI ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 220983, ST. LOUIS, MO 63122
MEEA.ORG

2022 Annual Report
MEEA's mission is to support educators in connecting every Missouri learner to the natural world and equipping them to care, understand, and act for the environment.

MEEA convenes professional development opportunities for educators, provides mini-grants and educator certification to support the environmental education efforts of its members, and connects practitioners to a wide variety of resources and networking opportunities in the field of environmental education. From the newsletter to the myriad resources on our website, MEEA shares its digital content freely regardless of membership.

MEEA hosts an annual statewide conference for educators MEEA and also convenes 1-2 statewide meetings each year to cultivate collaboration among a wide variety of organizations. Regional professional development and the certification program are in a growth phase.

In partnership with the U.S. Green Building Council Missouri Gateway Chapter, MEEA co-manages Show-Me Green Schools: Pathways to Whole-School Sustainability - a suite of programs to assist schools on their journey to be green and healthy.

- Missouri Green Schools
- Green Schools Quest
- US Dept of Ed Green Ribbon Schools

Without MEEA, Missouri educators would be isolated from assets that help them ignite a love for learning and respect for the natural world. Learners of all ages would lack the knowledge to enjoy, respect and preserve the world around them.
In 2022, we laid the foundation for the full integration of the suite of programs now called Show-Me Green Schools -- Missouri Green Schools, the Green Schools Quest, and the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School award.

Show-Me Green Schools is the umbrella of collaboratively-managed programs helping schools move toward Whole-School Sustainability. In 2022, Principia School and the School District of University City became the Missouri Honorees. These Missouri honorees represented two of only 32 K-12 schools and districts to receive this prestigious award in 2022.
MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Missouri's 2022 EDGRS Honorees

Photo credit: School District of University City

Photo credit: Missouri Gateway Green Building Council

Photo credit: Principia School

Photo credit: Principia School
MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MGS supports and recognizes schools on the path to Whole-School Sustainability. The program launched in 2020, and will conclude its pilot phase in 2023.

25 schools actively enrolled, 8 of which serve low-income communities primarily (MGS+).

17 Schools recognized in 2022; 7 of these are MGS+ schools.

Recruited 4 AmeriCorps Vistas to provide extra support to those 8 schools.

Awarded $8500 in action plan grants to 2 MGS+ schools eligible for extra support; provided pro-bono professional development for MGS+ schools at the Sustainability Institute for Educators and the MEEA Annual Conference.

Hosted professional development webinar for the 50 organizations in the Partner Network to learn about the intersection of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Anti-Racist Education with green schools.
Community Support

MEEA provided ~$8500 in funding for two MGS+ schools in 2022. Bermuda Elementary is using the funds to install a shed and accessibility supports to facilitate the use of the school’s garden courtyard. Central Primary is using the funds to fuel waste reduction in their school and revitalize some garden beds.

MEEA also supports its members each year with up to 6 Mini-Grants of $250 to support EE projects.

A sampling of MEEA Mini-Grants Support

Janet Price published a field guide to common Ozark critters, used in her programming in the Missouri Ozarks (left); Mehlvills High School hosted an Earth Day Extravaganza, with high school students teaching their elementary peers about all things green (right).
Co-hosted annual conference with the Kansas Assn for Conservation and Environmental Education

We joined forces with our neighboring state to serve 106 educators at our annual conference, held in Kansas City in 2022. These educators collectively impact 56,922 students each year.

Guidelines for Excellence workshop

We received a grant from NAAEE, the North American Association for Environmental Education, to host a workshop on best practices in EE to create high quality content. This first iteration was well-received, and we are excited for Round 2 in 2023! Thank you, NAAEE!

Virtual Monthly Events

We completed a two-year series of these 1-hour webinars with KACEE in 2022. Recordings available online at https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLtAi8jR9of6Ftpb7uApIrd-u-xyfq1XC2
Last year was 12th year of the Sustainability Institute for Educators (SIE), which is designed for K-12 and informal educators from all roles and environments. The 2022 Institute centered on the healing power of nature and hands-on experiential learning in the outdoors.

SIE was co-hosted in 2022 by Webster University, Missouri Botanical Garden, Saint Louis Zoo, USGBC-Missouri Gateway Chapter, MICDS, Missouri Environmental Education Association, Madison County Green Schools Program, and Saint Louis County Department of Public Health.

Find out more at www.webster.edu/sie.
MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS (cont'd)

professional development
[ do + reflect ] --> apply

Clockwise from bottom left: MEEA Guidelines for Excellence Workshop in Springfield, MO, MEEA Conference Field trip to MoHivesKC, Pond Sampling at the Sustainability Institute, MEEA Conference workshop on water quality education
New, More Inclusive Membership Structure

94 Individual Members

20 Organizational Members

414 Newsletter Subscribers
The JEDIA Committee was hard at work in 2022!

The MEEA Values were developed in 2022 and will be a landing page on our website in Q1 2023.

MEEA's mission statement was updated early in 2022 to reflect that we value inclusivity, diversity, and equity.

The Missouri Environmental Education Association’s mission is to help educators connect every Missouri learner to the natural world and equip them to care, understand, and act for the environment.
MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MEEA's Strategic Plan

Priority Areas and Goals 2023-2025

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding:</th>
<th>Increased Staffing:</th>
<th>JEDIA (Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Accessibility):</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>By the end of Year 1, expand the budget to support 2.5 FTE for MGS coordination and more PD offerings. By the end of Year 3, fully fund a budget that will support the staffing plan to be developed in 2023.</td>
<td>Phase out the AmerCorps VISTA program, and support Missouri Green Schools with permanent staff. Begin building relationships to support the goal of hiring at least two people with marginalized identities.</td>
<td>MEEA will be a more diverse and inclusive organization, from staff to membership. Statewide inclusive outreach will be for ALL learners, as guided by our mission. Staff and BOO will receive training on JEDIA.</td>
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<th>Strategic Collaboration:</th>
<th>Youth Engagement:</th>
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<td>Maintain and strengthen current member services and Missouri Green Schools. Increase PD offerings to cover the entire state annually. Create a practical and sought-after certification platform for diverse educators.</td>
<td>Invest energy into strengthening current strategic partnerships and cultivating others. Focus on collaborations to support youth engagement and member PD. Build relationships with BIPOC-led organizations.</td>
<td>Provide leadership opportunities, EE opportunities, and green career awareness for Missouri youth. Provide Member Benefits specific to youth.</td>
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MEEA 2023 Action Items

<table>
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<td>Formalize MGS partnership w/ USGBC-MGC Establish Fund Dev Committee to Implement Fundraising Plan Board Development EE Landscape Analysis with PEEPs Strategic Sharing of Landscape Analysis Results</td>
<td>Develop a 5-year staffing plan Attend events, volunteer opportunities, and other community convenings to build relationships with people from historically marginalized communities.</td>
<td>Finalize and Publicize MEEA Values Statement Create a MEEA definition of marginalized identities Complete the outreach campaign to 20 Idaho STJ schools Complete the outreach campaign to 20 Idaho rural schools Set up JEDIA microcredential offerings</td>
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<td>Member Survey Certification Program: Updates &amp; Additions Review, adopt, and support MGS annual goals as determined by the Green Schools Committee Maintain and strengthen current member services</td>
<td>Compile list of current and prospective strategic partners and id the MEEA priorities they align with Focus on collaborations that will support increased PD and Youth Engagement Support the further development of the Missouri Green Schools Partner Network</td>
<td>Fall Youth Membership Drive Invite students to participate in BOO meeting and/or submit information for the monthly newsletter Engage youth across the state in place-based education through expansion of MGS school enrollment and the promotion of 4H projects that are aligned with EE.</td>
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How did we do all this?

**2 BOARDS**
Board of Directors--Created the 2023-2025 Strategic Plan
Advisory Board--Created the 2022-2024 Fund Development Plan

**4 COMMITTEES**
- Missouri Green Schools
- Annual Conference
- Certification
- Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (JEDIA)
- Fund Development Task Force

**40 VOLUNTEERS**
More than 1294 hours donated in service to MEEA!

**2 STAFF MEMBERS**
Lesli Moylan, Executive Director, .75 FTE
Jamin Bray, Assistant Director, .5 FTE

**4 AMERICORPS VISTAS**
Green Schools program development and one-on-one support for under-resourced schools enrolled in the program

**COLLABORATIONS**
- Missouri Gateway Green Building Council
- Missouri Department of Conservation
- Kansas Assn for Conservation and EE
- Missouri Green Schools Partner Network
- NAAEE Affiliate Network
- Plains Environmental Education Partnership
Diversifying our revenue streams is important for our financial health.

This year we saw a big jump in Membership income, even while offering a Pay-What-You-Can option available, no questions asked. Payments for memberships have ranged from $0 for individuals to $1000 for a large organization.

We also slightly decreased the proportion of our budget covered by grants.
How did we do all this?  
(Cont'd)

2022 Kansas & Missouri EE Conference

HEALTH FOR ALL: 
Connecting Health & Environmental Education

A Special Thanks to these Missouri organizations for their support of our annual conference!
How did we do all this?

(Cont'd)

Donors, Sponsors, & Organizational Members

Anonymous
Jane Griesenauer
Brendan Shelton
David Bedan
Stephanie Bray
Tim Bray
Linda Buechel
Suzanne Dennis
Sharon Djin
Downey Downey
Mary Embree
Daniel Emerson
James Esenbeis
Susan Flowers
Kent Ford
Leslie Gittemeier
Erin Graves
Darlene Jenkins
Cheryl Johnson
Katie LeGrand
Carolyn Magnuson
Sally McColloch
Victor McFarland
Leah Miyamoto Thomas
John Nagle
Amy Niedbalski
Steve Oakes
Wes Petty
Salwa Rosen
William Runzo
Joan & Bill Ruppert
Jennifer Schamber
Tonia Scherer
Warren Scherer
Chris Seger
Laura Seger
Lawrence Seger
Wendy Sporleder
Rhonda & Regan Thomas
Ryan Thomas

Trajana Thomas
Teresa Thomas-Nett
Diana Townsend
Jakob Wamser
Jan Weaver
Carrie Whipkey
Pam Yost
Peter Yronwode
Hope Gribble
James Holtzman
Michelle Johnson
Linda Kram
Margaret McCoy
Lesli Moylan
Jean Ponzi
Glenda Abney
Emily Andrews
Anne Cummings
Sophie Arp
Emilia Belciak
Jeff Cantrell
Delaney Chapman
Meredith Donaldson
Amy Eastin
Chris Edmondson
Abbie Enlund
Kyle Farley
Caitlin Fox
Eric Hadley
Santana Hall
Mary Holzhausen
Kate Keller
Anna Kleinsorge
Melissa McCarter
Mary McCarthy
LaTonya Neely
Stacey Parker
Wendy Parrett
Rich Piper
Janet Price
Luz Rooney

Stan Slaughter
Geoffrey Stillwell
Edward Williamson
Holly Wolff
Ryan Young
Laura Zangori
City of Springfield Dept. of Environmental Services
Watershed Committee of the Ozarks
Saint Louis Zoo
Missouri River Bird Observatory
Missouri Prairie Foundation
U.S. Green Building Council - Missouri Gateway Chapter
Missouri River Relief
Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture
Missouri Botanic Garden
Rolla Outdoor Collaborative School
Lakeside Nature Center
Wyman Center
Independent
Jas Creek
Karen Keck
Jennifer Mandeville
Steve Matthews
Jenny McPheeters
Lesli Moylan
James River Basin Partnership
North Wood R-IV
Boone Electric Employee's Benevolent Fund
Greenscape Gardens
Block, Inc. (aka Square, Inc. in St. Louis)
Foundation for Impact on Literacy and Learning
What's Next?

With NAAEE Affiliates from Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, and Wyoming, MEEA is collaborating across the region to expand environmental education.

March 2022 - Strategic Planning

March 2023 EE Landscape Analysis

CHECK US OUT, GET INVOLVED

website: meeа.org
email: director@meeа.org