



Plains Environmental Education Partnership (PEEPs): Advancing Environmental Literacy through Data Driven Strategic Action

Purpose: To build capacity for environmental education in the Plains Environmental Education Partnership (PEEPs) states through the assessment, analysis, publication of results and action planning using landscape analysis data of both environmental education (EE) providers and implementation and barriers in formal PreK-12 schools and districts.

Overview:

In April 2023, the Plains Environmental Education Partnership (PEEPs) launched a Phase 1 Landscape Analysis of environmental education (EE) programs, services and reach of EE providers in KS, CO, MO, NE, IA, and WY. This will provide critical data to help us identify gaps and barriers to access that prevent successful implementation of EE in the region. The Phase 1 data will also allow the network to equip organizations conducting environmental and conservation-related work in the region with the resources they need to allocate their own resources more effectively and to ultimately serve as a guide for future strategic planning efforts at the local, state, and regional level. With this critical data, the PEEPs states can determine next steps for increasing environmental literacy efforts in each state and region.

PEEPs proposes to launch Phase 2 of our landscape analysis of environmental education efforts in our six states focused on schools and districts. The Phase 2 EE Landscape Assessment will help to identify how much EE is currently taking place in schools and districts, at what grade levels/subject areas, support for integration of EE in the curriculum and challenges and barriers to implementation. Coupling this with the data from Phase 1 will allow the network to equip organizations conducting environmental and conservation-related work in the region with the support they need to allocate their own resources more effectively and to ultimately serve as a guide for future strategic planning efforts at the local, state, and regional level. The two datasets together will offer the most complete picture ever collected of current EE offerings in the region and what gaps and barriers exist in both formal and nonformal settings for students of all ages and in all areas. Comparing the data from non-formal and formal EE providers will allow PEEPs, our state partners and our EE communities to further the goal of advancing EE in the region and building collective impact that has a lasting effect on the region.

Reporting Our Findings:

The PEEPs will have be developing a dashboard with this data to be accessible publicly in a hosted site similar to that of the Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance found here:
<https://www.southeastee.org/landscape-provider-dashboard>

In addition, we will summarize data into a public report and disseminate our findings throughout our states as well as using this information to work collaboratively to identify gaps, barriers and opportunities for environmental education in the region and in our states