Environmental Education – Quick Tips

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Key ideas

- EE is education *in, about, and for the environment*
  - Systems
  - Interdependence
  - Importance of where one lives
Goals

- To foster clear awareness of, and concern about, economic, social, political, and ecological interdependence in urban and rural areas;
- To provide every person with opportunities to acquire the knowledge, values, attitudes, commitment, and skills needed to protect and improve the environment;
- To create new patterns of behavior of individuals, groups, and society as a whole toward the environment.

Tbilisi Intergovernmental Conference in Georgia, USSR in 1977 (UNESCO, 1980)
Environmental Literacy

- Questioning, analysis, interpretation skills
- Knowledge of environmental processes and systems
- Skills for understanding and addressing environmental issues
- Personal and civic responsibility
Educator Skills

- Foundations of environmental education
- Professional responsibilities
- Planning and implementing environmental education
- Fostering learning
- Assessment and evaluation
Education Materials

- Fairness and accuracy
- Depth
- Emphasis on skills building
- Action orientation
- Instructional soundness
- Usability
Strategies

- Convey information
- Build understanding
- Improve skills
- Enable sustainable actions

Strategies

❖ Convey understanding

▪ To disseminate information, raise awareness, to inform
  ► Textbook, lecture, video, film, and Internet resources
  ► Information campaign, electronic media, Internet resource or website, poster, brochure, sign, Public Service Announcement, news article, exhibit
**Strategies**

- **Build understanding**
  - To exchange ideas and provide dialogue, to build a sense of place, to clarify and enhance the understanding of information and issues and to generate concern
    - Discussion, role play, simulation, case study, experiment, game, constructivist methods, experiential learning, field study
    - Workshop, presentation with discussion, charrette, interactive website, simulation, case study, survey, focus group, interview, peer to peer training, action research, issue investigation, environmental monitoring, guided tour, guided nature walk
Strategies

❖ Improve skills

❖ To build and practice skills

► Cooperative learning, issue investigation, inquiry learning, citizen science programs, volunteer service, some types of project-based education

► Coaching, mentoring, demonstrations, technical training, environmental monitoring; providing a chance to practice a specific skill or work on a task, persuasion and social marketing strategies that modify social norms, including: modeling, commitment, incentives and prompts to encourage skills building and behavior change
Strategies

❖ Enable sustainable actions

▪ To build transformative capacity for leadership, creative problem solving, monitoring

  ► Inquiry-based education, some types of service learning, Environment as an Integrating Concept, and other opportunities for learners to define problems, design and select action projects, identify facts, and build skills in problem solving

  ► Adaptive collaborative management, action research, training for organizational effectiveness, facilitating partnerships and networks, joint fact finding, mediation, alternative dispute resolution, negotiated rulemaking, learning networks
EE Resources

- EETAP – Environmental education and training partnership
  - http://www.eetap.org/

- National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF)
  - http://www.neefusa.org/

- North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE)
  - http://www.naaee.org/
Human Dimensions Resources

- HD.gov

- NOAA Coastal Sciences

- Changing Public Behavior
  - http://wateroutreach.uwex.edu/CPBhomepage1.cfm

- Target audience research database
  - http://wateroutreach.uwex.edu/cpb/tad/index.cfm