







2014 Annual Report

Education We Need for the World We Want



First conference outside the US since 1997, with more than

25

countries taking part

More than

\$100,000 in conference scholarships awarded

2014 Highlights

More than

organizations
have joined the Natural Start Alliance

More than

900

environmental education jobs posted on EEjobs

\$250,000

in grants for E-STEM through UL Innovative Education Award

Representing a force of more than

160,000

educators through our Affiliate Network

Launched our first conference

mobile app

70

classrooms participating in the Cal Water H₂O Challenge

29

states with completed Environmental Literacy Plans **26**

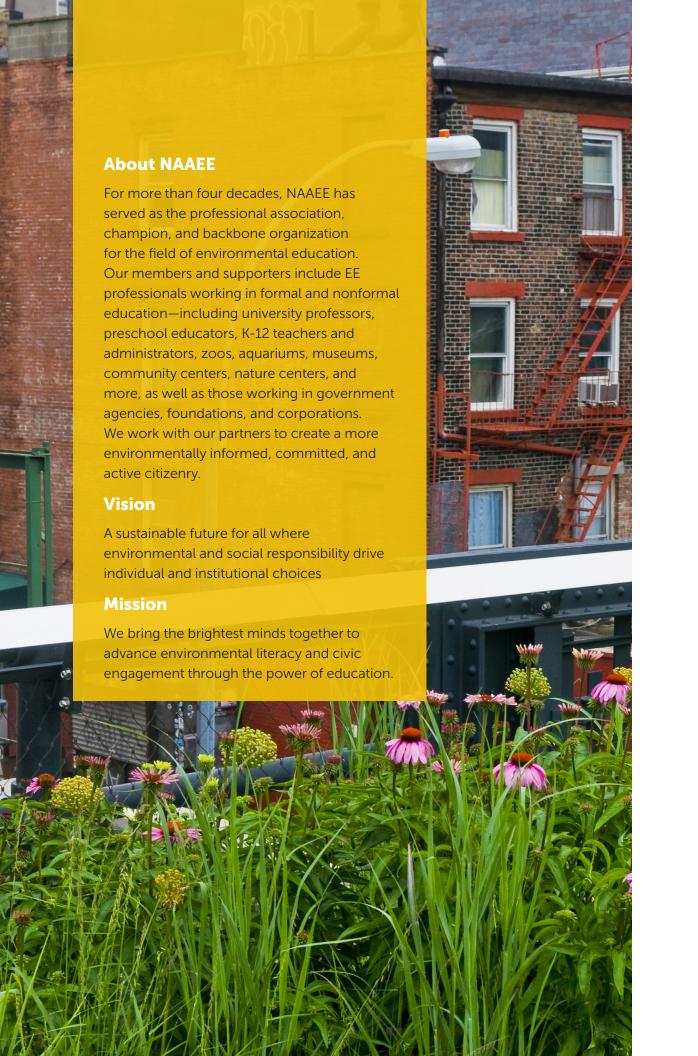
Community Climate
Change Fellows from the
US, Canada, and Mexico



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Dear NAAEE Partners, Affiliates, Donors, and Supporters:

On behalf of the board and staff, we are excited to share the **highlights of NAAEE's accomplishments** in 2014—from championing climate change education and using the environment as a platform to increase STEM learning, to convening thought leaders for our 2014 Annual Conference focused on building momentum for the future of our field. NAAEE helps people connect the dots between the health of the planet and the health of our communities. And we demonstrate the power of education in achieving our goals and inspiring action at all levels.

In the following pages, you will find out more about NAAEE's work over the past year. We have collaborated with our **Affiliate Network** to strengthen the field by building capacity and exploring a stronger collective impact model for our work. We have updated our strategy and operational imperatives to more effectively frame our work and achieve greater impact. We are emphasizing our unique strengths as a champion, convener, creator, and collaborator to strengthen the field. We are continuing to be a lead partner in **EECapacity**—designed to bring new ideas, innovation, and individuals to the field. And we are strengthening our existing partnerships with corporations, funders, government agencies, universities, and non-governmental organizations and establishing new relationships to achieve more together.

We have also made great advances in our work to link research and practice. Through the **NAAEE Research Symposium**, more than 150 researchers from around the world came together to share their ongoing research. We are also starting a new initiative we're calling "Anecdotes to Evidence" to highlight the evidentiary base for the field and connect the research and connect the research to compelling stories about what we know, sharing the results with key audiences.

We hope you enjoy this report, and we look forward to creating new stories with you in the year ahead. Although our environmental and social challenges are great, we know that education is a critical tool in our toolbox to work with our passionate and committed network to find solutions and empower current and future generations to address them.

Judy Braus

Executive Director

Judy Brows

NAAEE

Jose (Pepe) Marcos-Iga

Board President

NAAEE

Driving Excellence: Guidelines & Professional Development

Publications & Resources



Spreading Excellence: The Guidelines for Excellence Trainers' Bureau

In 2014, under the leadership of **Dr. Bora Simmons** from the University of Oregon, we conducted more than 26 workshops focused on the Guidelines for Excellence. We also helped train more than 1,000 leaders to become part of the Guidelines Trainers' Bureau and help fill the need for additional training and support for educators across the country.

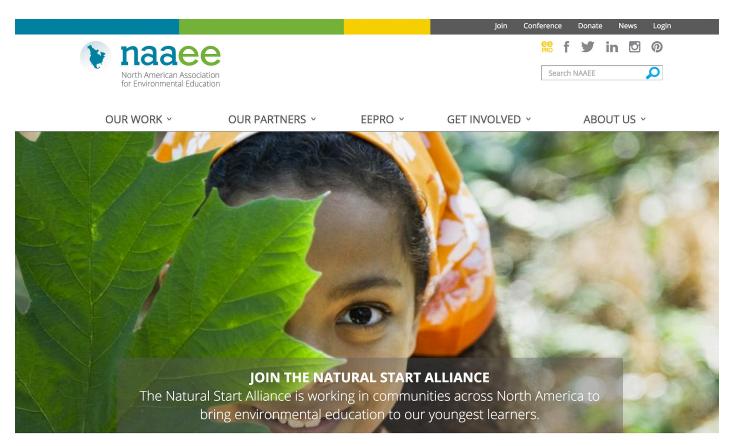
2014 Website Stats



Creating a New Web Platform

In 2014, NAAEE launched a discovery process to redesign our technology platform. After conducting interviews, surveys, and focus groups, we partnered with Weirdesign and Tamarack Media to start designing and building the site. As part of this redesign, we are creating a professional development and learning site called **eePRO**. eePRO will be a "go to" place for information about EE and for professional development opportunities in North American and beyond. We're excited that EECapacity has helped to support this new initiative, which will help consolidate our professional learning activities. The website will be built in 2015 and launched in early 2016. Here's a mock-up of our new home page.





Be part of something bigger!

We bring together the brightest minds to advance environmental literacy and civic engagement through the power of education.



Cultivating Collective Action: Conferences & Partnerships

43RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE

8

11TH ANNUAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

In October 2014, NAAEE held its **43rd Annual Conference in Ottawa, Ontario**—the first time the NAAEE conference has been in Canada since 1997.
Nearly 1,000 environmental education professionals from around the world convened through a series of workshops, presentations, and field trips. The conference was focused on sharing new ideas and resources, networking, research and evaluation, best practices, and how to move the field forward. NAAEE launched a conference mobile app to help attendees navigate the conference via their phones and tablets to reduce paper and save resources.

Keynote Speakers

In keeping with the conference theme—Building
Momentum for the Next Chapter—each of the
forward-thinking keynote speakers provided inspiration
for the future of our field. Speakers included awardwinning science correspondent, radio host, and TV
journalist Ira Flatow; wildlife biologist, essayist, and
poet J. Drew Lanham; Senior Advisor to the Secretary
of the Interior David Jayo; and SeaWorld's Animal
Ambassador Julie Scardina.

A panel discussion called *Building Technology Literacy for Advancing EE* included National Geographic's Vice President for Education **Danny Edelson**; video game creator, producer, and consultant **Starr Long**; educator and social media researcher **Bonnie Stewart**; oceans advocate and science communicator **Danni Washington**; and moderator **Jamie Herring**, President of HabitatSeven.



Research Symposium

NAAEE's **11th Annual Research Symposium** was held in conjunction with the conference and brought together new and seasoned researchers to explore the current state of environmental education research, foster dialogue about research-community partnerships, and provide opportunities for graduate students to develop the skills needed to become professional researchers. Keynote speaker **Nicholas Ng-A-Fook**, Director of Teacher Education at the University of Ottawa, discussed using a social action framework to integrate ecojustice.

Conference by the Numbers





Sessions







*Australia, Bangladesh, Barbados, Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, India, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand, Trinidad, United Kingdom, United States, Viet Nam

2014 Award Winners

Diane Cantrell, Walter E. Jeske Award

Sue McGuire, President's Award

Rafael Salgado, Rosa Parks & Grace Lee Boggs Outstanding Service Award

Michaela Zint, Outstanding Contributions to Research in EE

Environmental Educators of North Carolina (EENC),

Outstanding Affiliate Organization

Ashley Hoffman, Outstanding Service to EE as an Individual, Regional Level

Don Baugh, Outstanding Service to EE as an Individual, National Level

Shin-Cheng Yeh, Outstanding Service to EE as an Individual, Global Level

Global Level City of Fort Collins Natural Areas,

Outstanding Service to EE as an Organization, Local Level

Inside Education, Outstanding Service to EE as an Organization, Regional Level

Earth Force, Outstanding Service to EE as an Organization, Global Level

Jose "Pepe" Marcos-Iga and Nicole Ardoin, Executive Director's Award

Blue Sky Funders Forum

In October 2014, NAAEE hosted the **fourth annual Blue Sky Funders Forum** as part of the 43rd Annual NAAEE Conference. This gathering, which featured a panel on corporate funders, included representatives from private foundations, corporations, universities, and nonprofits.

Sponsored initially by the **Pisces Foundation**, the Blue Sky Funders Forum was created to bring additional support to environmental education at the national level. The advisory committee hosted two national meetings of environmental education funders and leaders (in Oakland, CA in 2012 and Baltimore, MD in 2013). With more than **100 attendees** at each gathering, the idea for an ongoing strategic collaboration was born. Following the Baltimore meeting, attendees expressed overwhelming support for formalizing an environmental education funders affinity group and many expressed an interest in joining what is now the Blue Sky Funders Forum. The Forum was officially launched in May 2014, and the meeting in Ottawa gave attendees a chance to learn more about the progress Blue Sky had made and provide input into the future activities of the Forum.

Blue Sky unites great ideas and great people to support environmental literacy and connect children and nature. It provides learning and networking experiences, a vibrant supportive community, and essential tools that enhance the impact of funding for environmental education. NAAEE is proud to be part of this effort and we are excited about the opportunities that it will bring to the field of environmental education.



Cultivating Collective Action: Conferences & Partnerships

Affiliate Network

NAAEE and its **Affiliate Network** are a driving force for creating a more environmentally literate citizenry through education. The Affiliate Network is made up of more than 50 organizations dedicated to leading environmental education efforts throughout North America, from building capacity for formal and nonformal educators to delivering high-quality programming. Affiliates are state, territorial, provincial, or regional EE associations that are affiliated with NAAEE and work collaboratively to advance environmental literacy and civic engagement. With more than 17,000 members and supporters, along with a reach of more than 160,000 educators, NAAEE and the Affiliate Network represent the environmental education community from educators working in preschool to higher education and all the learning environments outside the formal school system.

In April 2014, with support from the Pisces Foundation, **Affiliate Steering Committee** members met with NAAEE staff and Project Learning Tree colleagues to work toward a unified message to support environmental education in North America. NAAEE and the Affiliate Network also hosted the first ever **Environmental Education Giving Week**, both to raise funds for and increase awareness of environmental education. The Giving Week raised more than \$8,000 to support the field.



Natural Start Alliance

The **Natural Start Alliance**—NAAEE's project to advance early childhood environmental education—continued its growth in 2014.

Natural Start is advancing research in early childhood environmental education, advocating for policies that get young children outdoors playing and learning in nature, providing and promoting opportunities for educators to develop skills in early childhood environmental education, and building a professional network of educators who specialize in both early childhood and environmental education.

The Alliance now includes more than 125 organizations, including 50 nature-based preschools; supports an annual conference to bring nature-based early childhood educators together; and hosts a variety of networking opportunities at the NAAEE annual conference.

www.naturalstart.org



There is a real need for organizations like Natural Start here in the States. Being a part of Natural Start has positively impacted our identity as a school and we are very thankful to have found it when we did.

–Kit Harrington and Sarah Heller, Directors, Fiddleheads Forest School



Every week, nearly 11 million children under age 5 are in some type of child care setting. Children of working mothers spend 36 hours a week in child care. Natural Start is working to ensure that more of this time is spent in high-quality outdoor environments.



EECapacity

Since 2011, NAAEE has worked with **Cornell University** and a consortium of national and local partners on an exciting training initiative called EECapacity (Expanding Capacity in Environmental Education). EECapacity is funded by the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's** Office of Environmental Education through a cooperative agreement with Cornell University to support professional development, strengthen the field, and share innovative practices from across the country and around the globe.

Through a consortium of partners, EECapacity convenes individuals and groups from multiple sectors to strengthen environmental education efforts in communities. NAAEE's contributions to EECapacity include developing and running the project website and online resource center, co-managing the State Consortia project, conducting professional development activities online and during the annual conference, promoting pre-service education, strengthening efforts to establish and accredit state certification programs, and developing a new set of guidelines for working with communities, as part of the Guidelines for Excellence series for environmental professionals.

As part of EECapacity, NAAEE launched a new program called the Community Climate Change (CCC) Fellowship, in partnership with EE Exchange and Cornell. Twenty-six fellows were selected to participate in the pilot program, each bringing unique talents and approaches to addressing climate change in communities across North America. Throughout the year, the fellows shared ideas and strategies for how to use innovative education strategies to help tackle a community problem related to climate change. Through face-to-face training, webinars, calls, Facebook, and funding for climate change projects, the fellowship program has promoted leadership, networking, and innovation, as well as creative strategies for reaching new and under-represented audiences.



Rocío Lozano-Knowlton, Executive Director, MERITO Foundation; 2014 CCC Fellow



Underwriters Laboratories

In 2014, NAAEE continued its ongoing work with **Underwriters Laboratories (UL)**, the renowned safety science company. Building on the successful research we conducted in 2013 through a UL-funded research grant, NAAEE and our evaluation partner, **NewKnowledge**, completed a report on the integration of environmental education into STEM learning for youth: Engaging Young People in 21st Century Community Challenges: Linking Environmental Education with STEM.

Building on this report, UL asked NAAEE to design and launch an E-STEM initiative that would identify, promote, and expand on the successful work of existing nonprofits working to use environmental education as a platform for STEM learning. In October, we worked with UL and New Knowledge to launch the UL Innovative Education Award, designed to promote outstanding nonprofit E-STEM programs in the United States and Canada. The program was designed to address the key themes, gaps, and challenges identified through our 2013 research. UL is investing \$250,000 in this program to support the critical work being conducted by nonprofit organizations that engage youth in STEM through environmental education. NAAEE will announce the winning applicants in 2015.

UL was delighted to continue its partnership with NAAEE in 2014 through the creation of the **UL Innovative Education Award**. In designing this program, we wished to create an award that was a true collaboration between both of our organizations, building upon our individual strengths in STEM and E-STEM. NAAEE led the design effort, consulting with our team throughout the process, and the entire experience made for a great partnership and exchange of ideas. Our aim, rather than to remake the wheel by creating yet another E-STEM program among many, was to create a program that could support and build upon the existing successful innovations in E-STEM by promoting and expanding the very best programs in the field. In the process, we hope to inspire the next generation of engineers, inventors, researchers, and scientists so they will be well equipped to create innovative solutions to some of the largest environmental challenges ahead. The program launch at NAAEE's conference in Ottawa went really well, and we look forward to our continued collaboration with NAAEE and recognizing our first UL Innovative Education Award recipients in 2015!

-Cara Gizzi, Director of Education and Outreach,





California Water Service

NAAEE's ongoing partnership with Cal Water continued in 2014, building on the research conducted in 2012 and 2013, and our previously drafted Blueprint for E-STEM Success, to design and launch two new educational programs beneath the Cal Water umbrella:

- 1. **The Cal Water H₂O Challenge**: A project-based, environmentally-focused competition for California classrooms within Cal Water service areas. Working in collaboration with the WestEd: K-12 Alliance, NAAEE designed the Cal Water H₂O Challenge to align with the Common Core State Standards and Next Generation Science Standards. The competition engages classrooms to create and implement a project focused on tackling a local community water issue.
- 2. **Cal Water Town:** An interactive water education experience for Pre-K through 5th grade children. Building on Cal Water's conservation legacy, NAAEE worked with the WestEd: K-12 Alliance to develop Cal Water Town, an interactive experience for kids, parents, and educators to learn and teach about the importance of water conservation through games and other activities taking place in a virtual town at calwater.org. The program opened to kids everywhere in October 2014.



Kettering Foundation

In 2014, NAAEE launched the **Environmental Issues Forums** program in partnership with the Kettering Foundation, which is designed to engage adults and students in meaningful, productive discussions about complex environmental issues. Our work is part of the Kettering Foundation's National Issues Forums (NIF)—a nonpartisan, nationwide network of locally sponsored public issues forums. NIF is rooted in the simple notion that democracy requires an ongoing deliberative public dialogue. People need to come together to reason and talk—to deliberate about common problems. Their philosophy is to understand together, decide together, and act together.

Over the next two years, NAAEE and Kettering will develop a series of issue guides and supporting materials that facilitate deliberation about a number of environmental issues and their impact on communities. Our first collaborative guide, expected to be published by the end of 2015, will focus on climate change. The second guide will be focused specifically on water issues.



World Wildlife Fund

NAAEE has partnered with **World Wildlife Fund (WWF)** to engage educators and students in WWF's work to help wildlife adapt to climate change. NAAEE is leveraging the power of its educator network and expertise in environmental education to advise WWF on the development of high-quality education materials. Watch for more on this exciting new project in 2015.



International Collaboration

In 2014, NAAEE helped support international learning and collaboration by taking part in a number of initiatives. NAAEE was invited to speak at a regional environmental education gathering in **Abu Dhabi** to support environmental education and sustainability. We also partnered with **U.S. EPA** and **Taiwan EPA** to help support a new initiative to foster international capacity building to strengthen global environmental education efforts. In addition, we conducted a series of workshops to support regional environmental education centers throughout Taiwan. We also continue to support our international partnerships at our annual conference and through webinars and other initiatives.

Mobilizing Multi-Sector Support: Policy & Communications

Advocating for EE

NAAEE Advocacy helps secure the future of environmental education by working to advocate on behalf of the field, working with state and national governments, and promoting capacity building to help build more engaged leaders. Most of our policy work is focused on building support for U.S. federal appropriations for EE and leading efforts to enact new legislation to advance the good work of our members and the entire field. We also work with our state colleagues to support the development and implementation of environmental literacy plans (ELPs). Over the past six years, more than half of U.S. states and D.C. have completed an ELP, many of which are in the implementation phase.

In 2014, our volunteer advocates joined with colleagues from other organizations to prevent cuts to congressional EE appropriations during a turbulent FY 2015 budgeting process. We are fortunate to have so many champions for environmental education working in all levels of Congress and federal agencies. We are proud of what we accomplished with our colleagues to support the **National Environmental Education Act**, including the EPA grant program and National Environmental Education Foundation funding; the NOAA EE programs; and the University Sustainability Program.

We also continued our support of the **No Child Left Inside (NCLI) Act.** While NCLI did not pass in 2014, it gained support during the year. NAAEE also supported the important Climate Education Act in 2014.

Anecdotes to Evidence

The field of environmental education has relied more on engaging anecdotes to tell its story rather than demonstrating rigorous evidence of the impact that environmental education has on individuals, institutions, and the environment. Both anecdotes and evidence are critical to advancing the field. Yet without the evidence that environmental education successfully contributes to addressing environmental and social challenges, the field will not be able to realize its full potential and attract the needed support to scale up efforts across the continent.

In 2014, NAAEE and **Stanford University**, in partnership with collaborators from multiple sectors in the environmental education field, collaborated to start designing the "Anecdotes to Evidence" initiative. The goal of Anecdotes to Evidence is to demonstrate the impact and value of environmental education to a variety of stakeholders, identify research gaps, and create a stronger communication strategy for the field. Ultimately the initiative is designed to improve environmental education programs and attract more resources and support for the field from a variety of stakeholders.

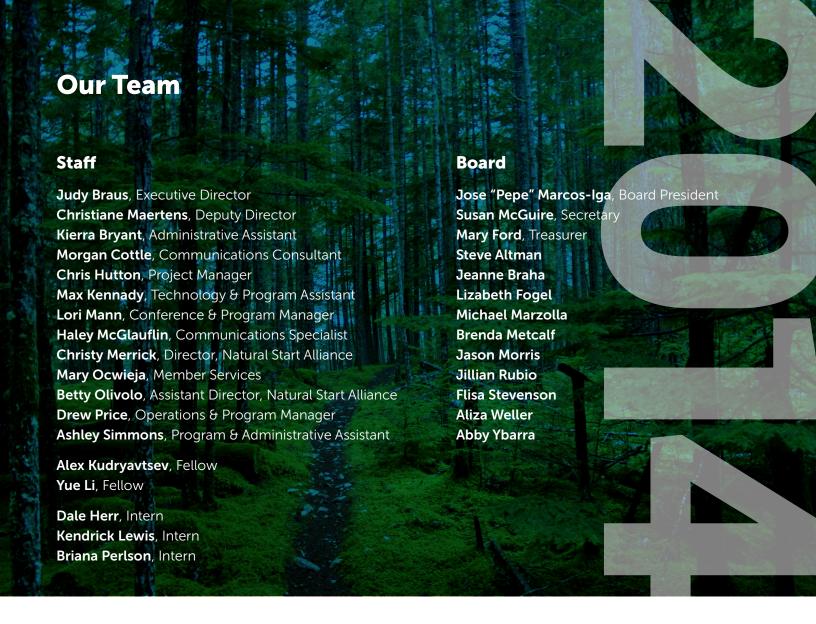


Environmental education needs your help advocating for the field:

NAAEE Advocacy depends on the strength of our volunteer network, which helps support our work at the local, state, regional, and national levels. We welcome everyone interested in policy and environmental education to join our network and take part in our Action Networking calls on the first Thursday of every month to discuss the policy issues affecting EE, and to strategize how to strengthen the field. To receive our updates and learn how you can help, send your name, organization (if applicable), and email address to advocacy@naaee.net.

The Arizona congressional delegation appreciated learning about our efforts to support environmental education and thanked us for bringing it to their attention. Our discussion led to an additional cosponsor for the No Child Left Inside legislation!

–Jeff Spellman, President,Be Outdoors Arizona



Partners & Supporters

Collaboration is key to achieving our mission. Thanks to all our partners for their continuing support, passion, and confidence.

Acorn Naturalists

Albert Pierce Foundation

California Water Service Company

Columbia Sportswear

David and Lucille Packard Foundation

Disney Parks and Resorts

District Administration

EE Capacity

George B. Storer Foundation

Globio

Keep America Beautiful

The Kettering Foundation

Klean Kanteen

Lindblad Expeditions

National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF)

National Geographic Society

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

National Park Foundation

National Wildlife Federation

Nature's Path

Parks Canada

Pisces Foundation

S.D. Jr. Bechtel Foundation

Taiwan Environmental Protection Administration

Underwriters Laboratories (UL)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

U.S. Forest Service

Waste Management

Wegner CPAs

World Wildlife Fund



Financials

2014 Financial Summary for year ending December 31, 2014.

Statement of Activities

Support and Revenue

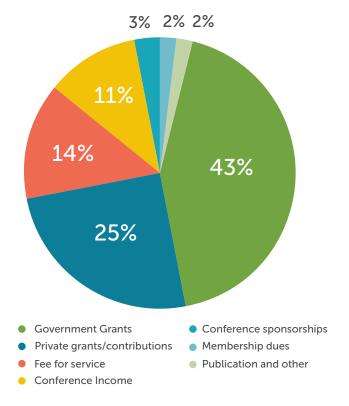
Government grants	\$1,298,969
Private grants/contributions	\$775,247
Fee for service	\$423,396
Conference income	\$337,694
Conference sponsorships	\$96,666
Membership dues	\$55,149
Publications and other	\$61,500
Total revenues	\$3,048,621
Evnoncos	

Expenses

Addition to unrestricted net assets	\$114,090
Total expenses	\$2,541,917
Fundraising	\$46,235
Management and general	\$304,836
Program services	\$2,190,846

Addition to temporarily unrestricted net assets \$392,614

2014 Support and Revenue



Statement of Financial Position

Assets

Assets	
Cash	\$808,866
Accounts receivable	\$626,387
Unconditional promises to give	\$185,000
Investments	\$7,713
Prepaid expenses and deposits	\$9,258
Inventory	\$15,459
Total assets	\$1,652,683
Liabilities	
Accounts payable	\$290,392
Deferred revenue	\$232,278

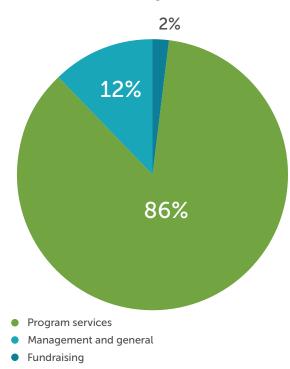
Net assets

Accrued payroll liabilities

Net doocto	
Unrestricted	\$563,641
Temporarily restricted	\$525,526
Total liabilities and net assets	\$1,652,683

*Audited statements available upon request

2014 Expenses



\$40,846



Demonstrate Your Commitment

A strong commitment to environmental education is what helps create a more sustainable world for tomorrow, and your support ensures that we can continue to grow the field. When you make a gift to NAAEE, you help support a promise for the future.

There are many ways to give:

- Become a member
- Become a monthly supporter
- Make a one-time cash gift
- Support our scholarship fund
- Shop at Amazon Smile, and Amazon will donate a percentage of your purchase to NAAEE (smile.amazon.com)
- Give a gift membership to an education or conservation professional
- Make a charitable gift of stocks, bonds, or mutual funds
- Honor a loved one with a tribute gift
- Estate planning gifts through trusts, wills, and other instruments

For more information and to contribute, visit www.naaee.org/donate.

Follow NAAEE as we share the latest in EE through our social networks:





























naaee.org