



CEE-Change Fellowship

Building Leadership In Civics And Environmental Education

SUPPORTED BY EE360 AND THE CEDAR TREE FOUNDATION

NAAEE Launches Fellowship Program

We are excited to announce the launch of the 2021 **CEE-Change Fellowship Program**, NAAEE's newest initiative to support leadership and innovation in civics and environmental education across the country. CEE stands for Civics and Environmental Education. NAAEE recognizes the value in bringing together environmental and civic engagement educators to learn from each other and collaborate to scale up our impact as we work to create a more equitable and sustainable future.

This fellowship program will bring together a diverse and inspiring cadre of formal and nonformal educators and community leaders working to address today's complex environmental and social concerns at the local, state, and national levels. The fellowship program is a partnership with US EPA and the Cedar Tree Foundation to help strengthen environmental education and civic engagement. As part of this fellowship, participants will learn civic engagement (CE) skills together with environmental education (EE) skills, and look at how the two fields can collaborate more deliberately. This work is intended to foster leadership within schools and at the community level, promote civic engagement and environmental responsibility, and ultimately build more resilient, equitable, and healthy communities.

Each Fellow will design joint CE and EE Community Action Projects and have access to a limited pool of mini-grant funding to support their work. Grant funds will be prioritized for Fellows who have the most innovative ideas and effective strategies for using CE and EE to address a community environmental issue, lead to progress on civic engagement, and strengthen community resilience to address environmental concerns. Grant funds will also be set aside for Fellows seeking additional leadership training and professional development, including professional learning exchanges with other Fellows. Projects will emphasize community and civic engagement, sustainability, and resilience. Additionally, each project will address US EPA's core mission to provide Americans with clean air, land, and water.

Learn more about U.S. EPA's mission

The eighteen-month fellowship will provide CEE-Change Fellows with opportunities to learn, network, and share through online professional development, technical assistance, and face-to-face training. The fellowship will also lay a strong foundation for continued professional growth after the program ends.

Benefits of Becoming a Fellow

Each Fellow accepted into the program will receive training and individualized support for their work, including the following:

- Professional development and leadership training with a focus on civic education, environmental education, JEDI in the environmental movement (justice, equity, diversity and inclusion), partnership building, participatory planning strategies, community engagement, leadership, strategic communications, fundraising, project planning, grant management, mapping power, coalition-building, design-thinking, and evaluation (Professional development will be designed based on a needs assessment.)
- An enhanced professional network of CEE-Change Fellows and leaders in civic education, environmental education, conservation, community resilience, and other disciplines
- Increased access to relevant practices and resources through NAAEE's professional development opportunities on eePRO
- A virtual Leadership Institute to be held sometime between July 12 and 23, 2021 (exact dates and timing TBD)
- Monthly virtual training webinars on priority topics
- Scholarship funds to attend the 2021 Annual NAAEE conference October 13–16, 2021 in Pittsburgh, PA (in-person or virtual conference TBD); Scholarship funds to attend a face-to-face follow-up in summer 2022
- Technical assistance in planning and implementing a Community Action Project
- Opportunities to apply for mini-grant funds to implement a Community Action Project; grants will range from \$3,000 for a planning grant up to \$10,000 for a collaboration grant (Collaboration grants are two or more Fellows working together to promote a larger-scale effort.)
- Access to professional development funds to seek additional leadership training and to support learning exchanges between Fellows
- Mentoring and networking opportunities within the Fellows cohort and NAAEE network
- Individual and organizational recognition through ee360 and the NAAEE
- The opportunity to both participate and inform an emergent framework for a new toolkit for educators working at the intersection of environmental education and civic and community engagement.

Fellowship Requirements

All participants must commit to the full eighteen-month fellowship (July 1, 2021–December 31, 2022) and the following activities*:

- Take part in all networking and training opportunities throughout the eighteen-month fellowship
- Attend a virtual Leadership Institute to be held sometime between July 12 and 23, 2021 (exact dates and times TBD, depending on the results of a survey and needs assessment)
- Design a Community Action Project using an innovative CE and EE strategy that addresses a local, state, or national civic and environmental issue
- Complete a Community Action Plan to outline strategies the Fellow will use to work with the intended audience(s) they are planning to reach
- Develop a fundraising strategy to raise the support necessary to implement the plan
- Reach at least 100 participants through a Community Action Project
- Complete mid-term and final progress reports and other evaluation activities as needed
- Attend the 50th Annual NAAEE Conference in Pittsburgh, PA. Fellows will participate in a workshop, symposium, or presentation about their experiences as a CEE-Change Fellow and how the fellowship contributed to their work as a leader
- Attend in-person follow-up training in summer 2022 (exact dates TBD)

*NAAEE has a strong record of designing engaging and immersive professional development and fellowship programs. At this time, our plans for in-person gatherings are based on the best available information we have about COVID-related health and safety protocols. Any necessary adjustments to the schedule and nature of convenings will be made with the best interests of staff and participants in mind. We are committed to providing a meaningful and inspiring experience for all CEE-Change Fellows.

Eligibility Requirements

All applicants must have the following:

- At least five years of experience in CE, EE, conservation, or community engagement
- A partner organization. A partner organization can be an ee360 Partner, NAAEE State Affiliate, or other community or national organization whose goals and practices make a positive contribution to the field of CE and/or EE. Applicants must submit a recommendation letter from their partner organization, describing how they will work together to design and implement a Community Action Project. Partner organization must also explicitly describe organizational support for the Fellow to attend the virtual Leadership Institute between July 12 and 23, 2021 and NAAEE conference October 13–16, 2021. In most cases an applicant's partner organization is also their employer.
- A creative idea and vision for a Community Action Project that addresses a civic and environmental issue. The project should propose a new or innovative solution to an environmental problem, including strategies for reaching new audiences, applying new pedagogy or instructional frameworks to improve student action, engaging new audiences in civic life, achieving greater impact in addressing community sustainability and resilience issues, or new strategies for developing effective partnerships. Applicants can present current and ongoing projects but must describe how they will use the fellowship to add a new twist or strategy that will make the project more innovative and effective. Fellows will use fellowship training, networking, and resources to build on this vision.
- Two letters of recommendation. One letter must come from the applicant's partner organization. The other letter can come from any professional contact familiar with the applicant's experience in CE, EE, conservation, community engagement, or leadership ability.

How to Apply

We will begin accepting applications in March 2021. All application materials are due by May 17, 2021, 11:59pm ET. Applicants will be notified of their status early July 2021.

Start your online application

NAAEE will hold an informational webinar on Monday, **Monday, March 29, 2021, 3–4 PM ET.**

Register for the webinar

Applicants who applied for the delayed 2020 Community EE Fellowship Program are eligible to submit an abbreviated application for the CEE-Change Fellowship. Contact Anne Umali at CEEchangeFellow@naaee.org for more information.

Contact Us

Please contact us at CEEchangeFellow@naaee.org.

About ee360

ee360 is an ambitious five-year strategy to bring innovative leaders in the environmental education field together through leadership clinics, webinars, online modules, professional development workshops, and more to ultimately advance environmental literacy. ee360 is supported through funding from the US EPA, as well as matching funds from the nine partner organizations; which include Project Learning Tree, Stanford University, Antioch University, the University of Oregon, Earth Force, the Center for Diversity and the Environment, the NAAEE Affiliate Network, the Lifelong Learning Group at COSI, and NAAEE. The project is guided by an expert advisory group representing universities and nonprofits across the country. Together we bring five decades of expertise to our effort to grow, strengthen, and diversify the field of environmental education. Learn more at naaee.org/ee360.

About Cedar Tree

The Cedar Tree Foundation is a family foundation created in the mid 1990's by the late pediatrician and entrepreneur, Dr. David H. Smith. Dr. Smith believed in the power of individuals and organizations to make significant changes in the world and Cedar Tree's grantmaking continues to reflect that belief.

To learn more go to www.cedartreefound.org.

About NAAEE

For five decades, NAAEE has promoted excellence in environmental education throughout North America and the world. We are dedicated to strengthening the field of environmental education and increasing the visibility and efficacy of the profession.

NAAEE's influence stretches across North America and around the world, with members in more than 45 countries. NAAEE and its 54 state, provincial, and regional Affiliate organizations in the United States, Canada, and Mexico have more than 20,000 members. These members are professionals with environmental education responsibilities and interests across business, government, higher education, formal (K-12) education, nonformal education, early childhood education, science education and STEM, and other sectors of society.

Learn more at <https://naaee.org/our-work>.

