

What is Environmental Literacy?

Environmental literacy is an individual's understanding of how their actions and decisions affect the environment so they can act on that understanding in a responsible and effective manner.

Environmental literacy is the primary and overarching goal of **environmental education**—an experiential life-long learning process that increases awareness about the environment and its systems and results in a citizenry empowered to meet their future responsibilities regarding the environment.



What is an Environmental Literacy Plan?

An Environmental Literacy Plan is a document that outlines the vision and steps required to achieve an environmentally literate citizenry and sustainable communities throughout Indiana.

What Is an Environmentally Literate Citizen?

An environmentally literate citizen has the knowledge, tools, and sensitivity to weigh various sides of environmental issues to make responsible decisions as individuals and as members of their community.



No Child Left Inside

As the result of a national discussion on children's disconnection with nature and its effect on their well-being, the No Child Left Inside Act (H.R. 2054/S.866) proposes to:



- Provide funding to train teachers to deliver quality environmental education and use the natural environment as an extension of the classroom.
- Give states incentives to develop State Environmental Literacy Plans and tie funding of programs to these plans.
- Encourage teachers, administrators, and school systems to make time and resources available for environmental education for students.
- Integrate environmental education across core subject areas as a complement to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

This legislation provides yet another reason for the drafting of an Environmental Literacy Plan. It reinforces a need identified by the ELP working group for the development of a guiding document to incorporate environmental education into existing school curricula.

This document will also serve as a master plan for environmental education in the state including formal education audiences, non-formal programs, and citizens engaged in lifelong learning.

We are using a recommended plan model as set forth by the North American Association for Environmental Education with support from a variety of stakeholders.

How to Get Involved



**We
Need Your
Support
And
Partnership!**

Development of Indiana's Environmental Literacy Plan needs support from a diversity of stakeholders.

The success of this program depends on involvement at various levels.

Want to help?

Please join us as a working committee member or a plan reviewer, provide comments on our plan at www.eeai.org, and / or attend the EEAI Annual Conference.

To join, the ELP Working Group contact EEAI:

eeai@eeai.org

Contact Us

Environmental Education Association
of Indiana

www.eeai.org

Email: eeai@eeai.org

ELP Working Group Co-Chairs:

Mary Hayes

projectwild@dnr.in.gov

Kara Salazar

salazark@iupui.edu

Attend the EEAI Annual Conference

Join us at the EEAI Annual Conference to review the Indiana Environmental Literacy Plan's progress and launch it to the next stage.

Save the Date



**EEAI Annual Conference
Theme: Environmental Literacy**

October 5-7, 2012

Jameson Camp, Indianapolis

Environmental Education
Association of Indiana's

Environmental Literacy Plan for Indiana



**Join us
to help bring
Environmental
Education
to ALL
Hoosiers!!**

Make your voice heard as the Environmental Education Association of Indiana drafts a statewide Environmental Literacy Plan for Indiana. The plan will outline what it means to be an environmentally literate citizen and help leverage funding for environmental education.