

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



OnCampus ecoAmbassadors

OnCampus ecoAmbassadors are college students who implement projects from EPA's partnership programs to help carry out the Agency's mission to protect human health and the environment. The program is open to ANY college student, regardless of program, age, or background. All interested students are encouraged to participate.

Did You Know?

- Environmental education increases public awareness and knowledge about environmental issues. Environmental education does not advocate a particular viewpoint or course of action.
- Environmental education teaches children and adults how to learn about and investigate their environment, and to make intelligent, informed decisions about how to take care for and protect it.
- Adaptable to diverse settings and audiences, environmental education is taught in traditional classrooms and in informal settings throughout the community, such as nature centers, museums, parks, and zoos.

Learn More

EPA's Office of Environmental Education (OEE) coordinates EPA programs to provide leadership in promoting environmental literacy. OEE awards environmental education grants and student fellowships, supports environmental educator training, recognizes environmental achievements, and makes environmental education resources available to diverse audiences.

For more information, please visit:

www.epa.gov/enviroed

and

www.epa.gov/students

Environmental Education Outreach Project

Sponsored by EPA's Office of Environmental Education (OEE), the Environmental Education (EE) Outreach Project is an opportunity for college students to collaborate with local school administrators and teachers to develop fun, interactive lesson plans that educate kindergarten through 12th grade (K-12) students about the environment and promote healthy, sustainable lifestyles. Students may also collaborate with informal education centers that offer after-school, track-out, and summer programs as well as field trip opportunities for formal classrooms. Participating students in the EE Outreach Project will prepare lesson plans on an environmental topic, such as air, ecosystems, energy, health, recycling, or water, and then present their lesson plans to local K-12 students in the surrounding campus community.

Goals of the EE Outreach Project

- Build relationships between college students on your campus and teachers, students, and parents in the surrounding community
- Expand the conversation on the environment to younger age groups
- Provide opportunities for college students to gain teaching experience about environmental topics
- Highlight the importance of sustainable living

If You're Interested In:

- Developing fun, environmental curricula for K-12 students
- Working with teachers and other school officials
- Empowering others to care about environmental issues
- Interacting with school children
- Learning how to engage students in learning about the environment

... then the EE Outreach Project is for you!

See page 2 for a step-by-step checklist for the EE Outreach Project.



Students Taking Action

The Students for Environmental Energy Development (SEED) program at the **University of California, Berkeley** is an environmental education and outreach project within the Berkeley Energy and Resources Collaborative (BERC). Both undergraduate and graduate students work together to educate K-12 students about energy issues such as fossil fuels, global warming, efficiency, and electricity. SEED participants present their lesson plans to the same group of students once a week for a semester.

The Environmental Education Outreach Project is ideal for students pursuing degrees in agriculture, biology, communication, education, environmental science, and public policy.

Checklist for the EE Outreach Project

Follow the steps below to prepare and present an EE lesson in a local school.

☐ 1. Find out what's being done on your campus.

Research community service and education opportunities on your campus. Look for tutoring, mentoring, and educational training programs offered through your community service center, career center, education department, environmental clubs, or service organizations. If similar programs exist, get involved and use EPA resources to supplement your program! If no programs exist, meet with faculty, staff, and interested students to start a program at your school. Leverage relationships that your campus has with the surrounding community and local K-12 schools.

☐ 2. Meet with teachers at a local K-12 school.

Contact teachers to discuss your ideas and confirm that you can present as a guest lecturer to the students. Find out what environmental topics are already being covered and/or certain topics that the students are particularly interested in. Consider developing your lesson plan to supplement an environmentally related topic that is already part of the curriculum by going into more depth on a particular issue that the teacher may not have the resources to cover in class. Based on feedback from the teachers, decide how long your lesson plan will be and how frequently you will present to the students.

☐ 3. Select your topic and conduct research.

Select an environmental topic for your lesson, such as air, ecosystems, energy, health, recycling, or water. Use available environmental education resources (see details on the right) to find information about your topic and helpful tips for how to compile the information in an interesting way for your audience.

☐ 4. Draft your lesson plan.

Using feedback from the teacher, create a fun lesson plan that will present new information about your selected topic to the students. Check with the teacher about using supplemental materials such as posters, craft supplies, or science equipment. Be sure to consider the grade level of students; for example, if the students are kindergarten or elementary grade students, include lots of interactive activities and limit your talking to less than 10 minutes at a time to keep their attention.

☐ 5. Present your lesson plan.

Have fun with it! Involve your students and make it interactive. Document your success by taking pictures and tracking how many students you educated.

☐ 6. Use feedback and edit your lesson plan.

After presenting your lesson plan, think about what worked well and what could be improved, and make adjustments as necessary. Be sure to ask for feedback from the teacher. If time allows, ask for feedback from the students by allowing 5 minutes of the lesson for a short survey or a conversation. If you want to expand your project, talk with other teachers and local schools about where you can present your lesson plan to reach more students. Consider adapting your lesson plan for other grade levels.

☐ 7. Fill out your completion form.

Record the information that you are required to report to EPA on the event completion form, including your name, date of the event, name of your college, a description of the event or events, the number of interactions (include any interesting comments), and additional comments.

Resources

Environmental Education Websites

EE Teaching Resources on:

Air
Ecosystems
Energy
Health
Recycling
Water

www.epa.gov/students/teachers.html

EE Students, Educators, and Parents Home

www.epa.gov/students

EPA Office of Environmental Education

www.epa.gov/enviroed

Healthy School Environment Resources

cfpub.epa.gov/schools

Envirofacts

www.epa.gov/enviro/

Tips for Preparing and Presenting your Lesson Plan

- Review your lesson plan in advance with the sponsoring teacher.
- Use language that is grade appropriate. Avoid technical jargon with younger grade levels and go into more detail with older grade levels.
- Practice delivering your lesson before visiting the school.
- Show up early and be well-prepared.
- Dress appropriately.
- Leave your contact information so students can send thank you notes or follow up questions.
- Provide ideas for follow up activities that students can do with their parents.

EPA Contact Info

EPA OnCampus Team

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EPA OnCampus Websites

Visit the EPA website at

www.epa.gov/ecoambassadors/oncampus



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