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The North Carolina Environmental Education Plan evolved from the ideas and suggestions of hundreds of people across North Carolina with over 1,300 individuals, businesses, organizations, and government agencies participating in the process. The first section of this document, Principles and Concepts of Environmental Education, outlines the principles and definition of environmental education, states the overall goals, and sets the stage for the presentation of the statewide plan's objectives and implementation strategies. The second section, Objectives of Environmental Education, includes the following topics: in-service professional development, pre-service teacher education, higher education, clearinghouse, curriculum correlation, model library collection, North Carolina environmental data, measures and evaluation, environmental education centers, government agencies, funding, partnership, the media, and adult education. Also included are a list of participants, draft committee, and enabling legislation. (JRH)
THE NORTH CAROLINA
ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION PLAN
APRIL 1995
THE NORTH CAROLINA ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PLAN
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North Carolina Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources
The Honorable James B. Hunt, Governor
Jonathan Howes, Secretary
Steve Levitas, Deputy Secretary

Anne Taylor, Director
Office of Environmental Education

Denis DuBay, Ph.D., Editor
The North Carolina Environmental Education Plan evolved from the ideas and suggestions of hundreds of people across North Carolina. Every comment has been documented and compiled by the staff of the Office of Environmental Education. Over 1,300 individuals, businesses, organizations and government agencies participated in the process during the past 18 months. This plan represents the collective thinking of these North Carolinians.

A partnership between the North Carolina Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources, the Wildlife Resources Commission and the Department of Public Instruction established the credibility of this process. The trust and confidence in the process is evidenced by the scope of participation and the diversity of interests represented. The implementation of the North Carolina Environmental Education Plan is dependent upon continued trust and the translation of that trust into long-term working relationships.

North Carolina's future depends on a better understanding of our environment. This plan is an investment in that future.

The staff of the Office of Environmental Education enjoyed the rare privilege to have carried out the legislative responsibility for the development of this statewide plan. As the scribes and guardians of the hopes and experiences of North Carolina’s finest, we believe this document reflects the quality of their commitment to the value of environmental education.

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North Carolina values the quality and health of its environment. The 1973 Environmental Education Act produced a 1974 Master Plan for Environmental Education. The Office of Environmental Education was formed in 1990. North Carolina joined over 30 other states in passing environmental education legislation when the General Assembly enacted the North Carolina Environmental Education Act in 1993. The Act calls upon the Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources (DEHNR) to work with the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and other state and federal agencies, business and industry, institutions and citizens groups to plan and implement a statewide program. This plan was developed in response to that legislation.

The purpose of this section is to outline the principles and definition of environmental education, state the overall goal and set the stage for the presentation of the statewide plan’s objectives and implementation strategies.

1.1 - RATIONALE

North Carolina is a diverse land with natural and cultural aesthetic appeal for residents and visitors alike. It is also a land experiencing competition for its natural resources and for the control of land and water. This competition is particularly evident in the development of fragile mountain and coastal
environments. Conflicts arise over the use of wetlands, property rights, water supplies, air quality and waste disposal.

North Carolina's population increases by 200,000 annually, the equivalent of adding another Greensboro every 12 months. There will be as many as 7.4 million people living in North Carolina by the year 2000. Growing seasonal populations produced a 79% increase in tourism dollars spent here from 1983 to 1993. North Carolina's increasing residential and visiting populations mean more demand for natural resources and increased pressure on the natural environment due to land development, the growing production of waste and the recreational use of natural areas.

North Carolina's natural resources are under stress and could be lost to us in the absence of a widespread awareness of their existence, their significance and their value. Government officials, business leaders and private citizens must better understand the complexity of the natural ecosystems that support our quality of life and make this state an appealing place to live, work and visit.

These resources are not isolated from each other or from our people; each element is part of the ecosystem, interrelated and interconnected. When one part of the system is affected, other parts feel the impact. Sound development decisions require an understanding of these interconnections as well as of the life-support roles played by our natural resources.

Some highlights of North Carolina's natural heritage illustrate the importance of providing environmental education and instilling a strong sense of stewardship.

- The accident of history that placed the boundaries of North Carolina along the Southern Appalachians and between the 30- and 40-degree parallels of latitude north of the equator created one of the most diverse environments of the 50 states. Climate and geology combine to create varied habitats for animal and plant life, ranging from the boreal conditions of the highest mountains east of the Mississippi River to the subtropical conditions of Bald Head Island.
Tourism brings $60 million to western North Carolina's Swain County due in part to the attraction of the Great Smoky Mountains and the exciting Nantahala River. According to the U.S. Forest Service the white water season on the Nantahala generated $42 million in 1993. However, these resources show signs of stress from overuse. As a result, no more than 6,950 rafters are allowed on the river per day. Tourists and residents driving and living in the area also contribute to the air pollution that injures 90 or more species of plants in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and degrades the quality of scenic mountain vistas across the region.²

North Carolina's soils are among the most diverse in the nation, ranging from day-old Outer Banks sands, young mountain soils and high organic Tidewater Blacklands, to the oldest, high clay soils of the Piedmont. These diverse soils, coupled with subtropical to subarctic climate ranges, allow this state to yield almost any agricultural commodity imaginable. Better understanding and management of the soil's physical, chemical and biological properties will ensure the state's agricultural economic viability while protecting surface and underground water resources.³

Within the 130,000 acres of our state parks system is the tallest mountain east of the Mississippi, the largest sand dune on the East Coast and the second oldest river in the world. These natural, unique and compelling attractions bring a growing number of visitors and a corresponding demand for services. This growth requires careful management of visitors and resources in existing parks, and may require development of new parks to relieve stress in overcrowded areas.⁴
North Carolina ranks third in the nation with 2.4 million acres of estuarine waters. They comprise one of the most productive estuarine systems in the country --- the nursery area for fish species contributing to our state's billion dollar fishing industry. Studies indicate excess nutrient loadings from a myriad of sources increase algal levels, cause fish kills, odors, habitat loss and generally diminish water quality.

The state has unparalleled aquatic biodiversity --- in our mountain stream beds, riverine wetlands, piedmont lakes and ponds, coastal plain pocosins and salt marshes and the confluence of the Gulf Stream and the Labrador Current off Cape Hatteras. Effective management of the pressures to drain wetlands, degrade surface and underground waters and alter natural aquatic habitats requires a thorough understanding of the significance of these resources to people, wildlife and our life-supporting ecosystem.

North Carolina has more kinds of hardwood trees than any other state in the nation. Yet public forests can no longer meet demands for timber and other uses, requiring the state to turn to privately owned forests for timber, wildlife habitat and recreation.

North Carolina has more species of salamanders than any place in the country, but the numbers of these fascinating creatures decline year by year. Historical records indicate a 75% reduction in the range of one of the species, the eastern tiger salamander. North Carolina is also home to the world's tiniest tarantula, which is in danger of becoming extinct within five years. Even the smallest living creatures --- like canaries in a mine --- indicate the health of our ecosystem.
North Carolina is the northern-most state where sea turtles nest in significant numbers, and the cooler temperatures here produce proportionately more male sea turtles than anywhere else in the nation. Loss of these nesting areas threatens the continued existence of sea turtles and their male offspring.9

The cause and effect relationship between human behavior and the environment and the economics of that relationship must be well understood by decisionmakers - including individuals, business, industry, government, elected officials - if we are to instill a conservation ethic and a sense of stewardship into the choices facing the state. Such stewardship of our land, water, air and biological resources is required for us to continue to enjoy the quality of life we now have and to ensure future improvements.

Environmental policy is often viewed as regulatory in nature. The coercive powers of the state are limited, and no regulatory initiative that presses these limits can long survive. Environmental quality ultimately depends upon the understanding and support of individual and corporate citizens who come to embrace standards and practices that discourage pollution while they prize high quality air, water and soil. This relationship between knowledge of the environment and support for its protection form a basis of public policy development. Both the Governor's Coastal Futures Committee and the Pollution Prevention Advisory Council have identified environmental education as a positive and effective approach to better stewardship of the environment. While the need for education to improve our understanding of ecology and environment is accepted as important, the prospect of such an endeavor brings many different images to the minds of citizens.

1.2 - GOAL

The goal of environmental education in North Carolina is to have a citizenry with the knowledge, understanding and skills necessary to nurture this "goodliest land under the cope of heaven" through sound decision-making and responsible stewardship of North Carolina's environment.

1.3 - PRINCIPLES OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

The effect of state, national and international deliberations are captured in Caring for the Earth, a strategy published in 1991 through a partnership of the United Nations Environment Program and other organizations. The message and principles of that document relevant for North Carolina follow.

"Humanity must live within the carrying capacity of the Earth. There is no other rational option in the longer term. Unless we use the resources of the Earth prudently, we deny people their future. We must adopt lifestyles and development paths that respect and work within nature's limits. We can do this without rejecting the many benefits that modern technology has brought, provided that technology itself works within those limits. . . ."
Understanding and applying this concept of carrying capacity is a foundation of environmental education. It requires us to learn how to integrate conservation and development in seeking the goal of improved health and quality of life for all citizens, and stewardship of ecological systems that make human health and quality of life possible. The following principles of environmental education derive from this foundation.

Respect and care for the community of life.

All things are connected. When something affects one part of the environment, other parts feel the impact. The more we understand and respect our own community, the better we will understand this interconnectedness and our responsibilities to the global community of life.

Improve the quality of human life.

The aim of development is to improve the overall quality of human life. Development must enable all people to realize their potential and lead lives of dignity and fulfillment. This kind of development requires a healthy and robust supporting ecosystem.

Conserve North Carolina’s vitality and diversity.

*Renewable natural resources* are the base of all economies. Soil, water, air, timber, medicines, plants, fish, wildlife and domesticated species -- all come from natural systems and can be maintained through conservation.

*Life support systems* are the ecological processes that shape climate, cleanse air and water, regulate water flow, recycle essential elements, create and regenerate soil and keep our environment fit for life. We must prevent pollution and degradation of these ecosystems as well as the natural plant and wildlife habitats they provide.

*Biological diversity* includes the total array of species, genetic varieties, habitats and ecosystems on Earth. It contributes to our quality of life, including a healthy economy. It is a foundation of the Earth’s biosphere, buffering us from the inevitable changes in the environment.

Change personal understanding and practice.

Society must promote values that build and support its ability to continuously improve the quality of living for its citizens. This requires maintaining the quality and integrity of our natural environment. Knowledge, awareness and decision-making skills must be taught through formal and non-formal education to promote problem solving and constructive action to nurture the life-giving qualities of our ecosystem.

Enable communities to care for their own environment.

Living within the limits set by the environment depends on the beliefs and commitment of individuals, but it is through communities that people share concerns and promote practices that can nourish rather than cripple their natural life-support systems.
Provide a state and local knowledge base for integrating development and conservation. Economic policy can be an effective instrument for sustaining ecosystems and natural resources. Every economy depends on the environment as a source of life support and raw materials. The knowledge base for each city, county and the state must be strengthened, and information on environmental matters made more accessible.

For North Carolinians to translate "caring for this goodliest land" into practice, the State's adult and student populations must understand certain ecological and civics concepts, and North Carolina's place within those concepts.

1.4 - DEFINITION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

The following definition of environmental education was crafted by the DEHNR Environmental Education Advisory Council, a group of approximately fifty environmental educators and program managers from operating divisions within DEHNR and the Wildlife Resources Commission.

"Environmental Education is an active process that increases awareness, knowledge and skills that result in understanding, commitment, informed decisions and constructive action to ensure stewardship of all interdependent parts of the earth's environment."

The goals, principles and concepts of environmental education are learned through formal and non-formal education. North Carolina's environmental education program should address both avenues of learning for adults and young people alike.

1.5 - CHARACTERISTICS OF ENVIRONMENTAL UNDERSTANDING

Strategies to implement environmental education in formal or non-formal settings contain certain essential characteristics. These characteristics also describe an environmentally aware and prepared citizenry. First among these are knowledge and skills in the key areas of ecology, civics, social studies, mathematics, technology and science. With basic knowledge and skills in place, the commitment to individual and corporate responsibilities for each other and the environment can develop. Finally, environmental stewardship depends upon the ability to resolve conflicting interests, make decisions and take action.

A course of preparation for environmental stewardship appropriate for any age includes learning in the natural and social sciences and the humanities. "Hands-on experiences are the best way for students to build understanding of the complex world around them and their place in it. These include energy, minerals, land, soil, water, atmosphere, aquatic and terrestrial plant and animal communities, weather, climate, biogeochemical cycles, biodiversity, evolution, extinction, food webs, habitats and populations. These investigations must have humans and their interactions with natural systems as part of the exercise and must not be taught as separate components. This emphasis will bring into focus questions about population, technology, renewable natural resources, nonrenewable natural..."
resources, manufacturing, transportation, agriculture, construction, communication, education, government action and community stewardship.

1.6 - EVALUATION AND FEEDBACK

North Carolina's environmental education programs must be accountable to the Governor and the Legislature, to local and state government leaders and to the citizens of the state. Progress reports, statewide and local evaluations and public surveys will ensure accountability.

Although statewide baseline and follow-up measurements will be taken, matching these to local community measures adds relevance and ownership to the process. Moreover, encouraging and connecting to community-based evaluation provides a stimulant for local action to enhance environmental stewardship. Thus, developing statewide measures will involve drawing on local and regional resources for ideas and implementation strategies.

1.7 - THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

This North Carolina Environmental Education Plan is the culmination of an 18 month process that began with the drafting of environmental education principles and concepts in October 1993 and continued through a statewide conference and regional meetings that concluded in March 1995. Yet the roots of this plan reach back at least to the 1973 Environmental Education Act and the resulting 1974 Master Plan for Environmental Education. Early milestones also included the formation of an
Office of Environmental Education in 1990, and the 1993 North Carolina Environmental Education Act, which mandated the production of this plan.

The process leading to this point embraced an ever-widening audience of interested organizations and individuals. It began with the Environmental Education Advisory Council (EEAC), made up of professionals from the divisions of DEHNR and the Wildlife Resources Commission and a drafting committee from this group that shaped the Framework for Discussion of a North Carolina Environmental Education Plan. As this draft was taking shape, it was presented to many public and private organizations and appointed bodies for their information and feedback.

In December 1994 over 700 educators, business leaders, government officials and environmental resource professionals from across North Carolina met in Research Triangle Park to consider the draft Framework. Participants discussed each objective of the plan in special concurrent sessions, and detailed recommendations were prepared for each objective. The discussion quickly branched out across the state in seven regional environmental education meetings held in Asheville, Grantsboro, Mooresville, Wilmington, Wilson, Fayetteville and Winston-Salem during February and March 1995. Over 1,300 individuals attended the statewide conference or one of these regional meetings. Numerous others participated in the discussions by providing their ideas and recommendations directly to the Office of Environmental Education.

Following presentation to the Governor and the North Carolina General Assembly in April, 1995, the momentum gained during the development and review process will be directed towards implementation. This will require collaborative and concerted efforts of all organizations and individuals who care about North Carolina. Annual progress reports and recommendations on implementation efforts will be presented to the Governor and General Assembly.
The following objectives describe specific goals, explanations and recommended actions. They represent the contributions of many individuals and organizations thinking about environmental education in North Carolina.

2.1 - REWARD PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION.

Objective: Establish a program to recognize and honor educators who complete a required number of professional development experiences in environmental education.

Explanation: Individuals who elect to take environmental education courses demonstrate a desire to develop a sense of stewardship towards North Carolina natural resources and to instill that sense of stewardship in their students. The Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources, in cooperation with DPI and other organizations, is designing a program to recognize those educators.
Actions:

- Publicly recognize educators who complete 150 contact hours in environmental education with an award certificate.

- Include approved environmental education experiences and internships offered by DEHNR, community colleges, universities, nature centers and other organizations. Stress content blended with methodology, and include instruction in facilitating field trips, techniques for integrating environmental education into all curriculum areas.

- Include credit for participation in environmental education projects such as Stream Watch and Big Sweep and for teaching environmental education courses.

- Promote the expansion of environmental education opportunities which emphasize residential and technological experiences.

- Develop financial and administrative support for the professional development of educators, and for the incorporation of environmental education into the curriculum and daily experiences of students.

- Recognize schools and school systems that serve as models for promoting environmental education and that have significant teacher participation in environmental education professional development programs.

- Improve marketing and communications to inform educators of professional development opportunities in environmental education. Include distance learning, videos and other creative methods to reach and assist those in remote and under-served areas.
2.2 - ENHANCE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOR PRE-SERVICE TEACHERS.

Objective: Improve and enhance opportunities for teacher candidates to acquire environmental education academic content and appropriate teaching tools at North Carolina’s public and private colleges and universities. Promote student internships in environmental education.

Explanation: Teachers who have not been introduced to hands-on, experiential skills in the out-of-doors will not be inclined to bring environmental education to their classrooms. Teachers who are not comfortable teaching environmental education are not likely to seek in-service training in environmental education. Existing pre-service environmental education courses should be recognized and encouraged among North Carolina colleges and universities statewide. Where these courses are not available, faculty are encouraged to become knowledgeable about existing opportunities and resources.

Action:
- Maintain a directory of pre-service environmental education programs and course offerings that incorporate environmental topics, and identify departmental contacts on each campus.
- Support statewide gatherings bringing together college and university faculty, DPI curriculum and licensure specialists, K-12 teachers and curriculum coordinators, museum and science center educators and representatives of government and private organizations interested in
environmental education to discuss improvement of environmental education programs and course offerings at the state's institutions of higher education.

- Modify academic courses in which teachers enroll as well as instructional methods courses for the elementary and secondary levels to include: environmental topics and classroom curricula; hands-on and inquiry-based learning opportunities; use of local environmental and community resources; field trip experiences; and interdisciplinary environmental themes including social studies, science, mathematics and the arts.

- Develop additional partnership efforts among colleges and universities, environmental education centers, business and industry and government to include teacher internships.

- Investigate the establishment of bachelor's and master's degree environmental education programs. Encourage institutions of higher education with existing programs in environmental studies to share successes and expand opportunities.

- Identify opportunities and examine difficulties facing students receiving degrees in environmental studies and who desire to teach. Learn from the experiences of existing programs and their graduates and explore solutions to problems and ways to expand opportunities.

2.3 - INTEGRATE ECOLOGICAL CONCEPTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION.

Objective: Ensure an understanding of ecological concepts among all graduates from North Carolina institutions of higher education. Incorporate conservation practices including pollution prevention, resource recovery, waste reduction and natural resource stewardship as integral to professional conduct in any occupation.

Explanation: Just as environmental education should be integrated into existing coursework K-12, so it should be applied to community college, college and university coursework, regardless of the discipline. Quality of life at home and at work can benefit from a basic understanding of ecological concepts and the interdependence among all components and processes of Earth's ecosystem.

Action:

- Support inquiry-based instruction in environmental studies at all levels of higher education.

- Emphasize interdisciplinary content in environmental studies courses.

- Encourage institutions of higher education to improve their environmental education offerings for all students.
Through exploration of new electronic networks and reliable print media, the clearinghouse can build effective paths to individuals, communities and groups.

2.4 - ESTABLISH A NORTH CAROLINA ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CLEARINGHOUSE.

**Objective:** Bring information about environmental education to students, parents and educators from kindergarten through college, as well as to business, industry and communities across the state. Use every appropriate means of communication, including electronic networks and databases.

**Explanation:** The Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources should research and act as a clearinghouse for existing environmental education materials and resources. These materials and resources should be marketed to educators, students, parents and the general public. Through exploration of new electronic networks and reliable print media, the clearinghouse can build effective paths to individuals, communities and groups often left off the communications grapevine.

**Action:**

- Develop and maintain a North Carolina Environmental Education Clearinghouse to serve educators, students, parents and others with questions, problems, or solutions related to environmental education.

- Employ electronic communications tactics as well as more traditional means to collect all appropriate environmental education information and market this information to customers across the state. Utilize existing newsletters, bulletins, electronic networks and related media to disseminate educational information.

- Collect and disseminate information about opportunities for environmental education internships, workshops, seminars and funding. One example is the existing *Teacher’s Guide to Environmental Education Programs and Resources*. Prepare pointers to direct customers to other organizations, individuals and sources with environmental education information.

- Assist North Carolina’s environmental education centers in sharing successes and opportunities with one another and with citizens interested in environmental education.
2.5 - CORRELATE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WITH DPI'S CURRICULUM.

Objective: Correlate environmental education activities available through DEHNR and other agencies with the teaching objectives of all subjects in the DPI's curriculum. Make this correlation electronically accessible and available to educators free of charge.

Explanation: Teachers want environmental education activities that support required curriculum objectives. Correlating environmental education activities with the curriculum will assist educators with the integration of environmental education into their instructional program. Electronic access will enable educators to search by subject area, activity and curriculum objective and promote interdisciplinary instruction.

Action:
- Maintain a current correlation of environmental education program activities with DPI's curriculum objectives.
- Provide this correlation in digital electronic formats accessible through Macintosh and DOS/Windows compatible computers. Add keywords to the correlation database.
- Expand the correlation to include additional curriculum subject areas and environmental education activities offered by DEHNR, environmental education centers and other organizations.
- Disseminate and promote the correlation. Expand awareness and access through telecommunications, clearinghouses, newsletters, conferences and the efforts of cooperating agencies and organizations.

2.6 - MODEL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION LIBRARY COLLECTIONS.

Objective: Identify model environmental education library materials and tools and develop bibliographies to promote their use in schools, libraries and environmental education centers. Provide additional support through grants, resource information and technical assistance.

Explanation: The availability of environmental education resource materials and tools in a variety of settings --- including school media centers, public libraries, DPI's Media Evaluation Center and environmental education centers --- will reinforce teacher training programs available throughout the state. Bibliographies should be selected by a variety of professional educators who can identify resources that will reinforce training experiences and enhance inquiry-based learning experiences for students.
Actions:
- Offer grants to support environmental education library collections.
- Place additional emphasis on providing adult education materials and resources.
- Support environmental education library collection development and expansion through cooperative efforts among government agencies, industry and other organizations. Include appropriate materials developed by these collaborators in recommended bibliographies and collections.
- Expand awareness of environmental education resources through telecommunications, clearinghouses, newsletters and conferences.
- Investigate mobile environmental education library collections and interlibrary loan options.
- Promote and demonstrate new information technologies that expand the capabilities of teachers and students to search for and acquire environmental education resources.

2.7 - USE NORTH CAROLINA DATA TO ENRICH ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION.

Objective: Build the capacity to access environmental data from the State Center for Geographic Information and Analysis (CGIA) and county and municipal governments through geographic information systems (GIS).
Explanation: Geographic information systems (GIS) provide a strong link between North Carolina-specific environmental data, geographic mapping and a range of demographic information. Together these tools enhance environmental education through team teaching and the integration of science, social studies, mathematics and computer skills. A great wealth of environmental data is collected by state, federal and local government agencies in North Carolina. Access to this current environmental information through computerized distribution systems supported by CGIA combines relevant information with the interactive GIS technology enabling enthusiastic exploration and learning.

Action:
- Work with master teachers to develop and pilot K-16 classroom applications of geographic information systems as well as effective teacher professional development programs to prepare teachers to use GIS in their classrooms.
- Select and develop appropriate subsets of the North Carolina Corporate Geographic Database for use in GIS-related K-16 curricula. Make these databases available on CD-ROM and the Internet.
- Develop GIS technical specifications for equipment and data to insure that new hardware and software purchases for schools will support geographic information systems software and environmental data layers.
- Develop and promote collaborative exercises between students and local governments that use GIS to explore real-world problems and the use of technology to help create solutions.

2.8 - MEASURE NORTH CAROLINA'S ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP.

Objective: Identify and support communities in developing strategies to assess, monitor and improve environmental quality and quality of life. Meet the state's needs for planning and performance budgeting and accountability by coordinating local community measurements with a statewide evaluation.

Explanation: It is important to begin measuring environmental stewardship in North Carolina in ways that value individual differences among communities. A community-based effort provides the best measure of success and an effective stimulant for local efforts. The statewide evaluation of awareness and behavior should be closely related to community measures. Caution must be exercised in attributing specific evaluation results to particular environmental education programs.

"It is important to begin measuring environmental stewardship in North Carolina in ways that value individual differences among communities."
**Action:**

- Encourage communities to set environmental education goals, evaluate achievement of their goals and demonstrate environmental stewardship.
- Recognize communities that demonstrate environmental stewardship.
- Develop a statewide environmental education evaluation closely coordinated with local evaluations. Draw on local resources to develop and conduct the statewide assessment.
- Provide a forum for communities to join together to share opportunities and successes in measuring and promoting environmental stewardship.
- Increase the number of significant environmental items on the statewide end-of-grade tests developed by DPI for school accountability.

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**2.9 - PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTERS.**

**Objective:** Support existing environmental education centers in North Carolina. Ensure communication among environmental education centers to identify needs and opportunities for coordinating programs to the mutual benefit of the centers and their customers.

**Explanation:** North Carolina has many public and private environmental education centers serving a diverse statewide audience. Identifying and coordinating these centers, addressing their needs and opportunities, ensuring communication among them and coordinating their educational resources with...
the needs of the general public will further their missions. Promoting these centers will further enhance the availability of valuable environmental education resources to schools and the general public.

**Action:**
- Support and promote the creation of a state association of environmental education centers.
- Evaluate opportunities to incorporate residential experiences and the uses of technology to enhance environmental education.
- Explore the establishment of voluntary accreditation and standards for environmental education centers.
- Facilitate communication and sharing of information among environmental education centers and between environmental education centers, the schools and the general public.
- Promote the use of these centers by educators and the general public through effective marketing.
- Develop funding and administrative support for field trips, site visits, internships and volunteer programs.
- Publish and maintain the *Guide to Environmental Education Centers in North Carolina* and include in it information on resources for pre-service teacher candidates.
- Integrate environmental education center programs into interdisciplinary school curricula.

**2.10 - PROVIDE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOR GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.**

**Objective:** Provide environmental education and an awareness of environmental education resources to state government employees as a part of their orientation and professional development.

**Explanation:** The array of state employees working in fields related to the environment, especially in the technical professions, should learn about the ecological concepts underpinning their work. In addition, all government employees should have an improved understanding of environmental concepts and environmental education resources available to help them relate better to the various public audiences with whom they must interact.
Actions:

- Explore cooperative agreements with departments and divisions of state government to incorporate environmental education principles and concepts into personnel training for both new and existing employees.

- Develop experiential environmental education workshops for personnel at parks, forests, zoos, museums, aquariums and other environmental education facilities, and for all personnel who regularly interact with the public.

- Develop educational programs for government employees to improve understanding of emerging environmental issues.

- Encourage state employees to volunteer in their communities to promote environmental stewardship. Develop environmental education training for these volunteer activities.

2.11 EXPAND FUNDING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION.

Objective: Establish a North Carolina Environmental Education Trust Fund to encourage and support environmental education in schools K-16.

Explanation: North Carolina has excellent environmental education programs and facilities which students, parents, administrators, educators and adult groups want to use for interdisciplinary classwork involving science, social studies, language arts, computer skills, etc. A lack of financial support to access existing environmental education resources is a major barrier for both customers and program providers. Funding for environmental education materials and supplies, professional staff development, class activities, technology and use of existing facilities and resources is a clearly identified statewide need.

Action:

- Establish a North Carolina Environmental Education Trust Fund from civil penalties imposed for violation of North Carolina environmental laws.

- Award grants from the Trust Fund to schools, communities and organizations to support and promote environmental education in North Carolina schools K-16.

- Establish policies and procedures within the Attorney General’s Office, DEHNR and federal regulatory agencies whereby settlements in environmental cases will support environmental education in North Carolina consistent with the definition, principles and concepts set forth in this North Carolina Environmental Education Plan.
Encourage North Carolina business, industry, civic organizations, and foundations to support environmental education programs.

Provide environmental education grant information through the North Carolina Environmental Education Clearinghouse, and provide technical assistance in grantsmanship.

Identify policies and procedures which are barriers to funding environmental education programs and recommend actions to overcome these barriers.

2.12 - BUILD PARTNERSHIPS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION.

Objective: Encourage and strengthen environmental education partnerships, collaboration and coordination among the education community, business and industry, non-profit organizations and government.

Explanation: A multitude of North Carolina organizations provide environmental education programs across the state. Coordination and communication among these program providers has proven to be mutually beneficial and should be encouraged. Existing collaborations must be identified and their experiences shared across the state in an effort to stimulate the development of new partnerships.

Action:

- Develop and maintain an inventory of environmental education programs conducted by business, industry and non-profits in North Carolina.

- Identify and establish relationships with business and industry leaders to expand existing environmental education programs.

- Promote partnerships to establish grants, internships, field trips and other environmental education experiences which include families, schools and communities.

- Encourage collaboration between business and industry, media, citizen groups and government in the dissemination of environmental education information and programs.
2.13 - DEVELOP MEDIA PARTICIPATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION.

Objective: Encourage and recognize media participation in environmental education in North Carolina.

Explanation: Electronic and print media know how to reach the public effectively. It is their business. The media are an essential resource to effectively collect and share information about environmental education and stewardship with the public. State and local governments, communities and other organizations must learn how to work effectively with the media.

Actions:

- Develop relationships with media leadership to better understand the available opportunities.
- Recognize exemplary media coverage of environmental education activities and information. Disseminate and learn from these effective media efforts to expand the reach of environmental education.
- Improve the ability of environmental staff and educators in the public and private sectors to work collaboratively with the media.
- Plan educational opportunities about emerging environmental matters with the media and the public.

2.14 - ENHANCE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOR ADULTS.

Objective: Identify and build upon existing environmental education programs for adults and promote new initiatives to ensure excellent environmental education opportunities for all North Carolinians.

Explanation: Education of the adult population is a critical challenge. An initial step in this effort is to identify and recognize existing programs, determine needs and build upon examples of excellence in North Carolina. New and innovative environmental education programs need to be developed which will build on existing knowledge and instill in the general public a conservation ethic and sense of stewardship in their communities.

Action:

- Inventory North Carolina environmental education programs for adults and promote them through the Environmental Education Clearinghouse.
- Promote partnerships between the public and private sectors to provide adult environmental education programs, initiatives and community outreach.

- Encourage the development of environmental education programs to include business and community leaders.

- Encourage the development of environmental education programs for the general public that pair adults with children and that reach persons with disabilities.

- Promote the use of theater, music and art as environmental education teaching media for families.

- Emphasize and promote environmental education programs in remote, rural-and low income regions of North Carolina.
FOOTNOTES

1. Museum of Natural Sciences, DEHNR
2. US Forest Service
3. Division of Soil & Water, DEHNR
4. Division of Parks and Recreation, DEHNR
5. Albemarle Pamlico Estuarine Study, DEHNR
6. North Carolina Aquariums, DEHNR
7. Division of Forest Resources, DEHNR
8. Museum of Natural Sciences, DEHNR
9. Wildlife Resources Commission

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Mary Walter Rumley
Annie Runyon, Raleigh
Georgette Rush, Merritt
Judith Russell, Durham
Sara Ryan, Asheboro
Donald Safrit, Raleigh
Maria Salyado-Donahur, Raleigh
Francisco San Juan, Elizabeth City
Jo Ann Sanderson, Raleigh
Hilda Sandlin, North Topsail Beach
Robert Sandlin, North Topsail Beach
Deidri Sarver, Kings Mountain
Barb Satler, Raleigh
Beth Sawicki, Fayetteville
Affie Sawyer, Fayetteville
Mary Sawyer, Grantsboro
Pam Scarborough, Banner Elk
Robert Scheller, Conover
Erika Schneider, Marshall
Honor Schneider, Murphy
Ken Schuster, Raleigh
Charles Schwartz
Leigh Scott-Prater, Pittsboro
Bob Seigler
Rick Seipel, Boonville
Beth Sell, Southport
Randolph Senzig, Fuquay-Varina
Don Seriff, Charlotte
Britt Setzer
Suzanne Sexton
John Seymour, Raleigh
Brenda Shackleford, Shelby
Mark Shanis, RTP
Terry Shankle, Denton
Eugene Shannon, Raeford
Janice Sharpe, Hiddenite
Tracy Shea, RTP
Mike Shealy, Sylva
Roger Sheats, Fayetteville
Tom Shephard, High Point
Thomas Shepherd, High Point
Larry Shirley, Raleigh
Linda Shotwell, Winton
David Shouse, Morrisville
Pamela Shugart, Taylorsville
Karen Siderelis, Raleigh
Kay Sigmon
Laura Simmons, Lumberton
Joan Simons, Greensboro
Jim Simpson, Wilmington
Ravi Sinha, Elizabeth City
Georgia Smallman, Wilmington
Carolyn Smith, Greenville
Dana Smith, Burlington
Diana Smith, Roxboro
James Smith, Camden
Maria Smith, Reidsville
Marion Smith, New Bern
Mary Smith, Greensboro
Michael Smith, Pinnacle
Mike Smith, Pinnacle
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C. J. Spears, Laurinburg
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Tammy Spencer, Alliance
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Wanda Stafford, Snow Camp
Lucille Stalls, Tyner
Allein Stanley, Statesville
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Wayne Stubb, Albemarle
Jennie Stultz, Gastonia
Jenny Stultz, Gastonia
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Janice Swab, Raleigh
Lyn Sweet, Charlotte
Hortence Swepson, Wilmington
Michael Talbert, Raleigh
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Diane Talley, Wilmington
Lura Talley, Fayetteville
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Anne Taylor, Archer Lodge
Gregory Taylor, Henderson
Loletta Taylor, Fayetteville
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Dennis Testerman, Concord
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Elizabeth Thomas, Camp Lejeune
John Thomas, Black Mountain
Richard Thomas, High Point
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Buster Thompson, Blounts Creek
Mary Thompson, Oxford
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Jay Tilley, Raleigh
Roy Tilley
Catherine Timpy, Wilmington
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Joyce Tollison, Greensboro
Tracy Toms-Kessler, Roxboro
Evelyn Toole, Durham
Terry Townsend, Fayetteville
Terry Townsend, Raleigh
Lynn Trachman, Raleigh
Kathy Tranor
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Jackie Trickle, Willow Springs
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T. Tripp-Matthews, Kill Devil Hills
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Jackie Tuckey, Fayetteville
Grace Turner, Burlington
Patty Turner, Washington
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John Uber, Elizabethtown
Hazel Urquhart, Fayetteville
Jenna Ann Valentine, Greensboro
Rick Van Schoick, Columbia
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Hilary Vickers, Asheville
Toby Vinson, Raleigh
William Vinson
Jennifer Voliva, Bayboro
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Joe Wagner, Winston-Salem
Phoebe Wahab, Carolina Beach
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Nancy Walker, Butner
Sonya Walker, Raleigh
Paula Wall, Liberty
Jo Wallace, Charlotte
Josephine Wallace, Charlotte
Linda Wallace, Columbus
K. Travis Walsh, Wilson
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David Warlick, Raleigh
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Linda Warren, Arapahoe
Susan Warren, Weaverville
Michael Washington, Winston-Salem
Sandra Washington, Fayetteville
Bobbi Waters, New Bern
Rex Watkins, Clayton
Mary Watson, Raleigh
Robert Watson, Research Triangle Park
Gail Watts, Oriental
John Wear, Salisbury
Lisa Wear, Salisbury
Augustus Webber, Fayetteville
C. Wedemeyer, Fayetteville
Omega Weeks, Pope AFB
Janice Weems, Raleigh
Zora Weisbecker, Lake Junaluska
Assistant Secretary Joan Weld
Joan Weld, Raleigh
Al Weller, New Bern
D. L. Weller, New Bern
Lynn Weller, Pittsboro
Deanna Wells, Wilmington
Jesse Wells
Tim Wells, Durham
Tom Wells, Raleigh
Celeste Wescott, Raleigh
David West, Wilson
Terri Lynn West, Burnsville
Vicki Westbrook, Durham
Calvin Wheatley, Purlear
Chantal Wheeler, Wilson
Lois Whisenant, Lenoir
Richard Whisnant
Diane Whitaker, High Point
Barbara White, Salter Path
Dean White, Germantown
Elizabeth White, Bayboro
Laura White, Cary
Rhett White, Manteo
Ruth White, Fayetteville
Thomas White, Yanceyville
Susan Whithead, Raleigh
Ann Whitley, Greenville
Joyce Whitley, Charlotte
Brian Whislon, Elon College
DeWitt Whitten, Salisbury
Charles Whitten-ton, Fayetteville
Kia Whittlesey, Charlotte
Aliza Wickliff, Charlotte
Clara Wiggins, Raleigh
Jonathan Wild, Jefferson
Mark Wilde-Ramsing, Kure Beach
Dr. Richard Wilke, Stevens Point
Beth Willar, Charlotte
Don Willard
Floyd Williams, Gatesville
Jearolean Williams, Hope Mills
Mary Williams, Raleigh
Pat Williams, Havelock
Paul Williams
Wendy William, Fayetteville
Bob Williamson, Greensboro
Gina Willis, Bayboro
Cheryl Willoughby, Westfield
Carin Willson, Grantsboro
Trisha Willson
Christopher Wilson, Raleigh
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Tracie Wilson, Wilmington
Ferne Winbome, Raleigh
Cuyler Windham, Fayetteville
Tess Winters, Trinity
Carolyn Wise, Greensboro
Jennifer Wix, Charlotte
Russell Wong, Cary
Andrew Wood, Kure Beach
Donald Wood, Chapel Hill
Martha Wood, Winston-Salem
Susan Woodard, Smithfield
Alida Woods, Asheville
Laura Woods, Raleigh
Monty Wooten, Asheville
L.F. Worrell, Fayetteville
Belinda Wright, Wilmington
Cheryl Wright, Mt. Pleasant
Tim Wright, Tryon
Noel Wyatt, Wilmington
Wanda Wyatt, Lexington
Pat Wylie, Raleigh
Sherry Yarkovsky, Chapel Hill
5.2 PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Organizations represented at the statewide conference and regional meetings:

<table>
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<th>Organization Name</th>
<th>City</th>
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BURNS HIGH SCHOOL
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CABARRUS COUNTY SCHOOLS
CALDWELL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CALDWELL SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
CAMDEN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL
CAMP HANES YMCA CAMP
CAMP LEJEUNE SCHOOL SYSTEM
CAPE FEAR BOTANICAL GARDENS
CAPE FEAR MUSEUM
CAPE FEAR RIVER WATCH
CAPE HATTERAS SCHOOL
CARNIVORE PRESERVATION TRUST
CAROLINA BEACH STATE PARK
CAROLINA FRIENDS SCHOOL
CAROLINA OCEAN STUDIES
CAROLINA RAPTOR CENTER
CARRBORO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
CARROLL MIDDLE SCHOOL
CARTERET COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CARTERET SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
CARY HIGH SCHOOL
CASHWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
CATAWBA COLLEGE
CATAWBA COUNTY SCHOOLS
CATAWBA MIDDLE SCHOOL
CATAWBA SCIENCE CENTER
CATAWBA SOIL & WATER DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL CENTER
CATHEDRAL SCHOOL
CENTER FOR GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION
CENTER FOR MATH AND SCIENCE EDUCATION
CHAMPION INTERNATIONAL
CHAPEL HILL/CARRBORO SCHOOLS
CHARLES D. OWEN HIGH SCHOOL
CHARLOTTE STORMWATER SERVICES
CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG SCHOOLS
CHATHAM COUNTY RECYCLING DEPARTMENT
CHIMNEY ROCK PARK
CHOCOWINITY HIGH SCHOOL
CHOWAN MIDDLE SCHOOL
CHOWAN SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
CHRIST SCHOOL
CITY OF DURHAM, DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
CITY OF GREENSBORO
CITY OF LEXINGTON
CITY OF RALEIGH, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
CITY OF RALEIGH, PARKS AND RECREATION
CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM
CLARK ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CLARK PARK NATURE CENTER
CLAYTON DIVISION OF FOREST RESOURCES
LAWNLAND
BURNSVILLE
CONCORD
HUDSON
LENOIR
CAMDEN
KING
SWANSBORO
FAYETTEVILLE
WILMINGTON
WILMINGTON
BUXTON
PITTSBORO
CAROLINA BEACH
DURHAM
CAROLINA BEACH
CHARLOTTE
CARRBORO
RALEIGH
MOREHEAD CITY
BEAUFORT
CARY
FAYETTEVILLE
SALISBURY
CATAWBA
CATAWBA
HICKORY
NEWTON
RALEIGH
RALEIGH
CHAPEL HILL
ASHVILLE
HILLSBOROUGH
BLACK MOUNTAIN
CHARLOTTE
CHARLOTTE
PITTSBORO
CHIMNEY ROCK
CHOCOWINITY
TYNER
EDENTON
ARDEN
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WINSTON-SALEM
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### 5.3 Presenters and Exhibitors

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6. DRAFTING COMMITTEE

The following committee of representatives from the Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources prepared an initial draft of the North Carolina Environmental Education Plan during deliberations from January through August 1994.

ALBEMARLE PAMLICO ESTUARINE STUDY
DIVISION OF COASTAL MANAGEMENT
DIVISION OF FOREST RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FOREST RESOURCES
DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION
DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION
DIVISION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION
MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCES
MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCES
MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCES
NORTH CAROLINA AQUARIUMS
NORTH CAROLINA ZOOLOGICAL PARK
NORTH CAROLINA ZOOLOGICAL PARK
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION
WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

MARY W. RUMLEY
JOYCE ATKINSON
JAY DAVIES
JOE HOGUE
BECKY MARTY
MARTI KANE
PAT HOOPER
BETSY BENNETT
EVE VITAGLIONE
MARY ANN BRITTAH
TERRI KIRBY
JANET BARBER
JOY JOHNSON
ANNE TAYLOR
JUDY POPE
CELESTE WESCOTT
SID BAYNES
7: ENABLING LEGISLATION
SECTION 28. ARTICLE 7 OF CHAPTER 143B. PART 4B.

This Part shall be known and cited as the Environmental Education Act of 1993

The purpose of this Part shall be to encourage, promote and support the development of programs, facilities and materials for the purpose of environmental education in North Carolina.

143B-285.22.  Creation.
There is hereby created a North Carolina Office of Environmental Education (hereinafter referred to as 'Office') within the Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources.

143B-285.23.  Powers and duties of the Secretary of Environment, Health and Natural Resources.
The Secretary of Environment, Health and Natural Resources shall:

(1) Establish an Office of Environmental Education to:
   a. Serve as a clearinghouse of environmental information for the State.
   b. Plan for the Department’s future needs for environmental education materials and programs.
   c. Maintain a computerized database of existing education materials and programs within the Department.
   d. Maintain a speaker’s bureau of environmental specialists to address environmental concerns and issues in communities across the State.
   e. Evaluate opportunities for establishing regional environmental education centers.
   f. Administer the Project Tomorrow Award Program to encourage school children to discover and explore ways to protect the environment.
   g. Assist the Department of Public Instruction in integrating environmental education into course curricula.
   h. Develop and implement a grants and award program for environmental education projects in schools and communities.

(2) Coordinate, through technical assistance and staff support and with participation of the Department of Public Instruction and other relevant agencies, institutions and citizens, the planning and implementation of a statewide program of environmental education.

(3) Be responsible for such matters as the purchase of educational equipment, materials and supplies; the construction or modification of facilities; and the employment of consultants and other personnel necessary to carry out the provisions of this Part.
Encourage coordination between the various State and federal agencies, citizens groups and the business and industrial community, in the dissemination of environmental information and education.

Utilize existing programs, educational materials, or facilities, both public and private, wherever feasible.

The objective of grants and awards made under the provisions of this Part shall be to promote the further development of local and regional environmental education and information dissemination to aid especially, but not be limited to, school-age children. The Office shall recommend each year to the Governor recipients for the Project Tomorrow Award, which the Governor shall award for outstanding environmental projects by elementary schools in North Carolina.

For Further Information Contact:
Office of Environmental Education
P.O. Box 27687
Raleigh, NC 27611-7687
919-733-0711
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