



Promoting quality EE through the National Project for Excellence in Environmental Education (NPEEE) –Guidelines Training

Simmons, B. 2007. Year End Evaluation of National Project for Excellence in Environmental Education Workshops. *Environmental Education and Training Partnership Year 1 Report*.

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Program Profile	
Program Description:	The National Project for Excellence in Environmental Education (NPEEE) has developed Guidelines that set voluntary standards for environmental education. A series of 2-8 hour training workshops were conducted to familiarize formal and nonformal environmental educators with the Guidelines and encourage their use and adoption. These workshops were then evaluated to determine participants’ satisfaction and how they intended to use the Guidelines to improve their EE efforts.
Program Goals:	<p>The goal of the NPEEE Guidelines is to help developers of activity guides, lesson plans, and other instructional materials produce high quality products, and to provide educators with a tool to evaluate the quality of environmental education materials.</p> <p>The goal of the workshops is to increase the number of formal and nonformal educators capable of using the NPEEE Guidelines resulting in better educational resources, more environmentally literate students, better trained educators, and better nonformal environmental education programs.</p>
Program Funding:	NPEEE training workshops were funded by the Environmental Education and Training Partnership (EETAP).
Program Links:	http://www.naaee.org/programs-and-initiatives/guidelines-for-excellence/
Evaluation Profile	
Evaluation Goals & Questions:	<p>The goal of this evaluation was primarily summative and examined the following question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can participants describe how they plan to use at least one NPEEE publication to improve the quality of their EE programs and resources? <p>To determine whether this outcome was met specific indicators were measured, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How satisfied participants were with the workshop; • Whether participants’ intended to use NPEEE publications to improve their own EE efforts; • How participants expected to use what they learned; and • Whether participants intended to share what they learned.
Evaluation Methods:	At the end of the workshop, workshop instructors asked participants to complete a survey designed to assess the indicators identified above.

	A follow-up survey was sent to a random sample of participants 4-5 months after the workshop. This survey investigated whether participants used any information or materials from the workshop and, more specifically whether they had used (or were planning to use) the NPEEE Guidelines.
Instruments:	A complete set of evaluation instruments is available in the report
How were results used?	The evaluation identified two issues that needed to be addressed. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In several instances, workshop instructors had either forgotten to administer the evaluation or they had created and used their own workshop evaluation form. This caused project staff to stress the importance of using the end of course evaluation form provided by NPEEE. 2. Occasionally instructors were unprepared to implement a specific activity or were confused about content in the Guidelines. This caused project staff to arrange meetings with individual instructors to clear up any confusion. In addition, project staff sent an email to instructors clarifying common areas of misunderstanding.
Evaluation Cost:	Not Available.
Evaluation Insights:	<p>What worked well? The evaluation form is quick and easy to complete. Consequently, a high percentage of workshop participants completed it. Additionally, the evaluation has given us good information on how workshops are received and intention to use the Guidelines materials at a later time. Because there are nearly 50 individuals delivering Guidelines workshops, the evaluation allows project staff to monitor reactions to the workshops.</p> <p>What were the important evaluation “lessons learned”? We have collected some interesting data on “intention” to use and share the Guidelines. For the most part, this data indicates that the workshops are successful. We have conducted some follow-up evaluations (6 months post) and have confirmed that participants are using the materials and sharing them with colleagues.</p> <p>What could have been done differently? It would be nice to be able to collect more qualitative data about how participants are using the materials. We have collected some of this information, but the effort is time consuming and expensive.</p>
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Posted on:	November 2007