

Under Construction!

EE Guidelines for Empowering Climate Action



naaee
North American Association
for Environmental Education

Under Construction: Climate Change Guidelines



Bora Simmons –
National Project for
Excellence in
Environmental Education



Anne Umali – NAAEE
Director of
Professional
Development



Frank Niepold –
NOAA,
Climate Education
Senior Program
Manager

Agenda

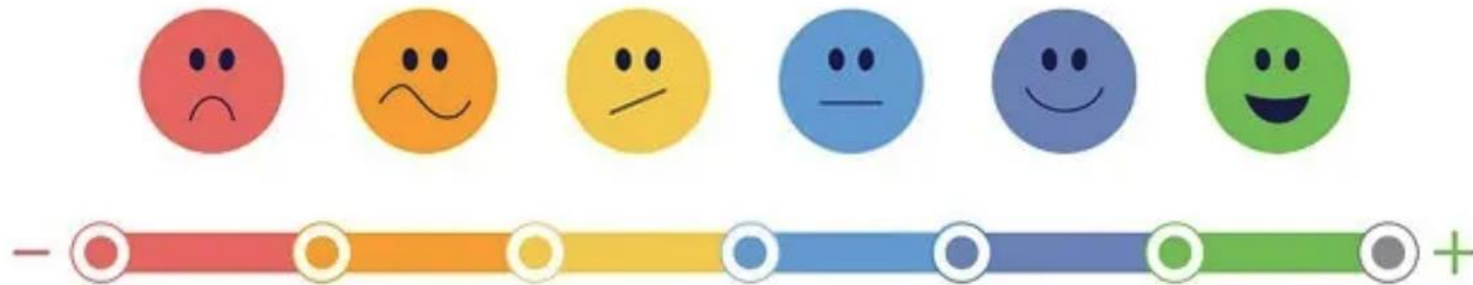
- ❑ Quick introduction to NAAEE's *Guidelines for Excellence*
- ❑ Overview of the development of our newest set of *Guidelines*
- ❑ Chance to provide input
- ❑ Questions

In the chat:

**RATE
YOURSELF**

**How well do you know the
Guidelines for Excellence?**

0



5

NAAEE's influence stretches across North America and around the world!

Our Vision

A just and sustainable world where environmental and social responsibility drive individual, institutional, and community choices.



Our Mission

To use the power of education to advance environmental literacy and civic engagement to create a more equitable and sustainable future. We work with educators, policymakers, and partners throughout the world.

- Members in more than **30 countries.**
- **56 state, provincial, and regional Affiliate organizations**
- **20K members** across many sectors of society.



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North American Association
for Environmental Education

Guidelines for Excellence



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Primary Sponsor

ee360+

ee360+

U.S. EPA Office of
Environmental
Education



More Partners

- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- State and Provincial EE Associations
- Organizational partners – such as Keep America Beautiful, Project Learning Tree, Arbor Day Foundation, Project WILD, Project WET



Six Primary Products

- Instructional Materials Guidelines
- K-12 EE Guidelines
- Professional Development of Environmental Educators
- Environmental Education Programs
- Early Childhood Environmental Education Programs
- Community Engagement



Our Collective Wisdom



- ☐ Developed *Guidelines* through a public participatory process
- ☐ Engaging educators in a deep discussion about quality environmental education practice
- ☐ Building EE as a profession

Excellence

Promoting excellence in environmental education

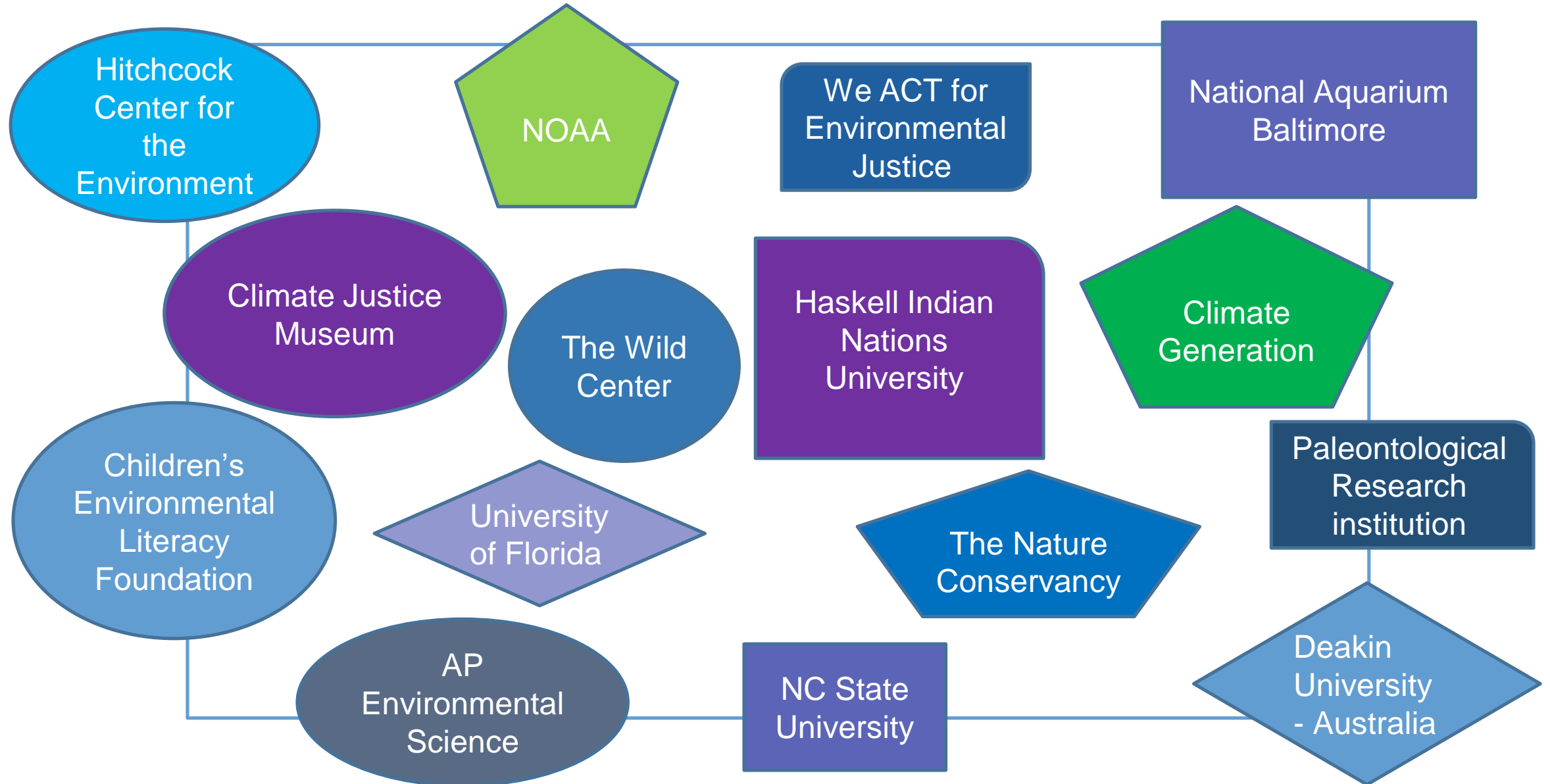


Under Construction: Climate Change Guidelines



- ☐ Conducted background research
- ☐ Engaged thought leaders

Our Collective Wisdom: Interviews



Meet the Team



Curtis Bennett – National Aquarium Baltimore



Zakhia Grant – EcoRise



Kathayoon Khalil – New England Aquarium



Lindsey Kirkland – Climate Generation



Jen Krester – The Wild Center



Gus Medina – Environmental Education Conservation Global



Martha Monroe – University of Florida



Taylor "Beau" Morton – WE ACT for Environmental Justice



Frank Niepold – NOAA



Sheila Williams Ridge – University of Minnesota

Expert Review

Aaron Ambroso –
Co-Founder, Climate
Justice Museum



Amara Ifeji – Director of
Youth Engagement, Maine
Environmental Education
Association



Charissa Jones –
Outreach & Inclusion
Coordinator, Oregon State
University



Advisory Committee

- Aaron Ambroso
- Brock Adler
- Megan Bang
- Sarah Bodor
- Patty Born Selly
- Judy Braus
- Ellen Ebert
- Bill Finnegan
- Michael Heinze
- Charzy Jones
- Taiji Nelson
- Kim Noble
- Ginger Potter
- Dejah Powell
- Sarah Schoedinger
- Billy Spitzer
- Sarah Stapelton
- Daniel Wildcat
- Andra Yeghoian

Framing Our Newest Set of Guidelines

In the chat, complete this sentence:

This set of guidelines should provide recommendations for climate education that centers on/focuses on/facilitates....?

Our Newest Set of Guidelines...

...will provide recommendations and
resources for developing effective
educational efforts that ***empower climate
action***



Our Newest Set of Guidelines...

...will provide guidance on how to develop **community-driven**, climate change education that centers on **climate justice** and **climate science**.



In the chat:

- ✓ List three “types” of individuals who might be involved in facilitating climate learning opportunities that empower climate action?



In the chat:

- ✓ List three places or settings where climate education activities might take place?

Who should use this set of guidelines?

A broad range of individuals and organizations interested in using education, in its different forms and in its varying settings, to work *with* communities to find climate solutions.

Who should use this set of guidelines?

Where should they be used?

Settings

- Schools
- Museums
- Nature Centers
- Aquariums
- National Forests & National Parks
- Religious organizations
- Community Centers
- Youth centers
- Colleges/Universities
- and more...

Educators

- Classroom teachers
- Museum educators, etc.
- Naturalists
- Community educators
- Career & technical education teachers
- Volunteers & docents
- Youth leaders
- Weather broadcasters
- Religious leaders
- Members of civic clubs
- University faculty
- and more...

Five Key Characteristics

Education that is part of the process that successfully empowers climate action has these characteristics in common:

- 1) Climate Justice at Its Core
- 2) Climate Systems at Its Core
- 3) Locally Focused and Community Driven
- 4) Facilitates Civic Engagement for Climate Action
- 5) Education for Climate Action – Instructional Strategies

Key Characteristics



KEY CHARACTERISTIC #1: Climate Justice at Its Core

Effective climate action relies on an understanding of climate justice and the importance of protecting vulnerable communities, as well as a willingness to work toward just solutions to address the impacts of climate change.

1.1 Uneven distribution of impacts – Recognize that climate change impacts are unevenly distributed across communities, regions, and the world — even within a single community, the consequences of climate change can differ among neighborhoods and individuals.

Indicators:

- Understand that long-standing socioeconomic inequities (e.g., healthcare, racism, housing, food insecurity) can make minoritized, historically neglected, and historically marginalized groups, who often have the highest exposure to hazards and the fewest resources to respond, more vulnerable to climate change.
- Investigate why groups like the NAACP and the United Nations argue that environmental justice and climate justice are civil and human rights.
- Recognize that not everyone contributes to climate change equally or in the same way.

Guidelines

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In addition...

DID YOU KNOW?

Community Engagement: Is It Right for Your Project?

All projects are not alike, and not every endeavor will benefit from extensive community engagement. Community engagement should be authentic, matching the form of engagement to the actual role the community will play. See Resource #9, page 94, *Designing Civic Engagement*, for help determining your goals, which may range from simply informing participants (one-way communication), to consulting or involving participants, all the way to full partnerships.

Projects are especially likely to benefit from more comprehensive, collaborative engagement if one or more of the following factors apply:



- **Complexity:** The topic you are addressing is difficult to understand, values-based, or controversial.

Successful participation will help the community understand issues better, and will allow the project to benefit from an array of perspectives.

- **Size and Diversity of Stakeholder Group:** Your project will impact a large or diverse group. A stakeholder is anyone who can affect, or who will be affected by, your project.

More interactive types of engagement are helpful if you are still in the process of defining the stakeholder group, or if you know there is a wide array of stakeholders.

- **Balance of Power:** There is a pre-existing imbalance of resources or decision-making authority among stakeholders.

From what you've seen...

- What are the strengths? What do you like?
- What else would you include?
- What causes you heartburn? What troubles you?

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Our Collective Wisdom: Timeline



FEBRUARY – MARCH 2023

- ▣ Post first draft for review and gather input

MARCH – JUNE 2023

- ▣ Synthesize comments
- ▣ Writing Team input
- ▣ Revise

JULY/AUGUST 2023

- ▣ Post revised draft for comments
- ▣ Gather input

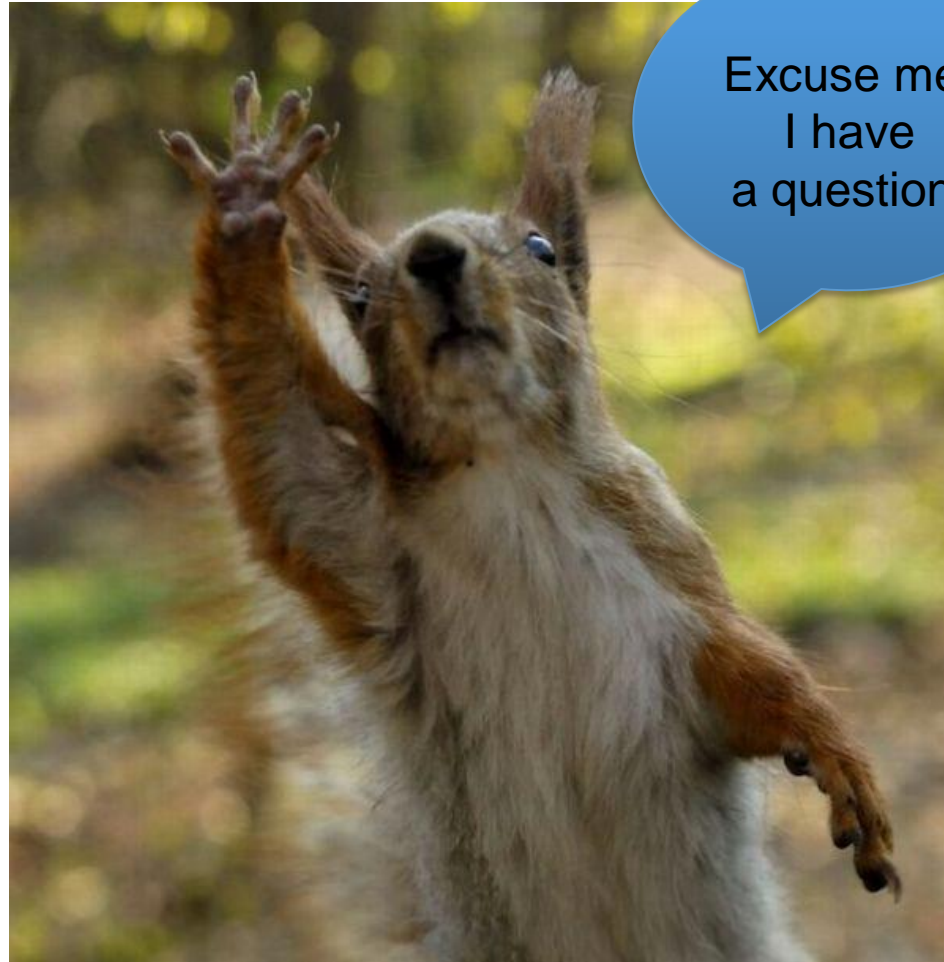
Sign up to review:

- Complete the Reviewer Sign Up Form (URL in the chat).

After you sign up, you'll receive instructions to:

- Download the full DRAFT *Empowering Climate Action: Guidelines for Excellence*
- Complete the Response Form

Questions?



Excuse me!
I have
a question!!

