State of Illinois

Illinois State Board of Education
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Environmental Literacy for Illinois

2010 Strategic Plan

Illinois State Board of Education
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

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Forward

The *Environmental Literacy for Illinois* strategic plan was originally released in July of 1995. In January of 1998 six of the 10 original committee chairs met in Bloomington to revise and update the plan to reflect upon objectives that had been met, as well as the technological advances achieved in the past few years. The original plan was endorsed by over 200 leaders throughout the state, from agency personnel and nature center staff, to educators and Illinois State Board of Education staff. During Conservation Congress 2000 *Environmental Literacy for Illinois* won the full support of the congressional body and was unanimously passed for statewide adoption. In May of 2005 a revision team convened to amend the plan to reflect the accomplishments of the plan's goals since its conception and modify it for the next five years. The revision was available for review to over 150 environmental educators throughout the state.

In October of 2009, the Conservation Congress voted on a number of recommendations to increase youth involvement and interest in outdoor activities. The top recommendation in the Youth Recruitment and Retention subcommittee made by the congress was to update the *Environmental Literacy for Illinois* strategic plan. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources engaged the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to develop this plan, with input from over 30 organizations. The state agencies also posted drafts of the plan for public comment online and at two comment sessions on April 13 and October 21, 2010, and received over 200 comments on its goals, objectives and strategies. In addition, Governor Pat Quinn signed Executive Order 10-7 on April 14, 2010, supporting the adoption of the *Environmental Literacy for Illinois* strategic plan.

The *Environmental Literacy for Illinois* strategic plan implements a systemic approach to environmental education in Illinois. Environmental education is "a learning process that increases people's knowledge and awareness about the environment and associated challenges, develops the necessary skills and expertise to address the challenges, and fosters attitudes, motivations, and commitments to make informed decisions and take responsible action" (UNESCO, Tbilisi Declaration, 1978).

The integration of the essential environmental standards and benchmarks for Illinois' schools and classrooms is addressed through the Illinois Learning Standards Project. This project aligns standards in all learning areas from kindergarten through grade 12 to national standards projects and current research. *Environmental Literacy for Illinois* encompasses the needs identified for the meaningful implementation of many of the standards developed through the Illinois Learning Standards Project.

In addition to promoting environmental education integration into classroom learning standards, this plan also evaluates, integrates and promotes non-formal educational initiatives as necessary supplements to environmental education in Illinois. Because of limited state funding to initiate a holistic education reform, this plan incorporates resources and strategies for non-formal educators. The committee rejects the concept that formal education is the only means to implement cultural changes among children. Many non-formal educational organizations not only provide support for formal educators, but they also have many resources and programs for families and youth that warrant their participation as a necessary and integral component of the *Environmental Literacy for Illinois* strategic plan.

The non-formal partners participating in the implementation of the *Environmental Literacy for Illinois* strategic plan are working to increase environmental literacy through not only their classroom resources, but through activities that focus on providing opportunities to families such as nature education and outdoor play opportunities. Additionally, many of our non-formal partners are focusing on promoting the sustainable practices of communities such as sustainable school siting, increasing alternative and active transportation options and promoting sustainable practices. These efforts, coupled with classroom education, will create the culture necessary to foster a new generation of environmentally conscience citizens.

Unlike previous plans, stakeholder partnerships are identified for each strategy. These organizations are proactively engaging classrooms, youth, educators and families to ensure the goals of the *Environmental Literacy for Illinois* strategic plan are accomplished. We thank our partners who include:

State of Illinois
Office of Governor Pat Quinn, Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Agency and State Board of Education.

Local Unit of Government
Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Federal
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rivers Project Office and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Lake Shelbyville and Carlyle Lake.

Non-Governmental Organizations
Active Transportation Alliance, Chicago Metropolitan Association for the Education of Young Children, Chicago Wilderness, Environmental Education Association of Illinois, Fuller Park Community Development/Eden Place Nature Center, Illinois Science Teachers Association, Lincoln Park Zoo, Nature's Classroom, Northern Illinois University, One Star/Chicago Astronomical Society, Salt Creek Greenway Association and The Chicago Academy of Sciences and its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum.

In addition, we invite you to assume a personal responsibility as a shareholder in this process. Prepare for active participation in reaching the goal of environmental literacy in Illinois. Examine this road map for opportunities to utilize your talents and expertise in endorsing and implementing the strategies. Our success will depend on statewide awareness, acceptance and action. To that end, this document will be available to all shareholders through a vast network of dedicated individuals and organizations representing public schools, colleges, universities, resource agencies, businesses, government agencies and non-formal environmental education providers.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois State Board of Education and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency have taken the lead in initiating this revision. The resulting document is published herein.

Executive Summary

The *Environmental Literacy for Illinois* strategic plan is a systemic five-year plan, designed to fully incorporate environmental education into Illinois learning opportunities. This plan prioritizes those needs and outlines strategies to provide the necessary direction for the establishment of environmental literacy as an integral part of lifelong learning. Annual action plans and budgets for such an effort may be generated from this document. The plan will play a central role in achieving the goals of each focus area by:

- providing a mechanism for implementing environmental education programs and utilizing the resources of Illinois' communities;
- assisting citizen access to local, state and federal environmental information and data resources;
- designing implementation options for modeling and adapting effective programs;
- developing a mechanism for including business, industry, civic groups, etc. in partnership opportunities, including career awareness;
- providing avenues for environmental learning for providers from throughout the learning continuum, including preservice, inservice and non-formal education, as well as scientific expertise;
- correlating with emerging and existing national, state and local standards and recommendations;
- and continuing internal evaluation and external review.

At the original writing in 1995 each of these specialists chaired a committee focusing on an area of environmental education need in Illinois:

Ms. Kathy Andrews, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Springfield; Dr. John Beaver, Western Illinois University, Macomb; Ms. Nan Buckardt, Lake County Forest Preserves, Libertyville; Ms. Carol Fialkowski, The Field Museum, Chicago; Dr. Marylin Lisowski, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston; Ms. Judy Mann, Environmental Education Association of Illinois, Olympia Fields; Ms. Gwen Pollock, Illinois State Board of Education, Springfield; Mr. Mike Schneider, Regional Office of Education, Belleville; Dr. Deborah Simmons, Northern Illinois University, De Kalb; Dr. Trudy Volk and Mr. Versil Withrow, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale; Dr. Robert A. Williams, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville.

2010 Revision Team:

Mr. David Abendroth, Red Hill High School, Bridgeport; Ms. Janet Beach Davis, Heartland Community College, Normal; Dr. Deborah Beal, Illinois College, Jacksonville; Mr. Eric Bjorlin, Active Transportation Alliance, Chicago; Mr. Jason Brewer, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Springfield; Ms. Nan Buckardt, Lake County Forest Preserve District, Deerfield; Ms. Kristin Camp, Champaign School District, Champaign; Dr. Bob Carter, Northern Illinois University, De Kalb; Jill Carter, Pekin Community High School, Pekin; Mr. Steve Clark, Chicago Public Schools, Chicago; Ms. Stacey Clementz, Champaign County Forest Preserve District, Homer; Ms. Gail Conway, Chicago Metropolitan Association for the Education of Young Children, Chicago; Mr. Kevin Daugherty, Illinois Farm Bureau, Bloomington; Ms. Kathi Davis, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Springfield; Ms. Olivia Dorothy, Illinois Department of Natural Resources,

Springfield; Mr. Gil Downey, Illinois State Board of Education, Springfield; Mr. Herb Dreier, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Springfield; Dr. Megan Dunning, The Morton Arboretum, Lisle; Ms. Carol Fialkowski, Chicago Wilderness, Chicago; Mr. Emilian Geczi, Chicago Wilderness, Chicago; Mr. David Guritz, Forest Preserve District of Du Page County, Wheaton; Mr. Eric Heineman, Office of the Governor, Chicago; Mr. Harry Hendrickson, Illinois Science Teachers Association, Rochester; Mr. Jeff Hopkins, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Springfield; Mr. Ron House, National Wild Turkey Federation, Benton; Ms. Brett Ivers, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Springfield; Mr. Jeffrey Jones, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Chicago; Ms. Valerie Keener, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Springfield; Ms. Sandy Kennedy, Riverton High School, Riverton; Mr. Wes King, Illinois Stewardship Alliance, Springfield; Mr. Steve Kolsto, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Springfield; Ms. Sarah Livesay, Environmental Education Association of Illinois, St. Joseph; Dr. John F. Loehr, Chicago Public Schools, Chicago; Dr. Jason Lukasik, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe; Ms. Jean Mendoza, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; Ms. Judy Miller, Urbana Park District, Urbana; Ms. Kristi Morris-Richards, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Springfield; Mr. Richard Nichols, Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Springfield; Ms. Laura Nitanda, The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Chicago; Ms. Sandy Laird Perkins, Triad High School, Troy; Mr. Dan Persky, Active Transportation Alliance, Chicago; Ms. Gwen Pollock, Illinois Science Teachers Association, Sherman; Ms. Barbara Powell, The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Chicago; Ms. Ruth Prescott, Chicago Metropolitan Association for the Education of Young Children, Chicago; Ms. Jessica Prince, Forest Preserve District of Will County, Joliet; Mr. Mike Rahe, Illinois Department of Agriculture, Springfield; Ms. Kimberly Rea, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis; Christine Rolka, National Wild Turkey Federation, Edgefield, South Carolina; Mr. Rafael Rosa, The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Chicago; Ms. Carol Schnaiter, Amboy Central School, Amboy; Ms. Cindy Smith, Citizen, Ozark; Ms. Stacy Stremsterfer, Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Springfield; Dr. Bonnie Styles, Illinois State Museum, Springfield; Mr. Jason Tyszko, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Chicago; Ms. Susan Wagner, The Morton Arboretum, Lisle; and Ms. Sheila Walk, Illinois Stewardship Alliance, Springfield.

Introduction

The *Environmental Literacy for Illinois* strategic plan is the culmination of the efforts of dedicated individuals from throughout Illinois who represent public schools, colleges, universities, resource agencies, businesses, government agencies and non-formal environmental education providers. These visionaries have long aspired to establish an Illinois plan for environmental education.

In 1957, legislation directed the first mandates for conservation education in Illinois. Over the years, individuals and organizations on the local, regional and state levels have focused energies on successful activities and projects to improve lifelong learning and decision-making skills relating to our environment. Many of these programs have been used in Illinois, providing for inservice educator education and classroom activities. In 1991, the Conservation Education Advisory Board, an executive board that made recommendations on conservation education programs, began the development of its own strategic plan for conservation education, having an impact on agency-directed efforts. Task forces charged by the Governor and Conservation Congress have made recommendations regarding the necessity of coordinated environmental education efforts.

The efforts for the original plan began officially in 1993 with informal meetings organized by Lieutenant Governor Bob Kustra, the Governor's Science Advisory Council, the Illinois State Board of Education's Center on Scientific Literacy and other member agencies of the Conservation Education Advisory Board. Model legislation, which had been enacted in several states, served as a template for the original design of *Environmental Literacy for Illinois.*

The actual formulation of *Environmental Literacy for Illinois* began in earnest in late 1994 and continued through the spring of 1995, funded through the Illinois State Board of Education's Center on Scientific Literacy. During this time, committees met to design a plan that would bring effective, meaningful environmental education to the schools in Illinois. Every aspect of the plan was deliberated extensively to ensure that the plan embraced the full definition and implications of environmental literacy. Moreover, the overarching multicultural tenets of environmental literacy were considered to encompass the provisions for a healthy and just environment for all, while understanding the past, acting in the present and protecting the future.

Status of Environmental Education in Illinois

Environmental education in Illinois today has a strong foundation. Formal educators from early learning through college-level classes are working to implement plan components with their students while supporting the goals and benchmarks of the Illinois Learning Standards. Non-formal educators reach students and families through a variety of programs. Non-traditional groups are being targeted as participants. Volunteer organizations provide statewide support to the plan directly by implementation and indirectly through lobbying efforts. Consortiums of educational providers cooperate to coordinate regional programming. Governmental agencies provide support and programming as well. Staff members of national environmental education initiatives regularly seek out Illinois educators for input.

The National Environmental Education Advancement Project suggests the components below as integral to the establishment of a successful state plan. Shown with each component is a detailed description of the work *Environmental Literacy for Illinois* plan partners are doing to promote environmental education in Illinois.

Structure Components

- State environmental education master plan: *Environmental Literacy for Illinois* is the state's master plan for environmental education.
- State environmental education board or advisory council: The partners listed within the *Environmental Literacy for Illinois* plan serve on an informal council to ensure plan implementation.
- State environmental education office: The Illinois State Board of Education, Science Division, serves as the environmental education office.
- State-level environmental education centers/regional offices: Environmental education centers exist at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and Northern Illinois University. Publicly and privately funded environmental centers are found throughout the state. For the most part, the Illinois centers operate independently and little coordination exists between programs.
- State interagency committee: The partners listed within the *Environmental Literacy for Illinois* plan serve on an informal council to ensure plan implementation.
- State environmental education association: The Environmental Education Association of Illinois, founded in 1972, has over 200 members from throughout the state. Their master plan focuses on services to both non-formal and formal educator members including training, Web-based resource lists and an annual conference.
- State curriculum/resource guides: No curriculum/resources guides exist.
- Annual environmental education conference: The Environmental Education Association of Illinois hosts an annual conference each spring.

Program Components

- K-12 environmental education instruction requirements: An instruction requirement does exist, listed in the School Code of Illinois, 105 ILCS 5/27-13.1, and reads "In every public school there shall be instruction, study and discussion of current problems and needs in the conservation of natural resources, including but not limited to air pollution, water pollution, waste reduction and recycling, the effects of excessive use of pesticides, preservation of wilderness areas, forest management, protection of wildlife and humane care of domestic animals."
- Environmental education guidelines/standards (environmental education correlations to State Content Standards): Environmental education correlations exist for all Illinois Learning Standards. Environmental education correlations for Science and Social Studies descriptors also exist.
- State assessment that includes environmental education: Although there is not a specific assessment for environmental education, there are many questions in the State's standardized tests that are related to environmental education.
- Coordinated educator inservice program: Nothing exists.

- Environmental education training for preservice educators: Some training in environmental education exists for preservice educators. No standardized program exists.

- Environmental education training for educator educators (university faculty) (non-formal providers): Nothing exists.

- Environmental education training for non-formal educators: Training for non-formal providers is offered. Illinois educators created the *Tools for Nonformal Inservice Providers* workshop that has become an important training program nationally.

- Environmental education model or resource for schools: Nothing exists.

Funding Components

- Fees, fines, taxes and lottery general revenue: Nothing exists.

- Public/private grants and donations: Limited grants are available for environmental education-related projects through a variety of funding sources, both private and public.

- Environmental education grants program: The Environmental Education Association of Illinois, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources/Illinois Conservation Foundation offer small grants for environmental education-related programs.

CAREERS

Goal: Identify, support and promote environmental careers education to diverse youth audiences to help achieve environmental sustainability.

Objectives:

1. Coordinate development and dissemination of environmental careers education programs that appropriately link career knowledge from prekindergarten through grade 12.

Strategies:

a. Within the framework of Electronic Information Resources, encourage links between current Web sites to broaden the circulation of information on environmental community service programs, field experiences, scholarships, internships/externships, conferences and other similar opportunities.

Completion date: 2013
Collaborative partners: Governor's Office, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Chicago Wilderness, Environmental Education Association of Illinois, Illinois Science Teachers Association

b. Within the framework of Electronic Information Resources, build a separate Web page or coordinate with the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Programs of Study to ensure access to links to environmental careers, labor market information, training sources, related credentials, internships, mentorships, projects, partnerships and other career-related opportunities and planning tools.

Completion date: 2014
Collaborative partners: Governor's Office, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts[2]

c. Extend the occupational areas of the Career and Technical Education Division at the Illinois State Board of Education by including an area that focuses on environmental careers.

Completion date: 2013
Collaborative partners: Governor's Office, Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

d. Integrate environmental careers into applicable established Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Programs of Study, including orientation-level courses and career pathway-specific courses that align with and articulate into postsecondary programs.

Completion date: 2013
Collaborative partners: Governor's Office, Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

2. Identify and promote career partnerships between and among business, government, community members and prekindergarten through higher education providers.

* Organization will take a leadership role.
[2] Organization will provide very limited resources.

Strategies:

a. Provide models that integrate environmental careers and work-based learning opportunities into the learning experience through job shadowing, career day programs, mentorships, internships, sponsored problem-based learning challenges and similar opportunities.

Completion date: 2014
Collaborative partners: Governor's Office, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Board of Higher Education, Illinois Science Teachers Association, Lincoln Park Zoo

b. Use service project requirements to expose students to environmental careers.

Completion date: 2012
Collaborative partners: Governor's Office, Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Science Teachers Association, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rivers Project Office

c. Broaden understanding of environmental careers to include such vocations as environmental law, sustainable building design and construction, green agriculture, law enforcement, entrepreneurship, tourism and other careers through the career development tools provided by the proposed Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Learning Exchanges.

Completion date: 2015
Collaborative partners: Governor's Office, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Board of Higher Education, Illinois Science Teachers Association, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rivers Project Office, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts[2]

* Organization will take a leadership role.
[2] Organization will provide very limited resources.

EARLY CHILDHOOD: BIRTH TO FIVE YEARS

Goal: Increase the amount of exposure to the natural environment for children from birth to five years by educating and providing resources to parents, caregivers and providers serving that population.

Objectives:

1. Develop an understanding of options for environmental literacy integration with respect to families' places of residences and centers' locations, i.e. rural, urban, safety factors and culture.

Strategies:

a. Research existing birth to five environmental literacy integration models.

Completion date: 2012
Collaborative partners: Chicago Metropolitan Association for the Education of Young Children

b. Convene parents, family childcare providers, center staff and birth to five experts to collaboratively determine options for environmental literacy integration to be recommended as best practices.

Completion date: 2012
Collaborative partners: Chicago Metropolitan Association for the Education of Young Children, The Chicago Academy of Sciences and its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum

c. Construct an early childhood definition for environmental literacy.

Completion date: 2012
Collaborative partners: Chicago Metropolitan Association for the Education of Young Children, The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum

d. Develop a position paper for early childhood on developmentally appropriate practices for environmental literacy.

Completion date: 2013
Collaborative partners: Chicago Metropolitan Association for the Education of Young Children

2. Develop, design and disseminate content for providers in environmental literacy integration.

Strategies:

a. Develop environmental literacy integration resources that focus on the definition, application, supporting research and the advantages of environmental literacy integration.

Completion date: 2013
Collaborative partners: Chicago Metropolitan Association for the Education of Young Children

b. Develop an action plan to disseminate environmental literacy integration resources.

Completion date: 2013
Collaborative partners: Chicago Metropolitan Association for the Education of Young Children

* Organization will take a leadership role.
[2] Organization will provide very limited resources.

c. Provide training on environmental literacy integration into program curricula.

Completion date: 2015
Collaborative partners: Chicago Metropolitan Association for the Education of Young Children, The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Environmental Education Association of Illinois

d. Embed environmental literacy integration and tutorial information in all trainings.

Completion date: 2015
Collaborative partners: Chicago Metropolitan Association for the Education of Young Children

3. Develop content and design materials for parents and caregivers that demonstrate appropriate activities for environmental literacy.

Strategies:

a. Working within the framework of the Electronic Information Resources, develop an online data bank with links to appropriate infant/toddler environmental literacy resources.

Completion date: 2013
Collaborative partners: Chicago Metropolitan Association for the Education of Young Children

b. Provide opportunities for "hands-on" learning about environmental literacy for parents and caregivers in communities using the Illinois Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights and June Leave No Child Inside Month events. *To learn more about the Outdoor Bill of Rights and Leave No Child Inside visit http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.chicagowilderness.org/resource/resmgr/Publications/Childrens_Outdoor_Bill_of_Ri.pdf.*

Completion date: 2015
Collaborative partners: Chicago Metropolitan Association for the Education of Young Children, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Chicago Wilderness*, The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts[2]

4. Develop "Green Standards" using the Illinois Early Learning Standards for preschool and ages birth through five using the Illinois Birth to Five Program Standards. *For more information on Illinois Early Learning Standards visit http://www.isbe.net/earlychi/pdf/early_learning_standards.pdf and Illinois Birth to Five Program Standards visit http://www.isbe.net/earlychi/pdf/0-5-program-stds.pdf.*

Strategies:

a. Using the kindergarten through 12th grade model, create green standards that align with Early Learning and Birth to Five Standards.

Completion date: 2014
Collaborative partners: Chicago Metropolitan Association for the Education of Young Children, Illinois Science Teachers Association, Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts[2], Environmental Education Association of Illinois[2]

5. Evaluate programs and strategies.

Strategies:

a. Using the Illinois Early Leaning Standards, programs would measure children's progress by assessing children using photos, examples of children's work, open-ended questions and observation.

Completion date: 2014
Collaborative partners: Chicago Metropolitan Association for the Education of Young Children

* Organization will take a leadership role.
[2] Organization will provide very limited resources.

ELECTRONIC INFORMATION RESOURCES

Goal: Electronic Information Resources will establish an Internet-based environmental literacy resource to maximize effectiveness of environmental literacy programs statewide.

Objectives:

1. Use innovative technologies to enhance cooperation and make resources and/or information available to all.

   Strategies:

   a. Include *Environmental Literacy for Illinois* curriculum resources, work-based learning opportunities, problem-based learning challenges, career development guidance and professional development as part of the State's proposed Learning and Performance Management System, which will be hosted on a cloud computing-based environment and longitudinal data system.

   Completion date: 2013
   Collaborative partners: Governor's Office, Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

   b. Develop an Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Learning Exchange Program of Study within the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Learning Exchange framework by which key stakeholders will collect and disseminate environmental literacy information to participating schools.

   Completion date: 2012
   Collaborative partners: Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

   c. Identify key stakeholders to provide ongoing information within the STEM Learning Exchange.

   Completion date: 2016
   Collaborative partners: Governor's Office, Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Science Teachers Association, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Environmental Education Association of Illinois[2]

2. Provide centrally located environmental literacy information that is accessible to all educators, within the framework of Electronic Information Resources.

   Strategies:

   a. Establish Web site to be used as a central access point.

   Completion date: 2012
   Collaborative partners: Governor's Office, Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Education Association of Illinois[2]

   b. Determine keeper(s) of the repository (i.e. Webmaster and/or database administrator).

   Completion date: 2012
   Collaborative partners: Governor's Office, Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Department of Natural

* Organization will take a leadership role.
[2] Organization will provide very limited resources.

Resources, Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts[2], Environmental Education Association of Illinois[2]

c. Research, develop, promote and implement existing and new electronic resources and tools (social networking and others) to promote awareness and access to environmental literacy Internet resources.

Completion date: 2011-2016
Collaborative partners: Governor's Office, Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Science Teachers Association, Environmental Education Association of Illinois[2], Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts[2]

d. Investigate and establish new links to quality resources to support Environmental Literacy Sites and Centers.

Completion date: 2012
Collaborative partners: Governor's Office, Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts[2], Illinois Science Teachers Association, Environmental Education Association of Illinois[2]

e. Evaluate the effectiveness, quality and utility of environmental literacy Internet resources and encourage reporting of methodologies and results to electronic clearinghouses. *For more information on electronic evaluation tools, visit http://meera.snre.umich.edu/.*

Completion date: 2013
Collaborative partners: Governor's Office, Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Science Teachers Association, Environmental Education Association of Illinois[2]

* Organization will take a leadership role.
[2] Organization will provide very limited resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING SITES AND CENTERS

Goal: A network of Environmental Learning Sites and Centers will support and improve the facilitation of environmental literacy efforts statewide and accomplish the goals and objectives of *Environmental Literacy for Illinois.*

Objectives:

1. Continue to expand the number of high-quality Environmental Learning Sites and Centers that provide professional, standards-based environmental education opportunities, services and information for educators in Illinois.

Strategies:

a. Recognize Environmental Learning Sites and Centers that serve as learning communities recognized by formal and non-formal educators. Develop the criteria for such sites.

Completion date: 2011-2016
Collaborative partners: Illinois State Board of Education, Chicago Wilderness, Environmental Education Association of Illinois, Illinois Science Teachers Association, One Star/Chicago Astronomical Society, The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts[2]

b. Each site will operate as an approved Illinois State Board of Education teacher recertification provider facility.

Completion date: 2011-2016
Collaborative partners: Illinois State Board of Education

c. Ensure that Environmental Learning Sites and Centers adhere to North American Association for Environmental Education evaluation standards and measures with incentives for ongoing compliance and refinement. *For more information on these guidelines visit http://www.naaee.org/our-work/driving-excellence.*

Completion date: 2011-2016
Collaborative partners: Illinois State Board of Education, Environmental Education Association of Illinois, Illinois Science Teachers Association, The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum

d. Provide opportunities for networking and recognition to create environmental literacy learning communities.

Completion date: 2011-2016
Collaborative partners: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Lake Shelbyville and Carlyle Lake, Environmental Education Association of Illinois, Lincoln Park Zoo, Fuller Park Community Development/Eden Place Nature Center

2. Coordinate and expand the reach of existing networks to include integration of non-formal and formal partners.

Strategies:

a. Identify existing networks, sites and centers that can potentially serve as models statewide.

Completion date: 2016
Collaborative partners: Illinois Science Teachers Association, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rivers Project

* Organization will take a leadership role.
[2] Organization will provide very limited resources.

Office, Nature's Classroom, The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum

b. Promote Environmental Learning Sites and Centers as extensions of environmental and other curricula.

Completion date: 2011-2016
Collaborative partners: Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Education Association of Illinois, Illinois Science Teachers Association, One Star/Chicago Astronomical Society

c. Develop a marketing plan and promote enhanced communication.

Completion date: 2011-2016
Collaborative partners: Illinois State Board of Education, Environmental Education Association of Illinois, Illinois Science Teachers Association

3. Establish partnerships among Environmental Learning Sites and Centers.

Strategies:

a. Recruit Environmental Learning Sites and Centers partners to actively participate in environmental literacy opportunities.

Completion date: 2011-2016
Collaborative partners: Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Education Association of Illinois, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rivers Project Office, One Star/Chicago Astronomical Society

* Organization will take a leadership role.
[2] Organization will provide very limited resources.

EVALUATION

Goal: Establish mechanisms for assessing, analyzing and evaluating the status of environmental literacy in Illinois and the effectiveness of the *Environmental Literacy for Illinois* plan.

Objectives:

1. Interpret the current and on-going status of environmental literacy in Illinois schools and non-formal programs.

Strategies:

a. Evaluate implementation of environmental literacy in schools through assessment and student participation.

Completion date: 2016
Collaborative partners: Illinois State Board of Education

b. Evaluate non-formal environmental literacy education programs through required annual reports on selected objectives.

Completion date: 2016
Collaborative partners: Active Transportation Alliance, Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Chicago Metropolitan Association for the Education of Young Children, Chicago Wilderness, Environmental Education Association of Illinois, Fuller Park Community Development/Eden Place Nature Center, Illinois Science Teachers Association, Lincoln Park Zoo, Nature's Classroom, Northern Illinois University, One Star/Chicago Astronomical Society, Salt Creek Greenway Association, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rivers Project Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Lake Shelbyville and Carlyle Lake

2. Ensure that the *Environmental Literacy for Illinois* plan's strategies, timelines and outcomes are discussed on an annual basis.

Strategies:

a. Develop an annual forum for all collaborative partners to report on progress.

Completion date: 2016
Collaborative partners: Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency[2]

b. Participate in the annual program showcase.

Completion date: 2016
Collaborative partners: Governor's Office, Illinois Department of Agriculture, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois State Board of Education, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rivers Project Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Lake Shelbyville and Carlyle Lake, Active Transportation Alliance, Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Chicago Metropolitan Association for the Education of Young Children, Chicago Wilderness, Environmental Education Association of Illinois, Fuller Park Community Development/Eden Place Nature Center, Illinois Science Teachers Association, Lincoln Park Zoo, Nature's Classroom, Northern Illinois University, One Star/Chicago Astronomical Society, Salt Creek Greenway Association, The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum

* Organization will take a leadership role.
[2] Organization will provide very limited resources.

GRANTS AND LONG-TERM FUNDING

Goal: Secure adequate grants and funding to sustain the goals of environmental literacy over time for the citizens of Illinois.

Objectives:

1. Expand funding opportunities from local sources, state and federal government and private foundations that support mechanisms that will build a more educated populace that will preserve, protect and enjoy the environment through sound personal and environmental decisions.

Strategies:

a. Identify and coordinate grant information to better disseminate funding resources to educators.

Completion date: 2016
Collaborative partners: Northern Illinois University, Salt Creek Greenway Association, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency[2], Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts[2]

b. Encourage collaboration between organizations to strengthen funding applications and opportunities.

Completion date: 2016
Collaborative partners: Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Chicago Wilderness, Illinois Conservation Foundation, Northern Illinois University, Salt Creek Greenway Association

c. Encourage cooperative grant applications between school districts, state agencies, Regional Offices of Education, colleges, universities and other appropriate agencies.

Completion date: 2016
Collaborative partners: Governor's Office, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Chicago Wilderness, Northern Illinois University, Salt Creek Greenway Association

d. Ensure funding information and application opportunities are available for both formal and non-formal educators.

Completion date: 2016
Collaborative partners: Governor's Office, Chicago Wilderness, Illinois Science Teachers Association, Northern Illinois University, Salt Creek Greenway Association

e. Establish a database of grant opportunities to facilitate trips to non-formal facilities that can be made available to both formal and non-formal educators.

Completion date: 2016
Collaborative partners: Illinois Science Teachers Association, Northern Illinois University, Salt Creek Greenway Association

2. Inform educators of professional development opportunities for grant writing.

* Organization will take a leadership role.
[2] Organization will provide very limited resources.

Strategies:

a. Collaborate with environmental organizations to sponsor and present seminars for grant writing for environmental grants.

Completion date: 2016
Collaborative partners: Environmental Education Association of Illinois, Illinois Science Teachers Association, Northern Illinois University, Salt Creek Greenway Association

b. Encourage science educators and science curriculum coordinators to attend grant-writing workshops.

Completion date: 2016
Collaborative partners: Environmental Education Association of Illinois, Illinois Science Teachers Association, Northern Illinois University, Salt Creek Greenway Association

* Organization will take a leadership role.
[2] Organization will provide very limited resources.

INSERVICE EDUCATOR EDUCATION

Goal: Promote incorporation of environmental literacy programs into prekindergarten through 12th grade teaching and learning.

Objectives:

1. Provide support for development and implementation of effective programs, activities and resources for a standards-led environmentally literate classroom.

Strategies:

a. Provide supplemental models within existing professional development frameworks.

Completion date: 2012-2016
Collaborative partners: Governor's Office, Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Science Teachers Association, Northern Illinois University, Environmental Education Association of Illinois[2]

b. Develop, conduct and analyze classroom needs assessments for environmental literacy resources and options.

Completion date: 2011-2016
Collaborative partners: Governor's Office, Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Science Teachers Association, Northern Illinois University, Environmental Education Association of Illinois[2]

2. Support opportunities for prekindergarten through 12th grade classroom educators to deepen and broaden their own expertise in environmental literacy concepts, strategies and resources, including the research supporting the Illinois Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights.

Strategies:

a. Analyze and respond to educator needs assessments for inservice professional development.

Completion date: 2012-2016
Collaborative partners: Governor's Office, Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Northern Illinois University, The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum*, Environmental Education Association of Illinois, Illinois Science Teachers Association, Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts[2]

b. Using nationally recognized criteria, evaluate effectiveness of opportunities that expand classroom educators' expertise in environmental literacy.

Completion date: 2011-2016
Collaborative partners: Governor's Office, Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Science Teachers Association, Northern Illinois University, Environmental Education Association of Illinois[2]

* Organization will take a leadership role.
[2] Organization will provide very limited resources.

c. Create opportunities for prekindergarten through 12th grade educators with attention to underserved audiences.

Completion date: 2011-2016
Collaborative partners: Governor's Office, Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Education Association of Illinois, Illinois Science Teachers Association, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rivers Project Office, Northern Illinois University, The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum

d. Develop partnerships for delivery of environmental literacy classroom strategies.

Completion date: 2011-2016
Collaborative partners: Governor's Office, Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Education Association of Illinois, Illinois Science Teachers Association, Northern Illinois University

e. Host and promote kindergarten through 12th grade Sustainable Schools Symposiums to provide networking opportunities and skills sharing. *For more information on the Sustainable Schools Symposiums visit http://www.green.illinois.gov.*

Completion date: 2011-2016
Collaborative partners: Governor's Office

3. Investigate adoption of an Illinois professional certification process utilizing existing certificate models.

Strategies:

a. Develop criteria for qualifications and responsibilities required for and develop a master environmental literacy designation.

Completion date: 2012
Collaborative partners: Illinois Science Teachers Association, Northern Illinois University, Environmental Education Association of Illinois[2]

b. Review and recommend standards-led, research-based curriculum, instructional and assessment models.

Completion date: 2012-2016
Collaborative partners: Illinois Science Teachers Association, Northern Illinois University, Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts[2], Environmental Education Association of Illinois[2]

c. Develop strategies to fund, promote, select and recognize master environmental literacy initiatives.

Completion date: 2013-2016
Collaborative partners: Illinois Science Teachers Association, Northern Illinois University, Environmental Education Association of Illinois[2]

4. Establish or enhance inservice educator training in environmental education for educators who are non-science majors.

* Organization will take a leadership role.
[2] Organization will provide very limited resources.

Strategies:

a. Through environmental education workshops, familiarize non-science educators with environmental concepts so that they can meet Leave No Child Inside goals.

Completion date: 2016
Collaborative partners: Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Education Association of Illinois, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rivers Project Office, Northern Illinois University, The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum

b. Collaborate with Illinois colleges and universities to create, identify and promote Illinois-specific non-science major environmental education classes in inservice educator programs.

Completion date: 2016
Collaborative partners: Illinois Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rivers Project Office, Northern Illinois University

* Organization will take a leadership role.
[2] Organization will provide very limited resources.

INTEGRATION

Goal: Provide a framework and options for effective integration of environmental literacy studies and professional development for formal and non-formal educators, including mechanisms to measure integration successes and challenges.

Objectives:

1. Develop a classroom implementation framework that effectively integrates environmental literacy concepts into the interdisciplinary theme of environmental literacy for 21st Century Student Outcomes. *For more information on the Partnership for 21st Century Skills visit http://www.p21.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=254&Itemid=120*.

Strategies:

a. Evaluate quality and quantity of current environmental literacy resources to determine needs of current and emerging concepts.

Completion date: 2014
Collaborative partners: Governor's Office, Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Science Teachers Association, Environmental Education Association of Illinois[2]

2. Through Environmental Learning Sites and Centers, assure high-quality, research-based, Illinois-specific and meaningful environmental literacy activities for students.

Strategies:

a. Develop a designation mechanism, training, record-keeping and evaluation/analysis of environmental literacy activities.

Completion date: 2016.
Collaborative partners: Illinois Science Teachers Association

* Organization will take a leadership role.
[2] Organization will provide very limited resources.

NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

Goal: Provide a framework for non-formal education initiatives, including identifying funds and resources and promoting awareness of nature and the environmental education opportunities and programs available for families, youth

Objectives:

1. Promote awareness of non-formal education's unique opportunities and programs to formal classroom principals and educators and provide links between what is being taught in the classroom and non-formal opportunities to enhance classroom lessons.

Strategies:

a. Within the frameworks established in Electronic Information Resources, establish an online resource guide that inventories non-formal programs/organizations/Web sites outlining available activities or upcoming events and site locations that can be accessed by formal educators.

Completion date: 2014
Collaborative partners: Regional Offices of Education, Environmental Education Association of Illinois, Illinois Science Teachers Association, The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum*, One Star/Chicago Astronomical Society, Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts[2]

b. Through the frameworks of the Environmental Learning Sites and Centers and Electronic Information Resources, make formal educators aware of available resources and program opportunities provided by participating non-formal educators.

Completion date: 2014
Collaborative partners: Illinois State Board of Education, Regional Offices of Education, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Education Association of Illinois, Illinois Science Teachers Association, One Star/Chicago Astronomical Society, Lincoln Park Zoo, Nature's Classroom, Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts[2]

2. Incorporate non-formal organizations into Science Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Learning Exchanges through the Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Learning Exchange.

Strategies:

a. Develop programs and real-life exercises for participating schools to incorporate field trips to non-formal facilities into the curricula.

Completion date: 2016
Collaborative partners: Illinois Science Teachers Association, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rivers Project Office, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

* Organization will take a leadership role.
[2] Organization will provide very limited resources.

b. Provide programs and exercises where the non-formal education experience is a component or base of a research project.

Completion date: 2016
Collaborative partners: Illinois Science Teachers Association, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rivers Project Office, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

c. Provide learning standards criteria for non-formal education field trips to non-STEM schools.

Completion date: 2016
Collaborative partners: Illinois Science Teachers Association

3. Support fairness and equal partnerships between, and for, formal and non-formal educators. Ensure that fairness (between formal and non-formal education) in partnerships and funding are a part of any legislation involving the distribution of funds for environmental education.

Strategies:

a. Ensure legislation will make funds available to both formal and non-formal educators.

Completion date: 2012-2016
Collaborative partners: Illinois Science Teachers Association, The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum*, One Star/Chicago Astronomical Society

b. Work to include language in any documents that recognize non-formal education opportunities as valued and of equal significance as formal education opportunities.

Completion date: 2012-2016
Collaborative partners: Illinois Science Teachers Association, The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum

* Organization will take a leadership role.
[2] Organization will provide very limited resources.

PLAN SUSTAINABILITY

Goal: Sustain the goals of environmental literacy over time for the citizens of Illinois.

Objectives:

1. Support mechanisms that will build a more educated populace that will preserve, protect and enjoy the environment through sound personal and environmental decisions.

Strategies:

a. Inform decision-makers of the existence of the *Environmental Literacy for Illinois* plan and educate them of its relevance to all projects they undertake.

Completion date: 2012
Collaborative partners: Governor's Office, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rivers Project Office, Chicago Wilderness, Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts[2]

b. Provide people with the information and incentives needed to make healthy personal and societal choices.

Completion date: 2016
Collaborative partners: Governor's Office, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts[2]

c. Develop a marketing plan and promote enhanced communication between formal and non-formal educators.

Completion date: 2011-2016
Collaborative partners: Governor's Office, Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Illinois Department of Agriculture, Environmental Education Association of Illinois, Illinois Science Teachers Association, Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts[2]

2. Pursue funding opportunities and resources for governmental, for-profit and non-profit partners that will assure long- and short-term successes for the *Environmental Literacy for Illinois* plan.

Strategies:

a. Incorporate objectives of the *Environmental Literacy for Illinois* plan into the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Programs of Study, particularly in the development of the Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Learning Exchange.

Completion date: 2012
Collaborative partners: Governor's Office*, Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

* Organization will take a leadership role.
[2] Organization will provide very limited resources.

b. Assure compliance of the *Environmental Literacy for Illinois* plan to the emerging parameters of the No Child Left Inside Act to effectively pursue funds to implement the goals, objectives and strategies contained therein.

Completion date: 2012
Collaborative partners: Governor's Office*, Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Chicago Wilderness

c. Coordinate with the Governor's appointed P-20 (prekindergarten through PhD) Council to build connections and alignment with post-secondary programs. *For information on the P-20 Council visit http://appointments.illinois.gov/appointmentsDetail.cfm?id=211.*

Completion date: 2012
Collaborative partners: Governor's Office*, Illinois State Board of Education

d. Develop partnerships that integrate the Illinois State Board of Education's Green Career and Technical Education Program into the *Environmental Literacy for Illinois* plan. *For more information on the Programs of Study visit http://www.isbe.net/news/2009/july20.htm.*

Completion date: 2012
Collaborative partners: Illinois State Board of Education

e. Connect with green industries to enhance student career opportunities, particularly the State Energy Sector Partnership, Illinois' public-private task force established as part of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act to develop a 21st Century green workforce.

Completion date: 2012
Collaborative partners: Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Illinois State Board of Education

3. Promote networking and participation in existing and future programs, initiatives, standards and curriculum development.

Strategies:

a. Incorporate environmental literacy into relevant Common Core Standards, the National Science Conceptual Framework and the guidelines for the Partnership for 21st Century Skills. *For more information on Illinois' Common Core Standards visit http://www.isbe.state.il.us/common_core/default.htm. For more information on the Partnership for 21st Century Skills visit http://www.p21.org/.*

Completion date: 2012 (or within one year of the development and release of these Standards)
Collaborative partners: Governor's Office, Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Science Teachers Association

b. Coordinate a variety of training opportunities for educators, within the framework of the Environmental Learning Sites and Centers.

Completion date: 2016
Collaborative partners: Governor's Office, Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rivers Project Office, Environmental Education Association of Illinois, Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts[2]

* Organization will take a leadership role.
[2] Organization will provide very limited resources.

PRESERVICE FORMAL EDUCATOR EDUCATION

Goal: Preservice formal educator education programs will provide future educators with the knowledge, skills, abilities and resources to develop environmentally literate students.

Objectives:

1. Develop a statewide environmental literacy network of formal and non-formal educators to provide resources to Illinois universities and colleges to incorporate environmental literacy in their formal educator education programs.

Strategies:

a. Identify and establish a communication network among preservice science, social science and elementary instructors.

Completion date: 2016
Collaborative partners: Illinois Science Teachers Association, Northern Illinois University, Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts[2], Environmental Education Association of Illinois[2]

b. Establish and maintain an inventory of preservice environmental education programs.

Completion date: 2016
Collaborative partners: Illinois Science Teachers Association, Northern Illinois University, Environmental Education Association of Illinois[2]

c. Agencies and organizations assist with identifying instructors/facilitators and sponsor curriculum enhancement projects.

Completion date: 2016
Collaborative partners: Environmental Education Association of Illinois, Lincoln Park Zoo, Northern Illinois University, Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts[2]

d. Familiarize preservice educator instructors with the nationally recognized Guidelines for Preparation and Professional Development of Environmental Educators. *For more information on these guidelines visit http://www.naaee.org/our-work/programs/guidelines-excellence.*

Completion date: 2016
Collaborative partners: Environmental Education Association of Illinois, Illinois Science Teachers Association, Northern Illinois University

2. Support environmental literacy opportunities for preservice educators.

Strategies:

a. If feasible, provide reduced-cost organizational membership and conference registration fees, internships, scholarships, field experiences, independent study and practica to preservice education instructors.

Completion date: 2016
Collaborative partners: Environmental Education Association of Illinois, Illinois Science Teachers Association, Northern Illinois University

* Organization will take a leadership role.
[2] Organization will provide very limited resources.

b. Market learning opportunities to preservice educators and faculty.

Completion date: 2016
Collaborative partners: Environmental Education Association of Illinois, Illinois Science Teachers Association, Lincoln Park Zoo, Northern Illinois University, The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum

c. Conduct a survey of current providers to determine the status of environmental courses and components.

Completion date: 2016
Collaborative partners: Illinois Science Teachers Association, Northern Illinois University

d. Find or develop assessment tools to determine the effectiveness of the preservice educator environmental literacy programs.

Completion date: 2016
Collaborative partners: Illinois Science Teachers Association, Northern Illinois University

3. Support the efforts of preservice educators to provide environmental literacy opportunities during their student teachers' training experiences: clinical, practicum, student teaching.

Strategies:

a. Provide cooperating schools and educators with research results on benefits of environmental education.

Completion date: 2016
Collaborative partners: Illinois Science Teachers Association, Northern Illinois University

b. Assist cooperating schools and educators in removing barriers to environmental education.

Completion date: 2016
Collaborative partners: Illinois Science Teachers Association, Northern Illinois University

4. Establish or enhance preservice educator training in environmental education for students who are non-science majors.

Strategies:

a. Through environmental education workshops, familiarize non-science educators with environmental concepts so that they can meet Leave No Child Inside goals.

Completion date: 2016
Collaborative partners: Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Education Association of Illinois, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rivers Project Office, Northern Illinois University

b. Collaborate with Illinois colleges and universities to create, identify and promote Illinois-specific non-science major environmental education classes in preservice educator programs.

Completion date: 2016
Collaborative partners: Illinois Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rivers Project Office, Northern Illinois University

* Organization will take a leadership role.
[2] Organization will provide very limited resources.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR NON-FORMAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS

Goal: Provide training and support for non-formal environmental educators to serve families, introduce youth to nature and assist formal educators in meeting the goals, objectives and strategies of the *Environmental Literacy for Illinois* strategic plan.

Objectives:

1. Promote and provide quality professional development opportunities for non-formal educators.

   Strategies:

   a. Provide statewide training and enrichment opportunities targeted to self-identified non-formal organizations expressing a need.

   Completion date: 2011-2016
   Collaborative partners: Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois State Board of Education, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Lake Shelbyville and Carlyle Lake, Environmental Education Association of Illinois, Lincoln Park Zoo, Fuller Park Community Development/Eden Place Nature Center, Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts[2]

   b. Identify, consolidate and promote existing training opportunities through Environmental Learning Sites and Centers.

   Completion date: 2011-2016
   Collaborative partners: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Lake Shelbyville and Carlyle Lake, Environmental Education Association of Illinois, Fuller Park Community Development/Eden Place Nature Center, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency[2], Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts[2]

2. Establish, promote and maintain an accreditation program for Illinois environmental educators.

   Strategies:

   a. Establish an accountability process for educators and providers to earn this professional certification.

   Completion date: 2012-2013
   Collaborative partners: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Lake Shelbyville and Carlyle Lake, Environmental Education Association of Illinois

   b. Develop partnerships with other organizations to assist participants in meeting requirements for this professional certification.

   Completion date: 2011-2016
   Collaborative partners: Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Lake Shelbyville and Carlyle Lake, Environmental Education Association of Illinois

3. Equip non-formal educators with tools, terminology and resources to integrate their programs and resources into formal curricula.

* Organization will take a leadership role.
[2] Organization will provide very limited resources.

Strategies:

a. Provide training which focuses on the definition, application and supporting research of formal pedagogy and the advantages of environmental education integration.

Completion date: 2011-2016
Collaborative partners: Environmental Education Association of Illinois, Illinois Science Teachers Association, Illinois State Board of Education, Lincoln Park Zoo

b. Provide training on the incorporation and correlation of Illinois Learning Standards into non-formal programming. *For more information on Illinois Learning Standards visit http://www.isbe.state.il.us/ils/.*

Completion date: 2011-2016
Collaborative partners: Environmental Education Association of Illinois, Illinois Science Teachers Association, Illinois State Board of Education, Lincoln Park Zoo

4. Sustain long-term oversight of non-formal professional development.

Strategies:

a. Identify and designate an implementation team to achieve non-formal professional development of *Environmental Literacy for Illinois* plan strategies.

Completion date: 2012-2016
Collaborative partners: Environmental Education Association of Illinois

* Organization will take a leadership role.
[2] Organization will provide very limited resources.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Goal: Promote school administrative decisions that encourage healthy student lifestyles and encourage environmental stewardship.

Objectives:

1. Encourage school decision-makers to consider environmental impacts when making infrastructure and operational decisions.

Strategies:

a. Encourage sustainable school siting, comprehensive school travel plans and transportation policies that promote student walking and biking and conservation of resources.

Completion date: 2012-2016
Collaborative partners: Active Transportation Alliance

b. Increase the numbers of schools that participate in the Governor's Sustainable Schools Compact and ensure the compact is being used to promote sustainable practices. *For more information on the Sustainable Schools Compact visit http://www.green.illinois.gov.*

Completion date: 2012-2016
Collaborative partners: Governor's Office, Active Transportation Alliance

c. Encourage schools to take advantage of funding opportunities to increase energy efficiency projects. *Funding opportunities will be listed at http://IllinoisEnergy.org.*

Completion date: 2012-2016
Collaborative partners: Governor's Office, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

d. Ensure schools are adhering to standards in the Green Cleaning Schools Act (105 ILCS 140).

Completion date: 2012-2016
Collaborative partners: Governor's Office

2. Educate students about active lifestyle choices as a way to promote environmental stewardship.

Strategies:

a. Increase bicycle and pedestrian safety education in schools.

Completion date: 2012-2016
Collaborative partners: Active Transportation Alliance

* Organization will take a leadership role.
[2] Organization will provide very limited resources.

b. Encourage schools to implement lessons across the curriculum that educate students about the multitude of benefits from active transportation.

Completion date: 2012-2016
Collaborative partners: Active Transportation Alliance

c. Use non-formal educators and after-school programs to reach students outside of the classroom to promote outdoor play and alternative transportation that integrates nature education with physical activity.

Completion date: 2012-2016
Collaborative partners: Active Transportation Alliance, Chicago Wilderness

3. Educate students on healthy eating choices as a way to promote environmental stewardship.

Strategies:

a. Educate students on the benefits of environmentally sustainable farming through field trips, classroom visits from farmers and other hands-on opportunities.

Completion date: 2012-2016
Collaborative partners:

b. Teach students the cultivation, nutritional value and cultural significance of fresh food.

Completion date: 2012-2016
Collaborative partners:

c. Encourage the establishment of sustainable food gardens at schools.

Completion date: 2012-2016
Collaborative partners:

d. Encourage partnerships with local restaurants and chefs to teach educators, parents and students on how to prepare healthy meals.

Completion date: 2012-2016
Collaborative partners:

* Organization will take a leadership role.
[2] Organization will provide very limited resources.