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## Capacity Building Coverage in Environmental Education Publications

### SURVEY REPORT

During July-August 2004 the National Environmental Education Advancement Project (NEEAP) conducted an online survey of environmental education professionals regarding coverage of capacity building news in the field. Professionals contacted included Environmental Education and Training Partnership (EETAP) partners and their networks, EETAP states contacts and subscribers to *EE News*, the electronic newsletter of the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE).

There were 76 respondents to the on-line survey regarding several environmental education capacity building publications. Following is a report of the responses for each question. In the case of the open ended questions, the complete list of responses is included. This report and background information about the survey can be found on the NEEAP website at [www.uwsp.edu/cnr/neeap](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/neeap).

### Survey Questions and Responses

#### 1. What environmental education related publications do you receive?

Publication	Subscribers
EE-News (NAAEE)	54
EE Communicator (NAAEE)	33
EE Advocate	14
EETAP Bulletin	11
EETAP States Digest	7
Branch (PLT)	16
WWF EE Newsletter	20

Other publications indicated include: Green Teacher, The Clearing, NAI EE Newsletter, Chicago Wilderness, Wild Ohio, Legacy, Journal of Interpretation, AK Dept of Fish and Game Wildlife Bulletin, EPA Newsletter, Groundwater Foundation Recharge Report, Audubon Alerts, Journal of EE, Leopold Project Newsletters, SWIFT, EE Info-Link, Science Teacher, Vermont SWEEP, Daily Grist, NRDC E-News, Project WET Newsletter, CREEC Newsletters

**2. To what extent do you find each of the publications you receive useful in your EE capacity building work?** (1 = great use, 2 = some use, 3 = little use, 4 = no use)

Publication	Average Ranking
EE-News (NAAEE)	1.5
EE Communicator (NAAEE)	2.2
EE Advocate	2.0
EETAP Bulletin	1.8
EETAP States Digest	1.7
Branch (PLT)	2.3
WWF EE Newsletter	2.1
Green Teacher	1.2

**3. Please describe the type of information or articles most beneficial to you from the news sources listed above.**

Themes included in the answers below include:

- Funding / Grants
- Workshops / Conferences / Professional Development
- Curriculum Resources
- Research on Capacity Building and EE Methods – In-depth articles

**Answers:**

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Research into learning strategies, Hands on suggestions for incorporating those strategies, Articles concerning the similar problems in our state and how these are being addressed elsewhere.

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I am very interested in the question of EE certification and read widely on it. I am always on the prowl for up-to-date research and info. that is relevant to the non-formal sector.

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Grants available, new teaching strategies, teacher education and professional development opportunities.

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Current local environmental and EE issues and events in NYC.

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Funding opportunities, Innovative projects, Training opportunities

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Wildlife habitat/restoration in Ohio special event calendars.

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School/teaching related articles- curriculum activities, Conference, Grants, Workshops/seminars, Environmental info. for updating purposes.

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Current education programs and research findings.

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The information on grants and workshops.

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Those related to teacher training and/or EE resources for teachers

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Conferences, training opportunities, resources

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New ideas emerging from the field, conference announcements, curriculum ideas, innovative partnerships

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General info. on science education, especially environmental.

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Articles on EE evaluation, place based education, partnerships, funding sources, educational standards, and links to online curriculum materials.

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New EE curriculum and professional development resources/opportunities.

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Information/lessons learned/pitfalls to avoid from the other EETAP states are all extremely helpful. In general, most interested in resources for formal and non-formal educators to use in programs; professional development opportunities; funding opportunities; award nomination opportunities; updates on national EE funding situation; info on EE in pre-service teacher education; info on state and national standards/voluntary certifications for EE's; info on successful partnerships.

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Research findings or results

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Project ideas, what other people are doing, current research and studies related to informal education.

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Protected areas and its administration

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Courses and seminars available; grants available.

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Research results on different educational techniques...evaluations of effective approaches.

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EE-News is valuable and current. I have tried to follow up on several of the articles/opportunities in EE Advocate, with little success. The EE communicator is often not relevant, or info I already know.

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Upcoming and current events; book reviews; reports on how to assess quality of EE; essays of value of EE.

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Possible funding sources, referred curriculum resources.

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Content and process articles related to capacity building and organizational development. Lessons learned, current EE issues.

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New programs and ideas for involving educators in EE efforts; grant opps; workshops and training opps.

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Announcements of training opportunities

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information on new ideas, good programs, evaluation results, national and state education trends, etc.

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Grant opportunities, training opportunities, programs on which to model our initiatives.

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1.) Funding resources are most important as I need funds to do teacher training & teachers need funds to complete service learning projects. 2.) General info about EE is helpful. 3.) Advocacy efforts information is useful when I can add my voice to support EE. 4.) Sound science curriculum ideas are wonderful.

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Practical ideas, funding leads, resources, conferences

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Information on current EE research, adult learning/education programs, and PhD funding opportunities.

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Publication suggestions, web site suggestions. Info. on what's going on across the country. Grant Info.

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Articles of interest (news you can use), grant funding, not so much workshop info - we have no travel budget.

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Actual articles about capacity building rather than show and tell articles about projects.

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Teacher guides and lesson plans.

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Examples of what teachers do in their classrooms.

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Lesson plans, on-line activities, grant opportunities.

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Challenges to EE, developments in the field--concept shifts, audience approaches, methods that work, new publication announcements, information on media sources (web sites, CD's, etc.)

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Research on measuring attitude change and impact.

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Funding. Curriculum experienced, training

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Information on conferences, and articles on international efforts in EE.

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Social science research about audience needs and expectations, Articles about learning styles, Specific teaching techniques applied to specific audiences.

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Info about other orgs and programs. Vendor information and info regarding state standards and testing issues. My colleagues receive your information, I am not a subscriber. They will pass interesting articles etc.

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I would find the latest new innovations and conference notes most beneficial.

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Scholarship about EE, trends in EE, grant information, best practice examples. Other organizations that can help link teachers to E professionals (like NSTA, etc.)

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Specific grant opportunities, emerging issues in EE, national EE news/project update.

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Training opportunities, curriculum references, grant opportunities.

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Specific activity ideas; updates on new research.

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Succinct description of educational resources and opportunities and info about how to access resources.

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Information about new on-line EE resources and/or new EE materials that can be purchased or requested. I also like seeing what's happening around the country and internationally in EE.

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Grants, EE on-line classes and resources, publications opportunities.

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Dates of events and ideas.

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It help me to stay informed of current issues, educational reforms, best management practices in the EE field (both in environmental realm and educational realm such as state standards, etc.)

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Outcomes Evaluation-How to and Rationale. Interface w/ interpretation, Recreation & other related literature.

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Activities for schools groups involving natural and historical topics. Showing different teaching styles.

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Keeping in touch. I am retired but still do some consulting and writing.

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I value articles highlighting how others are accomplishing curriculum goals. Hands on activities and such. I would also benefit form information about alternative funding sources

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Resources, national initiatives, initiatives in states that I work with.

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The how to do and further exploration of an issue

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Information about Ohio for students.

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I enjoy articles that help provide up to date info on some aspect of nature and/or EE.

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EE programs and professional development opportunities for disseminating to other formal and informal educators in the Hampton Roads, VA region.

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**4. Please list any other information related to EE capacity building that you would like to see covered in one or more of the listed EE news sources?**

Themes included in the answers below include:

- More Resources
- More Research on What Works
- Curriculum Activities and Support

**Answers:**

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Collaborative endeavors: how are they working? What are the challenges they present? How effectively are those collaborative efforts reaching out to diverse audiences? How are they being assessed?

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I want stories that illustrate struggles we are all having. I realize we need to paint our successes. I need to know what they really had to overcome to achieve their success. If we don't reflect the journey, then what's the value? If we make our accomplishments seem too easy, then I believe we discourage others who try to do what we've done, run into difficulties and then we just give up. All of us working on EE capacity building have had a good share of ups and downs. We have devoted a lot of time and energy in order to solve situations creatively. Our articles need to reflect, with honesty, what has not been achieved as well as HOW.

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Curriculum activities, Links, Networking with others.

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I would like access to research on how EE contributes to lifestyle changes.

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How to improve ed programs for non-formal educators. There is a lot of emphasis on the need for research but without the resources to contract a consultant, how to help conduct research for my current programs.

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Policies from state and federal that might give us a heads up to what is going on so we could participate.

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More North American opportunities

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Evaluation, training ideas, training on a shoestring, grant writing and fundraising.

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Not really. I get a lot of info. from the newsletter and am pleased to get it on a regular basis

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Making models for new EE and nature center staff or simply an outline of methods and content of a new teacher should be knowledgeable of.

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More about how EE organizations within one state communicate and coordinate with each other.

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1.) Specific examples/statistics documenting the value of EE, such as the SEER report provided. 2.) Info. on environmental career mentoring and shadowing opportunities and networks, not so much to help us find jobs as to help us interest younger students in all the variety of environmental science, engineering, law,

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communication, etc. careers out there. 3.) Info. on scholarship and internship opportunities for young professionals (particularly since nature center budgets are really struggling in out state at present).

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There is a desperate need for more research in the field to determine what works, what doesn't and why.

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Lists of useful publications- not a 100 word book review- I'd rather have a running list of books, journals, etc

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Capacity building and development in the zones declared as protected areas

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More natural resource related and less focus on grade school teachers.

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Job listings are incredible helpful

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Funding for capacity building- who is, how to get it, etc. New ideas in Capacity Building- what works advocating for EE- how to do it, where to start.

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Freebies, I always look at those first. Money is tight, has gotten tighter, and will likely never be free flowing.

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EE certification projects for formal and non-formal educators

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It's probably there, but I just missed it- Leadership development for EE state and leader organizations. EE educators often do not make the best organizers or leaders- they need a little training/help.

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Program evaluation, establishment of performance measures, and collecting performances.

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How do you really motivate and develop capacity with small rural areas with few resources?

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More resources that emphasize science

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- 1.) An overview of where each state stands in EE would be helpful and give our state something to achieve.
  - 2.) Training opportunities to develop, not only our own capacity but to offer teachers
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You never know what people will have time to look at.

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Sample curricula, info on adult EE programs, informal (non-classroom) learning, etc.

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The political arena and where this is all heading to.

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More on urban schools and minorities.

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My job is academic, building capacity in individuals more often than institutions and organizations.

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More studies about audiences needs and expectations.

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Information on resources, sample lesson plans, etc. so that people aren't reinventing the wheel.

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Workshop ideas.

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High School and college level EE- I find there is too much about early elementary

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Listing of free programs offered to educators. Re-use education resources. Information swap.

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"Info-briefs" on EE research.

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Current info. on EE legislation/standards, etc. (AB 1548)

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It would be useful for the resource to list how one could get info about/receive the other news sources listed

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above. Web links are always useful.

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Terms and definitions - consistency across disciplines (interp, EE, public relations, recreation, leisure, tourism)

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I would like to see how programs are set up for the groups that seem to be a lost group. High School, special needs (mentally challenged), preK-2, senior citizens.

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Reviews of EE literature for all ages.

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**5. Is it helpful to have some overlapping capacity building information provided by EE publications? Please explain.**

Yes: 70

No: 6

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Yes. Life is so busy that I frequently may overlook something in one pub (if I even get around to reading it). If it's good info, I expect to see it being corroborated in a variety of publications that I trust.

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If I read something in more than one place, I just might remember it better!! I don't mind duplication.

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Yes, occasionally I miss things in one and can find them in others. Also, it adds to networking knowledge.

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We are so busy that we would rather not read through the same info more than once.

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Sure. It is helpful to hear it from different sources.

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No because I don't have time to read many publications.

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Sometimes I need to see something twice to get me to respond or use.

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I really don't know

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It is helpful because sometimes an item in any given publication can be missed.

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Yes!! Because we get so busy at times, we may miss some or even all of a particular publication; because seeing something a second time sometimes jogs my memory to forward that item to include in one of our state publications or online-calendars or list-serves.

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Not everyone read all publication, so overlap may result in a greater readership.

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Not sure.

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My depth of reading depends on time limitations so overlap is actually helpful because I may miss something in one review of a publication and catch it in another.

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It doesn't hurt, not sure it is helpful.

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Not everyone gets every publication.

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Yes and no. Overlap means I have a better chance of seeing it, and passing it along--in my role as state liaison. No, if all the pubs have the same info why not just have one pub?

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We're busy and miss it in one pub but see it in another; need to see, read, something 3-8 times to remember.

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If you miss it in one, you might catch it in another. Each group has their own mission and expression of "CB".

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Every article seems to present a little different viewpoint.

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In case you miss the info in one place, it's good to encounter it in multiple places

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I don't mind seeing things repeated because I know not everyone gets all the same pubs. I think each publication can offer something of interest that the others don't have, i.e. a national perspective, regional or state perspectives. There should also be a statement that any info can be printed in regional/state/local pubs.

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Yes, as we don't always read every publication.

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I would like to see resources and people to contact and its helpful if found in different sources.

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Insure that more people will encounter important information.

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Truth is the same over and over, so there is likely to be some overlap. It's a circular cycle.

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Opportunities for collaboration.

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I think so. A different perspective.

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Obviously not everyone receives or reads everything, so some duplications seem appropriate. Yet, each publication should have its unique character and focus and include only those things that serve that purpose.

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Inter-related topics, from varying angles allows for professional development of EE programs.

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Repetition helps; might miss it in one source.

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Definitely. Currently, I only access two of the publications listed, so I am probably missing a lot!

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Better to see it in a few places and have more potential for outreach.

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Yes, I don't have access to all the publications, so you reach a larger audience by having some overlap.

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One does not necessarily receive every news source. Important info should be covered in more than 1 place.

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It gives reinforcement and validation to the capacity building.

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In case I miss the information the first time around.

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**7. Do you pass EE information or resources from EE publications on to your colleagues / affiliates / clients through any of the following:**

Distribution Method	Number using Method
Newsletter	32
List Serve	26
E-mail Forward	53

Other methods of distribution include: hard copies passed along to colleagues, word of mouth, posted on websites, telephone, online calendar of upcoming events, semi-annual education exchange with co-workers, training, and office bulletin boards

**8. How do you prefer to receive your EE publications?**

Email: 43  
 Post: 17  
 Both: 8

**9. What type of position(s) do you hold (please choose all that apply)?** This will help us gauge what is useful to various types of educators and other EE leaders. *Several respondents selected more than one position.*

- 11 EE association (board member or staff member)
- 6 Researcher – student
- 2 Researcher – professor
- 6 Researcher – career
- 12 K-12 Educator
- 7 K-12 Administrator
- 10 Higher Education – educator
- 2 Higher Education – administration
- 1 University Extension agent
- 28 Non-Formal Educator (naturalist, interpreter, etc)
- 8 Non-Formal Center Administrator
- 13 Agency EE Specialist – federal
- 7 Agency EE Specialist – state
- 0 Agency EE Specialist - county
- 2 Environmental NGO EE specialist
- 2 EE or related position in the business sector (please describe)
- 0 Foundation representative
- 3 Consultant
- 1 Env. Scientist

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