



Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation

2008 Annual Report

January 2009

Investing in the Future

The Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation is pleased to report that Superintendent Burmaster has reinstated the Environmental Education Consultant position at the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) in her budget request for the coming fiscal year. Now, environmental education supporters around the state will have to rally the Governor's office and the legislature to ensure it stays in the budget.

We recognize our state faces huge fiscal challenges, but we are confident that investments in environmental education will be an essential tool as we work toward economic and environmental sustainability. Whether the challenge is climate change, energy independence, globalization, or adapting to

new technologies, environmental education equips people of all ages with the critical thinking and problem solving skills they need to find solutions to increasingly complex problems in their jobs and homes.



Students test model wind generators at 2008 Governor's High School Conference on the Environment

Ultimately, smart choices for the environment mean healthier people, economies and communities.

The Environmental Education (EE) Consultant position will ensure Wisconsin schools have:

- ◆ Meaningful statewide leadership in EE curricular and instructional issues
- ◆ Support and oversight as they develop and/or implement their EE curricula plans (mandated in PI 8.01 (2) (k), Wis. Admin. Code)
- ◆ Access to federal funding opportunities for environmental education

Wisconsin should be proud of its longtime commitment to environmental education, but we must also be ready to respond to emerging needs and priorities. The Environmental Education Consultant at the DPI will ensure Wisconsin continues to meet its environmental literacy goals now and in the future.

Our Mission:

The Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation secures private funding support for environmental education opportunities that promote environmental stewardship, economic vitality, and healthy communities.

Our Goal:

Our goal is to develop an EE endowment fund to:

- Ensure strategic leadership and vision for environmental education in Wisconsin,
- Provide sustainable funding for the statewide environmental education grants program, and
- Invest in special projects that address newly emerging priorities for environmental education.

Tell your legislator you support EE in Wisconsin: 1-800-362-9472

Environmental Education Works for Wisconsin

Environmental issues are everywhere. Energy use, climate change, air and water pollution, land development, and basic consumer choices are critical issues in communities across Wisconsin.

Through environmental education (EE), Wisconsin residents learn to investigate all sides of environmental issues as well as how to resolve these issues in ways that balance the needs of the environment with the

realities of our economy and society. Ultimately, an informed and skilled public is our best guarantee of environmental stewardship, a strong sustainable economy, and a high quality of life here in Wisconsin.



Wisconsin Women Forward for Environmental Education

The Wisconsin Women Forward for Environmental Education is an informal group of influential and accomplished women that have come together to promote the goals and objectives of the Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation. Each member is known for her enduring commitment to Wisconsin's environmental health, her value for authentic education, and her understanding of the importance of nurturing our future leaders.

The following is an excerpt from the group's statement of purpose:

"We envision a healthy and diverse society, built on thriving cities and farms, good jobs, and the living legacy of natural beauty and abundance in our forests, prairies, lakes and rivers.

We believe Wisconsin's future will be more vibrant and prosperous if it is built by a society that respects the natural world and understands our dependence on a healthy environment

for our prosperity and quality of life. We know that the well-being of our people and the strength of our economy are directly linked to the vitality of the land and waters and the very air we breathe.

We believe that learning is a life-long pursuit, and that Wisconsin's educational system can be a global model for education that forms the foundation of a healthy democracy and a sustainable world.

Forward-thinking environmental education will prepare citizens for the challenges of tomorrow, not yesterday. As we face climate change, mass extinctions, and a rising tide of health issues tied to the environment, we know that finding solutions will require imagination, skills, a commitment to excellence, and the courage to act."

For more information about this outstanding group of EE leaders, visit wisconsinEEfoundation.org and click on "Partners."

Financial Activities

WEEF's annual report provides an overview of our activities for the past fiscal year which ended June 30, 2008. Donations and interest on accounts generated \$16,180 in the 2007-2008 budget cycle.

Contributions were received via the State Employees Combined Campaign (SECC), a fundraiser sponsored by the Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education (WAEE), as well as from individual donors.

The majority of spending has gone towards establishing our organization and launching our fundraising campaigns. A total of \$4,931 has been spent during the 2007-2008 fiscal year. In April of 2008, WEEF made its first grant to benefit the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board's small grant program. Future budgets will emphasize grant-making for EE programs.

Detailed financial statements are available upon request.

2008 State Employees Combined Campaign

The Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation continued to serve as an umbrella organization for EE organizations in the 2008 State Employees Combined Campaign (SECC). The Campaign makes it easy for state employees to give to participating charities via a direct payroll deduction, check or cash.

Our members for the 2008 Campaign are: the Midwest

Renewable Energy Association (MREA), Trees for Tomorrow, Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education (WAEE), Wisconsin Forest Resources Education Alliance (WFREA), Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association, and the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (WWF).

For more information, visit us at wisconsinEEfoundation.org and click on "Partners."

"This initiative is beyond just education; it's about preserving the quality of life we cherish in Wisconsin, while attaining success in the new global economy."

-WEEF President, Janet Brandt

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