

Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education 2018 Year in Review - Service and Impact Report

The Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education provides leadership and resources to advance education for sustainable human and natural communities through the Wisconsin K-12 Energy Education Program (KEEP), LEAF-Wisconsin's K-12 Forestry Education Program and School Forest Program, Green & Healthy Schools Wisconsin, and Project Learning Tree.



Professional Development

One thousand, three hundred, thirty-seven PK-12, non-formal, and pre-service educators participated in 80 professional development events during 2018. These educators returned from WCEE workshops, in-services, field training, for-credit courses, and curriculum trainings equipped with standards-based energy, forestry, and environmental education resources that support their students' education.



Statewide Leadership

In 2018 WCEE staff led programs, events, and pursuits that support our position as statewide leaders in advancing environmental and sustainability education. Each year our staff:

- Participate as members of advisory boards and committees
- Coordinate statewide events
- Administer multiple statewide programs
- Provide statewide recognition opportunities and awards
- Guide cooperative networking and partnerships in Wisconsin
- Create and distribute innovative curriculum and material resources
- Provide personalized support and services, and advise schools, districts, and communities in planning and development for advancing environmental education and sustainability



Community Outreach

Our staff value local and statewide communities and are dedicated to including youth, families, community members, and other environmental and education professionals in our mission to advance education for sustainable human and natural communities. Each year our staff:

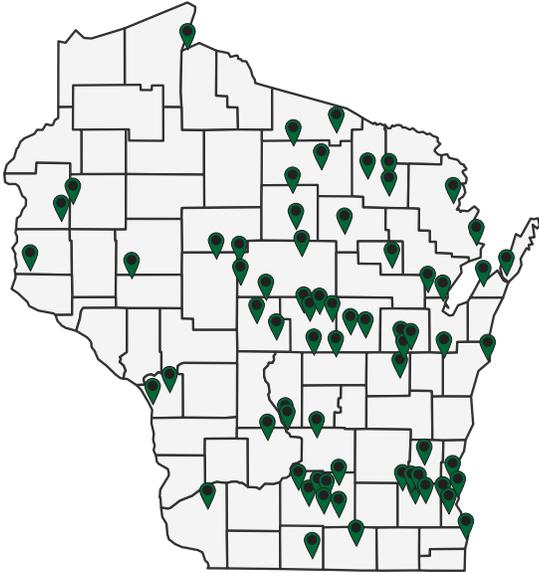
- Present and exhibit at state, regional, national, and international conferences and symposiums
- Cooperate and partner with agencies/organizations to plan and organize conferences, events, summits
- Work directly with students in the classroom and in the field
- Participate in community events



Educational Resources

In 2018 the WCEE updated its existing curricula and lessons to align with Next Generation Science Standards and Wisconsin Standards for Environmental Literacy and Sustainability. Additionally, we provide more than 30 educational hands-on trunks and kits that are available to Wisconsin educators. Kits and trunks contain hands-on props, posters, specimen samples, and standards-based activity guides. One hundred sixty-one kits were checked out impacting 4,201 adults and 9,056 students for a total of 13,257 individuals.

Where We Were in 2018



Each pin represents a location where staff have led community and student engagement events, facilitated professional development, and/or provided school forest and/or school site support. In many cases staff visited a school, site, school forest, or community on more than one occasion in 2018, conducting multiple outreach efforts throughout the year.

Collaboration With Pulaski Middle School



The goals of the cooperative effort were to assess energy usage at the school site, utilize the school forest as a learning tool, step outside in a classroom setting, and create a culture of engaging the school site and environmental education as a place-based learning context for health and wellness in accordance with national, state, and district learning standards.

Collaborative efforts like this allow our staff to connect teachers, like those at Pulaski Middle School, to relevant curriculum, hands-on resources, and agencies, organizations, and industry leaders, including the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin based utility companies, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Project Learning Tree, and the Place-based Opportunities for High Hopes project.

The Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education (WCEE) works to meet the needs of teachers, schools, and districts to provide resources and relationships that allow environmental education to flourish in the state. For example, over the last several years we have provided professional development and consultation, participated in school events, and conducted site visits to support environmental education at Pulaski Middle School.

In 2018, Pulaski educators and administrators, led by seventh grade teacher Dave Landers, identified an opportunity to focus on environmental education through the lens of citizen science. By using the school site (both indoor and outdoor) as the context, this lens provides hands-on learning to highlight relevant connections to district-specific performance expectations and learning standards while getting students and teachers outside.

Moving forward, we plan to work with Pulaski Middle School to develop school site-based educational plans (drawing on the existing school forest educational plan), create cohorts of teachers mobilized to implement the new Wisconsin Standards for Environmental Literacy and Sustainability, facilitate community-school-career connections, and advance the school's level of recognition through Green & Healthy Schools Wisconsin.

By leveraging the Wisconsin K-12 Energy Education Program (KEEP), LEAF-Wisconsin's K-12 Forestry Education Program, the Wisconsin Standards for Environmental Literacy and Sustainability, Green & Healthy Schools Wisconsin, and Project Learning Tree, we look forward to continuing to provide customized assistance to Pulaski Middle School, and all the schools we work with, to advance environmental education in Wisconsin.



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