



The Australian Association for Environmental Education (AAEE)

AND

The North American Association of Environmental Education (NAAEE)

I. PARTIES

This document constitutes an agreement between the Australian Association for Environmental Education (AAEE) and The North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE), both not-for-profit with an interest in environmental education.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to strengthen the relationship and develop a constructive connection between the two associations.

Through this MOU, the signatories recognise each other as important organisations in the international effort to improve environmental education and move towards more sustainable practices.

III. BACKGROUND

1. The Australian Association for Environmental Education

The Australian Association for Environmental Education Inc. (AAEE) is the peak professional association for environmental educators in Australia. It has built strong relationships in Australia with government agencies, all levels of governments and a wide cross-section of non-government organisations. AAEE has a national executive and a chapter in each state and territory. The objectives of the AAEE are to:

- Promote environmental education as defined by UNESCO/UNEP.
- Promote co-ordination among bodies engaged in environmental education and training;
- Co-operate and/or affiliate with any other bodies with similar aims for the more effective furtherance of these aims;
- Promote the co-operation of relevant voluntary organisations and statutory bodies, incorporated bodies and individuals
- Publish, distribute, and disseminate matters arising out of and in connection with association and its objects;
- Hold conferences, meetings, seminars and gatherings to promote the objects of the Association;
- Publish regularly a journal to promote the objects of the association.
- To lobby and advocate for environmental education.

2. The North American Association for Environmental Education (NAEE)

Mission: NAAEE is a model in association management, consistently demonstrating its core values through its service to members and the field of environmental education.

The EE Field, Society and the Earth The Association seeks to achieve the following key milestones:

- The advancement of research results shows that decision makers as well as citizens are making informed, responsible choices that contribute to a healthy environment and sustainable society as a result of increased environmental literacy.
- The environmental education profession is firmly established, valued, and promoted leading to wide acknowledgement in society and in the education mainstream that environmental education is important.
- Representation of diverse backgrounds is the norm within environmental education programs and organizations, and environmental education professionals have the cultural competency skills to work effectively in diverse contexts reaching the full range of culturally and professionally diverse audiences.
- The promotion of environmental education as a vital avenue to achieve quality education and training, sustainable development, biodiversity, conservation, environmental protection, social equality and security worldwide.

Goals and Strategies

To achieve the Association's mission and vision, the leadership of NAAEE has established four overarching meta-goals. Under each of these, three more specific goals have been identified.

A. Promoting Environmental Literacy

- Goal 1: Promote financial, legislative and general public support for environmental literacy
- Goal 2: Support and partner with state, provincial and regional NAAEE Affiliates
- Goal 3: Identify, publish, market and distribute quality EE publications for professionals

B. Serving NAAEE Members

- Goal 4: Increase membership through improved services and recruitment
- Goal 5: Promote cultural diversity within NAAEE and the field of EE
- Goal 6: Build a strong network of EE partners worldwide

C. Advancing the Environmental Education Profession

- Goal 7: Implement the *Excellence in Environmental Education* program
- Goal 8: Improve and expand EE professional development opportunities
- Goal 9: Integrate research into NAAEE's programs

D. Assuring Organizational Sustainability and Development

- Goal 10: Enhance and diversify the Association's sources of revenue
- Goal 11: Develop a dynamic volunteer leadership corps
- Goal 12: Put in place the staff and systems to achieve NAAEE's mission

IV. MUTUAL INTEREST OF THE PARTIES

The AAEE and NAAEE have a number of mutual interests, specifically to:

- Maintain a high level of services and benefits to members, including distribution of information and resources.
- Provide greater coordination of environmental education internationally (between Australia and North America).
- Create networking and professional development opportunities.

V. ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

A. AAEE and NAAEE

This MOU identifies the following areas where AAEE and NAAEE agree to support each other:

1. Communication and Promotion

- Establish a link to the other Association via the web-site. Include a statement about the “commitment to work together” and a copy of the MOU.
- Exchange annual calendar of events, including meetings, conferences, timing for distribution of journals and newsletters and deadlines for information input to the executive of each Association for distribution across relevant Association networks.
- Share information and provide opportunities to distribute information to each others networks through cross-promotions in newsletters and other communication channels. (A minimum of one item per year is suggested – and this piece may include a brief update of the environmental education/sustainability education work in respective regions.)
- Establish a reciprocal arrangement where relevant activities of each association/network are given space in electronic newsletters
- Co-promote each association/network at relevant conferences, i.e. brochure available for delegates at conference.

2. Conference Support

- Ensure that each Association’s conferences (and associated deadline leading up to the actual event: eg: Call for Papers and Registration) are advertised as widely as possible through each Association’s established communication pathways.
- Offer a free registration to the President (or representative) of each Association to the conference of the other.

3. Membership

- Explore options for reciprocal discount on joint membership.

4. Other

- Determine processes where the exchange of ideas and initiatives can be facilitated between associations.
- Develop and implement processes where possible exchanges could be facilitated.
- Develop and implement joint projects in line with the Decade for Education for Sustainable Development.
- Develop and implement joint projects to promote and encourage diversity and environmental justice.
- Identify and carry out other mutually beneficial collaborations.

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VI. EQUITABLE APPORTIONMENT OF COSTS

The costs of this activity are equitably apportioned, and each party shall bear the costs of its own activities under this Agreement.

VII. PERIOD OF AGREEMENT AND MODIFICATION/TERMINATION

This Agreement will become effective when signed by both parties. The Agreement will be formally reviewed and updated on an annual basis, but may be amended at any time by mutual agreement of the parties. Either party may terminate this Agreement by providing one hundred twenty (120) days written notice to the other party.

VII. PRIMARY CONTACTS

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President AAEE

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Acting Executive Director NAAEE