

Environmental Education (Online) Committee

5/7/26 Agenda/Minutes

Present:

Becky Gilbertson
Cristin Hardy
Scott Hetherington
MaryKay Moe
Isabelle Morris
Jennifer Muller
Angela Oleszko
Cathy Priest
Rebecca Sutherland
Alyssa Swan
Clare Thompson
William Toney

Absent: Melanie Donle, yBrittany Burkel

Minutes: Reviewed by MaryKay

Earth Day Review and thoughts for next year:

William Toney video - **great video!** Editing is a lot of work - maybe editing support? Maybe **highlight environmental issues.**

Olivia/Clare **field trip and nature walk**

Elementary - **Becky Bird BINGO and migration game; Muller Earth day facts, books, guided freeze dances**

Middle Level EE **History of Earth Day and new issues, Earth Day website, reminder of civic action, awe walk**

Middle Level **Science meeting - Storms; announcement chats**

T-shirt design contest (sticker for MESSE) **Success (except there was a technical communication error getting the elementary students involved); MaryKay and Becky will coordinate to create a list of students who get the stickers. A two-sticker win. (The two high school winners)**

🏆 Middle School Winner (Grades 6–8)

Noelle Gary
Design Title: Protect Our Earth



🏆 High School Winners (Grades 9–12) - A tie!!

Ravxira Wattenphul
Design Title: Earth, Home to All



Ella Hautala
Design Title: A Greener Future



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The theme for Earth Day 2027 is "Planet vs. Plastics," focusing on reducing plastic pollution and advocating for a 60% reduction in single-use plastic production by 2040. This initiative emphasizes protecting human and planetary health by minimizing plastic in ecosystems.

Do we want to do a whole school event or keep it separate? Age appropriate?

Could we do more with Take me Outside Day next year with travel videos.

Trash log/plastic tracking - Something to consider for elem. ELP goal (also below)

So many things involve plastic: transportation, sewer, ground water, oceans, medicine, clothing, what used for most, ways to replace plastic use

Becky idea for next year (elem or more) making wax wraps to reduce plastic use - in science Wed and video

Middle level - Maybe expand the nature club and have guest speakers return.

Where in the world is Will Toney?? Not this year. Maybe a different month?

Connect travel videos to put together for Earth Day video? Or, include other travels of other teachers. Contest for Earth Week? What is outside of your backdoor?

Virtual Field Trips - I have made some changes to the Portal let me know if you see any more issues. Share with Rose/Monique for staff sharing; adding Clare's collection; add Will tidal study when complete

MESS-E/EE in JTerm

Current ideas:

Add links to J-Term to encourage them to complete MESS-E.

Add an activity related to EE in J-Term.

Have one of the days of JTerm focused on EE.

Additional ideas/discussion:

Field Trip Library link a go as long as works for Natalie

Reports:

Environmental Education Coordinator/Environmental Literacy Plan (ELP) - Becky

If you are tracking a goal, please get the final data to me by May 27th at 3:00 p.m.

Are there any goal changes needed in;

- High School **Biology goal will change 10th grade biology indicator 1 Indicator 2 strategy 2 english**
- Middle School
- Elementary - with a new curriculum, 2 of our goals will change.
 - Indicator 2 Knowledge Strategy 1 - **Becky will add a grade project tracking plastic use and researching alternatives and add to**
 - Indicator 3 Attitudes Strategy 2

K-5 - Muller **May newsletter focus on families getting out in nature and resources for the summer months:**

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Adventures and playing outside are awesome—and they do so much for your body and mind! Outdoor play helps build stronger bodies, boosts your mood, and even improves brainpower. Running, jumping, and climbing strengthen muscles, while sunshine provides vitamin D to support healthy bones. Time in nature also sparks imagination, reduces stress, and improves focus, helping you feel calmer and more creative.

Check out the outdoor family activity links below for ideas to explore, connect with nature, and enjoy some summer fun together!

[Minnesota DNR summer activities guide](#)

[Minnesota Parent summer fun in Minnesota](#)

[MN-Explore Minnesota](#)

[25 Summer bucket list items for Minnesota kids](#)

[A-Z listing of Minnesota state parks and recreation areas](#)

Middle School - Alyssa: I've been trying to see if more students will come to my science meeting, but I just have my few regulars. Next week, I am dissecting owl pellets (a lesson on ecology/interconnection). Sent out an announcement to my students to let me know what they are planning to do this summer outside.

Nature Club - add to report here

Learning Coaches - Brittany

EE Connection (MESS-E) Project SY26 (current high school enrollment 321)

Continue to enter completion on the [spreadsheet](#)

Intro and Reflection - MaryKay

Intro - About 294/321 = 92%; About 16 more than last meeting

Reflection - About 15 submitted; 12 more than last meeting

Math and English - Cathy

Math - 195 completed out of 328 or 59.5% completion

English - 111 out of 328 or 33.8% or 33.8% completion [MaryKay will follow up on participation](#)

(ELP At least 50% of students in grades 9-12 will complete this portion. Of those 60% will achieve an overall score of 75% or higher.)

Science - Scott/Will

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(Scott, shortly after last meeting deleting duplicates: 200 out of 273 = 73% complete)
5/7/26 214 out of 273 = 78%

Social Studies and Stream - Rebecca

Social Studies - Seeing steady increase in submissions, did make sure Google Form settings only allow one submission per user, which has helped this year.

Stream - pivoting now to summer activities they can do at home/community

Elective - World Languages - Isabelle

(After the last meeting: 4/9/26 - Starting to receive projects.)

SPED - Cristin/Angela

Salt Watch - MaryKay

About 15 more completed initial steps; 10 more projects completed

Izaak Walton League Official Salt Watch Partner? [Agreement](#)

SY27 Project - Clothing Pollution -

Include connection to plastic (Earth Day topic)

New Business -

Tabled: Cathy - Duluth News Tribune featured the Harbor City Charter School and its participation in a couple of programs that I wonder if we need to investigate.

Youth Eco Solutions (YES) and GreenStep Schools. Both appear to be statewide programs for K-12. The school has a club for students called the Action Club Team...

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Pooling Resources - plan for EE overall next year.

[Becky EE Drive](#)

[Ideas floating - further focused discussion](#)

Next meeting: [Wednesday, May 27 at 10:00 a.m. \(to noon\)](#)

[EE Online committee first followed by SY27 Clothing Pollution meeting.](#)

