

"It's very beneficial to have a community of educators who can share ideas and support each other. It's important to make connections between organizations to reach more people and create richer experiences for children and families."

Celebrating the Voices of Environmental Education



2013
ANNUAL REPORT



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Together, our voices are strong.



Over 90% of CAEE members reported at least one significant partnership or collaboration to advance EE.

The Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education is your voice for environmental education because it's the collection of all environmental education providers and supporters in the state. Our members are experts in education, science, water, energy, forestry, sustainability, and more.

With over 700 professionals from across the state, our members have worked to ensure that Colorado has state educational standards that integrate environmental education; a comprehensive plan for environmental education in Colorado schools; and state initiatives, like the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, with a strong education component to bridge environmental support in formal and non-formal experiences. Together, CAEE members are the leaders in Colorado working to achieve a healthy, vital environment and quality of life through environmental education.

In 2013, the voices of CAEE members shaped a new strategic plan. Moving into the future, the support, energy, momentum, and leadership of our members and supporters like you will help ensure progress towards our three strategic goals:

- To ensure the quality of environmental education opportunities by providing support to environmental educators
- To advocate for increased access to environmental learning opportunities for all Colorado residents
- To continue to strengthen the sustainability and capacity of CAEE and environmental education in Colorado

Together we can do more to advance environmental education with strong voices and supportive actions.

Thank you for supporting and engaging in our work.

Sincerely,

Michelle Finchum,
Interim Board President



Teresa Higgins,
Board President



Katie Navin,
Executive Director



EXECUTIVES LETTER



Environmental Education for the 21st Century

Voices of our Members

"CAEE's support gives credibility to the purpose and rewards of educating the public. There are many reasons that environmental education is a valuable tool: safety; appreciation; awareness; tolerance; diversity; etc. CAEE serves as the umbrella to assist in complementing and uniting the many efforts taking place throughout Colorado."

EE is impacting Colorado in countless ways

Environmental education (EE) equips people with knowledge, skills and motivation to be stewards of the environment where we live. EE supports high quality education and leads to an environmentally literate citizenry, who can ensure economic, social, and environmental sustainability.

EE IMPACT

Citizenship
Environmental-Justice
Sense-of-Place **Social Equity**
Sustainable-Communities
Academic-Improvement
Career -Readiness
Self-Confidence
Ecological-World-View

Issues-Analysis
Environmental-Quality
Environmental-Knowledge
Wellness
Skills

Conservation
Environmental-Literacy
Scientific-Knowledge
Stewardship
Community-Action
Environmental-Attitudes
Problem-Solving
Consumer-Action

CAEE : Supporting the EE community

VISION

We envision an environmentally literate Colorado, with CAEE as the recognized leader of the EE Community.

MISSION

To serve all sectors of the Colorado community by improving the collective effectiveness of environmental education.

CULTURE

CAEE works to ensure everyone in Colorado has an opportunity to learn about the environment. We value inclusion and welcome everyone to the field of EE.

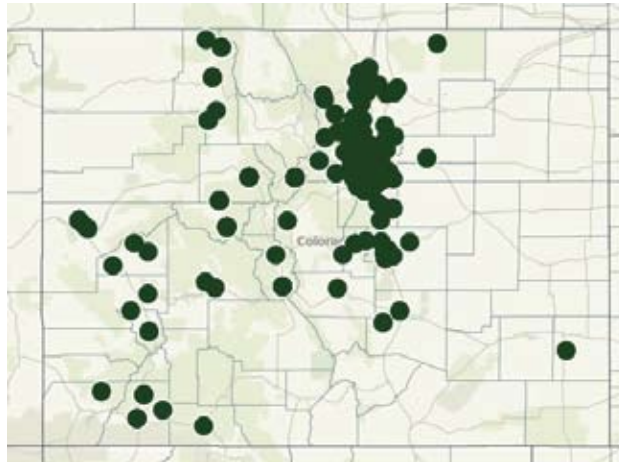
Voices of our Members

"It (CAEE) serves as an over-arching guide and helps all our loose ends to have connections and common goals."

Together, We Have a Bigger Impact, All Across Colorado

Together, we are a collective voice making a collective impact in Colorado. We have over 700 members who are increasing access to opportunities for learning about the environment we live in.

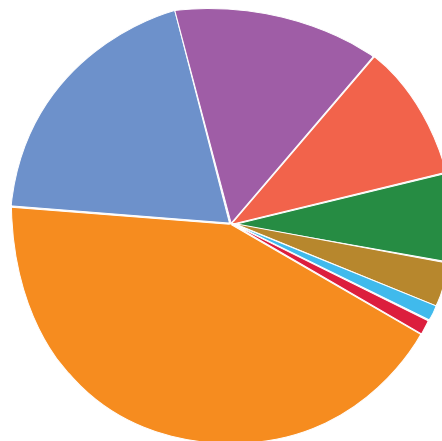
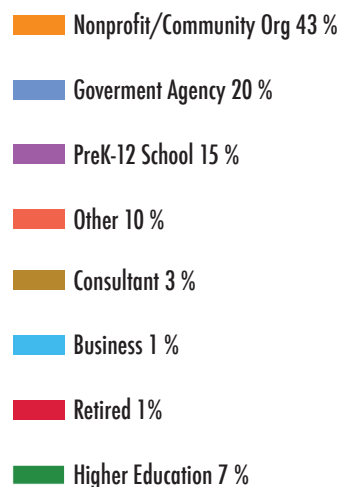
CAEE Members are working across Colorado



1 CAEE Member reaches 400 learners on average

700+ CAEE members reach 300,000 learners

CAEE Members are working in Every Sector



MEMBERS, OUR STRENGTH

Connect

Voices of our Members

"It is extremely beneficial to have an organization like CAEE to be able to create partnerships. Many of the partners I currently work with were due to meetings and workshops led by CAEE."

"CAEE's work supporting environmental education is beneficial for sharing of information and expertise between organizations providing EE in Colorado. It is especially impactful for organizations on the Western Slope, where the issues are immediate and complex and the resources are often less plentiful than on the Front Range."



Fostering collaboration

Thirteen organizations and programs came together to reduce duplication of effort and collaborate at the first Green Schools Round Table to share resources and information.

Increasing Access to EE Resources.

Our Members are sharing lesson plans, field trips, programs, professional development, grants and more in Colorado's Environmental Education Directory.

100 resources added in **2013**

A world of teaching resources at your fingertips

www.coloradoee.org
over **550** resources posted



Our members are making it possible for educators across the state to:

- Find ways to integrate EE into classroom.
- Locate programs and resources near you on the Colorado EE Map.
- Find curriculum planning resources, standards based resources, and ready to use lesson plans.
- Learn how to foster student engagement by using EE on school grounds and in school buildings.
- Tap into the Colorado EE Network and professional development opportunities.
- Connect with the Colorado Green Schools network.
- Search the EE Directory to find ready to use EE curricula and lesson plans.

Educate

Voices of our Members

"CAEE creates infrastructure for all programs and models best practices for the field. It is one stop shopping for professionals and consumers of environmental education. It provides networking, an awards program, statewide conference, and so much more!"

"CAEE is a leader in the country at providing well rounded, timely, and authentic professional development opportunities that allow Colorado educators to share best practices and resources to provide the best environmental education to Colorado's future voters."



53

Certified Environmental Educators in Colorado

Developing Youth as Environmental Education Providers

Educators grew the EE pipeline by participating in "Train New Leaders in Environmental Education". The curriculum and training, developed by CAEE and the Greenway Foundation, supports youth and young adults in beginning their journey to Environmental Education Certification.

Driving Excellence

Educators enhanced their skills at three trainings in the Guidelines for Excellence in Environmental Education developed by the North American Association for Environmental Education.

Reaching Out Across the State

Over 50 participants attended the first annual West Slope Environmental Education Summit in Delta, CO to share ideas, foster collaboration and build skills.

Over 36000

people hours of professional development and training

Inspiring Innovation and Creativity in Environmental Education

Over 240 educators participated in the annual Teaching OUTSIDE the Box Conference at the Denver Green School to share ideas and resources.



Empower

Voices of our Members

"It is beneficial to have an organization like CAEE to foster development of programs and ideas that will reach across a wider range of demographics."

"CAEE can bring a wide variety of providers and partners together, like the Pathways to and Natural Resource Careers Initiative. CAEE can advocate for environmental education. CAEE lends expertise and credibility to EE efforts in Colorado."

Striving Towards Inclusive, Relevant Environmental Education

Over 80 people participated in inclusiveness related training to promote excellence in EE through inclusivity.



Empowering the Next Generation of Natural Resource Stewards

Over 244 partners helped to ensure that youth and young adults can become the next generation of natural resource stewards and professionals through the Careers in Natural Resources Initiative co-lead by CAEE and the Colorado Youth Corps Association. Over 75 youth, 90% from underrepresented populations in the Natural Resource field, were introduced to career opportunities through the first Natural Resource Career Fair at West Generation High School in Denver.

75 Students



8 Career Experiences

38%

Are now considering a Natural Resource Career in the Future

95%

Increased understanding of Natural Resource Careers



Influence



Voices of our Members

"CAEE is positioned in state level organizations and efforts to speak for all of the rest of us, to broaden our collective reach and to help develop policy that supports all providers and users of EE, raises awareness, dispels myths, and opens doors for all."

"We need CAEE in order to help bridge the gap from nonformal EE to formal educators. It is the formal education system that enables organizations and programs like mine to continue our own mission of getting children outdoors."

Together we are a stronger voice for environmental education in Colorado

CAEE members continued to advocate and support Federal No Child Left Inside bi-partisan legislation that was re-introduced in July and will provide to support and funding to states with environmental literacy plans.



Advancing Environmental Education in Schools

Seventeen leaders formed the first Colorado Environmental Education Leadership Council, charged with implementation of the Colorado Environmental Education Plan by the Colorado Department of Education and Department of Natural Resources. CAEE was selected to facilitate the councils work over the next 3 years.

Building Capacity for Environmental Education

With a Regional EPA Environmental Education Grant, CAEE awarded seven mini-grants to schools and organizations across the state to advance environmental education in schools and support the goals of the Colorado Environmental Education Plan. Grants helped support training for teachers, curriculum development, and more.

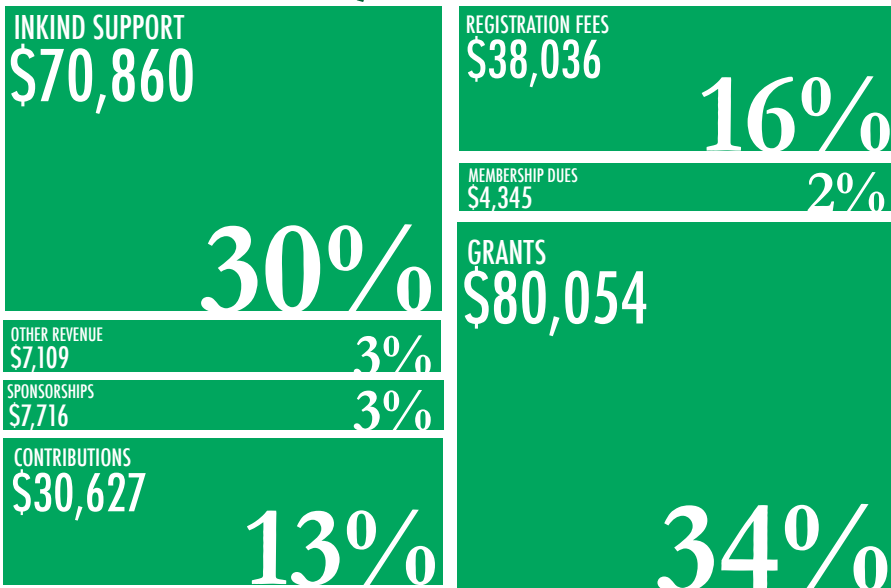




2013 FINANCIALS

TOTAL REVENUES

\$238,747

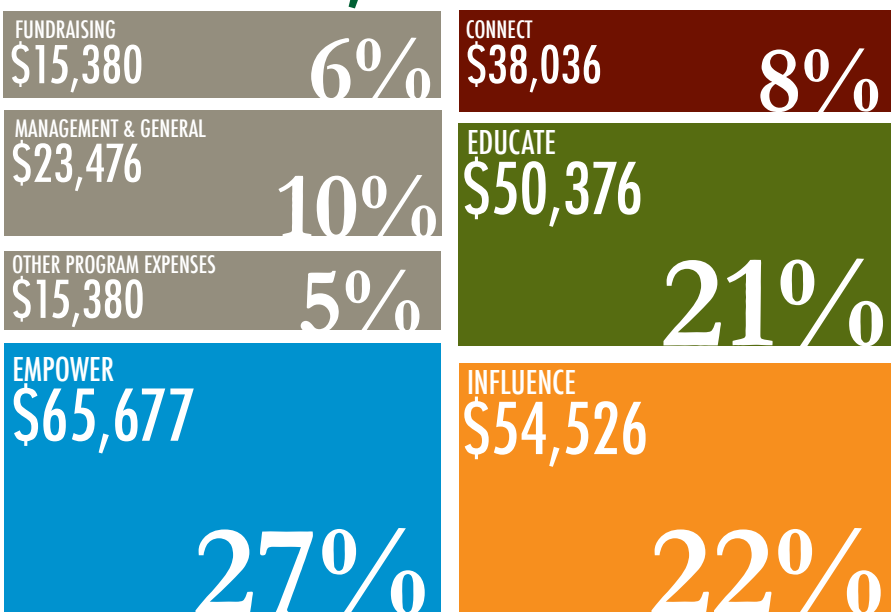


We are so grateful to all donors, like you, who make the collective voice for environmental education strong in Colorado. Membership dues only provide 2% of our annual budget, so our sponsors, grant supporters, in-kind donors and individual contributions are critical for our success as an alliance.

We are especially grateful to long term supporters like the Colorado State Forest Service, who through a 20-year partnership has provided critical support for staff positions and continues to propel CAEE forward.

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$240,307



Note: \$2,000 of reserve funding was utilized to make improvements to our online directory and membership to continue to build resources for environmental education providers in Colorado.

You can request full financial documents by contacting director@caee.org.



DONORS & SPONSORS



THE DENVER FOUNDATION



*Thank you for your voice and your generous support for our continuing success.
As a donor, YOU are catalyzing the impact of environmental education in Colorado.*

Marianne Aiken
Cindy Allen
Cary Baird
Lisa Bardwell
Nicole Bickford
Sue Bonfield
Roxanne Brickell-Reardon
Debbie Brush-Garcia
Louise Chawla
Alicia Christensen
Ford Church
Chuck Clark
Jana and Joe Clark
Jolon Clark
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Community Foundation
of Northern Colorado

Liz Cook
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Mark De Gregorio
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Cate Dillon
Lisa Eadens
Juanita Echeverri and
Jorge Botero

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Thorne Nature Experience
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Sharon Tinianow
Erika Walker and
Don Weinschenker

George Wallace
Kim and Brent Weiss
Zoe Whyman
Amy Wickizer
Dean Winstanley
Viviana Zavala

CAEE BOARD 2013

Thank you for your voice and leadership as a member of the Board of Directors. With your support we are a national leader in environmental education.

Teresa Higgins
University of Northern Colorado

Sonja Macys
Yampatika

Dave Sutherland
City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

Deb Matlock
City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

Jim Moss
Attorney

Laura Roberts
Xcel Energy

Julie Gustafson

Janna Six
Alliance for Sustainable Colorado

Michelle Finchum
Fort Collins Utilities

Katherine Timm
Colorado State Forest Service

Kelly Keena
Achieve Academy, Mapleton Public Schools

CAEE STAFF

Katie Navin, *Executive Director*

Malinda Mochizuki, *Program Director*

Lisa Eadens, *Natural Resource Career Coordinator*

Hillary Mason, *Environmental Literacy Coordinator*

Michelle Mendieta, *Administrative and Program Assistant*



CAEE Board and staff at the North American Association for Environmental Education Conference in Baltimore. Left to right Malinda Mochizuki, Sonja Macys, Kelly Keena, Michelle Finchum and Katie Navin.

BOARD & STAFF



GET INVOLVED



ADVANCE ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY



CAEE advocates for the field and provides you with direct benefits to meet your professional needs and personal values. Visit www.caee.org/membership to find out more.

BECOME A MEMBER

DONATE

Make a financial donation to CAEE to ensure the long-term impact of programs. Visit www.caee.org/support to learn more.

BE A VOICE

Tell your leaders and decision makers how important environmental education is in Colorado. Promote EE locally, across the state, and nationally. Tell your Senators and Representatives to Support No Child Left Inside Legislation. Visit <http://www.caee.org/advocacy> to find out more.



PARTICIPATE

Attend CAEE events like the annual conference, professional developments and more. Make connections, learn and share. See what's coming up at www.caee.org.



BE A LEADER

Over 150 dedicated volunteers give their time and expertise to advance environmental literacy. Join a committee to build support for EE, advance diversity and inclusiveness, plan the annual conference, awards for excellence in EE, or certification. Visit www.caee.org/volunteer to learn more.



Together we move into another exciting year and further success in growing environmental education initiatives.



*Since 1989, the Colorado Alliance for
Environmental Education has been a state leader in
promoting quality and access to environmental
education in Colorado.*

CAEE is an affiliate member of the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE).

CAEE adopted the National Guidelines for Excellence in Environmental Education, established by NAAEE, to guide the development of balanced, scientifically accurate, and comprehensive environmental education programs.

COLORADO ALLIANCE for ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

15260 S. Golden Road
Golden, CO 80401

303- 273-9527
www.caee.org