



# National Environmental Education Week

A National Environmental Education Foundation Program

October 2011

[www.EEWeek.org](http://www.EEWeek.org)



## Greetings!

Happy October! We are excited to announce the theme for EE Week 2012, ***Greening STEM: The Environment as Inspiration for 21st Century Learning***. Read below for more details.

We'd also like to encourage teachers of grades 3 through 8 to get involved in [Disney's Planet Challenge](#), and take advantage of the many resources - including funding and mentors! - being offered this year. See below for more information.

Lastly, be sure to check out the new [Green Ribbon Schools](#) award program from the U.S. Department of Education, which will encourage the nation's schools to promote health and sustainable environments and educate students to become environmentally knowledgeable citizens. [Watch](#) Secretary of Education Arne Duncan's message and visit the Green Ribbon School's [Facebook page](#) to stay abreast of new developments.

Sincerely,

Sarah Kozicki  
Program Associate

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### Our Program

National Environmental Education (EE) Week is the largest organized environmental education event in the United States.

EE Week connects educators with environmental resources to promote K-12 students' understanding of the environment.

### Quick Links

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## EE Week 2012: Greening STEM

### The Environment as Inspiration for 21st Century Learning

We are pleased to announce the theme for EE Week 2012: **Greening STEM: The Environment as Inspiration for 21st Century Learning.**

Increasing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) knowledge and expanding STEM education and career opportunities for students is a national priority. Student achievement in STEM is key to fostering a new wave of innovators who can creatively address complex 21st century challenges.



*Students measuring the solar panel they will install on the rooftop canopy of their school's electric golf cart.*

The environment is a compelling context for teaching STEM as it provides teachers with a diverse range of real-world challenges that engage students in hands-on opportunities to apply and reinforce STEM concepts across multiple subject areas.

To support this year's theme, EE Week will offer:

- Free EE Week **planning toolkits** with information and grade-appropriate activities that incorporate STEM learning into popular environmental topic areas, such as school gardens, energy conservation and weather.
- A free **educator webinar** on using the environment as a context for teaching STEM, with school-based project ideas and opportunities for Q&A with experts.
- **Discounts, giveaways and special offers** from our partners.

[Learn more](#) about EE Week 2012.

## Register Today for Disney's Planet Challenge

### Project-Based Learning Environmental Competition for Grades 3-8

Disney's Planet Challenge (DPC) is a project-based learning environmental competition for classrooms across the United States. DPC teaches kids about science and conservation while empowering them to make a positive impact on their communities and planet. Successful DPC projects engage students in learning about and developing solutions to address a local environmental issue. Grand prize winning classes from the elementary and middle school categories will receive an all expense-paid trip to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla. in April 2012.



### Call for Stories!

Don't forget to submit your stories of successful environmental education projects and programs to help inspire your peers and share ideas! Contact [EEWeek@neefusa.org](mailto:EEWeek@neefusa.org) to get started.

### Contact Us

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This year, DPC is offering funding for project materials through Donors Choose. Teachers who register for DPC are eligible to receive up to \$500 in project materials. [Learn more](#)

In addition, through DPC's partnership with Underwriters Laboratories, classroom mentors are available to offer guidance and provide access to science and business resources for DPC projects. [Learn more](#)

Registration is now open for the 2011-2012 program, and runs through **December 23**. [Register today!](#)

## Grants and Awards

### **Solve for Tomorrow** - Application deadline October 31

Samsung invites all public schools teaching grades 6 to 12 to participate in this year's video Solve for Tomorrow contest for a chance to win a technology kit including Samsung camcorders and laptops plus video editing software. [Learn more](#)



### **Great American Can Roundup School Challenge** -

Registration deadline December 15

The Can Manufacturer's Institute is awarding a \$1,000 to a school in each state and the District of Columbia recycling the most aluminum cans per student and an additional \$5,000 to the top per capita recycling school nationwide. [Learn more](#)

### **America's Home Energy Challenge** - Submission deadline December 31

America's Home Energy Challenge uses the link between saving money and energy to teach 3-8 grade students about energy. Participating schools compete for more than \$200,000 in prizes. [Learn more](#)

For more grants and awards, visit us [online](#).

## Student Opportunities

### Lexus Eco Challenge - Entry deadline October 31

The Lexus Eco Challenge offers teams of students in grades 6-12 the chance to win \$10,000 for developing action plans to address environmental issues in Land/Water and Air/Climate, as well as an opportunity to win \$30,000 in a final challenge. [Learn more](#)

### IGES Art Contest - Entry deadline November 7

This year, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies invites students in grades 2-4 to explore the topic of weather and submit a drawing showing what they learned. Prizes include framed color certificates and Visa gift cards. [Learn more](#)

### SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Environmental Excellence Awards - Application deadline December 1

The SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Environmental Excellence Awards recognize the outstanding efforts of students and teachers across the country who are working to protect and preserve the environment with cash prizes and a trip to one of the parks. [Learn more](#)



For more student contests and awards, visit us [online](#).

## Professional Development

### NOAA Teacher at Sea Program - Application deadline November 30

The Teacher at Sea Program is accepting applications for its 2012 field season. The program provides a unique environment for learning and teaching by sending teachers to sea aboard NOAA research and survey ships to work under the tutelage of scientists and crew. [Learn more](#)



### Earth Expeditions Graduate Field Courses Application deadline January 28

Earth Expeditions' graduate field courses have two components: an intensive experience at an international field site in one of 11 global locations and semester-long work on the web culminating in a conservation action project in your school or community. [Learn more](#)

### Sustainability Education Concepts and Teaching Methods - Rolling enrollment

The Green Education Foundation is seeking K-12 teachers to pilot this 15-hour, self-paced, online course that showcases the core themes of sustainability education along with links to related student curriculum. The course opens **November 1** and closes **February 1**. [Learn more](#)

For more opportunities, visit us [online](#).

## EE Resources

### Exploratorium Science Snacks

These simple hands-on activities are based on popular exhibits at San Francisco's Exploratorium. Each "miniature exhibit" contains a photograph, materials list, instructions, science explanations and interesting historical information. [Learn more](#)

### The Global Water Experiment

Celebrate the 2011 International Year of Chemistry by participating in a global chemistry experiment open to K-12 students and teachers: Water: A Chemical Solution. [Learn more](#)

### Interactive Earth Science Animations

The Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology (IRIS) offers resources for educators, including a series of interactive graphics, animations and videos on Earth Science fundamentals. [Learn more](#)

For more resources and classroom materials, visit us [online](#).



The National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) provides knowledge to trusted professionals who, with their credibility, amplify messages to national audiences to solve everyday environmental problems. Together, we generate lasting positive change.

NEEF partners with professionals in health, education, media, business and public land management to promote daily actions for helping people protect and enjoy the environment. Through our primary programs - Classroom Earth, National Public Lands Day, National Environmental Education Week, Business and Environment, Earth Gauge and Health & Environment - we offer Americans knowledge to live by. To learn more, call (202) 833-2933 or visit <http://www.neefusa.org>.