

NAAEE AWARDS 2005

1. Environmental Education Exchange

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<http://www.eeexchange.org>

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3. Outstanding Service to EE, Organization – [Global Level](#)

4. The Environmental Education Exchange, founded in 1991, supports the work of environmental organizations on the U.S./Mexico border, throughout the state of Arizona, and locally in Tucson. EE Exchange has successfully completed projects in every state along the U.S. – Mexico border and all the border states of Mexico. Projects have also encompassed numerous states across the U.S including California, Utah, Nevada, New Mexico, Colorado, Florida, Texas, and North Carolina. A significant amount of the EE Exchange's work involves developing EE programs and materials on behalf of partner organizations that have the capability to distribute materials or present programs but not the expertise to develop those materials or programs. By filling this need for the past 14 years, the Exchange has influenced a number of agencies or organizations to sponsor and provide EE efforts that otherwise would never have taken place. EE Exchange partners have included city, county, state, federal, and tribal agencies as well as local to international nonprofit organizations.

The EE Exchange has developed a diversity of environmental education programs and materials including master plans, field trips, classroom outreach presentations, workshops, interactive educational software, internet resources, trail guides, museum exhibits, student activity booklets, and teachers' activity guides. Over its 14 year history the EE Exchange has served 70 EE organizations in Arizona, the southwest region, and Mexico.

In March of 2004 EE Exchange was awarded a Region IX EPA Achievement Award for its excellent service to the EE community. During its 14 years of service to the environmental education community the EE Exchange has received many other local awards and commendations, but has heretofore not been recognized by NAAEE. Below are recent examples of projects the EE Exchange has accomplished:

[Powering Our Future – Renewable Energy Education](#)

Salt River Project, Arizona 2001-2005: development of a comprehensive K-12 set of curriculum materials (elementary, middle, and high school modules; includes over 40 individual activities) on renewable energy (hydro, wind, solar); detailed and cutting-edge animated, interactive web-based learning environments for elementary aged children – online *eJourney* Program. (www.poweringourfuture.com).

[Tucson Water's Conservation/Education Programs](#)

City of Tucson / Tucson Water 1994-2005: development of three water education programs focusing on water quality, water supply and water conservation for K-8 classrooms including

multimedia materials (print and web activities) for local schools; 600 Classroom presentations provided annually to local schools.

[Training and Environmental Education Materials \(TEEM\)](#)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 / Border Liaison Office, EPA Office of EE, Washington 1998–2004: A multi-year project conducting regional environmental education needs assessments and providing professional development, training, and capacity building workshops for educators in the US and Mexico. Program implementation partnered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Border XXI and Border 2012 Programs, the Environmental Education Council for the Californias (EECC), Arizona Association for Environmental Education (AAEE), San Diego Natural History Museum, and over 20 other local agencies and NGO's.

[Chihuahuan Desert Bioregion Environmental Education Needs Assessment](#)

World Wildlife Fund U.S. – 2001: researched available EE programs and materials in the Chihuahuan Desert Bioregion of the US and Mexico; surveying 600 EE providers in the region about their stated programmatic needs; EE Needs Assessment results were analyzed in the context of conservation priorities; one of the first efforts in the world to integrate EE with bioregional conservation planning. Funded by WWF.

[Tohono O'odham Nation Environmental Education Project](#)

Tohono O'odham Environmental Office & Tohono O'odham Department of Natural Resources – 2001: identifying educational opportunities and resources in the Nation's 11 districts; creating communication links between the Nation's environmental and natural resource offices and the Nation's schools; working closely with enrolled members and employees of the nation the EE Exchange created a comprehensive environmental education master plan for a Native American nation; funded through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Border XXI Program.

[Border EE Web](#)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – 2001: developed a bilingual website, in English and Spanish, with two portals of entry; (www.bordereeweb.net, www.redeafronteriza.net) the website database is fully searchable in both languages; contacted and compiled information on over 1100 providers of EE programs and materials; entries represent the entire U.S. / Mexico border and all of Arizona and New Mexico; funded by the U.S. EPA Border XXI Program with additional funding from other entities.

[Border Environmental Education Resource Guides](#)

U.S. EPA Region 6 & 9, US Forest Service Region 3, and World Wildlife Fund – 1998-2000: two print volumes, one for the eastern and another for the western borderlands; over 1000 entries represent the entire U.S. / Mexico border: parts of four U.S. and six Mexican states; both guides contain full text in both English and Spanish; printed and circulated over 25K guides (three editions) funded by EPA Region 6, EPA Region 9, EPA office of Environmental Education, and World Wildlife Fund.

[Sustainability: An Introduction for Environmental Studies for University Students](#)

Columbia University's Biosphere 2 Center – 2000: a comprehensive web-based textbook for use in college-level environmental studies or other classes; curriculum module web-published for use at Columbia University and seven sister Universities across the US.

[Juntos: Intercultural Environmental Studies in the Western Borderlands](#)

Ford Foundation Mexico – 1998-2000: high school level environmental science curriculum; classroom activity units and resource materials for secondary teachers and students; basic ecology of the Sonoran Desert, and environmental issues of the western borderlands; specifically designed with and for high schools on both sides of the Arizona / Sonora border in partnership with the Sonoran Ministry of Education. Teacher training workshops provided along the Arizona/Sonora border for over 100 high school teachers.

[Senderos \(Pathways\) Environmental Education in a Multicultural Society](#)

Arizona Association for Environmental Education - 2003: Planned and managed all aspects of a regional conference for over 150 environmental educators from Arizona, Sonora, and other bordering states in the US and Mexico for the Arizona state EE association. First statewide (and regional effort) for the EE community to look at the diversity of issues related to the increasing multicultural nature of border states and related EE issues.

[Mission 3R: A Challenge for Change](#)

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality – 2000: interactive educational software/CD-ROM with 3D animation for grades 4-6; students earn points on a "mission" to reduce, reuse, recycle, buy recycled, and compost; accompanying teacher guide includes background info and activities for classroom use; student simulation/game easily customized through an interactive database to reflect local recycling opportunities.

The above projects represent a sampling of accomplishments of the EE Exchange in the past 14 years. Other project partners of theirs have included, Arizona Nature Conservancy, California Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Education, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, San Diego County Parks Department, San Diego County Schools, Tucson Unified School District, Tucson Electric Power, Arizona Public Service, Desert Botanical Gardens, Arizona Historical Society, McAllen International Museum, Pronatura-Mexico, San Diego Natural History Museum, Tucson Audubon, Arizona Sonora Desert Museum, Development Center for Appropriate Technology, Center for the Study of Science in the Public Interest, and others. For a more detailed list of projects go to: <http://www.eeexchange.org>.

5. EE Exchange found the cutting edge of program development for environmental education at a time when standards-based EE materials were non-existent in southern Arizona. Exchange program materials still lead as a standard for three important reasons: a.) Exchange products are highly practical in a formal classroom settings; b.) the educational concepts are clearly understood by educators and supported with engaging and hands on student driven activities; c.) EE Exchange follows a business model that starts with partners' expected outcomes and works back to project design. Using this front-end process materials are user-friendly and match the needs of the organizations for which they were developed. The organization

maintains a highly respected reputation in the region for quality of project outcomes as well as the process of development.

6. EE Exchange is a small, superbly trained staff of environmental professionals and educators. They work as a cooperative team, and are passionate about helping K-12 teachers and students to establish a strong conceptual foundation for understanding the environment and their relationship to it. They are devoted to creating practical tools that advance the field of environmental education. EE Exchange staff and Board represent leaders in education, business, and charitable organizations in southern Arizona, the region, and nation.

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