



## Education Workgroup Meeting, Quarter 4

[SLIDES](#)

Monday, October 7, 2024

10:00 am - 11:30 am Virtual meeting via [Zoom Link](#)

Or by phone +1 (646) 931-3860

Meeting ID: 829 2491 4650

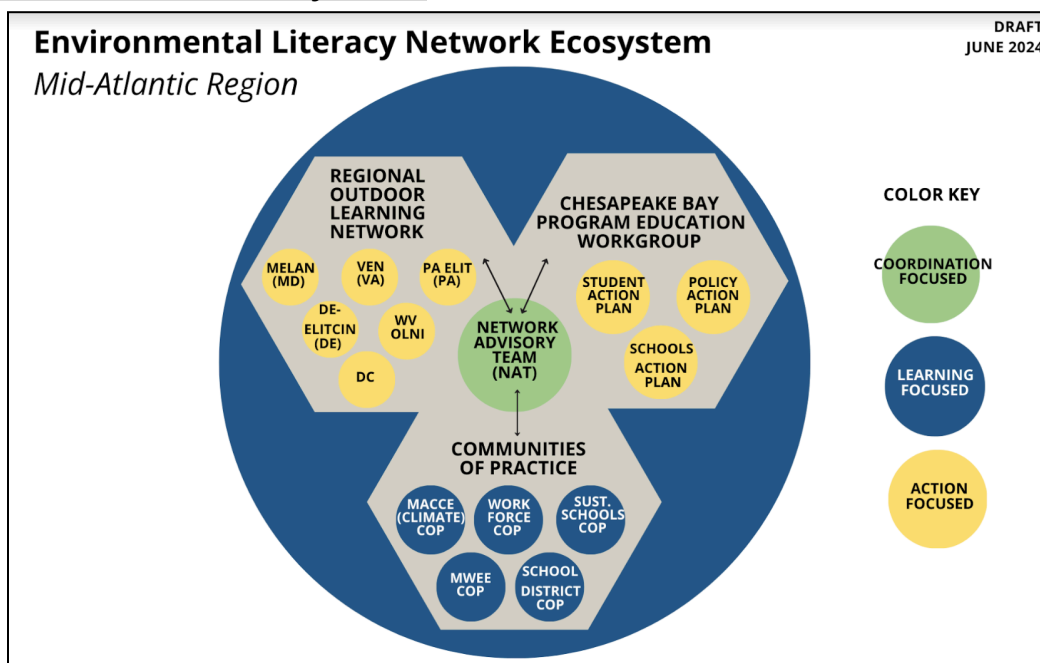
### On the call:

*Elise T, Meredith L, Shannon S, Britt S, Bart M, Stephanie B, Frank R, Coreen W, Jeff C, Cassi C, Angel B, Laura C, Payton H, Chris K, Jemima C, Sarah J, Jen P, Susan C, Lindsey W, Ellen P, Candace L, Sarah B, Michelle N, Tammie P, Emily S, Stephanie T, Grace M, David P, Olivia W, Adrienne F, Chelsea M, Kim H, Tom A, Laura C, Amy W, David M*

### MINUTES:

#### 10:00 Welcome & Introductions

#### 10:10 Environmental Literacy Forum



Shannon recapped the Environmental Literacy Network Ecosystem graphic and described the membership and role of the NAT. The NAT is generally made up of 2 leaders from each ELIT state network and a representative from each CoP and Education Workgroup Action Plan. NAT representatives are intended to help gather feedback from all corners of the ELIT Network Ecosystem so that our events and convenings (such as the Forum) are relevant to our wider community.

- If you do not know who your NAT state representative is, reach out to Elise Trelegan [elise.trelegan@noaa.gov](mailto:elise.trelegan@noaa.gov) to get connected.
- The NAT is helping to plan the agenda and develop invite lists for the Environmental Literacy Forum.

The Environmental Literacy Forum will be from **January 7-8 at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV.**

**Forum Focus** – The forum aims to explore effective strategies and provide action-oriented approaches **for engaging decision-makers to advance sustainable funding** and promote a cultural shift that includes environmental literacy and sustainability within school districts.

**Forum Audience – EL Changemakers**, who understand or seek to:

- Understand the local systems that determine how school districts are funded;
- Develop relationships with local decision makers who have control over how school districts are funded (both at the county/local govt level and the school board level);
- Build community and create spaces for others to engage in local organizing and civic engagement processes;
- Create space in their own professional or personal life to do this work.

**Invitation Process** – NAT members are leading the process for designing an invite list, which will be done in partnership with the state networks.

- If you feel that you fit the definition of an EL Changemaker, or the definition of someone who supports EL Changemakers, you could be invited. Reach out to your NAT representative if this applies to you.
- **NAT members are finalizing lists of people to invite by October 25th, and sending out invites on November 1st.**

We are also hosting a **virtual half day Forum in February** which will recap much of the content since we are limited by space/cost at NCTC. **Date TBD.**

**Costs** – The Forum is funded through NOAA and CBT. Food/lodging is covered. Travel to/from NCTC is not funded. We also don't want travel costs to be a barrier to participation, though, so reach out if you are invited and travel could be a barrier to participation for you.

## **10:20 School District Engagement**

### **1. ELIT Progress Update**

The Environmental Literacy Indicator Tool (ELIT) is our way of trying to assess where school districts are in terms of implementing environmental literacy, including MWEEs and other key indicators. It's launched every 2 years. State Dept of Education leaders are the leads on getting this out, but we all can help get districts to report on ELIT through reminders and support to fill it out. There's been some progress, but a lot of work still needs to be done before November 30th. The group discussed successful strategies for getting solid data into the Environmental Literacy Indicator Tool (ELIT) as well as challenges. For example:

- In the past in WV, different organizations like Cacapon Institute would sit down with the school districts and help them fill out the ELIT survey.
- There will be time and support to work on the ELIT survey during the November VSELA meeting.
- One challenge in VA is strict rules/limitations on how VDOE can communicate to groups of districts/educators. Individually reaching out is allowed, though.
- David - Delaware's biggest challenge this year is that our best advocate at the Dept of Education retired and that position is being filled but the person probably hasn't fully wrapped their head around all of this yet. We'll continue to remind people including at meetings we have set up. We'll also be offering assistance, and we'll also make personal calls if other strategies don't yield results.
- DC DOE will help their one district go through the ELIT survey.

Elise - Do we think the fact that this was launched in August is having an impact on response rates? Is springtime really much better?

- Tammie - I think schools are really overwhelmed right now and just surveyed out.
- Payton - I think being able to start earlier is helpful, especially since we're having them report on the past school year (looking backwards) whereas right now schools are focused on looking forward to the upcoming school year.

## **2. Integrating High-Quality Environmental Education Programming Rubric**

The goal of this rubric is to support nonformal education organizations in aligning their programs to school district priorities. It is being piloted right now with at least 2 organizations in each of your states and each of your states have had conversations about how you might use it in the future. We'll use feedback from the pilot stage to make any refinements and then we'll be sharing it more widely with you all to use in whatever context makes the most sense of what you've defined.

### **Discussion:**

- Our contractors Sarah and Juliann have put in for a session at the MAEOE Conference to share about this and we also hope to do that at DAEE this year as well.
- **Action Item** – See if this rubric can also be discussed at the VAEE meeting and at various state conferences/meetings. Candace Lutzow-Felling will put in a session proposal.
- A few meeting participants expressed concerns with using the term "high quality" for a few reasons including subjectivity and ways it is defined or not yet defined in different states. Comments and chats were noted and will be considered as the rubric is refined further.

## 10:45 Work Plan Review: State Breakouts

### Biennial Progress Review Timeline

<b>Oct. 25, 2024</b>	<i>States submit initial progress towards goals → color-code progress in Action Plan spreadsheets with red/yellow/green</i>
<b>Jan. 27, 2025</b>	<i>EWG meets to discuss Forum follow-up, final progress towards goals, Management Board presentation</i>
<b>Mar. 13, 2025</b>	<i>EWG core team presents to Management Board</i>
<b>Feb. – May 2025</b>	<i>States conduct additional listening sessions (optional) and develop EWG Action Plans in collaboration w/ state networks</i>
<b>June 5, 2025</b>	<i>EWG core team submits Action Plans to Chesapeake Bay Program</i>

#### Next Steps: October 2024 – December 2024:

- Continue to work towards Action Plan goals
- Assess progress towards actions - red/yellow/green spreadsheets **by October 25th**
- Prepare to draft new Action Plans in the spring
- Prepare to conduct additional listening sessions in the spring if desired
  - Review [high-level feedback from our summer listening sessions](#).

**Breakout discussion:** Assessing where we are (red, yellow, green)

#### Spreadsheets:

- [Students](#)
- [Sustainable Schools](#)
- [Planning](#)

Questions to consider while red/yellow/greening:

- What contributed to your successes?
- What challenges hindered progress towards other actions?
- Why?
- What strategies can we use going forward?

## **11:25 Announcements**

Next Workgroup Meeting: **January 27th, 10-11:30am**

### **Meeting Topics:**

- SRS Presentation Review
- ELIT Report Out
- EL Forum Recap
- Brainstorming invites for SRS Presentation + EL Summit (fall 2025)

Jemima - We have launched and collected the first set of data for the MD GenThrive assessment.

Cassi - VA GenThrive survey data collection is also underway.

Touch base with Cassi/Jemima if your state is planning to do GenThrive, so that regionally focused questions can be aligned for regional data collection.

Tammie - PA is wrapping up the Status and Needs survey. We've done a good job on outreach about MWEEs. Implementation has increased. Formal and nonformal educators have a need for more content and methodology training so we're going to continue to work on that.

Lindsey - Sustainable Schools CoP is thinking of having some sort of workshop in the near future (maybe at the EL Forum/ maybe not). Reach out if you're interested in participating in the Sustainable Schools CoP. [WalkerL@nwf.org](mailto:WalkerL@nwf.org)