

TEMPLATE TO SEND TO YOUR REPRESENTATIVES:

Subject Line: Support the Office of Environmental Education

Representative {NAME} or Senator {NAME},

As your constituent, I urge you to ensure funding for the North Carolina Office of Environmental Education (OEE) in the proposed fiscal budget for next year. I hope that you follow the actions of the House and reinstate full funding for the Office of Environmental Education in the appropriations package that will be presented to the Governor.

[INSERT YOUR OWN PERSONAL STORY/WHY]

For nearly three decades, the OEE has guided and supported the work of individuals and organizations that provide environmental education in North Carolina, as legislated in the state's 1993 Environmental Education Act. The state's Environmental Education Plan has served as a guiding framework and outline for its work. The OEE supports the state's Environmental Education Act and Plan through:

- Professional Development through the management of the statewide EE Certification Program
 - Over 800 currently certified, over 700 active enrollees, and over 100 new enrollees in 2024 alone
 - Members of the program are required to lead community-based projects for certification, promoting healthier and more environmentally engaged communities statewide
 - Supporting recertification of program enrollees on a 5-year cycle to ensure educators have current resources, information, and supporting statewide networking
- Serving as a clearinghouse for environmental education information statewide
 - In 2024, their website had over 1 million views, promoted over 700 events statewide, manages an email list-serv with over 2300 subscribers, and three social media channels
 - Allows for collaboration between state agencies and non-profits, reducing the duplication of programs and ensuring all areas of the state are reached with programming opportunities
- Outreach to the public
 - In 2024, over 36 live-streamed talks with environmental researchers, scientists, and educators reached an audience of nearly 7000 viewers in homes, classrooms, universities, and state agencies
- Promoting Environmental Jobs and Internships

- Those actively seeking employment visited this page over 57,000 times

These are just some of the ways that the Office of Environmental Education supports our state's communities and resources. North Carolina is one of the very few states that has a state-level office that can support educators seeking ways to teach about the environment in a non-biased way with scientifically accurate information.

The future of our state's natural resources, upon which we all rely, requires a population that is knowledgeable about the human-environment connection, and that education is promoted and supported by the Office of Environmental Education. I hope you will consider ensuring funding for the Office of Environmental Education is in the appropriations budget.

YOUR NAME

CITY OR ZIP CODE