



Environmental Literacy For All Vermonters



- Do you participate in the working landscape of Vermont? Maybe you're a forester or a farmer, maybe you frequent the local farmers' market, or maybe you're an architect, builder or planner.
- Is outdoor recreation your passion? Do you enjoy walking, biking, horseback riding, skiing, fishing, hunting or boating?
- Do you travel Vermont's roadways for work or recreation? Perhaps by car, bike or public transportation.
- Do you believe in your community's obligation to plan for the future? Maybe you have served as town selectman, public health officer, school board member, conservation or planning commission member.
- Does your livelihood depend in some way on a healthy Vermont economy and environment?

Then YOU care about environmental literacy for all Vermonters. This winter, there will be a statewide conversation about environmental literacy in Vermont, and we want to hear what you have to say!

What is environmental literacy?

Environmental literacy includes:

- An **understanding** of the Earth as a physical system, the living environment, and humans and their societies;
- A familiarity with some basic modes of inquiry, **critical thinking and problem solving skills**, and an ability to interpret and synthesize information;
- An understanding of the ideals, principles, and practices of **citizenship** in order to participate in resolving issues;
- **Motivation and empowerment to act**...understanding that what people do as individuals and groups can make a difference

What is being done about environmental literacy?

Currently, Vermont's Statewide Environmental Education Programs (SWEEP), in partnership with the Four Winds Nature Institute, is working on a project to discuss environmental literacy across the state of Vermont. This project has three goals:

- To examine the roles and responsibilities of different sectors in increasing environmental literacy
- To highlight existing model programs in organizations and communities around the state
- To identify opportunities for increasing environmental literacy in Vermont

How can you help?

We want to hear from you!

- From November through March, SWEEP and the Four Winds Nature Institute will facilitate public dialogues across the state to discuss environmental literacy, highlight model programs and identify environmental education needs and opportunities. We would love for you to join us, so you can share your thoughts about these topics. Stay tuned, as we will post the dates, times and locations for these dialogues in October.
- For additional information, please contact Vermont's ELP Project Coordinator, Jen Brown, at jen.g.brown@gmail.com, and we hope to see you and hear from you this fall and winter!