

Great Lakes Ecosystem Education Exchange: Empowering Educators

There is a national push to provide K-12 students with greater opportunities to engage in real-world science experiences and to encourage them to consider entering the STEM (science, technology, engineering, math-based) workforce.

In line with this interest, New York Sea Grant (NYSG) and New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation developed strategic partnerships to apply their unique and combined knowledge and resources to create NY's Great Lakes Ecosystem Education Exchange. Also known as GLEEE, this Exchange provides resources to K-12 educators to foster the next generation of environmentally-literate, stewardship-minded citizens and environmental professionals.

NY's Great Lakes Ecosystem Education Exchange:
www.nyseagrant.org/gleee

GLEEE provides professional development and networking support for incorporating Great Lakes content into participants' educational practice. For example:

- the GLEEE website, launched in late May 2017, is filled with content-rich curriculum resources to support place-based Great Lakes education — the GLEEE website has since attracted 7,818 visitors.
- Great Lakes Basin Bins serve as a hands-on resource for teachers located at 15 sites throughout NY — Basin Bin host sites report 67% of the educators that used them found the resources to be helpful with increasing Great Lakes knowledge and awareness of issues.
- In 2019, NYSG offered in-person professional development to support educators with curricula development and designing and facilitating stewardship projects in their local areas in New York State — 120 educators with the potential to teach up to 28,000 students to be Great Lakes stewards participated in GLEEE-related programs.



*Above:
GLEEE Basin Bin resources were shared at a teacher workshop on invasive species;*

*right:
teachers discover Great Lakes Basin Bin resources. Photos: Emily Sheridan, NYSDEC*



Through this variety of resources and professional development opportunities, NYSG extends GLEEE-related impact into K-12 educational spaces with real-world and timely information to increase Great Lakes knowledge and stewardship throughout the New York watershed.

Project Partners:

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
 15 Great Lakes Basin Bin host sites

The Sea Grant Focus Area for this project is Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development in New York.

New York Sea Grant is a joint program of Cornell University, the State University of New York, and NOAA.

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