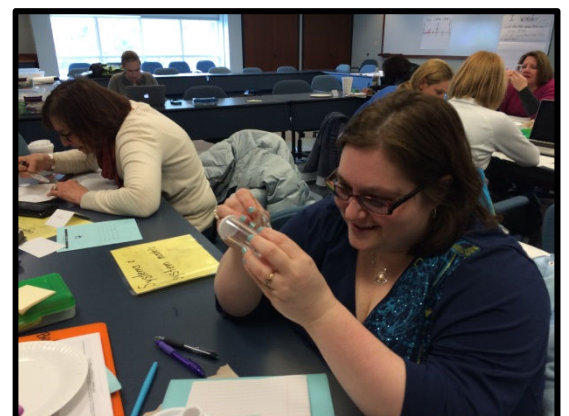


RIEEA's Accomplishments in 2015:

- 2015 represented RIEEA's fourth year of its five-year strategic plan. The year kicked off with a successful annual meeting at Rhode Island College. The meeting included a presentation by Charles Carberry, Designer of the Rhode Island Spring Flower and Garden Show and Fidelity Landscape Architect, on *Why Environmental Literacy Matters in the Corporate World*.
- As a partner in the 2015 Rhode Island Spring Flower and Garden Show, RIEEA coordinated all the activities in the Kids Adventure Zone and engaged schools in a Dream Outdoor Classroom Design Contest. RIEEA's display garden, *A Garden Edventure*, took third place in both the People's Choice and Critic's Choice Award categories. Preparations are currently underway for RIEEA's participation in the 2016 show taking place February 18-21 in Providence.
- RIEEA members began participating as environmental education experts in ongoing professional and leadership development for RI teachers and principals through University of Rhode Island's GEMS-Net (Guiding Education in Math and Science Network). RIEEA is continuing and expanding this collaboration through 2016.
- On July 28, RIEEA hosted a networking and fundraising event at b.good Restaurant in Cranston.
- RIEEA continues to work with the Rhode Island Department of Education's newly established School Building Authority (SBA) on the Green Ribbon Schools and School as a Tool initiatives. In addition, RIEEA helped plan and deliver programming for SBA's launch event in August.
- RIEEA Board Members Shareen Knowlton and Kristen Swanberg presented at the 2015 North American Association for Environmental Education Conference in October. Their session, entitled *Innovative Pathways for Environmental Literacy*, presented RI's model of partnering with the state's school construction team to incorporate environmental education into K-12 school curriculum.
- With funding from the EPA, the New England Environmental Education Alliance will convene eight highly coordinated summits and conferences to advance climate change education in each of the six New England states. RIEEA is working with the RI Chapter of the US Green Building Council to plan a full day workshop for educators, school architects, landscape designers, and others on March 16, 2016.



Mission:

RIEEA promotes high quality environmental education throughout the state to increase the environmental literacy of all children and adults.

Achieving Strategic Goals in 2015

A 'go-to' website, which includes a resource database, and a robust social media presence.

- The Website and Social Media Committee continues to ensure our website and social media venues remain fresh and relevant.
- Our EE resource database has 80+ organizations listed.
- Thanks to dedicated committee members our activity on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Pinterest continues to foster communication between members and non-members.

High quality professional development opportunities for educators.

- The Professional Development Committee was active in developing a plan for comprehensive and ongoing PD opportunities for 2016.
- The committee established “Coffee and Conversation” before each monthly board meeting. During this time, meeting participants discuss relevant professional topics such as working with home school groups, using social media, and more.
- On November 12, educators attended RIEEA’s Dream Outdoor Classroom Design workshop facilitated by Adrienne Gagnon of DownCity Design. Participants are encouraged to apply to our Dream Outdoor Classroom Contest, the winners of which will be announced at the 2016 RI Spring Flower & Garden Show.
- Nine professional development scholarships for a total of \$789 were awarded in 2015. RIEEA is committed to providing scholarships to support environmental educators in our state.

Continual pursuit of the authorization and implementation of the Environmental Literacy Plan.

- RIEEA’s Environmental Literacy Planning (ELP) Committee works in cooperation with RIDE’s School Construction team, now the School Building Authority, to incorporate environmental education directly into the high performance protocols for new school construction and renovations.
- In 2013, the committee drafted the School as a Tool guidelines and commitment letter that school districts sign when applying to the state for CHPS reimbursement for new or renovated buildings. Two more schools that underwent major renovation in 2015 are scheduled to sign the letter, committing to incorporating high quality EE into their curriculum.
- RIEEA promotes the Green Ribbon Schools initiative in cooperation with RIDE by reaching out to public and private schools to explain the process and to encourage and support the applications.
- RIEEA participated in the Westerly Land Trust’s Environmental Literacy Council, the objective of which is implementation of the ELP through outdoor classroom opportunities.

Grow as an organization with a financial plan and Executive Director.

- The 2013 NEEEA Conference and Sustainable Schools Summit provided RIEEA with \$6,924 in revenue. This along with \$1,000 received for RIEEA’s participation in the Westerly Environmental Literacy Council, provides the necessary funds to engage Jeanine Silversmith as a paid part-time coordinator ensuring that daily operations and environmental literacy projects move forward in a much more efficient manner than is possible with an all-volunteer board.
- Over \$350 were donated through the b.good networking event as well as an individual donor.
- A Budget was established and approved by the board.

