



New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

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Stephanie L. Simek, Ph.D.
Executive Director

New Hampshire Environmental Educators
PO Box 173
Holderness, NH 03245

February 24, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, I am pleased to express strong support for the New Hampshire Environmental Literacy Plan.

Environmental literacy is vital to the long-term conservation of New Hampshire's fish, wildlife, and natural resources. An informed and engaged public is essential to sustaining our outdoor heritage, conserving habitat, and ensuring responsible stewardship of the lands and waters that define our state.

As the state agency entrusted with the managing and conserving New Hampshire's fish and wildlife, we know that lasting conservation relies not only on sound science and effective management, but also on public understanding and engagement. Whether safeguarding habitat, restoring species, or promoting safe and responsible outdoor recreation, education is central to our mission.

The Environmental Literacy Plan aligns with our longstanding commitment to education and outreach. Through wildlife and watershed programs, angler and hunter education, and strong partnerships with schools and community organizations, we have seen how hands-on, place-based learning builds stewardship across generations. Investing in environmental literacy strengthens ecosystem resilience, supports our outdoor economy, and fosters civic responsibility.

Advancing environmental literacy statewide, will:

- Strengthen connections between all learners and New Hampshire's natural resources
- Expand access to outdoor, experiential learning across educational settings
- Deepen understanding of ecological systems and conservation challenges
- Cultivate future conservation leaders, outdoor recreationists, and informed citizens

The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department stands ready to work with educators, communities, nonprofit partners, and fellow state agencies to advance this plan. Together, we can ensure that every resident has an opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills, and motivation necessary to understand and care for our natural world.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to this important effort.

Sincerely,

Stephanie L. Simek

Stephanie L. Simek, Ph.D.
Executive Director
New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

Cooperative Extension

February 19, 2026

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Dear New Hampshire Environmental Educators Leadership Team

I am writing to offer my strong and enthusiastic support for the New Hampshire Environmental Educators (NHEE) and your ongoing efforts to foster a meaningful connection to our natural world through environmental education and the promotion of environmental literacy.

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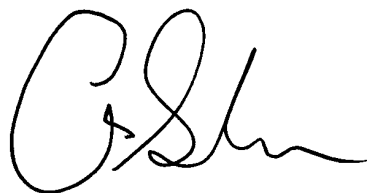
As a Field specialist in Outdoor Recreation at the University of New Hampshire, I see firsthand the powerful impact that intentional, place-based learning has on youth, families, and communities. Environmental education not only builds knowledge, but also cultivates stewardship, critical thinking, resilience, and a lifelong sense of responsibility toward our shared natural resources. These outcomes are essential to both individual well-being and the long-term vitality of New Hampshire's communities.

NHEE plays a vital role in strengthening the network of educators, nonprofit leaders, agencies, and volunteers who are committed to advancing environmental literacy across our state. By supporting professional development, collaboration, and innovation in environmental education, you are helping to ensure that young people and adults alike develop the skills and dispositions necessary to make informed, ethical decisions about our environment.

My work in outdoor recreation and youth development is deeply aligned with NHEE's mission. Together, we recognize that meaningful outdoor experiences build belonging, confidence, independence, and generosity—while also fostering a lasting connection to place.

Strong environmental education is foundational to cultivating the next generation of engaged citizens, conservation leaders, and community stewards. I am grateful for the leadership NHEE provides and am proud to support your efforts to advance environmental education throughout New Hampshire.

Sincerely,



Andy Schafermeyer



March 13, 2026

New Hampshire Environmental Educators
c/o Squam Lakes Natural Science Center
PO Box 173
Holderness, NH 03245

RE: Letter of Support for the 2026 New Hampshire Environmental Literacy Plan

To the New Hampshire Environmental Educators and partners,

On behalf of the Granite Outdoor Alliance (GOA), I am pleased to offer our strong support for the 2026 New Hampshire Environmental Literacy Plan. The updated plan provides a thoughtful and collaborative roadmap to expand environmental learning opportunities across the Granite State while reinforcing the deep connections between our communities, natural resources, and economy.

New Hampshire's outdoor recreation economy, now a \$4.2 billion sector supporting thousands of jobs and businesses, depends on a population that understands and values the landscapes that make our state special. Environmental literacy helps build that connection. By encouraging hands-on, place-based learning experiences across schools, communities, and informal education settings, this plan strengthens the foundation for responsible stewardship of the lands and waters that sustain both our quality of life and our economic vitality. As the plan recognizes, environmental education supports not only academic achievement and civic engagement but also workforce readiness and community resilience.

Equally important, the plan highlights pathways that connect environmental learning to Career and Technical Education (CTE), green jobs, and real-world workforce development. This alignment is critical for New Hampshire's future. The outdoor recreation sector—and the broader environmental and conservation workforce—relies on young people who feel connected to their local environment and see opportunity in protecting and stewarding it. Programs that foster curiosity, problem-solving, and place-based learning help cultivate the next generation of leaders, entrepreneurs, educators, and outdoor professionals who will shape New Hampshire's future.

We also appreciate that the Environmental Literacy Plan is intentionally collaborative and flexible, encouraging partnerships among schools, nonprofits, businesses, land managers, and community organizations. The outdoor recreation sector thrives on exactly these types of partnerships. From trail stewardship and conservation initiatives to community science and workforce development



programs, collaboration across sectors is essential to ensuring that New Hampshire's outdoor resources remain accessible, resilient, and economically productive for generations to come. GOA applauds the leadership of New Hampshire Environmental Educators, NH Listens, and the many partners and stakeholders who contributed to this update. The plan reflects a shared commitment to strengthening environmental understanding while empowering communities to take action locally.

We are proud to support this effort and look forward to continuing to work alongside educators, businesses, and community leaders to ensure that environmental literacy remains a cornerstone of New Hampshire's prosperity, stewardship ethic, and outdoor economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tyler T. Ray". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tyler T. Ray

Director, Granite Outdoor Alliance



New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions

SERVING NEW HAMPSHIRE'S COMMUNITIES SINCE 1970

54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH 03301 | (603) 224-7867 | www.nhacc.org

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March 12, 2026

Regarding: New Hampshire Environmental Literacy Plan

The New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC) wishes to express our full support of the New Hampshire Environmental Literacy Plan. This plan will provide a comprehensive approach to expanding environmental literacy across the state and encourage environmental learning for all ages.

NHACC supports the goals outlined in the plan. We believe environmental education and environmental literacy are critical to the protection of natural resources in New Hampshire. Our conservation commission members agree that NH needs to expand access to environmental learning to ensure that all residents have access to educational opportunities. Conservation Commissions seek out environmental training and education to better serve their community.

We also support the need to empower youth to become stewards of our natural environment. Developing environmental literacy at an early age helps to develop an understanding of the impacts to our environment and how to address critical environmental concerns. Teaching children to understand and respect the environment at an early age is important in protecting their health and well-being.

These goals cannot be achieved without the knowledgeable professionals and educators working in their communities. It is critical to integrate environmental literacy into school curriculum and teaching standards. We fully support these goals.

NHACC is a nonprofit that has served NH's municipal conservation commissions for more than 50 years. We provide education and assistance to 217 conservation commissions throughout NH. We have limited capacity to serve all NH municipalities so we encourage partnership and collaboration to achieve our mission.

Feel free to call me if you have questions or if you need more information. I can be reached at 603-224-7867 or Barbara@NHACC.org.

Sincerely,

Barbara Richter

Barbara Richter, Executive Director



Portsmouth Street
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 631-0870
jscarinza@nhplt.org

Judy Silverberg, NHEE Director
NHEE Environmental Literacy Plan Committee
c/o judysilverberg@gmail.com
March 12, 2026

RE: NH Project Learning Tree support for NH Environmental Literacy Plan

Dear NHEE Environmental Literacy Plan Committee:

I am pleased to write this letter in support of the 2026 Environmental Literacy Plan. This plan will prove to be an incredibly valuable resource to educators, communities and partnering organizations throughout our state.

Project Learning Tree (PLT) is an acclaimed environmental education initiative designed for educators, parents and community leaders working with youth from preschool through grade 12 and beyond. PLT's goals include advancing environmental literacy, stewardship, and career pathways, using trees and forests as windows to the world. The Environmental Literacy Plan (ELP) aligns with and supports PLT's mission of increasing people's understanding of the natural world around them.

As we work with a growing number of schools that strive to include more environmental studies in their programs, the ELP will be an instrumental framework for these goals. We offer professional development for educators from both formal and nonformal settings. PLT's activities are already aligned with many academic standards, and it will be valuable to integrate the objectives of the ELP. The plan offers specific action items for each goal, which can be implemented in our schools and communities.

It is imperative that the next generation of stewards of our land feel connected to it and understand the importance of our actions and decisions. The Environmental Literacy Plan will help make this easier and I look forward to using it as a resource. Please contact me if you have questions, or I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Scarinza

Jennifer Scarinza,
Coordinator, NH PLT

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express SELT's support for the adoption and implementation of the updated New Hampshire Environmental Literacy Plan. As we continue to face environmental challenges in New Hampshire and beyond, it is crucial that the state has a plan to engage people of all ages and backgrounds with nature. Building that nature-connection is proven to create conservationists, and creating opportunities for all people aligns with SELT's belief that nature is for everyone.

SELT's formal nature-based education program, ATLAS, strongly aligns with many of the key goals of the New Hampshire Environmental Literacy Plan. Specific examples include:

GOAL 1: Expand Access to Environmental Learning Across All Ages & Settings

- The plan emphasizes focusing on strong partnerships between schools and conservation organizations.
- ATLAS makes long-term partnership commitments with under-resourced public schools in our area through MOAs, frequent partnership team meetings, and detailed transition plans supported by benchmark rubrics and graphic organizers.

GOAL 3: Provide High-Quality, Widely Accessible Professional Development for Educators

- The plan suggests using field-based outdoor educators as mentors for schoolteachers.
- A key component of the ATLAS program is allowing schoolteachers repeated experiences observing and then co-teaching with experienced nature-based educators, scaffolding the support and providing additional professional development until schoolteachers are confident in leading nature-based lessons themselves.

GOAL 4: Create Pathways to Integrate Environmental Literacy into Curriculum & Standards

- The ATLAS curriculum supports Next Generation Science Standards, NH Work Study Practices, and CASEL Social-Emotional Learning Competencies, helping districts further validate the time that they are dedicating to outdoor learning.

One of the Environmental Literacy Plan's key goals is to ensure that "every New Hampshire resident (regardless of age, ability, income, or location) has the opportunity to participate in at least one meaningful, and place-based environmental learning experience each year." SELT's public outreach programming is a key partner in realizing this goal. Whether that means families with preschool aged children attending Forest Fridays or Little SELTies Storytime, people participating in guided hikes, volunteer crews assisting with our stewardship tasks, or adults furthering their nature knowledge at one of our frequent Mathey Center Programs, we offer a plethora of engagement opportunities that support the Literacy Plan's goal of giving every human at least one opportunity a year to experience environmental education in action.

SELT is excited to support the adoption of this updated plan and put the key goals into action with our outreach and education work. Together, we can create an environmentally literate New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Hart", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brian Hart

Executive Director



Judy Silverberg, Board of Directors
NH Environmental Educators
judy.silverberg@gmail.com

March 6, 2026

RE: Letter of Support for the NHEE Environmental Literacy Plan

Dear Ms. Silverberg,

On behalf of NH LAKES, I am pleased to offer this letter in support of the 2026 New Hampshire Environmental Literacy Plan developed by the New Hampshire Environmental Educators.

Environmental literacy is fundamental to protecting the natural resources that define New Hampshire and support the well-being of our communities. With more than 1,000 lakes and ponds across the state, our lakes are vital to drinking water supplies, wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation, tourism, and the overall quality of life that attracts residents and visitors alike.

Protecting these resources requires an informed and engaged public. The New Hampshire Environmental Literacy Plan provides an important framework for expanding environmental learning opportunities, empowering youth and communities as environmental stewards, and strengthening partnerships among educators, organizations, and local communities. By promoting hands-on, place-based learning, the plan helps connect people to the natural resources around them while building skills that support civic engagement, environmental stewardship, and future workforce pathways.

As a statewide organization dedicated to protecting and restoring New Hampshire's lakes, NH LAKES strongly supports this effort and recognizes the critical role environmental education plays in safeguarding our waters and natural resources for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Andrea LaMoreaux
President, NH LAKES

March 13, 2026

Dear Leighann,

I am writing on behalf of the Concord, NH Climate Hope Affiliate to support and praise the recently-published Environmental Literacy Plan.

First, let me introduce Climate Hope Affiliates: Our program stems from an open and magnanimous faith tradition in which we welcome working with people of all-faiths and persuasions of all people of conscience, in the pursuit of climate justice. We are an advocacy group based in the United Church of Christ, founded a year ago. Our calling is to address the interconnected crisis of climate change and societal injustice. We live into our calling by using the power of relationships. We develop ongoing relationships with elected officials, the local media, and the community at large.

We have 12 chapters around the country, including one based in Concord, NH. Together, we enjoyed significant success recently as part of an effort to lobby Congress for funding of the Environmental Protection Agency. Three weeks ago, despite Administration efforts, Congress passed a bill that was signed into law, funding the EPA with fewer cuts and more guardrails than Project 2025 proposed. It was a rebuke, and a source of hope in the face of the powerlessness which many have felt.

One of our members on the New England Board shared the Literacy Plan, and it has been a source of fruitful discussion because Climate Hope Affiliates can offer tools and guidance to “empower youth and communities as Environmental Stewards and Changemakers. That direct quote from the four stated goals of the Literacy Plan, which continues, listing support for “hand-on, community-connected projects that build confidence, civic skills, and problem-solving capacity, enabling youth and adults to contribute to local environmental solutions.” That’s what we do.

The national advisors for Climate Hope Affiliates have recently discussed the formation of a youth-centered chapter, and are hoping to fund a national internship to devise this, working with local stakeholders. There are many areas in which our projects overlap. Collaboration, networking and relationship-building focused on climate justice are the tools we share, and we are eager to continue the dialogue which will enable our common goals.

Please be in touch with your thoughts and questions. We will continue to read and discuss the Environmental Literacy Plan.

Sincerely,

Robert Grabill, Facilitator
Climate Hope Affiliates
603-443-0218
coachgrabill@gmail.com



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March 13, 2026

New Hampshire Environmental Literacy Plan Committee
New Hampshire Environmental Educators (NHEE)
c/o Squam Lakes Natural Science Center
PO Box 173
Holderness, NH 03245

RE: New Hampshire Environmental Literacy Plan (NH ELP) 2026 Update – Letter of Support

Dear Members of the NH Environmental Literacy Plan Committee,

On behalf of the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), I am pleased to express our strong support for the New Hampshire Environmental Literacy Plan (NH ELP) 2026 Update. AMC applauds the committee and New Hampshire Environmental Educators (NHEE) for advancing a collaborative, forward-looking framework that strengthens environmental learning opportunities for learners of all ages across the state.

The 2026 NH Environmental Literacy Plan offers a shared, non-prescriptive roadmap grounded in New Hampshire's long tradition of conservation, outdoor recreation, and community stewardship. Developed through broad engagement with educators, nonprofits, state agencies, and community partners, the plan is designed as a living guide that supports collective action, local adaptation, and sustained collaboration while responding to evolving education policy, community needs, and environmental challenges.

AMC particularly supports the plan's four interconnected goals: expanding access to environmental learning across all ages and settings; empowering youth and communities as environmental stewards and changemakers; providing high-quality, widely accessible professional development for educators; and creating pathways to integrate environmental literacy into curriculum and standards. Together, these goals promote meaningful, place based learning, civic engagement, interdisciplinary instruction, and strong connections to New Hampshire's educational frameworks and workforce pathways.

As an active member of New Hampshire Environmental Educators, AMC staff participated in the November summit and earlier feedback sessions that helped shape the updated plan, reflecting our commitment to collaborative statewide progress. Through programs such as *A Mountain Classroom* and Coö's Youth Education and aligned with our [All-Out Action Plan](#), AMC provides immersive, place-based environmental learning experiences that build science literacy, climate awareness, leadership skills, and stewardship behaviors—outcomes that directly align with the competencies and priorities outlined in the NH ELP.

Our longstanding partnerships with New Hampshire schools demonstrate that environmental literacy thrives when educators have access to strong community partners, curriculum support, and professional learning opportunities. We share the plan's commitment to expanding access so that learners across ages, geographies, and backgrounds can benefit from high-quality outdoor

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and environmental education, and we agree that environmental literacy is essential to preparing young people and communities to understand and respond to climate change.

AMC appreciates the leadership and inclusive process behind this update and looks forward to continuing to partner with educators, NHEE, and communities statewide to help implement the NH ELP. We welcome opportunities to support this work through programs, professional learning, and place-based experiences that connect learners to New Hampshire's landscapes. Please do not hesitate to reach out if AMC can be a resource as the plan moves forward.

Sincerely,

Chris Thayer

Senior Director of External Affairs
Appalachian Mountain Club



March 13, 2026

New Hampshire Environmental Educators
PO Box 173
Holderness, NH 03245

RE: Letter of Support for the 2026 New Hampshire Environmental Literacy Plan

Dear NHEE Leadership Team,

On behalf of New Hampshire Audubon, I am pleased to offer strong support for the 2026 New Hampshire Environmental Literacy Plan. This collaborative, community-driven framework reflects our shared conviction that environmental literacy is foundational to the long-term health of New Hampshire's communities and natural resources.

NH Audubon's mission to protect New Hampshire's natural environment for wildlife and for people is deeply aligned with this plan. Through our school and youth education programs, we have seen firsthand how place-based, inquiry-driven learning builds the confidence, stewardship, and civic skills that the ELP envisions in empowering youth and communities as environmental stewards and changemakers. We are equally committed to the ELP's Goal 4 - supporting educators in connecting environmental learning across disciplines and existing standards in practical, accessible ways.

Beyond the classroom, our Wildlife Sanctuaries serve as living laboratories where community science programs and family and adult education come to life - directly advancing the ELP's Goal 1 to expand environmental learning across all ages and settings. Through programs like our Backyard Winter Bird Survey and Nature Challenge, participants of all ages contribute real data to wildlife monitoring efforts while deepening their connection to the natural places around them. These accessible, joyful experiences build the lifelong engagement and stewardship this plan recognizes as essential.

Our policy and advocacy work reflects the ELP's recognition that civic skills, data literacy, and community-connected learning are inseparable from building an environmentally literate and resilient New Hampshire.

We are proud to support this living framework and look forward to contributing - through our sanctuaries, school partnerships, community science, and advocacy - to ensuring every resident has the opportunity to connect with and champion our shared natural heritage.

Sincerely,

Doug Bechtel
President

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NEWFOUND CENTER

50 North Shore Road
P.O. Box 142
Hebron, N.H. 03241
PHONE 603-744-3516
FAX 603-744-1090

To Whom it May Concern,

3/19/26

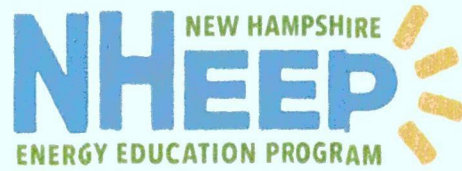
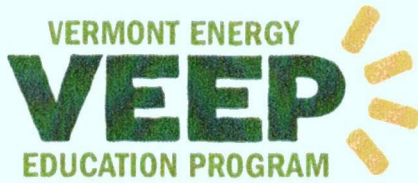
The NH Lions Green Team is proud to support the New Hampshire Environmental Literacy Plan. As a volunteer-driven group working at the intersection of community service and environmental stewardship, we see firsthand the value of hands-on, accessible learning opportunities that connect people of all ages to the natural world. This plan reflects the voices and needs of communities across the state and provides a flexible, practical framework that empowers local action while strengthening statewide collaboration.

Through our work—ranging from energy-saving initiatives and recycling programs to community gardens and environmental education events—we recognize how environmental literacy builds not only knowledge, but also confidence, problem-solving skills, and a sense of shared responsibility. The Plan's focus on expanding access, supporting educators, and fostering community-based projects aligns closely with our mission. We are especially encouraged by its emphasis on inclusivity, local adaptability, and partnership. The NH Lions Green Team looks forward to continuing to support and participate in efforts that bring this plan to life in communities across New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

Sarah Keniston

Chairperson, New Hampshire Lions Green Team, on Behalf of the Green Team



March 17, 2026

The Vermont and New Hampshire Energy Education Program (VEED and NHEED) is writing in support of the New Hampshire Environmental Literacy Plan proposed by New Hampshire Environmental Educators.

Through our work in K-12 classrooms across NH, we have seen firsthand the need for students to spend more time outdoors, be more connected to their communities, and understand connection with and responsibility for the natural world. We strongly endorse the interconnected goals laid out in this plan:

1. Expanding access to environmental learning across all ages and settings
2. Empowering youth and communities as environmental stewards and changemakers
3. Providing high-quality, widely accessible professional development for educators
4. Creating pathways to integrate environmental literacy into curriculum and standards

VEED/NHEED is already at work implementing some of these goals, particularly through our Youth Climate Leaders Academy program. We firmly believe that the opportunity to learn by doing, solve problems, and make positive change should not wait for adulthood and that we need to make opportunities for environmental literacy and youth empowerment available to all students from an early age.

We hope to see this plan enacted for the benefit of NH youth and their communities.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sophia Donforth". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Sophia Donforth

Executive Director, VEED and NHEED



New Hampshire Department of
**BUSINESS AND
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS**



New Hampshire Environmental Educators
c/o Squam Lakes Natural Science Center
PO Box 173
Holderness, NH 03245

March 18, 2026

Dear New Hampshire Environmental Educators and Partners,

On behalf of the Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry Development (ORID), I am proud to offer our support for the 2026 New Hampshire Environmental Literacy Plan. This updated plan provides a clear, collaborative roadmap for expanding environmental learning across the state while strengthening the connections between education, stewardship, and New Hampshire's outdoor economy.

Outdoor recreation contributes \$4.2 billion annually to New Hampshire's economy and supports over 32,000 jobs. States that educate and train outdoor professionals consistently see stronger and more resilient outdoor recreation economies. By fostering hands-on, place-based learning, this plan builds the next generation of skilled professionals who will sustain and grow New Hampshire's outdoor recreation sector.

The plan's goals to expand access, empower youth, provide educator professional development, and integrating environmental literacy into curriculum will directly support workforce and economic development. Environmental literacy fosters stewardship, civic engagement, and clear pathways into careers in recreation, conservation, and industries.

We applaud the plan's focus on collaboration among schools, nonprofits, businesses, land managers, and communities. Strong partnerships like these connect education, workforce training, and hands-on experience, helping ensure New Hampshire's outdoor spaces remain vibrant, accessible, and economically productive for generations.

We are proud to support this effort and look forward to continuing to work with educators, community leaders, and partners to strengthen environmental literacy, workforce readiness, and the long-term vitality of New Hampshire's outdoor economy.

Sincerely,

Janel E. Lawton

Janel Lawton

Director, Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry Development

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Concord, New Hampshire 03301

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Prescott Farm
Environmental Education Center

March 23, 2026

New Hampshire Environmental Literacy Plan Committee
c/o New Hampshire Environmental Educators (NHEE)

Re: 2026 New Hampshire Environmental Literacy Plan

Dear Committee Members,

On behalf of Prescott Farm Environmental Education Center, I am writing to express our full support for the 2026 New Hampshire Environmental Literacy Plan (NH ELP). As an organization dedicated to environmental education, we recognize this plan as a vital, non-prescriptive roadmap for fostering a resilient and informed citizenry across the Granite State.

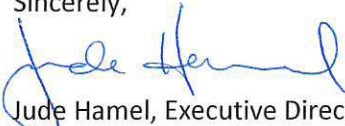
The 2026 NH ELP aligns deeply with our mission by emphasizing place-based, inquiry-driven experiences that connect learners to their local communities. We specifically endorse the plan's four primary goals:

- **Expanding Access:** Ensuring every resident has meaningful environmental learning opportunities regardless of age or background.
- **Empowering Stewards:** Supporting hands-on projects that build civic skills and problem-solving capacity.
- **Professional Development:** Strengthening the network of formal and informal educators.
- **Curriculum Integration:** Aligning environmental literacy with state standards and workforce readiness.

The flexible framework of this plan, which allows schools and organizations like Prescott Farm to adapt these goals to the specific community context of the towns and cities they serve, is particularly valuable in ensuring that learning is relevant and accessible to members of each New Hampshire community.

Research shows that this work is essential not only for academic achievement but also for the physical health, social-emotional wellbeing, and economic vitality of our state. Prescott Farm is eager to collaborate with NHEE and other partners to implement these strategies and build a more environmentally literate New Hampshire.

Sincerely,



Jude Hamel, Executive Director
Prescott Farm Environmental Education Center



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services

Robert R. Scott, Commissioner



March 24, 2026

Via email

New Hampshire Environmental Educators
PO Box 173
Holderness, NH 03245
info@nhee.org

Re: 2026 New Hampshire Environmental Literacy Plan

Dear New Hampshire Environmental Educators Leadership Team,

On behalf of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES), I am pleased to write in strong support of New Hampshire Environmental Educator's (NHEE) 2026 Environmental Literacy Plan (ELP). The ELP supports a diverse range of New Hampshire educators with a framework to deliver thoughtful, high-quality environmental education that makes a lasting difference in people's lives.

NHDES works with residents across New Hampshire to protect the natural resources that make our state such a remarkable place to live, work and play. Our mission is to help sustain a high quality of life for all citizens by protecting and restoring the environment and public health. Environmental education is central to achieving it. An environmentally literate public is not just helpful to this work; it is essential.

The benefits of environmental education are varied and well-documented. Across all age groups, it touches our lives in profound and unexpected ways – from building higher-order thinking skills and improving academic and behavioral outcomes, to strengthening physical, mental and emotional health, and increasing civic empowerment and engagement. Environmental education is one of the most powerful investments New Hampshire can make in its future. The ELP authors put it well: "The long-term health of New Hampshire's communities, economy, and natural resources depends on an engaged and environmentally literate public."

We are proud to collaborate with NHEE as the ELP moves from vision into action. Together, by reaching learners of all ages and abilities across New Hampshire, we can build the environmentally literate, resilient communities our state needs – and deserves.

Sincerely,

Lara Hooper, Education Coordinator
NHDES Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau, Concord NH 03302-0095
lara.hooper@des.nh.gov



March 24, 2026

To the New Hampshire Environmental Literacy Plan Steering Committee and NH Environmental Educators:

On behalf of RCAP Solutions, Inc., I am pleased to offer strong support for the 2026 New Hampshire Environmental Literacy Plan. As the Northeast and Caribbean regional partner of the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP), we work closely with rural and underserved communities across New England to strengthen environmental stewardship, protect drinking water, and build community resilience.

RCAP Solutions has a long history of supporting environmental education and engagement in New Hampshire. For many years, our team has participated in and supported the annual New Hampshire Drinking Water Week Fair, helping thousands of students learn about source water protection, watershed science, and the importance of safe drinking water. Additionally, through the ongoing RCAP WIIN Program—which provides no-cost technical and remediation assistance to schools and childcare facilities to reduce lead in drinking water—we have worked directly with NHDES and New Hampshire schools and childcare centers, helping students, staff, and families build knowledge about drinking water safety and environmental health. This type of hands-on, place-based learning is exactly what the 2026 ELP seeks to strengthen statewide. The plan's emphasis on building environmental literacy across grade levels, expanding outdoor learning opportunities, and fostering collaboration among educators, municipalities, and community-based organizations aligns closely with our mission to foster personal and public self-reliance and improve quality of life in the communities we serve.

We believe the 2026 ELP will provide essential guidance and momentum for preparing New Hampshire students—and their communities—to make informed decisions about natural resources, climate resilience, and infrastructure challenges that affect daily life, particularly in rural areas.

RCAP Solutions is committed to continuing our support for environmental literacy efforts across New Hampshire and welcomes future collaboration as the plan moves into implementation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Scales", is written over a white background.

Brian Scales
President & CEO
RCAP Solutions, Inc.
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March 26, 2026

Dear NHEE Environmental Literacy Plan Committee,

On behalf of Beaver Brook Association, I am pleased to offer our strong support for the 2026 New Hampshire Environmental Literacy Plan. This plan represents an important and timely effort to articulate a shared vision for environmental learning across our state, and it provides valuable guidance for organizations like ours as we plan for the future.

At Beaver Brook Association, our mission is to connect people of all ages to the natural world through education, conservation, and community engagement. Each year, we serve children, families, educators, and community members through outdoor learning experiences that foster curiosity, stewardship, and a sense of belonging in the natural world. As a nonprofit nature center, we continually evaluate how our programs, partnerships, and long-term planning can best meet the needs of our community while staying true to our mission.

The Environmental Literacy Plan plays an important role in that process. Having a statewide framework helps organizations like ours prioritize our work, shape strategic decisions, and ensure that our programs are aligned with broader goals for education, conservation, and community well-being. The plan reinforces the importance of expanding access to environmental learning, supporting educators, strengthening partnerships with schools, and ensuring that people of all ages have opportunities to learn through direct experiences outdoors. These priorities mirror the work we are doing every day, and the plan helps guide us as we look ahead to future growth.

In recent years, Beaver Brook Association has seen increasing demand for nature-based education, particularly for young children, homeschool families, and schools seeking place-based learning opportunities. The Environmental Literacy Plan provides a strong foundation for continuing to develop these programs in ways that are thoughtful, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of our communities. It also helps nonprofit organizations like ours make informed decisions about where to invest time, resources, and energy so that our efforts contribute to a larger statewide vision.

We are grateful for the leadership of New Hampshire Environmental Educators in bringing together partners from across the state to create this plan. A shared framework strengthens collaboration and ensures that the work of individual organizations contributes to a collective impact that none of us could achieve alone.

Beaver Brook Association is proud to support the 2026 Environmental Literacy Plan and looks forward to continuing to work alongside NHEE, schools, conservation organizations, and community partners to advance environmental literacy for all people in New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Jones
Executive Director
Beaver Brook Association



Town of Sutton Conservation Commission

July 2, 2026

New Hampshire Environmental Educators
PO Box 173
Holderness, NH 03245

RE: Letter of Support for the 2026 New Hampshire Environmental Literacy Plan

Dear NHEE Leadership Team,

On behalf of the Sutton Conservation Commission, I am pleased to offer our strong support for the 2026 New Hampshire Environmental Literacy Plan. We could not agree more that environmental literacy is foundational to the long-term health of New Hampshire's communities and natural resources.

The SCC is strongly aware that our mission of conserving land and protecting the environment for wildlife and for people requires a population that cares about the natural world and understands the importance of preserving open space and preventing the degradation of wetlands and water bodies. This can only be achieved by fostering an appreciation of nature in our townspeople by educating them, and especially children, about the wonders of nature and the interdependence of people and the whole biological web.

The town of Sutton does have some programs in place already that promote environmental literacy in the populace. Our Sutton Free Library offers a wonderful array of activities for both children and adults, some of which are nature-focused. The Lake Sunapee Protection Association is very strongly focused on environmental literacy, and has an outstanding educational program that reaches children in our local schools. One of our town treasures is Muster Field Farm, a conserved historic farm that offers many opportunities for people of all ages to learn about our past Sutton residents' relationship to the land, and to learn where their food comes from. Kezar Lake, a much-used and much-loved town resource, has a robust Lake Host program that provides education to local boaters about aquatic invasive species. The Kezar Lake Protective Association is currently stewarding the creation of a Watershed Based Plan for the lake, and this process includes several public information sessions that provide the opportunity for folks to learn about the water quality and what actions can be taken by both the town and individuals to make improvements to it.

The SCC itself has presented public educational sessions over the years on a variety of topics. Our latest one was about the effects of rodenticides on our wildlife population. This is a topic that really calls out for more public education and awareness. In addition, we provide opportunities for people of all ages to get outside and experience the natural world on our conservation lands, and walk on our maintained hiking trails. We invite interested members of the public to join us in maintaining those trails, for a truly up-close look at the forest.

Thank you for your work in producing this plan, and for all you do to promote environmental literacy.

Sincerely,
Bonnie Hill
Secretary, Sutton Conservation Commission