

5 Tips For Tapping into Schools and Organizations with Real Projects

#1. Start small and local.

Work with the schools and organizations in your community. Your project doesn't have to save the world. Let folks know who you are, what you do and what resources you have access to and start building connections. Start with a group of interested students. Consider limiting the scope of your project so the objectives be achieved. What are some of the small things you're doing in your organization that could be accomplished by students or other volunteers?

#2. Be aware of what's age-appropriate.

As a child grows their sense of community expands, too. Younger students need projects in and around their schoolyard, with tangible results, while older students can think more broadly. Make sure content is age-appropriate: it's even more important than the delivery method. Research shows that burdening children with issues beyond their cognitive scope can be counterproductive to active citizenship later in life.

#3. Be aware of timeframes.

Lead time and follow-up time is important so educators can plan and reflect/review. Try to be flexible to different schedules. Everything takes longer than you think, especially when working with kids, but the more you work with a school or community group, the more efficient the process becomes.

#4. Communicate clearly and completely.

Ask specifically for what you need when you contact schools and organizations, but also make clear what you can offer and what you don't need. Most teachers are happy to write and design their own curriculum around a project, but will be relieved to have an expert on certain aspects of the project where they feel less certain.

#5. Share what you're doing.

Put lists of opportunities/ real-world projects on your webpage and send that webpage link to NHEE so we can direct teachers to one place for information. Tell the press what you're doing. More publicity will help draw more people into your project, encourage other schools to get involved, and in the end generate a greater impact.

Thank you for helping to create opportunities for students and citizens to Tap Into Real-World Solutions!
We hope that, in students, teachers and citizens, you will find a new well of resources, too, brimming with energy!

Contact us:

New Hampshire Environmental Educators (NHEE) - www.nhee.org - nhee.org@gmail.com

Sullivan County Conservation District - <https://sullivancountynh.wixsite.com/educationandoutreach>

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New England Stewardship Network - <http://newengland.stewardshipnetwork.org/>

Teachers, Students and Citizens are Looking for These Resources:

- Problems that need investigating or solving
- Training, professional development and events
- Data and reliable information
- Opportunities to collect and present data
- Grants or other financial/ material resources
- Experts to share with a class or at a community event
(a guest speaker, job shadow opportunity or guidance on a project)
- Equipment, or access to equipment

Do you have some of these or other resources to offer?

- +*Connect with organizations like NHEE: submit resources and find out what is needed*
- +*Create a list or brochure for your projects and send them to:*
 - Curriculum Specialists/Directors
 - School Principals
 - Organizations that work directly with teachers, students or community volunteers

Research shows that Environmental and Experiential Education improve:

- relationships between the school, parents and the community
- actions and attitudes that promote sustainable living and life-long learning
- **water and air quality**, and decrease waste and energy use
- children's health
- school attendance and performance on standardized tests in reading, writing, math, science and social studies
- discipline and classroom management problems
- engagement and enthusiasm for learning, pride and ownership in accomplishments
- teacher engagement and job-satisfaction