

Funding Survey Results Summary

In the fall of 2006, WAEE conducted a short survey to gather baseline data on the status of environmental education (EE) funding in Wisconsin and the impact, if any, changes in funding has had on programs and staff. It is our goal that WAEE will maintain data on EE funding levels to determine trends in EE opportunities around the state.

This survey was made available to the 272 WAEE members and approximately 200 Wisconsin School Forest Educators; 76 surveys were returned. There was an even distribution of respondents from throughout the five WAEE membership regions:

- North = 13
- North East=15
- West Central=18
- South Central=15
- South East=15

Seventy percent (53) of the respondents to the survey were affiliated with school districts; ALL were public school districts, none were from private schools.

Overall, EE funding, programming, and staffing were reported as remaining fairly consistent this fiscal year. There were no significant decreases or increases in any area reported by respondents at their place of employment:

Funding Level

- 67% (51) of respondents reported No Changes in funding level
- 13% (10) of respondents reported an increase in funding level
- 18% (14) of respondents reported a decrease in funding level

Programming

- 46% (35) of respondents reported No Changes in programming
- 39% (30) of respondents reported an increase in programming
- 12% (9) of respondents reported a decrease in programming

Staffing

- 72% (55) of respondents reported No Changes in staffing
- 8% (6) of respondents reported an increase in staffing
- 17% (13) of respondents reported a decrease in staffing

Programming had the highest percentage of respondents reporting an increase 39% (30). Staffing had the highest percentage of respondents reporting a decrease, 17% (13).

The survey did not allow respondents to report what impact grant money had in maintaining EE funding, staffing and/or programming. Future surveys may need to investigate this issue. This was a first attempt at gathering baseline data. As subsequent surveys are sent out, WAEE can track trends in environmental education in Wisconsin.

Thank you to all who returned their surveys. The complete survey results are available at: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/waee/AbtEE/status.htm>