

Title: EPA's National Environmental Education Program

Hosts:

Date: October 25, 2012

Marianne Krasny, Professor, Civic Ecology Lab, Natural Resources, Cornell University  
Judy Braus, Executive Director, North American Association for Environmental Education

EECapacity, EPA's national environmental education training program, applies social innovation theory to address the question: How is environmental education changing in a world where the majority of people experience the environment in cities? The project creates online and face-to-face "platforms" designed to foster exchange of ideas and practice among professional environmental educators and an emerging group of youth and community development professionals implementing environmentally-related stewardship and learning activities in cities. We are testing the hypothesis that through exchanging ideas, diverse groups of professionals with largely separate social networks and practice, will create environmental education innovations that address the concerns of an urban population.

EECapacity is a 5-yr, \$11 million cooperative agreement between Cornell University and EPA. In addition to the Civic Ecology Lab home of the project, partners include the North American Association for Environmental Education, Association of Zoos and Aquaria, USFWS, NOAA, American Community Gardening Association, New Knowledge Organization, Cornell Lab of Ornithology Celebrate Urban Birds program, and numerous community organizations across the US, Canada, and Mexico.