

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Moderator: Karen Scott
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4:00 p.m. ET

Operator: Good afternoon. My name is (Sarah) and I will be your conference operator today. At this time, I would like to welcome everyone to the Environmental Education webinar conference call.

All lines have been placed on mute to prevent any background noise. After the speakers' remarks, there will be a question and answer session. If you would like to ask a question during this time, simply press star then the number one on your telephone keypad. If you would like to withdraw your question, press the pound key. Thank you.

I would now like to turn the call over to Ms. Scott, Environment Education Specialist with the office of Environmental Education. Please go ahead ma'am.

Karen Scott: Thank you. This is Karen Scott with the Office of Environmental Education at EPA. Welcome to the first and a series of webinars that we're doing to celebrate National Environmental Education Week. The title of today's webinar is Environmental Education for Everyone, EPA's (K to Gray) educational resources.

Today, I'll be presenting the first part of the webinar and then, I'll be joined by two colleagues from my office Carly Carroll and Jennifer Bowman. We're all in the office of Environmental Education here at EPA.

Today, I'm going to be presenting some information about our office and a little bit about our philosophy of creating and presenting environmental

education resources, then Jennifer Bowman will be presenting information about EPA's program offices and the kinds of educational resources they offer, then Carly Carroll will be doing some presentation on (K to Gray) resources at EPA and take a little bit of a look at some of our resources online.

So, the office of Environmental Education, you can access information about our office at the URL that you see at the screen right now, that's basically epa.gov/education. You will see information about everything that our office does on that site.

Basically, our office was established by the National Environmental Education Act in 1992. The Act established the mission and activities of the office. Some of those main activities included a grant program in which we award approximately \$3 to \$3.5 million per year to grants that range in size from about \$15,000 up to \$200,000.

We're expecting to publish our request for proposals in May of this year, so in about another month. You can access the RFP for that on this same site, epa.gov/education. We also give out student awards, they're called the President's Environmentally Youth Awards and we've just awarded the 2011 winners yesterday.

The nominations for the 2012 winners will be due December 31st, so at the end of the year to all of our regional coordinators. We'll be talking about the regional coordinators in just a little bit. The Teacher Awards which is called the President's Innovation Award for Environmental Educators is a new award this year.

And those award winners will be announced within the next couple of weeks. So, watch our sites for those announcements. We also have a National Environmental Education Advisory Committee and we hope to get that reactivated a little bit later this year.

We have an environmental education training agreement with Cornell University and its partners. This is a national training program for both formal and informal educator. And the training agreement is about two –

valued at about \$2 million per year. So, watch for announcements about training in sites near you across the country.

And finally, our office produces environmental education resources for both formal and informal educators for the students and for the public. And that's what we're going to be looking at today, both the resources that this office produces and those that we coordinate with in EPA program offices across the country.

We're going to let you take a look at a screen capture of our environmental education Web site. And as you can see in that screen capture, all of the programs that I just described can be access through that site. So, please do visit our site later and get more information about all of those programs.

So, what kind of educational resources do we provide and what are our philosophies for those resources? First of all, we try to make sure that we connect students and residents with their communities. We also try to always address real world and local problems.

We encourage stewardship activities in our resources. And when appropriate, we try to make sure they are (inaudible)-based, experiential and taking place outdoors. Also, in our educational resources, we strive to make them interdisciplinary and integrative. In other words, we want to make them as flexible to be use in as much of a variety of classes and subjects as possible.

We also try to make sure they are relevant and responsive to local issues and current events. And finally but certainly not the least, we try to make them creative and encourage critical thinking. And with that, I'm going to turn over the presentation to Jennifer Bowman, who's going to give you more information about our program offices and their resources.

Jennifer Bowman: Thank you Karen. Good afternoon everyone. As you can see on the screen we have a web capture of the EPA's Web site that shows you the – an outline of the different program offices that the EPA includes, as well as the regional offices. So, when you're looking for a place to learn more about how the EPA is structured as far as all the different offices that we include, this is a really great Web site to go through and you can click on the different sources.

I'm going to take you through the headquarters offices and then the regional offices for this part of the presentation. So, this is the bulleted list of the first part of that screen capture. All of the EPA's offices for the headquarters which are based out of Washington D.C. and there are many other offices and labs around the country.

I've highlighted a number of these offices that are darker because we're going to be focusing on the education component of our presentation on these offices. The EPA does an enormous amount of work in the environmental field and it includes a lot of that legal and reinforcement but we also do a lot of research and really great integrative work as far as reaching out to communities with the Offices of Air and Radiation, Chemical Safety, Pollution Prevention.

And then, we also have our research branch. We have 14 research facilities around the country. And then, we also include solid waste and emergency response in the Office of Water. This list also includes 10 regional offices around the country. Each region has an environmental education coordinator, so that you can connect with the EPA locally in your area. Now, each of these offices are located in the city listed on your screen.

So, this is an image of the different regions. So, if you're wondering if you've never heard of the EPA regions, this would give you an idea visually of how the country is broken up into the different regions that the EPA helps work with different states. So, you can see, for example, that region 10 is the State of Washington, Oregon and Idaho and so forth throughout the different regions.

So, each of the program offices had a lot of really great resources and the EPA Web site is kind of enormous. So, it can be challenging to navigate. So, we're trying to break it down to a little bit – to an easier – just to navigate a little easier for you.

When it comes to looking at educational resources on the web, we're focusing on the Office of Air and Radiation, Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, Research and Development, the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency

Response which also include things like recycling and composing and then, we also have the Office of Water.

On your screen, you see several web links for these different offices. Some of them provide you really basic information about these offices. Where are the offices are? Who are the point of contacts are? And then, the other Web sites was more specific details about how to connect with education materials, interactive activities for kids and parents and teachers.

So, this is an image of some of the education resources from a different program and so forth. For example, we have a screen capture of the Office of Water. It talks a little bit about what the Office of Water does. Each of the program offices has a page that explains what they do.

So, if you are interested in learning more about each office, you can go to the – their – the Web site that I listed on the page before. And then, next to that is the capture of one of the many pages that the Office of Water, for example, offices – office offers resources for folks looking for information about water based science and all kinds of water based issues and local and global connections.

This is another example of a resource that you'll find through our Web site. This is through the Office of Air and Radiation, they include things like climate change, air trends, sun safety, asthma awareness, noise solution, ozone, the Clean Air Act and energy (inaudible) and many other subjects.

And this is a fun interactive page for youth to come and explore, watch the videos, learn some really basic fact and information about global climate change since it is a very important and hot topic going on. There are lots of options available for environmental education at the EPA.

There are lesson plans for educators and parents and Carly will be talking a little bit more about those in details in a few minutes. We also offer materials that are really great for homework and classroom help if you need more detailed research information, if you need someone to explain what is storm water pond is, things like in a wet lands, water pollution and that sort of stuff.

We have lots of really great resources, a lot of fact sheets and information that can be very helpful for classrooms and students and teachers, as well as parents and families and the general public. There are also ideas for things like science experiments and there also a lot of really fun games and activities that you can play with and utilize on the Web site.

And they are very diverse and very interesting. So, we encourage you to explore some of those resources. This is a – an image capture of one of our lesson plans that we have created through the EPA and it gives you an outline of what the teacher or the person that will be teaching is isn't just necessarily for teachers in schools.

Again, the current parents and the public can utilize this lesson plans that it gives you the basic facts about the material (inaudible), for example, this is about mercury vial accumulation. So, you may find in these lesson plans worksheets and resources to use in a step by step process.

So, that you can learn more specifics about that particular lesson, that particular bit of information. Like I said earlier, we also include information about things like science experiments. We've got lots of lesson plan. We've got research that you can access. As I said, there are 14 research facilities around the country and they provide a lot of really great information that we work to interpret into more understandable terms because sometimes, it gets really complicated but the information is there for you all to utilize.

You can also, as I said, see there are different kinds of games and activities that focus on all kinds of things from how to recycle at home, to how to conserve water and how to get involve in your local neighborhood. Your regional offices can also assist you with a lot of this information if you have questions about these sorts of activities.

I'm now going to turn it over to Carly Carroll, who's going to take you through the case (for grade) component of our presentation. Thank you very much.

Carly Carroll: Hello, we'd like to say that environmental education is not just about case result students even though that we recommend specific area important

demographic to reach. Our goal is to share EPA content from early childhood through adulthood. We do this by working with other offices, such as program offices that Jennifer just discussed and initiatives that occur throughout the agency, this include America's Great Outdoors.

President Obama launch the America's Great Outdoors initiative to develop the 21st century conservation and recreation agenda. (Inaudible) takes us at summit that lasting conservation solution should arrive from the American people as the protection of our national heritage as none partisan objective shared by all Americans.

The aging addition initiative is another initiative that EPA has to share the information, fact sheets and tools to protect the environmental house of older person. EPA also recently launched the Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnership Initiative. And this was created to expand the environmental conversation and built partnerships between the government, Faith-based and Neighborhood Organizations to create cleaner communities, healthier families and a stronger America.

This initiative supports President Obama's Advisory Council and Faith-based in Neighborhood partnership by working to access and strengthen partnership between our government community serving organization that have been existing for century.

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national, origin or income with respect to the development implementation and enforcement of environmental log regulations and policies. EPA has a school for all communities and persons across the nation.

Environmental education grant which Karen briefly mentioned earlier are now part of community based grants programs that also include environment (inaudible).

Another initiative that we work on is the On Campus Eco-Ambassadors, working with co-representatives and fellow college students on On Campus Eco-Ambassadors implement products from EPA Programs to help greener

campuses, promote environmental awareness and carry out the EPA mission to protect human health and the environment.

On Campus Eco-Ambassadors choose to implement one environmental activity from a menu of options such as increasing energy efficiency on campus, producing water use or implementing a composting compass. Eco-Ambassadors are fit with EPA material and a Facebook community to engage members of their campus and students across the country.

And finally, another of our priorities includes working with informal educators and association. An example of this is the National Environmental Education Foundation or NEEF. The National Environment for Education Act established NEEF as a complimentary organization to EPA extending its ability to foster environmental knowledge in all segments of the American public.

Their strategy is to reach the public through a powerful that work access to professionals who can help Americans make everyday informed choices for a healthy lives and healthy environment. NEEF works with the network as health professionals, weathercasters, lay ministers and teachers to help their programs reach a lot of audience.

And NEEF will be joining us on Thursday at this same time, at 4pm Eastern Time for webinar on their educational program and to talk about greening stuff.

Now, Jennifer has been sharing with you some of our program office Web site and the educational resources that they have but we've created a one stop shop for students and teachers. And so, what you see on your screen now is a screen capture from our EPA student page.

The EPA student page contains resources for K through 12 student educators and parents. Students can play games and test their environment on knowledge and explore homework resources and fun ideas for an environmental science fair project. Students can also write and submit upload about the environment on the EPA's student's blogs.

And they can also check out our (inaudible) contact section to assign about programs that encourage environmental stewardship. And we'll be showing you this site live in just a few moments. From that student's page, you can get to our teacher's page. And this teacher and educator section contains a list linking to the educational resources in the program offices that we discussed earlier.

Again, this is your one stop shop for EPA educational resources. Each resource has a summary and appropriate grade level and they're divided by environmental topics such as air, water or recycling. We also link to external resources that educators and parents might find helpful.

Some of these resources are lesson plans, others are classroom games and activities and finally, some are back on information the future may need about a particular environmental issue.

So, I'm going to give you some examples of the types of resources that we have and that we link to some of the teacher's page. So, for young children, the resources can include coloring books, activity books and short interactive Web sites that kids connect more with their parents, their caregivers.

In this example, the planet protectors coloring book, kids explore an interactive online coloring book. And as a planet protector, each kid's mission is to include the world around them by making less trash. Planet protectors also help other people learn to reduce, reuse and recycle.

So, to carry out this mission, kids explore the fun games and activities finding that they're – that the more they learn about reducing waste and saving resources, the better they become at carrying out the planet protector goal.

And the example of middle school resources is 9.4 solution awareness. What's wrong with this picture? This is a resource for middle school students that include interactive games and activities online. In this example, students are learning that 9.4 solution. The people in the picture are taking care of their home and car but they are doing many things that can damage the environment, especially our water.

Students can click on spot where I think someone is doing something wrong first to five. Each time a student click the spot, the site explains what the person is doing wrong and give (inaudible) from what students can do to protect water from 9.4 solution.

This slide is an example of the resources that we have for high school students, this Web site is called AIRNow and the US EPA, NOAH, the National Park Service, travel stay and local agencies develops the AIRNow Web sites to provide the public with easy access in national air quality information.

AIRNow has in fact (inaudible) for students that includes learning about the air quality and industrial air pollution. Using an interactive air pollution stimulator to control the air quality and small city two, students can see how individual choices, environmental factors and different types of land use affects air pollution.

In small city two which is a game that you can see on your screen, students are in-charge. So, whether their visit is a healthy or unhealthy experience, depends on a decision that they make in a simulation. Students can also explore real time air quality data in their area.

And finally, as we said, environmental education is K through 12. We want to go early childhood up through adulthood. And so, not all of the resources that we've mentioned are just for case as well, EPA office offer educational resources for adult. For example, AIRNow provides information for older adults on how air quality affects their health.

There are even posters to educational organizations to work with older adults can sent and post around their areas. And the EPA has the aging initiative which provides more educational resources for older adults to learn how environmental factors affect health.

A major goal of the aging initiative is the development of the national agenda for the environment and the aging. The national agenda will prioritize environmental health hazard that affect older persons, examine the

environment or impact of an aging population and a smart growth contact and encourage physic involvement among older persons in their communities to reduce hazards.

So, now what we're going to do is we're actually going to take you to some of those Web sites, so that you can see how to navigate our educational resources.

Male: (Inaudible).

Carly Carroll: Yes. All right, so the first site that I have taken you to is our education homepage and the quick and easy you're – how you saw earlier in the PowerPoint is epa.gov/education and here is where you can find information on the EE programs that we offer.

So, the first program we're going to talk about is we have environmental education grants. And so, I'm going to turn this back over to Karen Scott who can talk a little bit about environmental grants at EPA.

Karen Scott: Yes, the environmental education grants have been given out since 1992. And since that date, we have given out almost 4,000 awards across the country. As I've said before, they've ranged in value from \$15,000 to \$200,000. We do anticipate issuing a request for proposals probably at the end of May, coming up.

So, you can see on our site here, you can sign up to get notifications for the publications of RFP, request for proposals. So, if you're interested in that, please do go to our site to sign up to receive those notifications. And as I said before, we usually give out between \$3 and \$3.5 million per year.

And those grants are given out through our regional coordinators. So, if you'd like more information, you can either contact me or you can contact one of our regional coordinators to get more information.

Carly Carroll: All right, another one of our programs that we offer at EPA are our Teacher Awards and I'm going to turn this over to Jennifer Bowman, who's going to tell you about more about our Teacher Awards Programs.

Jennifer Bowman: OK. So, the Teacher Award Program is a partnership between the US Environmental Protection Agency and the Whitehouse Council for Environmental Quality.

This year was the first time that we have conducted this award program and it's part of the America's Great Outdoor initiative report to focus on helping teachers who are doing lots of really great work in their teaching work in everyday school, situations, incorporate more environmental education, environmental plans focus material into their classrooms, whether they're actually focusing on teaching in Science or whether they're focusing on teaching in Math or Literature or other subjects.

So, teachers are eligible to apply for this award or to be nominated for this award. And in order for a teacher to be eligible, they have to be a K through 12 teacher on a full time basis at a public school that is operated by a local education agency, including schools funded by the Bureau of Indian affairs.

Most publics – most, excuse me, most private schools, if they are privately funded are unfortunately not eligible, for teachers are private schools. They have – teachers have to hold a current teaching license with the state and they have to have at least five years of K through 12 teaching experience which also includes a minimum of teaching three years environmental based curriculum or environmental education type of work.

They need to anticipate that they're going to continue to doing environmental education in their classroom and they have to be a citizen of the United States. And that includes a lot of people, we had a decent number of people apply this year and we're looking forward to seeing how the program progresses in future years.

And the judging process is then through a team – a different teams of evaluators and once we go through our evaluation process and CEQ, that's part of their evaluation process then we select and announce the winners. So, as we said earlier it's going to be happening in a couple of weeks as we're finalizing the process here on our end.

The award for this program includes a plaque for the teacher and it also include a \$2,000 award for the teacher for more development of their professional background and professional knowledge and the school that they are part off, that they teach with I should say, also receives \$2,000 to put towards that teachers environmental science, environmental education based program work.

Carly Carroll: OK, now taking you back to our homepage. You can find resources for educators and resources for students. One of our lengths under resources for educators are these EE in Action Webinar and I know that some of you maybe interested in receiving this PowerPoint later on.

And we will be posting it on this – on our www.epa.gov/education, we'll be posting it under EE in Action Webinars for educators. So, this page that you were seeing right now on your screen is where you will find the PowerPoint, some of the – we're hoping to post the audio from this call as well.

If you're an educator and you're looking for a lesson plan and resources on our K through 12, this will take you straight to our future resources and lesson plans page. You can see that it's divided out by EPA resources and external resources and then it's also divided out by topics.

So, if you are a teacher and you are looking to teach on health or on recycling, you would click either of these links and it will bring you up a list of activities that you can perform with your schools. So, for example, if you click on a link, you can find, if you're looking for a recycling activity, you can find the quest for last activities and resources for teaching K through 8.

So, as I said early in the presentation, this too give you a grade level that they are best used with, as well as what type of resource they are.

Jennifer Bowman: These resources are also a really great option if you're looking for a concise collection of information to teach a subject.

For example of you are working with a small community group and you'd like to be able to present an information to them about molds or lead or radiation or air pollution, any number of subjects. It's really great to go ahead and

utilize those lesson plans and resources because they provide you with a small amount of information, the basic fact that you can also do more research on your own of course.

And basically, how do you go through that material with a group and they also tell you how long you'll probably need to present that information to the group that you're with whether it be scouts or whether it be senior citizens. They're just really, really versatile.

Carly Carroll: Hi and one final resource that we are going to show that we mentioned during the activity was the student page, epa.gov/students and this is your one stop shop. It includes the resources for K through 12 students and teachers educators and parents.

You can see that they are divided into different sections, there are games and quizzes for students. There are homework resources. There is a new section called science fair project and this section student can sign ideas for science fair projects that are related to the environment.

We also have the EPA student's blog and I'm going to ahead and show that with you. The Eco Student blog is an environmental blog for students. Some of this blogs are written by students and some of them are written by EPA staff or students. And if a student would like to submit a blog, there's a way to do it through this Web site as long as they follow our policies.

So, if you have students that are interested in writing a blog and getting it published on the EPA's Web site, they can go to the EPA student Web site, epa.gov/student and look for the link for the Eco Students blog. All right and we are going to open up the line for questions, do you want to (inaudible) with?

Karen Scott: Yes, so operator, if you can open up the lines for questions, we'll be taking questions from the people on the phone. And then, we'll also be looking at some of the questions that came in through the webinars. So, we'll try to alternate back and forth between the webinar questions and the questions from the phone.

Operator: As a reminder ladies and gentlemen, if you wish to ask a question, please press star one on your telephone keypad. We'll pause for just a moment to compile the Q&A roster.

Your first question comes from the line of (inaudible) (Penny). (Penny) your line is open.

Karen Scott: Hello, we're not – we're not hearing the question. Maybe the person has their phone on mute. I guess, we can go on to another question.

Jennifer Bowman: And we'll try again for another few minutes, yes.

Carly Carroll: And so, I'm going to pull a question from the web, we have a question that says, "Will we continue to have access to webinar in the future or will this webinars be archive?"

And that we are going to archive this for the future. We're going to be posting the slides that you've seen, as well as the audio and possibly a transcript of the audio online at epa.gov/education, that's part of the site that we shared you earlier today.

Jennifer Bowman: Through all the information that you see on the web – on the webinar will be available and there's a lot of Web sites to write down and we want to make sure you have that visual.

Karen Scott: OK, can we get another question on the phone?

Operator: Your next question comes from the line of (Artemio Cat).

(Artemio Cat): Yes, this is (Artemio), hi. I would like to know if there are promising practices that you're seeing nationally at given school district that helped to provide a good case studies of not only schools but neighborhood interpretations of environmental education.

And also, I would like to find out how that relates to what PISA is doing with environmental education issues internationally?

Karen Scott: I'll try to answer your question. We – I guess as far as the best practices that we're seeing, I think probably the most comprehensive view that we would have from this office would be through the grants that we give out. And we actually will be beginning to highlight some of those best practices that we've been seeing on our Web site, probably starting in June.

So, do watch for that and we will also be having webinars provided by some of those organizations where we seeing some particularly good programs. And environmental education will be having them showcase on a series of webinars, as they said probably starting in June.

So, do watch for those announcements on our Web site.

(Artemio Cat): OK.

Karen Scott: And then, I don't know, Jen, do you want to take the second part of the question?

Jennifer Bowman: I can add on to that. We're through the – both the student award program and the Presidential Environmentally Youth Awards and through the innovation award for environmental educators. Receiving applications and Karen was talking about grants and that really is the best way for us to see environmental education taking place integratively throughout the country on a very large scale.

And the award program gives us a really good idea of what teachers and students are doing in individual schools and through different programs and projects around the country. It's a very, very positive feedback about the kinds of really creative and really impressive science based work and community based work.

A lot of these groups, a lot of this individuals are tying the community work, they're getting the community involved in what the students are doing because they recognize the importance of doing a more place safe approach with their students or the students recognize the needs to connect with their community because they see something happening in their neighborhood and they're upset by it.

And that usually causes them to either contact the EPA or their local state agency and ask what's going on but somewhere along the line, they make that connection. As far as connecting with the international group, I would say that it is very similar along the lines of the PISA program.

Does that answer your question at all?

(Artemio Cat): Well, I think it does. It's helpful to know how Ecological intelligence or Eco literacy is starting to emerge and articulate important planetary issues and curriculum issues that affect the well-being of our community and deal with food security, energy security, air pollution.

And those issues that deal with the general condition of our community but those are not abstract issues, that those are well-being issues for elderly as well as young learners.

So, Eco literacy, I think has to have the same kind of parity as we deal with innumeracy and a written or reading literacy.

Jennifer Bowman: Absolutely. Yes, thank you.

(Artemio Cat): Yes, thanks.

Karen Scott: OK, do we have another question from the webinar that we can take?

Carly Carroll: We do. "Assuming that all EPA materials are in the public domain, if we use a resource, for example, a game or activity, do you want EPA cited on the resource and then what citation format?"

And the person that I think that should get credit for your materials even though they are on the public domain and...

Karen Scott: Yes, I – my answer to that would be and this is Karen Scott again. And I used to be in the climate change division and produce materials there and what we used to tell people there is that, "We appreciate getting credit, we really do but all of these materials are in the public domain. They've all been created on the tax payers dollars. So, they are free to be used by anybody anywhere."

And you don't necessarily have to quote us or have to cite us but we do appreciate that.

Jennifer Bowman: Yes and many of our resources are created by one or more educators in our agency and even actually, we share a lot of the work through the regions with the education coordinators in particular, because everyone brings so much resource expertise to the table, so we like to make sure that everyone is acknowledge in that.

But again, you know, its public domain, so.

Karen Scott: OK, let's take another question from the phone.

Operator: Your next question audio question comes from the line of (Victoria Harden).

(Victoria Harden): Yes Ma'am. I just would like to know what grants, scholarships, resources or opportunities you have available at the collegiate level.

Karen Scott: The – well, we have a program called the, what does NNEM stands for?

Carly Carroll: It's the National Network for Environmental Management Fellowship. So, I'm going to come back to the come back to the environmental screen and under resources per student, we do have a link for fellowship for college and post graduates students which will leave to NNEM which is the National Network for Environmental Management Studies.

And then, we also have the On Campus Eco-Ambassadors Program and this is a fairly new initiative that involved college students (inaudible) their campus in doing educational activity.

(Victoria Harden): And would these campuses include junior college campuses?

Carly Carroll: Junior College Campuses, yes.

(Victoria Harden): OK. And as far as any grants and scholarship, do you offer that for collegiate or for college students?

Karen Scott: Grants and scholarships, there maybe other programs EPA that offer them but this office of environmental education does not offer grants and scholarships for individuals. And that's pretty much because of the law that we're under, the National Environmental Education Act, it specifically says that we cannot offer scholarships and grants to individuals.

(Victoria Harden): OK, thank you very much. Sure, thank you.

Karen Scott: OK.

Carly Carroll: Another question we have from the web was, "You mentioned that the grant for the student nomination and when is the teachers award deadline?"

Jennifer Bowman: Well, that's a good question because we are finishing up the first year and we've been – there have been a lot of trial and error things going on throughout this process, as far as making sure we've got our schedules that. The deadline for the first year was around – was December and then it was moved back to January of this past year.

So, I'm going to say that we're going to keep with that schedule but we're looking at the end of December or the end of January for this next year. Just keep checking the Web site and we'll make sure that, that information is very clearly stated. We had – the original deadline was posted then it was changed and so, people were able to revise their applications that wanted a little more time but we hope to make sure we don't have any more glitches in the system this time, offer this for the next year.

So, I would say the end of 2012 and the beginning of 2013 is when we're looking at the teacher award deadline happening.

Karen Scott: Good. So, now I think we're ready for another question from the phone.

Operator: There are no audio questions at this time.

Karen Scott: OK, I think we have more webinar questions.

Carly Carroll: We have a couple webinar questions. One is, "Is it possible to become a member of your National Environmental Education Advisory Committee, if so, what is the process?"

And I'm going to go ahead and click our link for the National Environmental Education Advisory Council which is on our main page epa.gov/education. And so, the deadline for submitting nomination has passed, nominations (inaudible) do on January 15th.

But if you keep an eye on our page, you can be aware when the next cycle will happen.

Another question we have is, "In the future, is there a possibility that there will be lesson plans that involved gardening or gardening in the backyard?"

Karen Scott: Actually, I don't know about lesson plans but I do know there are parts of EPA that deal with backyard habitats. So, I don't know if we can find that or go quickly right now on our webinars but do a search on our site and you'll probably find something if you look under backyard habitat or schoolyard habitat.

There probably will be something that will come up from the EPA site but I have to admit that even better is fish and wildlife services program.

Jennifer Bowman: If you're looking at schoolyard, yes.

Karen Scott: On schoolyard habitat, yes, (inaudible).

Jennifer Bowman: If you're looking at habitat, so, definitely, yes.

Karen Scott: And national wildlife federation also have some great programs on that.

Jennifer Bowman: The EPA also has some really great resources for a rain garden. So, if you're looking at doing a different kind of garden, the office of water is probably is best your best resource for looking into more programs and information about constructing rain garden programs, constructing rain barrels which you can tie into either a backyard habitat program or you can tie into a schoolyard program.

There are resources about this, it depends like, for example, with the office of solid waste, they have a lot of great resources on the – on their – on the Web site for how to compost, how to do composting programs. And a lot of that information ties into, well, what do you with the compost and of course, what are the great things you can do with compost, of course, it's put into a garden.

And so, they do address some of those materials and resources there. And we are as always continuing to develop and (re-invents) and build more of those resources. So, we'll look more into that, thank you.

Carly Carroll: And then, I'm going to give a clarification for our college and post-graduate listeners that the NEEM fellowship that we mentioned earlier are not eligible for students that two year or junior colleges, unfortunately, you have to be enrolled in a four year college or universities to be on On Campus Programs should be open, just take a look at on our Web sites to make sure that your campus is eligible.

Karen Scott: And I did just think a couple of programs that are offered, that do offer scholarships for college students and those are in the Office of Research and Development. So, please do look at their site for those programs. I know one of the STAR Program and I'm sorry I don't remember what it stands for but it is scholarship program for college students and there's also this GRO program, G-R-O which is also listed on their site.

So, please do go to their site, Office of Research and Development to find out more about that program.

Any more questions? Do any more questions come on to the phone lines?

Operator: We do have a follow up question from the line of (Victoria Harden).

Karen Scott: All right.

(Victoria Harden): Yes, hi, one more.

Karen Scott: That's all right.

(Victoria Harden): In the environmental education grants, are those also limited to public school?

Karen Scott: No, you just have to be at the – there's a whole list of eligible organizations, (inaudible)...

(Victoria Harden): Like a River Authorities, it has an education outreach program, would that be acceptable?

Karen Scott: I'm sorry, repeat that.

(Victoria Harden): Like a River Authority that has an education outreach program, would that be applicable?

Karen Scott: Probably but if you either want to send me a question directly, it's scott.karen@epa.gov or to eeegrants@epa.gov. I – and explain your situation more exactly then I can give you a more authoritative answer.

(Victoria Harden): OK.

Karen Scott: But generally, if you're a non-profit, you have to be a 501(c)(3).

(Victoria Harden): OK.

Karen Scott: So, that's one thing to keep in mind and otherwise, educational, usually a school district, usually not the individual school but a school district is eligible but anyway, I don't want to get into all the eligibility issues.

(Victoria Harden): I believe we are a 501(c)(3) but thank you very much, that's all.

Karen Scott: It's great.

Jennifer Bowman: Absolutely.

Carly Carroll: And one last question on and that we have time to answer, "Is when would the new (in the Act) members chosen? Is there a list of the whole advisory council online?"

Karen Scott: I don't believe that the advisory council members have been publicly, their names have not been publicly release yet, those will be publish on our Web

site once they are ready for a public dissemination but I do believe there a few more legal issues that have to be ironed out before we can do that.

Do we have any other questions either on the phone or on the webinar? OK, looks like no more questions on the webinar line. And so, if there are no more questions on the phone line, then I think that we are ready to end the webinar but I just wanted to again, remind you that we have two more webinars this week, both at four o'clock Eastern Standard Time.

Tomorrow our webinar will be about the teacher training program that I mentioned earlier that have had adopt by Cornell University. And on Thursday, it will be a presentation by the National Environmental Education Foundation on their educational resources on program.

And these three webinars will just be the beginning of the series of webinars that we will be conducting in the month of May. On May 15th, we'll be conducting the webinar on Asthma and what schools and school personnel can do to make their students and parents and teachers more aware of Asthma triggers.

Later in that month we'll be doing a webinar on Sun wise safety and those, like I said will just be the beginning of the series of other webinars we'll be doing. And some of them including some of our grantees, showcasing some of what we consider best practices and environmental education.

So, again, thank you so much for joining us today and I hope you join us again for our future webinars. Thank you all.

Operator: Ladies and gentlemen, that does conclude today's conference call. You may now disconnect.

Thank you and have a great day.

END