

**The State of Outdoor Policy: A Recap of 2023 and What's in Store for 2024****January 8, 2024****Link to the recording:** [https://youtu.be/rMZTwD\\_Uz\\_E](https://youtu.be/rMZTwD_Uz_E)**eePRO post:**<https://eepro.naaee.org/learning/state-outdoor-policy-recap-2023-and-whats-store-2024>**Speakers:****Angel Pena, Executive Director, Nuestra Tierra Conservation Project****David Beard, Director of Policy & Government Affairs, Children & Nature Network****Julie McCleery, Director of Research-Practice Partnerships, Center for Leadership in Athletics, University of Washington****Delegate Michele Guyton, Maryland****Grant Gliniecki, Outdoor Policy Coordinator, National Caucus of Environmental Legislators****Sarah Bodor, Director of Policy and Affiliate Relations, NAAEE****Highlights of the chat transcript:****Introductions**

- Karan Wood: Karan Wood (Environmental Ed Alliance in GA)
- David Beard (he/him), Children & Nature Network: David Beard (he/him), Children & Nature Network, Seattle WA (land of the Duwamish/Coast Salish)
- Emily Cantor: Emily Cantor, Schuylkill Conservation District in PA, USA.
- Hannah Newcombe: Hannah Newcombe, Natural Resources Trust of Easton in MA
- Ashley Mazzullo: Ashley Mazzullo (she/her), Montana Conservation Corps (Director of Youth Programs), Kalispell, MT
- Dylan McDowell: Dylan McDowell | NCEL | He/Him
- Brittany Leffel: Brittany Leffel, Winter Wildlands Alliance, Durango, CO
- Jared McGovern: Jared McGovern. Wanderwood Gardens, Dubuque, IA.
- Jill Paton: Hi Jill from Kansas City, retired sped teacher now volunteering at my grandson's daycare
- Delanie Bruce: Delanie Bruce, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, western Nebraska
- Grant Gliniecki | NCEL | He/They: Grant Gliniecki, He/They, National Caucus of Environmental Legislators, Nkwejong // Lansing, MI
- Carlyn Saunders: Carlyn Saunders (she/hers), Environmental Education Director for KEEN in Central Washington state
- Tracey Weiss: Tracey Weiss, O'Neill Sea Odyssey, Santa Cruz CA

- Megan Willig: Megan Willig, National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF), joining from Madison, WI
- Judy Braus (she, her) NAAEE: Hi, everyone. I'm Judy Braus, the Executive Director of NAAEE and I'm zooming in from VA!
- Amber Schiltz: Amber Schiltz, Nebraska Game & Parks - Lincoln, NE
- Adrienne Farfalla: Adrienne Farfalla, DC Department of Energy and Environment
- Kimberly Rankin: Kim Rankin, Sustainability Learning Specialist, Douglas County School District, CO
- Kendal Scott: Kendal Scott here with the Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation, on Washoe and Paiute land
- Andrea Faas: Andrea Faas, Division Administrator, Nebraska Game & Parks
- Adrian Angulo: Adrian Angulo, (he/him) Nuestra Tierra Conservation Project, Albuquerque NM <https://www.nuestra-tierra.org>
- Madison Szabo: Hi, all. I'm Madison. I work with Ulman Public Policy in DC and help represent the Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition (SUFC).
- Lejae Woolcock: Lejae Woolcock, Chesapeake Bay Foundation in Maryland
- Carley McNeice: Carley McNeice, JD Currie Youth Camp in Washington State
- NAAEE Staff (Carrie, she/they): Welcome everyone—So glad to have you joining today! I'm Carrie Albright and I can help if you have any technical needs during the webinar today. (I'm in Bloomington, Indiana, by the way 😊🥒)
- Shanon Langlie: Hello all! Shanon Langlie, Director of Marketing & Communications for International Affairs at the University of California, Riverside
- Sabrina Chiefari: Sabrina Chiefari, Environmental Educator in the Don Valley Watershed in Tkaronto/Toronto, ON, Canada, traditional territories of the Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee, Anishnabek First Nations, and home to many other First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Peoples.
- Daniella Rodriguez: Hello! Daniella with NAAEE calling in from Maine 🌲
- Cathy Jordan: Cathy Jordan, Director of Research for Children & Nature Network. Based in Minneapolis, the sacred, ancestral and current home of the Dakota.
- NAAEE Staff (Carrie, she/they): If you're just joining, please share your name, organization, and where you're Zooming in from!
- NAAEE Staff (Carrie, she/they) : You can learn more about the Youth Outdoor Policy Partnership at <https://youthoutdoorpolicy.org/>

- Sarah Bodor (she/her): Great to have you all join us today! We are excited to start the new year with you all!
- Olivia Griset: Hi all, Olivia Griset (she, her) Maine Environmental Education Association Wabanaki Confederacy now known as Maine.
- Nina Carmichael: Nina Carmichael, Leadership in Conservation Fellow at the Champaign County Forest Preserve District. Joining in from Champaign, IL
- Lisa Nehring: Hi all! I'm Lisa Nehring, PhD student at Johns Hopkins School of Education, zooming from Baltimore, MD
- Emily Cantor: YAY MARYLAND! I cried when that passed into law.
- Sarah Bodor (she/her): ❤️
- Whitney Stohr: Hi 🙋 Whitney Stohr, Policy Specialist, Kids Rise Fund, based in Olympia, Washington State
- Kristy Omelianuk: Hello! Kristy Omelianuk (she/her), Network Engagement Manager at the Children & Nature Network, zooming in from the land of the Munsee Lenape people in NJ.
- Beth Auerbach: Hello! Beth Auerbach, Grant manager for Washington State's Recreation & Conservation Office


### Resources

- Grant Gliniecki | NCEL | He/They: For more info on bills introduced and enacted in 2023, check out NCEL's tracker: <https://www.ncelenviro.org/issue/outdoor-engagement/> (and look forward to a new tracking feature when we update the youthoutdoorpolicy.org website in 2024!)
- NAAEE Staff: Join the eePRO "Advocacy, Policy, & Civic Engagement" group to connect with others interested in these topics, too! <https://eeepro.naaee.org/community/groups/advocacy-policy-and-civic-engagement>
- Jeanine Silversmith: anyone in the Affiliate network can join our bimonthly calls too!
- David Beard (he/him), Children & Nature Network: Nature Everywhere Conference: <https://www.childrenandnature.org/conference/register/>
- Research Library: <https://research.childrenandnature.org/>
- Kendal Scott: Go Huskies!
- Whitney Stohr: @Jeanine - can you share the info for the bimonthly calls?
- NAAEE Staff: You can learn more about the NAAEE Affiliate Network at: <https://naaee.org/affiliates>
- David Beard (he/him), Children & Nature Network: david@childrenandnature.org
- Emily Cantor: I am an active member of PAEE. Our conference is this March :)

- Sarah Bodor: Glad you're here, Emily!
- Judy Braus (she, her) NAAEE: Hi, everyone. You can also access the NAAEE and CNN research library with CNN research summaries and EE summaries.  
<https://eepro.naaee.org/research/eeresearch>
- Emily Cantor: Thank you, Sarah. I'm happy to be here. We're all in this together!
- Adrian Angulo: Find out more about Nuestra Tierra Conservation Project at  
<https://www.nuestra-tierra.org>
- NAAEE Staff: So excited for the work Nuestra Tierra is doing. Thank you for joining us, Ángel!
- Judy Braus (she, her) NAAEE: Such great work, Ángel! Thank you!
- Sarah Bodor (she/her) NAAEE: Please share any questions you might have for our panelists in the chat.
- Emily Cantor: YES!!!!!! Thank you for helping to trailblaze this!!
- Emily Cantor: What can we do more of in PA to help move forward in having licensed outdoor schools for kiddos, ECE specifically?

### Outdoor Preschool Policies

- Aliza Yair: Very exciting to see the outdoor preschool effort expanding across the country. The impact on children at that developmental stage is so powerful. Glad to see it being highlighted!
- Sabrina Chiefari: Wealth of information freely available here:  
<https://www.coeo.org/classroom-teacher-tools/>
- Olivia Griset: Thank you for your leadership we are studying your preschool bill in MD in Maine and might be moving towards a similar policy in our future-we have a new statewide outdoor learning early childhood coalition in place and growing which feels exciting!
- David Beard (he/him), Children & Nature Network: WA Recess Bill:  
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=5257&Year=2023&Initiative=false>
- David Beard (he/him), Children & Nature Network: Hey Emily! Would love to chat more about outdoor nature-based pre-k and child care. We've been doing some work with our partners at National League of Cities, Natural Start Alliance, and others: david@childrenandnature.org
- Emily Cantor: Perfect, thank you so much David! You'll see an email from me soon. :)
- Aliza Yair: [https://naturalstart.org/about-us\\_also](https://naturalstart.org/about-us_also) has a lot of resources and gathers folks specifically interested in programs and advocacy for nature-based pre-k.
- Olivia Griset: Thank you that is very helpful!

- Emily Cantor: I agree, thank you!
- Jane Hurley: Love the "Impatient legislator" moniker!
- Sarah Bodor (she/her) NAAEE: Coalition-building!!!
- Tracey Weiss: Curious about the timeline - from the time you saw the need to the bill being passed - what is the timeline one should expect?
- Tracey Weiss: Thanks for taking my question!
- Emily Cantor: Little Bugs Nature Preschool... I have been watching their story on Instagram for awhile now. They are amazing at outreach and EE for those kiddos.
- NAAEE Staff (Carrie Albright, she/they): Thank you for the recommendation, Emily!  

- Megan Fink: Little Bugs Nature Preschool and their Director, Lisa Poe, are incredible - Worth a follow!
- David Beard (he/him), Children & Nature Network: Especially during legislative session when you may only have hours to make a strategic decision
- Shanon Langlie I noticed this fall in Minnesota that several local school funding referendums failed, such that funding for schools will be cut in cities and small towns across the state (examples include Rochester, Duluth, and Thief River Falls). What advice do you have for advocating for outdoor & experiential education funding when local districts are facing multi-million dollar cuts?

### **Share your successes in outdoor education policy and action**

- NAAEE Staff (Carrie Albright, she/they): As our time grows short, please share in the chat YOUR accomplishments and ongoing work in outdoor education policy and action. We would love to celebrate YOUR wins, too!
- Grant Gliniecki: My personal nonprofit connected with our State Rep Emily Dievendorf with the support of the Children & Nature Network's Nature Everywhere program to turn our 2023 local successes into possible state opportunities 😊
- Emily Cantor: I've been working on implementing iNaturalist within my county of people I service. It's an incredible way to get people outside and learn about the organisms we are sharing the world with. It can also be used for conservation and mitigation strategies for undesired species. More than anything, it's amazingly fun to use and it's community based.
- Emily Cantor: Yay Grant!
- NAAEE Staff (Carrie Albright, she/they): That's fantastic, Emily! iNaturalist is a great resource and a perfect opportunity for deepening community engagement in nature.

## eeWEBINARS: Bringing New Ideas and Innovation to the field of Environmental Education

- Grant Gliniecki: Intergenerational efforts!
- Julie McCleery (she/her) King County Play Equity Coalition: I guess we all spend a lot of time hallucinating 😄

### Closing

- Judy Braus (she, her) NAAEE: Thanks so much, everyone. Great panel. Thanks for all you do!!
- Emily Cantor: Thank you all, these are always so helpful.
- Lisa Nehring: thank you so much!! i learned a lot and feeling super hopeful about outdoor ed policy 😊
- Jared McGovern: Thank you all so much for the work you do!