



Health & Environment

A National Environmental Education Foundation Program

February 2009

<http://www.neefusa.org/health.htm>



Greetings!

Health & Environment News is a quarterly update on our activities designed to advance environmental health knowledge among health professionals. Please read on for our latest program news.

Environmental Management of Pediatric Asthma Guidelines Has a New Look

NEEF's newly redesigned [*Environmental Management of Pediatric Asthma: Guidelines for Health Care Providers*](#) is now available. The *Guidelines* provide a blueprint to pediatric primary care providers for advising families about environmental interventions to help reduce or eliminate triggers for children diagnosed with asthma, the leading pediatric chronic illness. The document will be available in Spanish in the spring in partnership with the National Hispanic Medical Association. Funding for this project was provided by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the US Environmental Protection Agency.



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Our Program

The goal of the Health & Environment Program is to advance environmental knowledge among health professionals in order to improve public health. Through a variety of initiatives, we facilitate the integration of environmental health into healthcare provider education and practice, with a special emphasis on children and other populations disproportionately impacted by environmental pollutants.

Children & Nature Initiative Receives Key Endorsement

Today's sedentary lifestyle has contributed to many health problems impacting our children, possibly putting them at risk of having a shorter lifespan than their parents. NEEF's [Prescribing Nature:](#)



[Connecting Children with Nature for Better Health](#)

project, which confronts this issue, received a major endorsement from the National Forum on Children and Nature. This project calls on pediatric health care providers to prescribe outdoor time to children and through a partnership with National Audubon Society provides accessible nature programs that fulfill this prescription. To learn more about the health benefits of nature, read our [Fact Sheet: Children's Health and Nature](#). You can read Leyla Erk McCurdy's blog about getting kids outside at National Wildlife Foundation's [Green Hour Blog](#).

Contact Us

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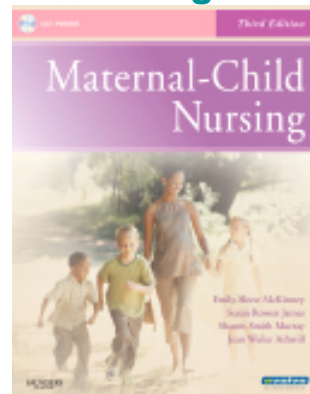
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Growing Support for Environmental Education for Health Professionals

As of January 2009, [33 leading health care and public health organizations](#) have officially endorsed or supported NEEF's [Health Professionals and Environmental Health Education Position Statement](#). The position statement documents the need for environmental health education and lists the specific actions necessary to successfully incorporate environmental health information into the education of health professionals. In the last year, the American Medical Association joined the list of supporters, along with American Academy of Physician Assistants, Institute for the Advancement of Multicultural and Minority Medicine, National Association of Hispanic Nurses and National Hispanic Medical Association. Endorsing or supporting the statement shows that an organization cares about environmental health education and will make a good faith effort to advance environmental health knowledge among their constituents. We encourage supporting organizations to use the position statement as a framework for promoting environmental health education in their missions and activities.

Pediatric History Form Published in Maternal-Child Nursing

NEEF's [Pediatric Environmental History Screening Form](#) was included in the 3rd Edition of Maternal-Child Nursing by Emily McKinney, Susan James, Sharon Murray, and Jean Ashwill published in October 2008 by Elsevier. The Screening Form is designed to be administered by the primary health care provider in less than five minutes in order to capture most of the common environmental exposures to children. The Screening Form and supplement forms will be available in Spanish in the spring in partnership with the National Hispanic Medical Association.



Children's Environmental Health Faculty Champions Initiative in Environmental Health Perspectives

NEEF's study "Children's Environmental Health Faculty Champions



Initiative: A Successful Model for Integrating Environmental Health into Pediatric Healthcare" was accepted for publication by *Environmental Health Perspectives (EHP)*, the peer-reviewed journal of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. The full article is available at [EHP-in-Press](#). The study evaluates the impact of NEEF's Children's Environmental Health Faculty Champions Initiative, a program designed to build environmental health capacity among pediatric healthcare professionals through a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency. The authors concluded that the initiative was highly effective and demonstrated that the "[Faculty Champions](#)" model is a successful method which can be replicated in other arenas.



Environmental health tools and resources used by the Faculty Champions can be downloaded at [NEEF's tools and resources](#) page.

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The [National Environmental Education Foundation](#), provides knowledge to trusted professionals who, with their credibility, amplify messages to national audiences to solve everyday environmental problems. Together, we generated lasting positive change.

NEEF partners with professionals in health, education, media, business and public land management to promote daily actions for helping people protect and enjoy the environment. Through our primary programs- Classroom Earth, National Public Lands Day, National Environmental Education Week, Business and Environment, Earth Gauge, and Health & Environment- we offer Americans knowledge to live by. To learn more, call (202) 833-2933 or visit <http://www.neefusa.org>.