

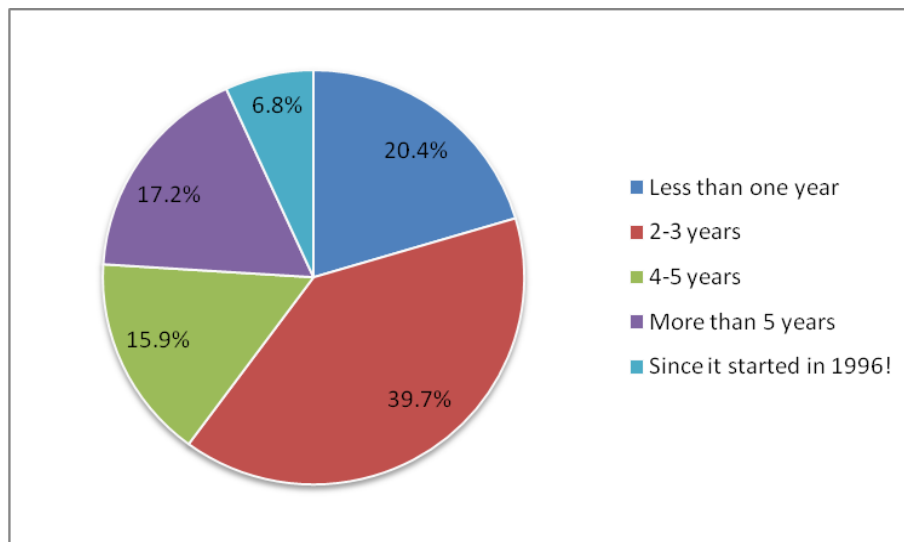
NC-EE Listserv Survey Results

It is the privilege of the N.C. Office of Environmental Education to offer this free service to the citizens of North Carolina. Managing a listserv this size is a difficult task. While we are not able to meet all needs of every individual member, this survey will help us refine listserv operations and guidelines. This is a summary of the survey findings.

395 out of 1696 members as of March 31, 2009 responded to the survey.

Who uses NC-EE?

- 1. The majority of respondents have been members for less than one year to 3 years. A small but notable percentage have been members since the list started in 1996!**



- 2. Most respondents are nonformal environmental educators or teachers. There are also notable percentages of government staff and environmental professionals.**

Full time nonformal educators: **32.5 %**

Freelance or part time nonformal educators: **16.1 %**

Public and Private School Teachers: **21.9 %**

Government (elected officials or staff): **16.4 %**

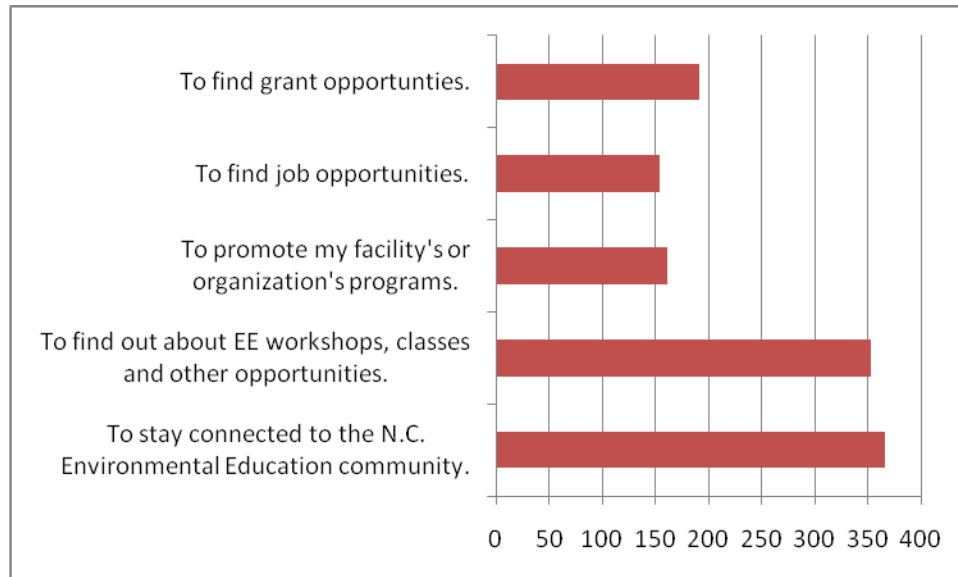
Environmental Professionals: **11.5 %**

Several other fields and professions are represented in the membership, including college professors and researchers, homeschoolers, print and electronic media, marketing, business and tourism.

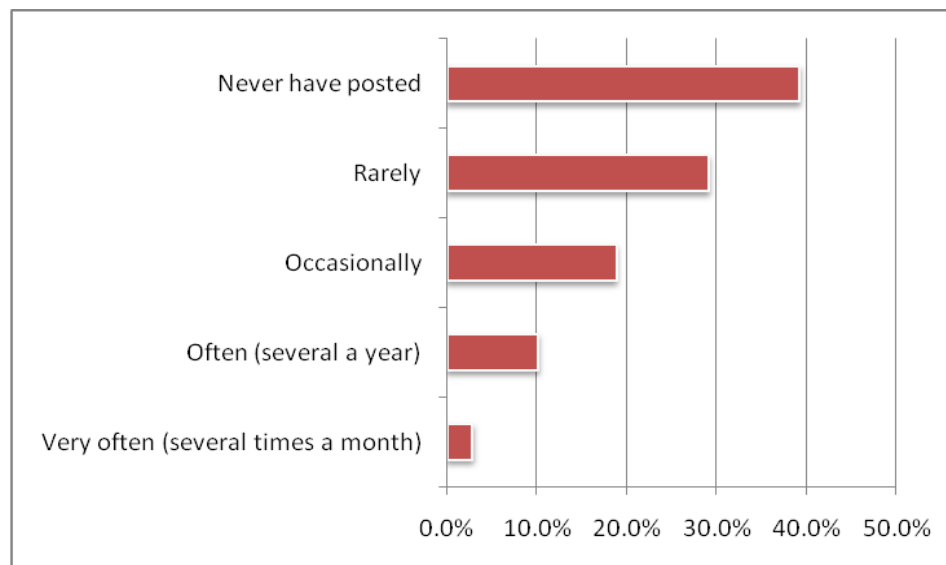
Major Uses of NC-EE

Most respondents use NC-EE to gather information and as a way to stay connected to the N.C. Environmental Education community.

Why are you a member of NC-EE?



How often do you post to NC-EE?



Major Uses of NC-EE, Cont.

Workshops

- As expected, many use NC-EE to find workshops and events (**90.1 %**).
- A little more than half use NC-EE to promote workshops and events (**50.5 %**).

Employment

- A notable percentage are using NC-EE to find employment (**19.2 %**, **74 people**).
- A significant number have found employment through the listserv (**13.2 %**, **51 people**).
- The employment numbers are notable considering that the **74** and **51** people are out of the **395** that responded.
- **20.2 %** of respondents have posted an environmental education or EE-related position.
- **Twenty-nine** people have hired someone that saw a job posting on the list.

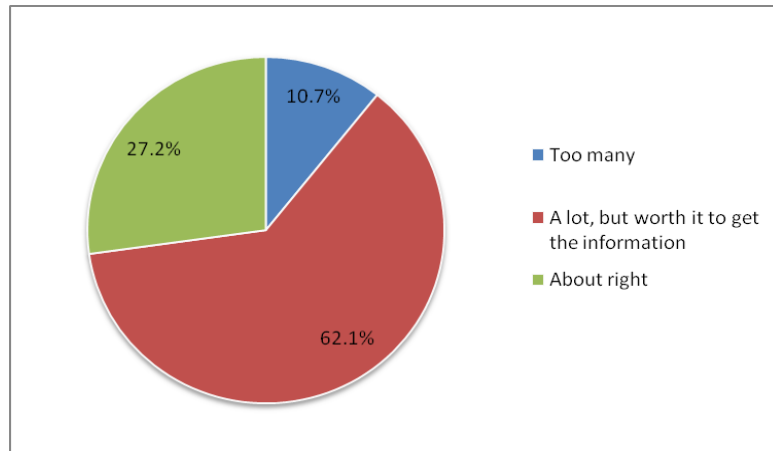
Grants

- The **majority** of respondents use NC-EE for grant information (**68.8 %**).
- **116** of the **395** respondents have applied for a grant they saw on NC-EE.
- **30** of the **395** received the grant.

Policies and Administration

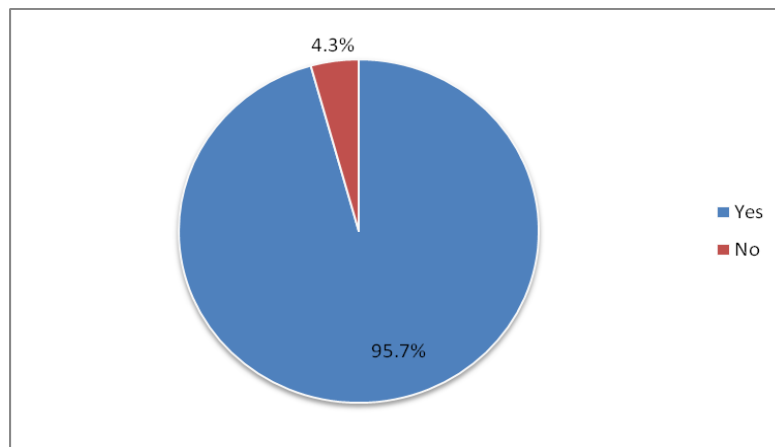
- While NC-EE does receive a large number of posts, most respondents feel it is worth it to get the information they need.

How would you rate the volume of posts?

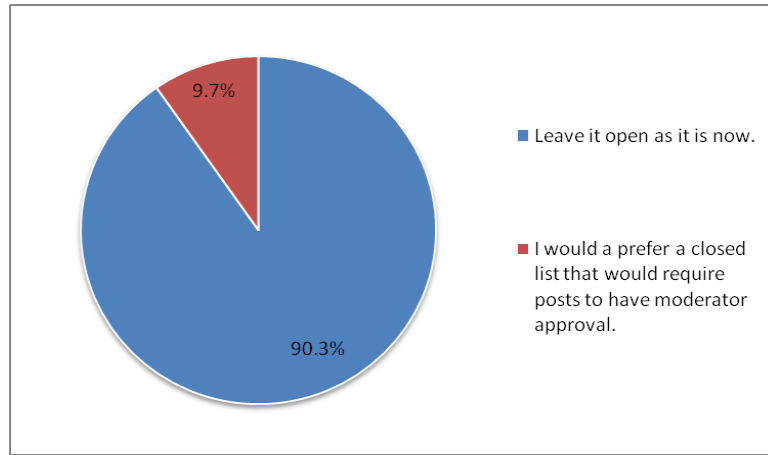


- The majority of respondents feel the guidelines are clear and effective.

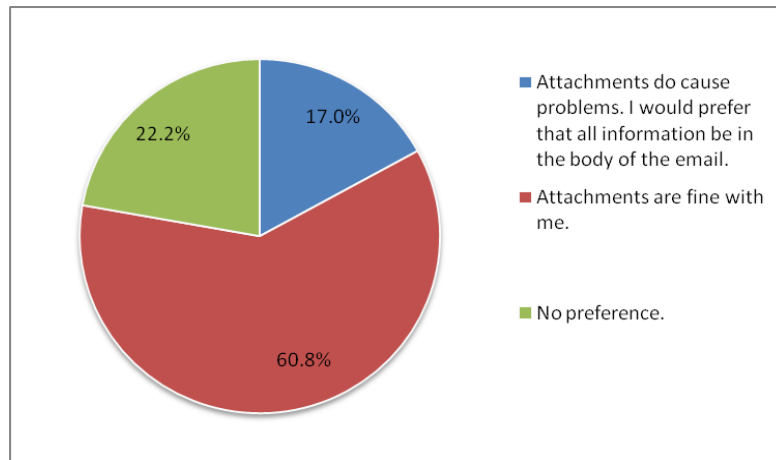
Are the usage guidelines clear and effective?



- **Most respondents would like for the list to remain open as it is now (posts go up instantly without being held for moderator approval).**



- **Most respondents either have no problem with or no preference towards attachments to posts.**



Note: While the majority of respondents felt the listserv operations and guidelines were acceptable as they are now, all comments and suggestions will be evaluated and taken into consideration.

Selected Comments from Respondents

(Some responses have been slightly modified to protect anonymity)

Responses to “Have you found a position (part-time or full-time, current or past job) through a job post on NC-EE?”

When I first moved to NC in 1999, I became a member of this listserv and began thinking about EE Certification. My career began from a posting I saw on the EE listserv. I have now been in that position for nine years and manage a national EE curriculum at the state level!

I moved here from [out of state] and found a teaching job after being referred to that town by a member of the list-serv. One of the best pieces of advice I've ever gotten!

I found my current job (a full-time job) through the NC-EE listserv. I applied for the job somewhat on a whim, just to see what would happen, and ended up getting it and moving my family to a new area of NC just because I happened to notice the posting on the listserv. Seeing that posting actually changed the entire trajectory of my EE career for the better and impacted my entire family in a positive way. Now that I think about it, the last TWO full-time career-oriented jobs I've had in the field of environmental education were located through the NC-EE listserv. What an incredible service - thank you!

I used to live [out of state] and I was looking for a position in EE in states that had a good grounding in EE. NC caught my eye and I found my current position at [a North Carolina Environmental Education Center] and moved down to NC because of it.

I found my son an internship through [NC-EE] last summer. Without this service he would not have had that wonderful opportunity...without seeing it here and passing it on to him this win-win situation would not have happened. My son is a 3rd year Engineering student and as a teen had worked in [a stormwater program] as a volunteer. Therefore it was a wonderful opportunity for him to accept this environmental educator intern position with the city that offered it.

Responses to “Have you hired an employee or intern that saw the job posting on NC-EE?”

Given the many people looking for work and our desire to have a pool of candidates that truly have an interest in and/or qualifications for working in the EE field, the NC-EE listserv and college instructors were the only resources used recently to advertise a seasonal conservation education position. Of the about 12 applicants all but three learned about the position from either being on the EE listserv or being referred to the position by someone on the listserv, according to cover letters or phone conversations. The person we hired happened to be one who specifically wrote in her cover letter that she learned of the job through the Office of Environmental Education listserv. This listserv is a valuable and powerful tool, and streamlined a recruiting process that can be very time consuming.

We post all our positions (except internal postings) on the NC-EE listserv. It's the fastest way to inform EE professionals that we have an opening. It is also free of charge. The Office of State Personnel postings often do not reach the EE professionals that we want to attract to our center. Here's why: The official job titles given by Office of State Personnel to our EE positions are very old fashioned and often do not include the term "EE" in the job title. Therefore, qualified EE professionals may not realize our position is an EE position.

Responses to “If you did apply for a grant you saw on NC-EE, did you receive it?”

I applied for two grants that were EE related, after seeing notices on the listserv that EE projects were currently being funded by certain companies. I got both grants, one for \$500 and the other for \$300.

This year I received a \$1,000 grant from NC Beautiful for an outdoor classroom.

\$800 Model Library Grant in 2003.

NC Beautiful for \$5,300.

\$1,000 NC Beautiful grant.

UNC Civic Education Consortium grant, \$6,100.

Just one tourism grant for \$7,000.

\$500 dollar grant for soil and water studies with fifth grade Academically Gifted students. Included in the grant: field trip, soil and water test kits, resource books, journals for the students.

Albemarle Pamlico National Estuary Program grant (2003) for \$30,000.

\$5000 for a water quality monitoring program.

NCSTA grants - totaling about \$3,000 and Project WET Water festival grants - \$6,000

Responses for “Please share any listserv ‘success stories’ or general comments.”

The list-serve has helped greatly in finding workshops to take for the EE certification program. It is also a great promoter of different centers and parks around the State. Many of the descriptions of events are models that I can use to improve programming in my own community. Those on the list-serve also become part of an important network of educators. Notices, such as for grants, news on the OEE website, etc. are good reminders of deadlines and new information. Thanks for providing this very important service to science and natural resource professionals!

The be-all end-all in finding the activities we like as a family. Without this list, I would never go to all the various museum/park sites to find individual activities.

I work in South Carolina and there is nothing that comes anywhere close to the NC-EE list serve. It is always full of exciting programs that give our organization inspiration and ideas to work with. We are also close enough to North Carolina that we can occasionally take advantage of professional development and other program opportunities in the Charlotte region.

Being a park superintendent, I have to make sure my rangers are completing their EE Certification. One of the best ways to assist with this is to get the workshop and training information off the EE Listserv. I like to see what is happening across the state and get ideas for new programs that we could be offering. Overall, the listserv is a very valuable source of information for our park.

When we have a program at our EE center that is not "filling up," we post it on the NC-EE listserv and it is often filled in 24 hours. Much faster than sending a public service announcement to the local news agencies. And more effective in reaching the folks who would be interested in our programming.

The listserv has informed me of wonderful educational opportunities that I would never have known about otherwise. I took an amazing trip to Bald Head Island to participate in a workshop and brought back some wonderful educational materials for my school's media center. The listserv fulfills a need that no other information source provides. I do have to delete a lot of emails that are not pertinent to me, but that is ok and well worth it to get the ones I need and want.

The EE Listserv provides an invaluable service to all educators, both formal and non-formal. Regardless of where you work--in a government agency, in public schools, with environmental non-profits or as a homeschooler--you can always find valuable information and resources through the List. Given the dire state of our economy and severe budget cuts, it is now more critical than ever to provide this type of support to all educators.

I like keeping in touch with other EE professionals, and I am located in a remote part of WNC so it is not always easy to do so. Also, I send lots of the workshops for teachers listed here to teacher friends, who take part in them when they can. I have found some interesting jobs, and shared them with others, and have posted a few job openings for our organization. The listserv is just a fantastic networking tool. Thank you!

This listserv is FANTASTIC! Not a day goes by at my job that I don't use this somehow, whether learning about opportunities, posting new information, or even getting ideas for things that might work in my situation. I coordinate a lot of workshops, and this is the main source of information for the attendees, even though other communication sources are used including a park website, newspaper posts, school professional development posts, and Girl Scout postings. I refer many new environmental educators or others in teaching positions (librarians, for example) to the listserv as an "idea generator" for new things they can try at their site. A great resource for all that use it!

The organization of which I am a board member sent out a request on the listserv for highly competent adult applicants to work as adult faculty when we held our annual summer environmental gathering. We received several inquiries from experts in their fields, which is what we were seeking. We were not disappointed as renowned professionals from the NC region came together to form an incredibly competent faculty.

This listserv has enabled me to get involved across the state in environmental education. I have attended classes, workshops and trainings all across the state, I am sure that I would not have found out about otherwise. These have been instrumental in my professional development and I am able to pass along this knowledge in the new job that I have, that was advertised on the EE Listserv! I feel incredible connected to the environmental education community through this listserv and have made many contacts through this vehicle.

I could not even imagine trying to advertise our workshops and summer teacher academies without the EE List-serve. It would be impossible to reach 1600+ people with such little effort and time. Plus, in a digital format like email - people can easily share the information with friends, family, and co-workers that may not be on the list. The resource is invaluable.

Note: Previous reports showed NC-EE membership at more than 1700. The drop to 1696 was due to a periodic automated dumping of bad email addresses. The number should increase back to 1700+ soon.