

## WHY MWEE?

### 1. MWEEs INCREASE STUDENT INTEREST AND ENGAGEMENT IN LEARNING:

During MWEEs, students lead their own research about local issues that affect their schools, neighborhoods, and communities. By conducting hands-on field investigations and meaningful action related to real-world issues, students are fully engaged as active learners. This approach can positively impact student interest in learning.

### 2. MWEEs SUPPORT STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT:

MWEEs provide the opportunity for students to engage in problem-solving situations that place learning in the context of their daily lives. When life-relevant, student-centered learning is integrated into the curriculum or used to connect and organize themes across the curriculum, students are better equipped to meet academic standards.

### 3. MWEEs ADVANCE 21ST-CENTURY SKILLS:

MWEEs ask students to think critically, solve problems, communicate effectively, and employ analytical skills and higher-order thinking. These skills are essential to prepare a workforce ready for the innovation and challenges of the 21st century.

Today's economy offers tremendous opportunities for careers related to the environment. MWEEs can help prepare students for these jobs.

### 4. MWEEs ADVANCE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY:

MWEEs ask students to design and implement action projects that make positive change in their environment. This process of understanding an issue and taking action to address it gives students a sense of agency to make change, building a foundation for a lifetime of environmental stewardship and civic responsibility.

### 5. MWEEs PROMOTE EQUITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:

When implemented at a school district level, all students have the opportunity to participate in and benefit from interactions with the natural environment regardless of where they live; their racial, ethnic, or cultural heritage; economic status; gender identity; ability; or level of comfort with nature. Additionally, MWEEs create space for teachers to foster discussions about the ways local environmental issues may have greater effects on historically marginalized community members.

## STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

A Stanford analysis of over 100 studies, summarized in *eeWORKS: The Benefits of Environmental Education for K–12 Students*, demonstrates the many ways K-12 students benefit from environmental education.

### KEY FINDINGS INCLUDE:

**98%** of studies that examined whether students gained knowledge from environmental education

**90%** reported increased academic and other skills

**83%** reported enhanced environment related behaviors saw a positive impact



More findings, and details about this research, can be found at: [naaee.org/our-work/programs/eeeworks](http://naaee.org/our-work/programs/eeeworks)