Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers Network Strategic Plan

GOAL

Work collaboratively to engage the public in understanding, appreciating, and protecting marine and freshwater ecosystems.

OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

1. **Improve ocean and climate literacy among our audiences.**

   1.1. Partner with NOAA to showcase and interpret the latest ocean- and climate-related science, data, and discoveries.

   1.2. Support the development and distribution of programs, exhibits, and materials that enhance free choice learning.

   1.3. Develop and support collaborative learning for educators, students, and the public, particularly underserved audiences, around ocean and climate topics via face-to-face and distance learning opportunities.

2. **Foster our audiences' connections with their local environment and encourage stewardship behaviors.**

   2.1. Promote opportunities for minoritized groups to experience nature, particularly among youth.

   2.2. Empower learners, particularly those from underserved communities, to undertake stewardship activities and address locally relevant challenges, such as climate resilience, coastal and freshwater ecosystem conservation, and sustainable seafood.

   2.3. Develop and coordinate ocean and climate campaigns, citizen science activities, and youth engagement opportunities that strengthen our audiences' access to and relationship with their local marine and freshwater ecosystems.

3. **Advance diversity, equity, access, and inclusion within our network.**

   3.1. Commit to continually identify and address diversity, equity, and inclusion challenges to make our programs more inclusive and equitable.

   3.2. Create inclusive spaces for internal dialogue and learning for CELC staff on diversity, equity, access, inclusion, and cultural relevance.

4. **Establish and support a community of practice with emphasis on cross-institution communication, coordination, and professional development.**

   4.1. Develop and offer professional development opportunities for aquarium staff.

   4.2. Collaborate across the network to identify and follow promising practices in ocean and coastal conservation and share lessons learned.

   4.3. Identify and use appropriate evaluation strategies to measure progress towards intended network outcomes.

   4.4. Build network members' capacity for evaluation and assessment.