

Comparing USDA Cooperative Extension and US EPA

A Guide to Pamphlets in the Partnerships Series

The following chart compares characteristics and strengths of USDA Cooperative Extension and US EPA.

The goal of the comparison is to foster mutual understanding and promote collaboration between the two agencies for the benefit of

communities. Pamphlets describing how Cooperative Extension and US EPA can collaborate are listed on the reverse.

Characteristic	Cooperative Extension	US EPA
Mandate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County and state advisory committees, national priorities, direction in federal farm legislation, county commissioners, state legislatures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various environmental laws, Office of Management and Budget and appropriation committee directives, Executive direction, court orders
Orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities where agents are located 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National environmental conditions
Guiding Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical accuracy • Peer review • Academic standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laws, policy, and regulation as reflected in the <i>Federal Register</i> and <i>Code of Federal Regulations</i>
Organization Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsiveness to clientele • Trust by local community • Academic standards, freedom, tenure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conformity to Congressional and Executive direction
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County, state, USDA appropriations • Special grants or contracts from federal and state agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual federal appropriations
Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horizontal; decentralized, cooperative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hierarchical; centralized line agency with regional offices
Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic, non-regulatory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulatory, compliance focus
Accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primarily to client, communities • University Extension Director 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The President, Congress, and the Courts (when the agency is under a court decree)
Expertise of employees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural and natural resources sciences, behavioral and social sciences, information specialists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental and supporting sciences, law, economics
Method of communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various. Endeavors to communicate only research-based information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Federal Register</i>, electronic dissemination of information and data
Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate through local and electronic or media programs (called “distance education”) • Form advisory groups to establish program priorities • Work with the media • Train trainers • Develop and train volunteer “extenders” • Provide electronic and printed resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish regulations, standards • Comply with regulations and policies through information and other assistance • Partner with state environmental agencies, non-governmental organizations • Selective enforcement • Demonstrate new approaches and technologies • Financial and technical assistance • Encourage stakeholder participation in regulatory development and standard setting process • Environmental monitoring
Product	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement in clients’ economic and social welfare through education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulations, policies for requirements • Environmental improvements

Guide to Pamphlets

US EPA/Cooperative Extension Partnerships Project Series

The US EPA/Cooperative Extension Partnerships project was a three-year effort to investigate ways for strengthening relationships in environmental management and education between the two agencies. The agencies share the goal of promoting environmental management via local decision making and voluntary compliance with regulations. A detailed project report was published in August 1998. The following brief pamphlets extract and summarize some of the major findings of the report.

Supporting Community-Based Environmental Education – Discussion Paper Summary, No. 1

Briefly summarizes the results of a 1996-98 investigation into strengthening locally-based environmental decision-making through partnerships among USDA Cooperative Extension, US EPA, and communities. Reports the project's six findings and encourages agency action on them. 4 pp.

Leadership Roles for Cooperative Extension – Building Partnerships for Strong Communities, No. 2

An introduction to the US EPA for Cooperative Extension leaders at all levels. Describes EPA's mission, goals, and programming areas and links them to those of Cooperative Extension. Gives action steps, partnership examples and models. 4 pp.

Linking to US EPA – A County Extension Guide to the EPA, Region 5, No. 3

A directory for Cooperative Extension Service (CES) staff of program partnership opportunities with US EPA in Region 5. Gives background on US EPA, notes programs in common, and explains how to connect with US EPA through its subject matter areas. Includes "hot-line" phone numbers, and Web addresses for experts, publications, funding, and software. 6 pp.

Leadership Roles for US EPA – Forging Solutions for Sustainable Communities, No. 4

An introduction to the USDA Cooperative Extension Service (CES) for US EPA leaders. Identifies CES's capabilities and leadership structure, and outlines joint partnership opportunities. 4 pp.

Linking to Cooperative Extension – A US EPA Guide to Cooperative Extension in Region 5 States, No. 5

A directory for US EPA staff of regional partnership opportunities with the USDA Cooperative Extension Service (CES) at Land Grant Universities in Region 5. Gives background on CES and describes benefits of partnering. Lists names, contact information, and expertise/responsibility for CES programs in the six Region 5 states. 6 pp.

Building Capacity – Educating for Community Action, No. 6

An introduction to Community Based Environmental Education (CBEE) for US EPA and Cooperative Extension staff, emphasizing its four fundamentals: it is local, collaborative, informed, and active. Describes how agency professionals can link their skills to CBEE and identifies needed tools and resources. 4 pp.

Building Capacity – From Transferring to Transforming, No. 7

This pamphlet discusses Community-Based Environmental Education (CBEE) as a tool to promote change. It briefly summarizes the elements of successful environmental education programs and shows how to apply CBEE to an existing program. 4 pp.

Building Capacity – Community-Based Environmental Education in Practice, No. 8

Reports on four programs which effectively used Community-Based Environmental Education (CBEE) emphasizing how they employed the four critical CBEE components. Addresses programs on: urban environmental health and public health, wetland resource management, county-wide groundwater quality, and youth-oriented lake water quality. 4 pp.

Comparing USDA Cooperative Extension and US EPA/Guide to Pamphlets, No. 9

A one-page chart comparing the two agencies which helps show how their strengths could support a collaboration that benefits communities. Page 2 briefly describes publications of the US EPA/Cooperative Extension Partnerships project. 2 pp.

Previous reports:

An EPA/USDA Partnership to Support Community-Based Education: Discussion Paper

EPA 910-R-98-008, US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10, August 1998, 31 pp. URL: <http://www.reeusda.gov/nre/gifs/usdaepa.pdf>

Appendices to: An EPA/USDA Partnership to Support Community-Based Education: Discussion Paper,

University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension-Environmental Resources Center, August 1998, 130 pp. approx.

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Copies of these publications are available in print from University of Wisconsin Extension-Environmental Resources Center and electronically at: www.uwex.edu/erc



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