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Collective Impact of the U.S. Climate Change Education Partnership Alliance: Informing Effective Practices for Climate Change Education and Engagement

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In an effort to develop innovative, multidisciplinary approaches to climate change education and deliver content that supports and informs decision-making, the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) funded six large, researchdriven Climate Change Education Partnerships (CCEP) that included teams of climate scientists; learning/social scientists; state and national networks; and education practitioners working in very diverse settings, including the Pacific Islands, urban regions, and the North American Arctic. NSF also funded a CCEP Alliance Office to foster collaborative interactions and activities among the projects. After five years of planning, implementing, testing, and revising CCEP programs, certain key lessons emerged across the projects that may benefit other existing or developing climate education programs. The Alliance collaborated to produce the Climate Change Education Effective Practices for Working with Educators, Scientists, Decision Makers and the Public guide (CCEP Guide) that highlights the group's collective efforts and provides research-based recommendations to climate education and communication practitioners working with diverse audiences. At the core of all Alliance projects is the recognition that climate education programs have an opportunity and an obligation to identify and adapt their approach to their specific audiences. Each population has unique interests and motivations for learning about climate change. The CCEP Guide seeks to provide examples of tested models that illustrate climate change education in different situations. Case studies present approaches to interdisciplinary climate education and engagement, using games, maps, tours, interactive models, video, place-based learning, and many other learning tools. In addition to the activities and suggestions for education professionals, the guide also describes how climate science content can be translated into more accessible components and effective educational approaches for specific audiences. This presentation will provide an overview of Alliance effective practices for climate change education and engagement found in the CCEP Guide.