Ecology Education Network (EcoEdNet) and Teaching Issues and Experiments in Ecology (TIEE): Resources for Ecological Education

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The overall purpose of TIEE is to help ecology faculty improve their teaching. The site includes a broad range of ways to teach - such as different types of cooperative groupwork, working with published and unpublished data sets, interpreting tables and figures, designing open-ended labs, and methods for evaluating the effectiveness of one’s teaching. TIEE is designed to help faculty regardless of their previous experience with student-active teaching and regardless of the size of classes they teach - from small colleges to large universities.

Abstract

The goal of the Ecological Society of America’s Ecology Education Network (EcoEdNet) is to provide educators a forum to contribute and locate peer reviewed, scientifically and pedagogically sound ecology education content. As part of the BEN collaborative, EcoEdNet strives to foster a community of ecology education users and contributors. A primary source of content for EcoEdNet is Teaching Issues and Experiments in Ecology (TIEE), an NSF-funded, ESA-sponsored, peer-reviewed, and classroom tested collection of teaching materials that strives (1) to facilitate inquiry-based Experiments to Teach Ecology in laboratory courses, and (2) to use active-learning methods and current controversial issues to Teach Ecology for lecture classes. TIEE is divided into 3 sections: Issues, Experiments, and Teaching. Issues are engaging topics that involve students in interpretation and discussion of published figures and tables, even in large classes. In the inquiry-based lab Experiments, students engage in the process of science. The Teaching section links to Issues and Experiments and helps faculty easily learn about many aspects of pedagogy. It also includes other sections such as Data Sets in which students work with data in spreadsheets.