

# Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers Network Strategic Plan

## GOAL

*Function in a unified manner to engage the public in protecting coastal and marine ecosystems.*

## OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

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

- 1.1. Partner with NOAA and other federal agencies to showcase and interpret the latest ocean-related science, data, and discoveries.
- 1.2. Develop and support collaborative learning opportunities for educators, students, and the public, particularly underserved audiences, to interact directly with experts via face-to-face and distance learning opportunities.
- 1.3. Support the development and distribution of program, exhibits, and learning materials.

### 2. Increase participation in coastal and ocean conservation and stewardship activities.

- 2.1. Engage our audiences, particularly individuals from underserved communities, in stewardship activities.
- 2.2. Develop and support opportunities for youth to engage in stewardship actions.
- 2.3. Promote and coordinate ocean-focused citizen science activities.

### 3. Foster our audiences' relationship with the coastal environment and increase community resilience.

- 3.1. Engage learners, particularly those from underserved communities, directly and through partners in multi-generational learning activities to improve community awareness and involvement in preparedness and response efforts.
- 3.2. Collaborate with partners on local, regional, and national risk awareness and response education campaigns.
- 3.3. Develop education programs and products focused on improving economic and health conditions in response to weather, water, climate, and other environmental threats.

### 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 Learning Center education staff.
- 4.2. Collaborate across the network (and with federal partners) to review latest literature, identify and follow best practices, and share lessons learned.
- 4.3. Identify knowledge gaps, formulate research questions, and work with education researchers to seek answers.
- 4.4. Identify and use appropriate evaluation strategies to measure progress towards intended outcomes.

