

**Working with Communities to Make a Difference****May 1, 2025**Link to the recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=25RGXqAhqYo>eePRO post: <https://eeepro.naaee.org/learning/working-communities-make-difference>**Speakers:****Daryn Cambridge****Judy Braus, Executive Director, NAAEE****Carrie Albright, Senior Communications and Data Specialist, NAAEE****Highlights of the chat transcript:****Welcome!**

- seyedehsan azizzadeh: hi
- Bupe Mwangala Mulenga: hello everyone
- Carrie Albright, NAAEE Staff: Hi everyone—welcome to the webinar!
- Daryn Cambridge: Hello everyone :)
- Jeftey Saint Fleur: Hello everyone
- Barry Grossman: Hi from 4:00am Japan!
- Samaneh Khazaei: Hello everyone
- Jennifer Bruening: Hi there – from Phoenix Arizona!
- Martha Mutiso: Hello, Martha Mutiso from Kenya. Ecoescapades
- Barry Grossman: Had to set my alarm!
- Abraham Araya: Abraham Araya – Seattle, WA King County
- Esther Cowles: Hello everyone! I'm joining from VT. Great to have this session with Daryn!
- Chenille Williams: Hi! Chenille Williams – South Carolina
- Wendy Marks: Wendy Marks, The Marine Mammal Center, Kona, Hawai'i...Aloha nō!
- Alex Sivitskis: Hello everyone – this is Alex Sivitskis, from Teton Science Schools in WY USA.
- Roberta Hunter: Roberta, NJ Audubon, New Jersey
- Scott Johnson: Scott Johnson – Wisconsin State Park System
- Amy Zvonar: Hi from Alabama!
- Bupe Mwangala Mulenga: bupe Mwangala Mulenga from zambia
- Elena Blanco: Elena Blanco – Venezuelan Andes.
- Carrie Albright, NAAEE Staff: Hi everybody! Judy's right, I'm representing Bloomington, Indiana! 🌷
- Caitlin Wakefield: Caitlin Wakefield Fayetteville, WV
- Stephanie Pego: Hello! I'm in St. Pete, Florida from the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural & Natural History Center.
- Dana Choi: Dana Choi, Sierra Gifted Environmental School. The school is online but I am from Arizona.
- Danni Logue: Danni from Jenkinson's Aquarium, Point Pleasant Beach, NJ
- Jamin Bray: Hi Everyone! Jamin Bray with Missouri MEEA
- Paloma Krakower: Paloma Krakower – New Paltz, NY
- Mamadou Lamine Sané: I am Mamadou Lamine Sané from Senegal

- Astrid D Maldonado–De Jesus: Astrid Maldonado – Puerto Rico
- Morgan Rubanow: Morgan– in Oregon. :)
- Elena Blanco: Venezuela!
- Kai Fulginiti: Kai from Seattle
- seyedehsan azizzadeh: my name is ehsan azizzadeh from Tehran . as CEO of Mapta company which is working on purification of waste water based on biochar for our environment
- Preethi Mony: have to put Ohio on the board too
- Charles Yelton: North Carolina
- Stephanie Somerville: Hi! I'm Steph with Cornell Lab of Ornithology's K-12 Education team in Ithaca, NY.
- Sharon Kniss: Hi I'm Sharon from the Piscataway lands in the Washington DC region
- Carrie Albright, NAAEE Staff: The NAAEE Affiliate Network is incredible! You can check them out at <https://naaee.org/affiliates>
- Anne Umali: Yay Carrie!!!
- Heather Phelps: Heather Phelps from the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education in central Wisconsin.
- Mir Mehrdad Mirsanjari: Hi this is Mir Mehrdad 🌸🌹🙏
- Elly Oyugi: Hello! I'm Elly from Green Land Youth Network Kenya CBO, a grassroots organization empowering youth in Homabay County, Kenya, to lead climate action through agroecology and generative Agriculture, environmental education, and policy advocacy. We bridge Indigenous wisdom with modern practices to restore ecosystems and foster community resilience. Today, we're eager to learn how to deepen trust and collaboration with diverse stakeholders—from farmers to policymakers—to scale hyper-local solutions. Your insights on adaptive engagement strategies will help us strengthen partnerships and amplify marginalized voices in Kenya's climate agenda. Grateful to connect with fellow changemakers! 🌍🌱

## Presentation

### Q1 from Daryn: What's one word people use to describe you?

- Jennifer Brundage: passionate
- Jamin Bray: Caring
- Chenille Williams: Creative
- Jeanna Johnson: persistent
- Barry Grossman: friendly
- Quinn Shurtliff: strategic
- Dana Choi: passionate
- Ann Czeponis: Mom-ish
- Wendy Marks: funny
- John Paskus: thoughtful
- Caitlin Wakefield: caring
- kathy thompson: dependable
- Roberta Hunter: naturesmart
- Danni Logue: joyful

- Esther Cowles: thoughtful
- Jennifer Bruening: Passionate, yep ^
- Betty Olivolo: Collaborative
- Stephanie Dobbie: integrity
- Charles Yelton: stubborn
- Florence Haufiku: Reliable
- Judy Braus, NAAEE: Great words!!!!
- Ruth Speyer: calm energy
- Morgan Rubanow: responsible
- Mamadou Lamine Sané: the lion
- Elena Blanco: Perseverant— connector
- Stephanie Wagner: inspiratiobal
- seyedehsan azizzadeh: sacrifice
- Preethi Mony: enthusiastic
- Stephanie Pego: Dependable
- Jennifer Bruening: Luv "mom-ish" haha
- Elly Oyugi: Sustainability
- Stephanie Somerville: honest
- Astrid D Maldonado-De Jesus: dedicated
- Clementine Masambo: sustainability
- Wendy Marks: Hahaha, I mom people a lot
- Bupe Mwangala Mulenga: joyful
- Jennifer Bruening: Best outcomes for all parties 🍌
- Anne Umali: Love that, Ann! I can feel your care and compassion in your voice!
- Mamadou Lamine Sané: they love what i am doing
- Ann Czeponis: Love that Momadou – I'm sure you make people proud to be part of your pride

**Q2 from Daryn: How do you rate yourself on persuasive communication? (0=low, 5=high)**

- Wendy Marks: 4
- Morgan Rubanow: 2.5
- Sheila Wright: 1
- Ann Czeponis: 4
- Barry Grossman: 3
- Stephanie Pego: 4
- kathy thompson: 5
- Mallory Lampe: 2.5
- Paloma Krakower: 3
- Elena Blanco: 3
- Jamin Bray: 5
- Danni Logue: 4
- Alex Sivitskis: 2.5
- Astrid D Maldonado-De Jesus: 3
- Roberta Hunter: 4
- Caitlin Wakefield: 3

- Betty Olivolo: 3
- Indigo Evensen: 4
- Amy Zvonar: 2
- seyedehsan azizzadeh: 3.5
- Quinn Shurtliff: 2.5
- Esther Cowles: 3
- Jennifer Brundage: 3.5
- Chenille Williams: 3
- Dana Choi: 4
- Patricia Lopez: 4
- Charles Yelton: 4
- Mamadou Lamine Sané: 4
- Naomi Thompson: 5
- Christine Kustra: 3
- Trish Ouei: 4
- Clementine Masambo: 4
- Elly Oyugi: 5
- Hodo Hussein: 4
- Jeftey Saint Fleur: 3

**Q3 from Daryn: Thinking about your community engagement work, what group of people do you want to be more intentional and strategic with?**

- Jennifer Bruening: In my personal life, I see best friends being "opponents" when I seek advice. They love me unconditionally but always give me a new perspective. In my professional life, this is harder for me to think of.
- Jennifer Bruening: especially since they work in different fields.
- seyedehsan azizzadeh: i believe opponents can improving your career by their consideration and this causes fixing your weakness your career . this is my point of view
- Jennifer Bruening: Clear expectations and boundaries with these folks!
- Jeanna Johnson: I have a colleague who is on committee with me, from different organizations with mutual concerns. In committee who are passionate about our aims, which can bring contention at times. However, after meetings conclude, we are entirely openly friends.
- Daryn Cambridge: yup
- Jamin Bray: Wow, Elena! This sounds exactly like my rural teachers here I south Missouri USA!
- Elena Blanco: Yes!! That's a huge challenge in rural communities..
- Jamin Bray: They mean well, and want to be allies, but are totally overwhelmed and unappreciated and underpaid.
- Elena Blanco: Totally! Some of the challenges are systemic..
- Judy Braus, NAAEE: Such an important point, Daryn!
- Jennifer Bruening: do to uncertainty in the future... a lot of partners are in the fence sitting category now unfortunately.
- Ann Czeponis: opponents
- Stephanie Dobbie: opponents

- Naomi Thompson: More strategic with my opponents
- Alex Sivitskis: I want to be more intentional with opponents.
- Christine Kustra: Fence sitters
- Judy Braus, NAAEE: opponents and fence sitters
- Astrid D Maldonado-De Jesus: opponents
- Wendy Marks: Opponents because I can see that being the place where a shift can happen and those individuals will move over to allies.
- Morgan Rubanow: I want to lean into opponents more
- Esther Cowles: Fence sitters
- Betty Olivolo: I think I should work with my Allies and Pleasers.
- Betty Olivolo: and Fence Sitters
- Jamin Bray: Fence Sitters because I think they just aren't aware of what I'm trying to create in terms of positive change
- Elena Blanco: Fence sitters
- kathy thompson: I need to lean into how to better work with fence sitters
- seyedehsan azizzadeh: opponents is critical group
- Jennifer Brundage: I think I would like to be intentional about opponents (to help me understand what I may be missing) and pleasers (because they are clearly showing an interest, and may just need support in understanding how to balance their interest with their capacity).
- Bupe Mwangala Mulenga: opponents to bring out the best version of myself
- Cosmas Whayo: Opponents
- Jamin Bray: I'm inspired to focus on the fence sitters, by connecting through my local newspaper.

### Questions, Comments, and Closing Remarks

- Wendy Marks: Can you share some resources – books that we can use?
- Christine Kustra: thanks for the presentation and facilitation!
- Wendy Marks: A resource that is newer based on this model
- Jennifer Brundage: Great presentation. Incredibly useful resource
- Clementine Masambo: thank you for the presentation
- Esther Cowles: This was practical and motivating! Thanks so much, Daryn.
- Wendy Marks: Mahalo!!
- Daryn Cambridge: “The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People” by Stephen R. Covey. Simon & Schuster, 1992. “The Empowered Manager” by Peter Block. Wiley, 1987. “How to Influence: The Art of Making Things Happen” by Jo Owen. Pearson Education Limited, 2012. “Influence Without Authority,” by Allan Cohen and David Bradford. Wiley, 2005.
- Mamadou Lamine Sané: Great presentation. thank you
- Alex Sivitskis: I wonder how this strategic influencing framework relates (if at all) with the innovation adoption model (that curve with early adopters, majority, laggards...)? This is something we've used in our work but have run into roadblocks getting from initial progress to long term change.
- Bupe Mwangala Mulenga: great presentation sir
- Betty Olivolo: This was so helpful!
- kathy thompson: Thank you for this knowledge!
- seyedehsan azizzadeh: thank you

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- Amy Zvonar: thank you!
- Ingrid Norris: Thanks for the dialogue and participation today!
- Daryn Cambridge: Thanks everyone. It was a pleasure to spend this time with you all!
- Jennifer Bruening: ♥ Thank you NAAEE for continuing to connect with and support us & your community! ♥
- Ruth Speyer: Thank you all!
- Jamin Bray: Have a wonderful day!
- Mallory Lampe: Thank you!
- seyedehsan azizzadeh: thank carry
- Ann Czeponis: So grateful to NAAEE!