

When Values Collide: Deliberating Environmental Issues with Youth and Adults

April 23, 2026

Link to the recording: https://youtu.be/Kk_-PGQWbCk

eePRO post: <https://eeepro.naaee.org/learning/when-values-collide-deliberating-environmental-issues-youth-and-adults>

Speakers:

Cristin F. Brawner | Executive Director, National Issues Forums Institute

Dawn Harfmann | Program Coordinator, National Issues Forums Institute

Elizabeth W. Corrie, Ph.D. | Professor in the Practice of Youth Education and Peacebuilding, Candler School of Theology, Emory University

Presenter Resources

- More in Common Report: <https://moreincommonus.com/publication/the-connection-opportunity/>
- Georgia Interfaith Power and Light: <https://gipl.org>
- Louisville Institute: <https://louisville-institute.org/>
- Following Communities' Leads and Needs in Environmental Deliberations: <https://nifi.org/lessons-from-the-field-following-communities-leads-and-needs-in-environmental-deliberations/>
- More about CIVIC: <https://programs.ifas.ufl.edu/civic/>
- Civic Language Perceptions Project: <https://www.pacefunders.org/language/>
- Other Trainings from NIFI:
 - Moderating for Deliberation: <https://nifi.org/nifi-kicks-off-fall-workshop-series-with-talk-an-introduction-to-moderating-for-deliberation/>
 - NIFI Framing Training: <https://nifi.org/nifis-second-workshop-in-fall-series/>
 - NIFI Talk to Action Training: <https://nifi.org/nifi-workshop-series-concludes-with-act/>

Highlights of the chat transcript:

Welcome!


- NAAEE Staff, Anne Umali: Welcome everyone!!
- NAAEE Staff, Anne Umali: Hi hi! I'm Anne, w/ NAAEE, joining you all from North Carolina.
- Chenille Williams: Chenille from Columbia, SC!
- aly f: Aly from City of Frisco TX
- May Grzybowski: May from Western Massachusetts
- Rebecca Kauten: Rebecca in Waterloo, Iowa!
- Amy Bloom: Hello from Michigan!
- Hillary Nieman: Hi everyone! Hillary Nieman from the Environmental & Sustainability

Studies program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln!

- Kelsey Wellington: Kelsey from Missoula, MT
- Kara Sowinski: Hi! I'm Kara from Wisconsin.
- Yvonne Schramm: Joining from Colorado!
- Cristin Brawner: I'm Cristin Brawner and I'm joining from Nashville, TN today!
- Rachael Osborne: Rachael and Sam from Georgia
- Betty Olivolo: Betty Olivolo from Kittery, ME
- Brian Shmaefsky: Houston, Texas
- Kate Schmidt: Kate from NYC!
- Martha Monroe: Martha from smoky Florida
- Amy Bloom: Amy Bloom, Wayne State University, Detroit Michigan
- Kim Lowther: Reston, VA
- Hannah Sedgwick: Hannah from Wisconsin!
- Arabelle Britton: Arabelle from Boise Idaho!
- Dawn Harfmann: Dawn Harfmann, joining from Central Oregon!
- Sarah Conley: Hi Sarah from Albany, NY
- Elizabeth W. Corrie: Hi I'm Beth zooming in from ATL, GA
- Amy Burt: Hello! Amy Burt (she/her), Programming Coordinator with Wildlands Trust from Plymouth, MA.
- amy neblett: Amy from an island off the Texas Gulf Coast!
- Scott Shepherd: Hi All, joining today from the Santa Cruz Mountains!
- Sarah Brenkert: Hi! Sarah (she/her) from Seattle Aquarium in Seattle, WA
- Amara Campos: Hey there - I'm Amara from Maine!
- William Spitzer: Billy Spitzer, Amherst Mass.
- Conor Twyford: Kia ora from Aotearoa New Zealand!
- Matthew Ouren: Hello! matt from Madison, WI
- Betsy Messenger: Hello from Cortland, NY
- Gil Gillespie: Gil from southwest Iowa
- Judy Braus, NAAEE: Love that chart!
- Olivia Wickett: Will there be a recording that is sent out? I would love to take more detailed notes without worrying about missing anything
- NAAEE Staff, Anne Umali: Yes, we'll share the recording with everyone!
- NAAEE Staff, Anne Umali: And the slides
- Dawn Harfmann: More in Common report:
<https://moreincommonus.com/publication/the-connection-opportunity/>
- Elizabeth Sala: Could you please put the link from the last slide in the chat?
- Elizabeth Sala: Thanks!
- Rachael Osborne: data centers
- Laara Hooper: Climate action opportunities!
- Arabelle Britton: water use and allocation
- Kaysee Beckstrom: large scale renewable energy development
- William Spitzer: Housing availability and affordability
- Kate Schmidt: Student engagement with climate action
- Yvonne Schramm: water scarcity
- Olivia Wickett: Sea level rise
- Conor Twyford: managed retreat

- Chenille Williams: Data centers
- Emily Snyder: How to implement a stormwater fee
- Mark Windschitl: Climate change being taught in schools, and how it is taught
- Rick Coelho: Directly related to my work, how to respond to large wind and solar projects.
- Matthew Ouren: wind and solar energy
- Brian Shmaefsky: Climate resiliency
- Conor Twyford: climate adaptation
- Amy Burt: Affordable housing and land conservation
- Olivia Wickett: ^^
- NAAEE Staff, Anne Umali: Environmental Issues Forums in the Classroom – Middle School Teacher Guide Climate Choices: How should we meet the challenges of a warming planet?
- Amara Campos: Getting my community to even START a deliberation has been the most challenging part - the majority of people I interact with on a daily basis are any combination of indifferent, disinterested or angry when climate crisis is brought up.
- Judy Braus, NAAEE: Thanks for posting your community issues!
- Cristin Brawner: We really LOVE working with partners on local issues since that's the level of involvement where most people develop and build their sense of civic efficacy and agency!
- Cristin Brawner: Check out Georgia Interfaith Power and Light here: <https://gipl.org>
- NAAEE Staff, Anne Umali: We'll have time for questions. Add your questions here!
- Kathryn Williamson: What was the name of the granting agency? The Louisville Foundation?
- Cristin Brawner: <https://louisville-institute.org/>
- Dawn Harfmann: And the other partner was Georgia Interfaith Power and Light GIPL
- Kathryn Williamson: Thank you
- Emily Snyder: How many kid are in the room at a time? What is the optimal group size for this work?
- Nicole Swedlow: LOVE THE WORLD CAFE for this!! Students are great at hosting those tables!
- Cristin Brawner: I'll let Beth answer the specifics about the group size for her work, but at NIFI we've found that the optimal size to deliberate as a group is max 25. I've moderated deliberations with hundreds of folks where we have folks sit at round tables in groups of 8. A group of 8 is generally large enough to have diversity of perspectives and lived experiences, while being small enough for everyone to get to participate meaningfully.
- Judy Braus, NAAEE: Great example of how you can take all the information about deliberation and create your approach that fits your local context.
- Judy Braus, NAAEE: Thanks so much, Beth!!
- Cristin Brawner: How can community-based orgs support teachers who want to explore issues of environmental justice class but fear backlash?
- Kate Schmidt: What's the ideal age of children to use the deliberation style with? I teach kids as young as 2 years old up through fifth grade. Would that be too young?
- Amara Campos: Thank you so much for your insights (I took notes)!
- NAAEE Staff, Anne Umali: What are some essential skills, dispositions, and

agreements do participants need in order to deliberate most effectively? — question from registration

- Matthew Ouren: In my work, primarily with adults, many are not open to learning. Do you have any tips to getting people into a leaning mindset when engaging on a difficult issue?
- Kate Schmidt: Cool! Thanks - we're lucky to live in a temperate forest in the north east so the first thing we focus on is "what do you notice about the seasons".
- yvette stewart: @matthew, instead of focusing on 'learning', focusing on what people love and how they can benefit from the conversation might be the better approach.

- Elizabeth W. Corrie: @Matthew, yes, in my work with adults, because we are making a decision as a community, they want to know information so that they can make informed decisions.
- Cristin Brawner: <https://nifi.org/lessons-from-the-field-following-communities-leads-and-needs-in-environmental-deliberations/>
- Elizabeth W. Corrie: But it is specific to knowing that their voice matters in the decision making. @Matthew.
- Cristin Brawner: That's a great question, @Matthew! I like to start with telling folks that they are experts on their communities and lived experiences. Sometimes the lived experience/expertise role actually opens folks up to a desire to learn from others in the room.
- Cristin Brawner: I think that also helps answer the dispositions question from above as well. Helping people feel that their voice matters AND that they have a role to play can be powerful.
- Elizabeth W. Corrie: @Emily asked: How many kid are in the room at a time? What is the optimal group size for this work? It can work with difference sizes as long as there are enough moderators/volunteers to help facilitate smaller groups within the larger group. I often took the 40-60 person youth group and broke up into 6-8 different groups.
- Cristin Brawner: Here's more about CIVIC: <https://programs.ifas.ufl.edu/civic/>
- Cristin Brawner: <https://www.pacefunders.org/language/>
- Cristin Brawner: Trainings from NIFI that might be helpful going forward:
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- Catie DeMets: Thank you! Looking forward to learning more.
- Scott Shepherd: Thanks so you all for your hard work and information!
- yvette stewart: Great information! Really love your approach!
- Amy Burt: Thank you!
- Cristin Brawner: NIFI Framing Training: <https://nifi.org/nifis-second-workshop-in-fall-series/>
- yvette stewart: We need more civic engagement and empowerment
- Conor Twyford: Thank you so much!
- Emily Snyder: Thank you! Can't wait to look into this more .
- Madelyn Mitchell: Thank you!
- Rick Coelho: Thank you!
- Hillary Nieman: Thanks Everyone. I love this collaboration.

eeWEBINARS: Bringing New Ideas and Innovation to the field of Environmental Education

- Cristin Brawner: NIFI Talk to Action Training: <https://nifi.org/nifi-workshop-series-concludes-with-act/>
- Cristin Brawner: We LOVE NAAEE and look forward to future collaborations!!
- Dawn Harfmann: Thank you very much for having us! :)
- Brian Shmaefsky: Much appreciated.
- NAAEE Staff, Anne Umali: Youth Innovation Challenge:
- Judy Braus, NAAEE: Thanks Cristin, Dawn, Beth, and Anne! And thanks to all of you for joining!!! And we hope to see you at our conference and on an upcoming webinar!
- Elizabeth W. Corrie: Thank you all for coming!
- William Spitzer: Thank you!!