

A MESSAGE FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT OF NAEP

Cynthia Fridgen

I am honored to have been chosen to lead the National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP), succeeding Bruce Hasbrouck, who devoted himself to the Association for the past two years and who leaves the Association in excellent condition. We all thank him for the hours (both on the ground and flying) spent visiting NAEP chapter locations to tell them the national story and support them as they grow.

For more than 27 years, NAEP has been the senior level organization for those of us who have devoted our lives to the betterment of the environment. Some of us have pursued this goal through the private sector, either building companies or joining colleagues in order to add value to existing companies. Some of us have labored within public agencies, protecting the environment through the tools that are available. Some of us have run for public office and helped set the local and national agenda in pursuit of environmental excellence, and still others have served our country in the military, with a focus on protecting both



our people and the environment. What a noble profession! A small percentage of us within NAEP have entered academic institutions at all levels with the intent of educating our young people to care for the environment and to prepare themselves for a career in the environmental professions. I cannot think of any career that offers the same level of satisfaction than that of the environmental professional.

The NAEP has built an amazing reputation as this senior level organization for environmental professionals, and also offers a place to meet and discuss environmental

futures at the National Conferences held each year around the US. Annual meetings of the membership offer an opportunity for active members to set the agenda for NAEP and to take positions of leadership for specific initiatives. We currently have a Sustainable Development Working Group, led by Brian Moyer, a Transportation Working Group, led by Doug Zang, an NAEP Fellows Committee, led by Audrey Binder, and a Regulators Working Group, led by Gary Kelman, to mention a few. These are active, exciting times, and NAEP is taking a lead role through the active professionals that stand as its members.

Just having completed another exciting NAEP conference in Dearborn, Michigan, I am reminded of why I joined this association so many years ago. I like hanging out with dedicated, organized, fun-loving professionals that have so much to talk about and always put their energies behind their beliefs. I only hope I can serve such a group effectively and contribute at the level necessary to help create an even brighter future.

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