***Welcome to ArchEE!***

* ***ArchEE is the collaborative space for the open sharing of evaluations and evaluative evidence to inform and improve environmental practice, learning and policy development.***

**Evaluators** will use ArchEE to learn about effective, systemic evaluation methods and inform their designs for environmental evaluations.

**Funders** will use ArchEE to find out what works and to connect with evaluators and environmental scientists who can contribute to their work.

**Managers** will use ArchEE to explore options for designing environmental interventions that work and for evaluating interventions they support.

**Planners** will use ArchEE to search the wide range of environmental interventions, compare findings, and integrate lessons learned.

**Policy makers** will use ArchEE to explore options for action to improve the environment, test emerging ideas, and find ways to evaluate and improve environmental policy.

**Researchers** willuse ArchEE to review current literature in the field, connect with other researchers, and share their findings and evaluations.

**Teachers** will use ArchEE to create curricula and develop activities that inform the next generation of environmental scientists and systemic evaluators.

**ArchEE is unique in the world of environmental evaluation because it:**

* Aspires to be a comprehensive source of evaluations and evaluation knowledge.
* Supports a learning community that analyzes the information, synthesizes it, and feeds the synthesis back into the system.
* Leverages existing tools to integrate and complement what already exists.
* Promotes a culture of learning and contains information about informative failures as well as successes.
* Works within clear, realistic, and useful boundaries (*to be determined*).
* Reflects the aspirations of environmental scientists, managers, and evaluators.
* Engages transparently with its community and provides clear guidance on its limitations.
* Supports on-going dialogues to find the most useful balance among three important tensions: quality, comprehensiveness, and capacity.
* Evolves over time through incremental and user-driven development and implementation cycles.
* Invites users (both providers and consumers) from around the world and across all environmental disciplines and evaluation methodologies.
* Responds to requirements collected from the Environmental Evaluation Network (EEN), including:
* Attract and retain the right user base;
* Include the right stuff;
* Use state-of-the-art methods;
* Keep it simple;
* Make it a learning system; and
* Sustain it.

**As ArchEE moves from a powerful idea into a useful tool, it faces a variety of challenging questions, including:**

* What will provide financial sustainability (e.g., mission-related investment, innovative funding)?
* Where should development and implementation of ArchEE begin? What should be the first applications?
* How should development and implementation start, and what or who should be the focus at the beginning?
* What are reasonable and practical boundaries for ArchEE?
* How do we manage expectations and be transparent about what we know, what we do not know, and what is unknowable?

**Planning Clusters have already begun to respond to these questions and the many practical details required to create ArchEE**. The Clusters have defined their charters and begun project planning in five key areas:

* Value proposition/theory of change
* Decision making and governance
* Requirements and content
* Learning community
* IT options and designs

Next steps for each group will move these aspects of the work forward, including decisions on governance, funding, content, requirements, and design.

**You can get involved!**

* Contribute your suggestions and reflections on EEN’s LinkedIn page
* Join EEN to remain part of the conversation
* Engage in the ArchEE dialogue at the next EEN meeting
* Join one of the Planning Clusters to contribute resources and expertise
* Identify a use and work with the team on a developmental phase
* Stay tuned as this collaborative space evolves

**For more information on ArchEE, contact Matt Keene at Keene.Matt@epa.gov.**