

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

The Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) Network, housed at the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis at UC Santa Barbara, was launched in 1990 as a formal network, 10 years after the first LTER sites were launched. It has more than 2000 active researchers at 28 sites across the United States who apply long-term observation, experiments, and modeling to understand how ecological systems function over decades. The LTER Network Office serves as a hub for the research synthesis, education, and outreach activities of the Network and a first point of contact for those who may want to partner or engage with the Network such as teachers, resource management professionals, neighbors who may visit or make use of sites, and partner organizations. The community has a mixture of in-person and online activities including committees, a Slack group and email list. It is funded by the National Science Foundation Division of Environmental Biology's LTER Program.

- ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
- KNOWLEDGE GENERATION
- SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
- INTERDISCIPLINARY
- INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT
- STANDARD SETTING
- OUTREACH AND EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

► Website: lternet.edu

COMMUNITY BASICS



Approximately 300 core members within a broader group of approximately 6000



Equally offline and online



National (United States)



Mostly open, with private meetings restricted to certain members



Infrastructure organization empowering communities of practice and research collaborations

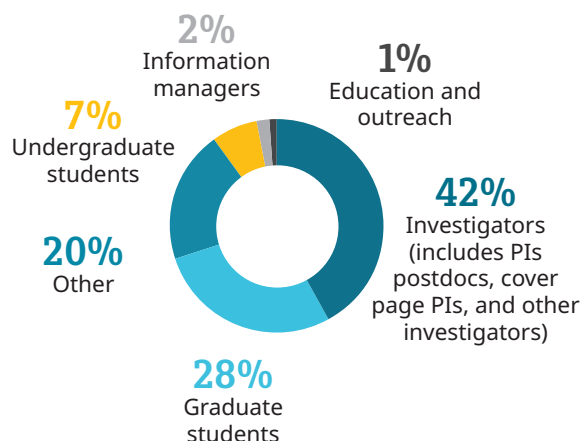
COMMUNITY STRUCTURE

Community Management

Community management is provided by 1 FTE **Director** in the LTER Network Office. Additionally, LTER committees have **volunteer** leadership who are typically paid by individual sites, not the LTER Network Office.



Members



Community Configuration

LTER Network

Synthesis groups

Cross-cutting sub-groups

The Long Term Ecological Research Network

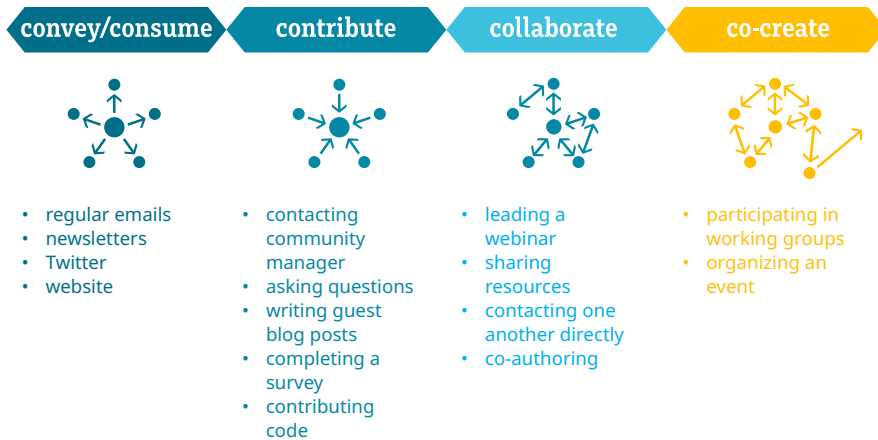
doi: [10.5281/zenodo.4014017](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4014017)

PROGRAMMING

The CSCCE Community Participation Model describes four modes of member engagement that can occur within a community: CONVEY/CONSUME, CONTRIBUTE, COLLABORATE, and CO-CREATE. All modes may be present at once, with some members interacting in multiple modes - or a community may have member engagement that falls into only some of the modes described. The model enables the mapping of community member behaviors to programming and other infrastructural support that the community manager, convening organization, or funder may provide to the community. For more information, see the [CSCCE community participation model](#).

IN THIS COMMUNITY

Members work together via group online committee meetings and working groups, emails, webinars, and shared coding. Offline activities include program meetings, workshops, conferences, and community-led events. Ad hoc discussions take place on Slack, Twitter, Facebook groups, and Github. A new community platform, based on SalesForce, is under development.



OUTPUTS & EVALUATION

✓ **Success looks like active information exchange between and among stakeholders leading to more rapid development of ecological insight and quicker adoption of science-based policies.**

Evaluation and Reporting

- Reports for leadership or funders
- Community member surveys

Challenges

- Time management
- Effective technological support

Opportunities

- Diversify digital engagement

Successes over the last year

- **Growth** – adding new members
- **Growth** – adding additional sub-communities or working groups
- **Engagement** – increased activity of members (commenting or attending)
- **Productivity** – co-creating community outputs
- **Engagement** – in-person event
- **Recognition** – members see value



COMMUNITY TOOLBOX

Communications


Email	Facebook
Slack	Instagram
MailChimp	Zoom
Twitter	Github

Productivity

Google Drive	Google Analytics
SurveyMonkey	WordPress
Qualtrics	SalesForce

FUNDING

100% Grants



Funding Streams

- 100% Grant funded (National Science Foundation Division of Environmental Biology, LTER Program)

The LTER Network offers limited travel stipends to internal and external events and competitive project funding.