

Environmental Education Grants

Environmental Education Grant Opportunities

To encourage teachers and youth leaders to develop effective environmental education programs, environmental projects and/or strategies, the Environmental Quality Education Committee,

working with the Department of Environmental Quality, offers grants each fall. A total of \$10,000 is available this year from funding received from the sales of the environmental license tags.

Eligibility

You must be an Oklahoma teacher, public or private (Pre K – 12), school environmental club, youth group leader, and/or organization with a youth component to apply for the grant. A letter from the applicant's principal or supervisor must accompany the grant proposal stating the school or

organization's support for the performance of the grant objectives. One hard copy and one electronic copy (e-mail) must be submitted by December 1, 2012. Winning applicants must submit a written report outlining accomplishments of the grant objectives and list of expenditures by April 15, 2014.

The Environmental Quality Education Committee

The mission of the committee is to help the general public become more aware of actions and activities which will help preserve and protect Oklahoma's environment. Activities include promoting practical information and education about air and

water quality, solid and hazardous waste, energy conservation, soil conservation, and flora and fauna conservation. Educating youth about the environment will strengthen their ability to make informed decisions about environmental issues in the future.

The Environmental License Tag

Funds for this grant program are generated by the purchase of Oklahoma Environmental Awareness License Tags. Two environmental license tag designs are available. One features the state wildflower, *Gaillardia Pulchella*, popularly known as the Indian Blanket. The other depicts a colorful Oklahoma sunrise. The environmental license tag may be personalized with any combination of 6 letters and spaces (subject to availability). If

the tag is not personalized, the standard prefix of ENV or DEQ will be assigned along with three numbers. Applications may be obtained at your local tag agent, or by calling the Department of Environmental Quality at 405-702-7122. Twenty-four dollars of the \$35 purchase price for the tag is deposited into the Environmental Education Fund. The remaining \$11 goes to the Oklahoma Tax Commission for processing.

Your Purchase of One of These Tags Will Help Support This Program



Instructions for Grant Proposals

A total of \$10,000 is available in grants for 2012. Please limit applications to one per category per school/organization. Applicants may apply for amounts from \$100 up to \$1,000 per grant

4 Steps to Submitting a Complete Grant Application:

Cover Page, Narrative Proposal, Attachments

1) COVER PAGE

A cover page with the following information **must** be provided for each grant proposal submitted to be considered:

- Project Title
- Contact Name
- Position/Relationship to Project
- School or Organization
- School District
- Finance Officer/Phone
- FEI # (tax ID # starting with 73-)
- Category of grant: Environmental Club Project, Outdoor Classroom Revitalization, Recycling, Composting, Edible Gardens, EE Projects
- Amount of Funding Requested
- Address, City, Zip
- E-mail address
- Daytime Phone
- Evening Phone
- Fax Number
- Grade Level(s)/number of students targeted



2) NARRATIVE PROPOSAL

Please label each section of narrative proposal listed below.

- Overview:** Provide a one-paragraph summary describing your project.
- Description:** Give a clear, concise description of your proposed project. Please indicate how the project promotes enthusiasm to learn more about the environment, how the project fits into your school's curriculum or organization's mission, and if the project involves community partnerships or community outreach.
- Goals and Objectives:** Clearly define realistic goals and objectives. Include information outlining how these goals address specific needs.
- Implementation:** Description of delivery method (how the project will be implemented) and if it emphasizes an interactive learning approach. Also include project's potential for broad implementation.

3) ATTACHMENTS: ALL ARE REQUIRED

- Timeline:** Show target dates for project objectives.
- Budget:** Give an itemized budget with specific project expenditures (actual cost, not estimate is preferable) of grant funds. Please provide vendor information.
- Evaluation:** Provide a description of the methods to be used to measure project effectiveness. Show how your evaluation method will improve project's strength. Indicate in your evaluation method how the project will be continued after grant funds are expended.
- Letter of Commitment:** Include a letter of commitment from your principal or supervisor supporting the project.
- Additional Attachments:** No more than five (5) pages (front and back acceptable) of photographs, clippings, diagrams, etc. may be included for extra points. Please include these with your hard copy and electronic version of your proposal.

4) SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION:

- Please submit one hard copy to the address listed in "C" (below) and one electronic copy with **"EE Grant" in the subject line** to sara.ivey@deq.ok.gov.
- Deadline:** Proposals must be submitted (postmarked and emailed) by December 1, 2012. One hard copy and electronic copy should be submitted for consideration. Awards will be announced no later than December 31, 2012.
- Mail one copy of your proposal to:
Department of Environmental Quality - ATTN: Sara Ivey
P.O. Box 1677
Oklahoma City, OK 73101-1677
- If you do not receive an e-mail confirmation of your grant submission within 2 weeks of submission, please contact sara.ivey@deq.ok.gov.



Possible Ideas for Grants Listed by Category

(Summaries of sample grants may be found on the back of this flyer; samples of full proposals may be found online at: www.deq.state.ok.us under "Environmental Education")

Edible Gardens

- Vegetable seeds and/or plants
- Edging for raised beds
- Rainwater catchment materials
- Soaker hoses and/or watering cart
- Compost and/or mulch
- pH soil test kits
- Garden stakes and/or row markers
- Greenhouse

EE Projects

- Classroom EE materials (books, DVDs, pictures, bulletin board materials, etc.)
- Supplies for specific EE Units/Projects (water testing kits, microscopes, magnifying glasses, etc.)
- Supplies for Project WET, Project WILD or PLT Programs
- Fees/substitute for EE teacher training (not to exceed \$100)
- Resource trunk/kit for library
- Community outreach projects/education events
- Field trips (gas, bus driver, lunch, etc.)
- Environmental/science club

Outdoor Classroom Revitalization

- Plants & trees
- Edging / border materials for planting beds
- Equipment for ponds
- Seeds
- Gardening tools
- Benches / tables
- Trail materials (gravel, wood chips, rock, dirt, asphalt, concrete, stepping stones)
- Sprinklers, hoses, etc.
- Bird feeders, bird house
- Training materials (curriculum guides)
- Field guides



Recycling

- Collection bins
- Equipment such as carts
- Storage bins
- Signage
- Materials for educational outreach
- Program incentives
- Scales

(Note: Funding to pay recycling businesses to regularly pick-up recyclables is not acceptable. This funding must come from a sustainable source to keep the program in operation.)

Composting

- Worms
- Materials for compost bins (See directions here: www.deq.state.ok.us/pubs/lpd/compostbins.pdf)
- Resource materials about composting

Green Schools

Items not already included in another category such as:

- Kill-A-Watt meter for testing energy usage of specific items
- Light meter to test adequate lighting levels
- Storm water projects such as bioswales, rain water catchment or green roofs
- Trees for shading the building
- Digital thermometers to test room temperature and humidity
- Or, other items that students will be able to work with for facility greening

**For more information regarding
the grant program,
please contact DEQ**

Sara Ivey (405) 702-7122 / sara.ivey@deq.ok.gov

Sample Summaries from Past Grant Recipients

Full grant applications for these projects and others are available for perusal on the DEQ website (look under Environmental Education section on bottom of home page): www.deq.state.ok.us.

The Green Family Environmental Engineering Unit

Stillwater Middle School

This interdisciplinary project for sixth-grade science classes at Stillwater Middle School supplements the current curriculum module with ecology-based activities related to each category of organisms and teaches students about a variety of ecosystems and scientific research in Oklahoma. The culminating activity requires students to compile information from all topics to design a household that is "environmentally sustainable" in the four areas of: food, water, energy, and waste. The grant provided books, a DVD, and other materials for use in this unique project.

Bringing Enthusiasm & Butterflies to Ecosystem Studies

Bixby High School

This grant was awarded to build a butterfly garden at Bixby High School. Students from the high school will work with Bixby's Brassfield 5/6 Center students to create butterfly gardens at that school. This vibrant and beautiful learning environment will be used to create enthusiasm for the study of local ecosystems, life cycles, and the scientific method. Maintaining this microcosm of insect habitat will have the added benefit of instilling a sense of ownership and responsibility. Coming together to share observations and ideas allows students from both schools to be both researchers and teachers.

Teaching Children How to Grow Vegetables in Small Spaces and Establishing a Small-Space Vegetable Garden at the School

Turtle Rock Farm (in conjunction with Billings School District)

This grant funded gardening supplies for a pilot program with the Billings School system (3rd-6th graders) to educate children about how vegetables grow and give them the experience of gardening, establishing a vegetable garden at the school and harvesting and cooking the vegetables.

Water Quality Monitoring

Tulsa Memorial High School

The AP Environmental Science students at Tulsa Memorial High School were able to purchase laboratory equipment needed to collect data on soil and water conditions at LaFortune Park in Tulsa from the EE grant funding. This enabled them to perform hands-on, inquiry lab experiments that demonstrate the effects of various pollutants on soil and water.



Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality
Administrative Services Division
PO Box 1677
707 North Robinson Avenue
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73101-1677
www.deq.state.ok.us
405-702-7100

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