

Funding Sources for Environmental Education

American Electric Power Teacher Vision Grants of \$100-\$500 are available to pre-K-12 educators in the AEP service area. Application online at www.aep.com/go/teachergrants. National Energy Education Development (NEED) project training (see www.need.org), E-LAB or are affiliated with an AEP school-business partnership. Grants may be used to fund equipment, curriculum materials, or field trip transportation.

American Honda Foundation Grants to K-12 and higher education programs in the fields of youth education (up to 21) and scientific education. Information on grants can be found at <http://www.honda.com/community/applying-for-a-grant>

Captain Planet Foundation Grants

Application Deadlines: February 28, and September 30.

Captain Planet Foundation awards grants to schools and nonprofit organizations that develop innovative environmental projects for youth ages 6-18 that promote cooperation, planning, and problem-solving skills. Preferential consideration is given to requests seeking seed funding of \$500 or less and to applicants who have secured at least 50% matching or in-kind funding for their projects. Captain Planet Foundation will on occasion consider grants up to \$2,500.

<http://captainplanetfoundation.org/>

Clean Ohio Fund provides state bond issue funds for four competitive grant programs: Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program helps fund preservation of open spaces, sensitive ecological areas, and stream corridors
Clean Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program supports permanent preservation of Ohio's most valuable farmland through the purchase of development rights
Clean Ohio Trails Fund works to improve outdoor recreational opportunities for Ohioans by funding trails for outdoor pursuits of all kinds.
Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund supports the cleanup of polluted properties so that they can be restored to productive uses. <http://www.clean.ohio.gov/>

Duke Energy Foundation offers grants to support arts and culture, healthy communities, and lifelong learning in communities in the Duke Energy service area covering all or portions of ten southwestern Ohio counties.

<https://www.duke-energy.com/community/duke-energy-foundation/online-grant-application>

FirstEnergy STEM Classroom Grants up to \$500 are available to educators at schools and youth groups in communities served by Ohio Edison, The Illuminating Company, and Toledo Edison, applications in mid-September.

https://www.firstenergycorp.com/content/fecorp/community/education/educational_grants.html

Fund for Wild Nature provides grants in the \$1,000-\$3,000 range for campaigns to save and restore native species and wild ecosystems, including advocacy, litigation, public policy work, development of citizen science, and similar endeavors. Deadlines in February, May and November. <http://www.fundwildnature.org/>

Green Communities Sustainability Training Grants up to \$5,000 for affordable housing developers to maximize the health, economic and environmental benefits of green development throughout the project's life cycle. This grant program provides an opportunity to transfer the design knowledge that informed the Green Communities planning and construction process to the residents, as well as operations and management staff. <http://www.enterprisecommunity.org/financing-and-development/grants>

Greenworks Grants of \$200 - \$2,000 are available from Project Learning Tree at the national level, for projects involving youth, adults in communities, with positive environmental effects. Someone trained in Project Learning Tree activities should be involved. <http://www.plt.org/greenworks>. Tip: Request a letter of support from the Ohio PLT office, 614-265-6657 or plt@dnr.ohio.gov.

Green School Project pays schools and nonprofit organizations to recycle their inkjet and laser printer cartridges as well as cell phones and PDA devices. www.greenschoolproject.com

Lake Erie Protection Fund awards small grants (up to \$15,000) quarterly for research, monitoring, demonstration and education projects concerning Lake Erie, its shoreline and watershed, with funding from the Lake Erie License Plate program. Larger grants are also awarded annually for specific priorities. <http://www.lakeerie.ohio.gov/LakeErieProtectionFund.aspx>

Learn and Serve America provides grants to schools, colleges, and nonprofit groups to support efforts to engage more than 26,000 Ohio students in community service linked to academic achievement and the development of civic skills. <http://www.learnandserve.gov/>

Lowe's Outdoor Classroom Grant Program was created to provide outdoor, hands-on science education to students in grades K-12 and assist schools in enhancing their core curriculum in all subjects. This grant program was created to provide schools with additional resources to improve their science curriculum by engaging students in hands-on experiences outside the traditional classroom. All U.S. K-12 public schools are welcome to apply. <http://www.toolboxforeducation.com/>

Martha Holden Jennings Foundation Grants to Educators and Open Grants provide Ohio secular primary and secondary school educators with grants up to \$3,000 and open grants to Ohio secular school districts and universities. <http://www.mhjf.org>

National Geographic Society Education Foundation

The foundation's teacher grants are awarded to educators to facilitate their work in the classroom, school, district, and/or community. Projects that feature outreach to urban areas are particularly encouraged. In accordance with its mission, the foundation seeks to fund projects in either of two broad categories: 1) promoting geographic knowledge through education, and 2) promoting stewardship of natural and cultural resources. <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/education/programs/education-foundation/>

National Wildlife Federation Grants for WILD School Sites offered periodically to help schools create certified wildlife habitats on school grounds.

<http://www.nwf.org/schoolyardhabitats/>

NOAA Environmental Literacy Grant Program (ELP) funding opportunity for informal/nonformal science education supporting projects that engage the public in educational activities that utilize emerging and/or advanced technologies and leverage NOAA assets to improve understanding and stewardship of the local and global environment. These projects include: Professional development or training for K12 teachers and informal educators; Development or modification of instructional materials for K-12 students, teachers and/or informal educators; Experiential learning for youth and families; Citizen science; Civic engagement ; Development of broadcast media products ; Public opinion research; Installations and creation of content and educational programming for Science on a Sphere and other spherical display systems at Informal Science Education institutions ; Other types of exhibits for science centers, museums and aquariums, with specific focus on building capacity to incorporate real-time science information. http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/funding_opps.html

The North Face Explore Fund supports organizations that encourage youth outdoor participation, focusing primarily on creating more connections of children to nature, increasing access to both front and backcountry recreation, as well as education for personal and environmental health. Grants up to \$2,500. www.outdoornation.org/grants

Ohio Chemistry Technology Foundation offers a stipend for teachers attending the annual “Teachers, Industry, and the Environment” conference in October,

<http://www.ohiochemistry.org/>

Ohio Department of Development grant programs include the Clean Ohio Fund, Ohio Energy Gateway Fund, community development block grants, home weatherization projects, diesel emission reduction grants, and tax credits and other financial assistance for businesses. <http://development.ohio.gov/>. Click on “Community” and then “Target of Opportunity Grants” https://development.ohio.gov/cs/cs_cdbgd_grant.htm.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources grant programs include Nature Works grants, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Clean Ohio Trails Fund, STEP OUTSIDE, Project WILD school sites grants, and grants for recycling market development, restoration of wetlands and acid mine drainage areas, nonpoint source education, and watershed coordinators, among many others. These are summarized at

<http://ohiodnr.gov/grants>.

Ohio Environmental Education Fund mini grants of \$500 - \$5,000 are offered by the Ohio EPA Office of Environmental Education, with application deadlines every January 15 and July 15. www.epa.ohio.gov/oeo Projects must show how education activities will align with Ohio’s Academic Content Standards. Construction activities are not eligible. Larger grants up to \$50,000 are also available, but much more competitive. Tip: Submit a draft early to the OEEF staff for a pre-review. (614) 644-2873.

Ohio EPA 319 grants (named for Section 319 of the Clean Water Act) pass federal funds through to local watershed organizations to improve water quality. These sometimes include funding for education components <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/nps/index.aspx>. Contact your local watershed coordinator. Tip: Find your watershed coordinator via the Ohio Watershed Network, <http://ohiowatersheds.osu.edu/>

Outdoor Nation Grants from the Outdoor Foundation and partners, provide up to \$2500 for youth-led projects to connect young people with the outdoors. <http://www.outdoornation.org/grants>

The Procter & Gamble Fund/Live, Learn and Thrive provides support to nonprofit organizations located in the communities where the company has a major presence, such as Cincinnati. The company's areas of interest include: education, arts and culture, community improvement, and environment. http://www.pg.com/en_US/sustainability/social_responsibility/grant_application.shtml

Qwest Foundation awards grants for community-based programs in the area of preK-12 education. <http://www.centurylink.com/Pages/AboutUs/Community/Education/teachersAndTechnology.jsp>

Science Education Council of Ohio awards six \$500 grants each year to science teachers who are their members. Application online, www.secoonline.org/awards

Toshiba America Foundation provides grants to support innovative projects designed by math and science teachers to make their own classrooms more exciting and successful for students. <http://www.toshiba.com/tafpub/jsp/home/default.jsp>

Toyota Tapestry grants up to \$50,000 and mini grants up to \$2,500 are available to science teachers and administered by the National Science Teachers Association, <http://www.nsta.org/pd/tapestry/>

US EPA Environmental Education grants are awarded through both the national Office of Environmental Education www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants.html and smaller grants (but less competition) through the Region 5 office in Chicago (contact Megan Gavin at gavin.megan@epa.gov). Application is usually announced in the Federal Register in September, with deadlines in November.

USEPA Five Star Restoration Grants

The Five Star Restoration Program brings together students, conservation corps, other youth organizations, citizen groups, corporations, landowners and government agencies to provide environmental education through projects that restore streambanks and wetlands. Grants are approximately \$10,000 per project. <http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/restore/5star/>

Wal-Mart Each Wal-Mart store has an allocation of money for grants to schools to support education in communities where stores are located. Grants are in the \$2,500 range. Grant applications are accepted on an on-going basis. Applications are available at, and submitted to, a local store, but decisions are made at the corporate headquarters in Arkansas. Some grants are also available for community organizations.

<http://giving.walmart.com/apply-for-grants/>

Youth Garden Grant Program of the National Gardening Association offers \$500 gift cards from The Home Depot to schools and community organizations with child-centered outdoor garden programs. <https://www.kidsgardening.org/garden-grants/>

Catalog of Federal Funding Sources for Watershed Protection, from US EPA's Watershed Academy. An easy to use, searchable website providing information for watershed practitioners and others on 84 federal funding sources that may be available to help fund various watershed related projects. <https://ofmpub.epa.gov/apex/watershedfunding/f?p=fedfund:1>

Other Funding and Grant Writing Resources

Guide to Ohio Grantmakers, available for \$125 from the Foundation Center, www.foundationcenter.org as a searchable CD ROM. Tip: Can't afford it? It may be available in your Educational Service Center or public library reference section.

GrantsAlert website for educators and nonprofits <http://www.grantsalert.com/>

Jeremy T. Miner and Lynn E. Miner, **Proposal Planning & Writing**, Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2008 (Fourth Edition),

Your local **community foundation** is a clearinghouse for local donors. Most large cities and many rural counties in Ohio have them.

Target, BP stations, Kraft Foods. Wendy's restaurants and grocery stores may not offer cash but may provide food or other supplies.

Boy Scouts: Eagle Scouts have to complete a community service project, and often may be enlisted to perform construction or maintenance in parks and other outdoor learning sites.

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