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Ohio EPA Awards a \$24,153 Environmental Education Grant to Summit County Organization

The Summit County Soil and Water Conservation District has been awarded \$24,153 to offer an educational seminar series to the regulated community on phase II water quality discharge permits. Nine grants were awarded statewide for a total of \$300,000.

The Summit County project will be offered statewide and supports an ongoing effort to educate communities regulated under the state's discharge permit program for municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s). Fifteen workshops will focus on six minimum control measures required by the permitting authority. Topics are to include post-construction best management practices for public road projects, illicit discharge detection and elimination, pollution prevention in municipal operations, runoff reduction methods, effective public education techniques, methods for low-impact development, federal effluent guidelines on construction and development and construction site inspections. To supplement these workshops, Center for Watershed Protection webcasts will be available for live viewing throughout the state. In addition, six pollution prevention training kits will be purchased and loaned to MS4 communities. Multiple local agencies and organizations are collaborating on the project.

The Ohio Environmental Education Fund is administered by Ohio EPA. Grants up to \$50,000 are funded from one-half of the civil penalties collected by the Agency for air and water pollution control violations. Eligible grant recipients include environmental groups, public and private schools, colleges and universities, trade or professional organizations, businesses and state and local governments. Approximately \$1 million is given each year.

The next OEEF application deadline is on July 15, 2011. An electronic letter of intent to apply is due on July 8. For additional information, contact the Ohio Environmental Education Fund at (614) 644-2873 or visit its website at www.epa.ohio.gov/oeef/.

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