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## **Ohio EPA Awards Environmental Education Grant Worth \$45,029 for “Appalachian Green Teachers Project”**

Ohio EPA is granting [Rural Action](#) \$45,029 to help teachers in Athens, Hocking and Perry Counties complete environmental learning projects in their classrooms. Nine grants were awarded statewide for a total of \$300,000.

Over the course of the “Appalachian Green Teachers Project,” five teachers in three local school districts will partner with Rural Action and other collaborators to educate students about natural and cultural history, using the outdoors as a classroom.

A fifth grade class will study Monarch butterflies to learn about food webs and migration. Fifteen middle school students will work with the [Sunday Creek Watershed Group](#) to conduct a stream assessment. Another middle school class will complete an air quality unit and visit [Ohio University’s Center for Air Quality](#) monitoring station. A high school environmental science class will work with the [Buckeye Trail Association](#) to construct a walking trail through forested land behind the school.

Professional development workshops on [Project WET](#), [Project WILD](#) and [Project Learning Tree](#) will be offered to another 25 teachers, to help them incorporate hands-on outdoor activities and environmental topics into their lesson plans. Results of these projects will be presented to neighboring school districts and the community in a mini-symposium.

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.