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Ohio EPA Grant to Help Put a Vegetative Roof on Toledo School

Ohio EPA has awarded a \$98,420 federal Clean Water Act Section 319 grant to Toledo Division of Environmental Services to design and install two areas of vegetative roofing at the Toledo School for the Arts.

The first area is approximately 5,000 square feet of the upper roof. The second area is about 600 square feet in a highly visible lower area of the building. The project also includes installation of approximately 1,000 square feet of vegetated bio-swale in the parking area at the school.

When complete, the project will reduce nonpoint source pollution to the Maumee River. The estimated pollutant reduction includes 52 pounds of nitrogen, 6.3 pounds of phosphorus and 260 pounds of sediment per year. Nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen are leading causes of blue-green algae problems in western Lake Erie as well as many inland lakes.

To help expand public awareness, the project includes outreach such as public meetings, fact sheets, signs and displays supported graphically by artwork supplied by students at the school. The project also will provide education opportunities related to water quality for students at the school.

Statewide, Ohio EPA awarded nearly \$2.8 million to 10 grant recipients to help communities restore waterways impaired by nonpoint source pollution.

Nonpoint source pollution is the leading cause of water quality impairment in Ohio. It is caused by rain or snowmelt moving over and through the ground, picking up natural and human-made pollutants and depositing them in lakes, rivers, wetlands and other waterways. Other forms of nonpoint source pollution include modifications to natural stream flow, habitat alteration and nutrients.

In 1987, the federal Clean Water Act created a national grant program to control nonpoint source pollution. Grants cover a three-year period and require a local 20 percent share of the total project cost. This project includes local matching funds of \$47,270. Applicants may apply for one grant for each watershed, but may include several types of projects within a single application up to \$350,000. More information on [Section 319](#) grants is available online.