



Public Interest Center | P.O. Box 1049 | Columbus, OH | 43216-1049

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MEDIA CONTACT: Heather Lauer, (614) 644-2160
CITIZEN CONTACT: Darla Peelle, (614) 644-2160

Ohio EPA Awards \$46,000 Environmental Education Grant to Hamilton County Organization

Ohio EPA has awarded a \$46,000 environmental education grant to the Mill Creek Restoration project for its Green Careers and Urban Environments Program. Ten grants were awarded statewide for almost \$340,000.

The project will create a network of 35 environmental professionals to mentor up to 500 of Cincinnati's sophomore through senior high school students about environmental careers and green technologies. The program will provide guided tours of LEED-certified building, energy conservation and renewable energy projects, brownfields, wastewater treatment plants and environmental offices.

Led by a landscape architect and storm water engineers, up to 500 sixth through ninth grade students will monitor land use and water quality in the Lick Run sub-basin of the Lower Mill Creek watershed, and help design urban stream restoration strategies in the South Fairmount neighborhood. Both groups of students will participate in service learning projects.

Collaborators include Cincinnati Public Schools, Metropolitan Sewer District, Greater Cincinnati Energy Alliance, Green Cincinnati Education Advocacy, city of Cincinnati Office of Environmental Quality, Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services, Hamilton County Park District and Cincinnati Park Board, University of Cincinnati, STRIVE career pathways and the Civic Garden Center.

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 Jan. 17, 2012. An electronic letter of intent to apply is due on Jan. 10. For additional information, contact the Ohio Environmental Education Fund at (614) 644-2873 or visit www.epa.ohio.gov/oeef/.

-30-

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