



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

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MEDIA CONTACT: Dina Pierce, (614) 644-2160
CITIZEN CONTACT: Darla Peelle, (614) 644-2160

Ohio EPA Awards \$5,000 Environmental Education Mini Grant to Erie County Organizations

The Erie Soil and Water Conservation District and Erie County Solid Waste Management District received a \$5,000 environmental education mini grant from Ohio EPA for educational projects that will inform the public about protecting water resources and recycling. Ten projects throughout the state were funded for \$42,813.

The two organizations will create a series of educational banners and posters to exhibit at local fairs, festivals and waste collection events. The material will cover topics including recycling, prevention of nutrient pollution, proper maintenance of septic systems and the use of natural areas, filter strips, setbacks, rain barrels and rain gardens for storm water retention.

The Ohio Environmental Education Fund gives out approximately \$1 million each year for environmental education projects targeting kindergarten through university students, the general public and the regulated community. General grants are given for projects lasting up to 30 months and costing up to \$50,000.

Mini grants are available for projects lasting up to 12 months and costing between \$500 and \$5,000. Proposals for classroom projects, conference speakers and other activities that are eligible under the general grant program are eligible under the mini-grant program, but the application process is streamlined. Ohio EPA's Office of Environmental Education reserves up to \$50,000 each grant round to fund projects submitted under this program. Just like the general grant program, there are two mini-grant rounds each year, with the next application deadline on Jan. 15, 2012. An electronic letter of intent to apply is due on Jan. 8, 2012.

For more information, contact Ohio EPA's Office of Environmental Education at (614) 644-2873. Staff is available to assist potential grant applicants who contact the office before the submission deadline. Information also is available [online](#).

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