



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

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CONTACT: Heather Lauer, (614) 644-2160

Ohio EPA Seeks to Fund Water Improvement Projects

Approximately \$3 million in federal grants for stream water quality improvement will be available through Ohio EPA. The application deadline is the close of business June 1, 2012.

Projects designed to reduce nonpoint source pollution in streams where aquatic life is suffering from soil and pollution runoff will be given priority. A local 40 percent match of total project costs is required for these grants.

Types of eligible projects include:

- Stream restoration and/or dam removal/modification projects;
- wetland restoration and/or renaturalization;
- innovative storm water demonstration projects;
- inland lake management and restoration;
- agricultural best management practices and projects;
- acid mine drainage abatement and abandoned mine reclamation project;
- riparian restoration projects; and
- riparian and wetland protection and conservation easements.

Applications must include project-specific educational and public outreach activities describing how the successes of the project will be communicated throughout the affected community.

Nonpoint source (NPS) pollution is the leading cause of water quality impairment in the United States. Also known as polluted runoff, NPS pollution 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. Polluted runoff can have harmful effects on drinking water supplies, recreation, fisheries, and wildlife. In 1987, Section 319 of the federal Clean Water Act amendments created a national grant program to control NPS pollution. Ohio EPA administers this grant program with funding from U.S. EPA, distributing more than \$3 million each year to projects proposed by local governments and community organizations.

More [information](#) about the grants is available online.

Completed applications may be mailed or delivered to [Russ Gibson](#), NPS Program Manager, or [Martha Spurbeck](#), Ohio EPA/Division of Surface Water, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049. Upon receipt, all grant applications will be reviewed for completeness, technical merit and adherence to the 1987 Amendments to the Clean Water Act, U.S. EPA Section 319(h) Program Guidance, and 2013 request for proposals criteria.

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