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Ohio EPA Awards a \$4,615 Environmental Education Mini Grant To Statewide Organization

Ohio EPA has awarded \$4,615 mini grant to the Ohio Invasive Plant Council (OIPC) to educate Ohio citizens. Thirteen projects throughout the state were funded totaling \$50,000.

The project seeks to increase awareness for 2,000 Ohio citizens about the ecological and economic impacts of invasive plants using three workshops, presentations dissemination of printed informational materials and website enhancements. Workshop content will include units on identification, reporting, prevention and treatment of invasive plants, landscaping and land management practices and specific steps residents can take to control invasive species, like requiring contractors to clean equipment, asking for non-invasive species at nurseries, and cleaning boots, camping equipment, ATVs and boats between uses. The mini grant will provide much-needed updates to posters, brochures and invasive plant information booklets that were first funded in 1998 with an OEEF grant. Matching funds will be provided through OIPC Board Members' and partners' in-kind time for designing printed materials, planning and hosting three invasive plant workshops, set-up OIPC displays at partner events, and website updates. The U.S. Forest Service Northern Research Station, Green Umbrella, ODNR Divisions of Forestry and Wildlife, OSU Extension, and Holden Arboretum are collaborating.

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 July 16, 2012. An electronic letter of intent to apply is due on July 9.

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](#).