Ohio Environmental Education Fund

Financial Summary
State Fiscal Year 2018

Office of Environmental Education
Lazarus Government Center
P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049
50 W. Town Street, Suite 700
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone (614) 644-2873
Fax (614) 728-1275
www.epa.ohio.gov/oee/
email oeef@epa.ohio.gov
**Ohio Environmental Education Fund Fiscal Activity SFY 2010-2018**

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,862,072</td>
<td>1,258,402</td>
<td>1,736,975</td>
<td>1,233,578</td>
<td>849,249</td>
<td>646,840</td>
<td>1,035,413</td>
<td>1,170,226</td>
<td>1,042,521</td>
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**Expenditures**

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<tr>
<td>Personal Service (2)</td>
<td>341,774</td>
<td>369,837</td>
<td>322,841</td>
<td>336,383</td>
<td>283,692</td>
<td>299,836</td>
<td>300,722</td>
<td>299,394</td>
<td>318,778</td>
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<td>Supplies &amp; Maintenance (3)</td>
<td>64,820</td>
<td>73,513</td>
<td>10,118</td>
<td>72,362</td>
<td>75,202</td>
<td>91,222</td>
<td>98,375</td>
<td>95,229</td>
<td>91,893</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>64,321</td>
<td>58,744</td>
<td>162,156</td>
<td>67,812</td>
<td>73,125</td>
<td>78,600</td>
<td>91,620</td>
<td>76,325</td>
<td>60,122</td>
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<td>Equipment</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,795</td>
<td>5,560</td>
<td>697</td>
<td>3,333</td>
<td>5,889</td>
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**Total Operating Expenses**

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>470,915</td>
<td>503,889</td>
<td>500,675</td>
<td>477,254</td>
<td>435,352</td>
<td>475,547</td>
<td>490,717</td>
<td>470,948</td>
<td>470,793</td>
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**Grant Payments (4)**

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>751,210</td>
<td>1,197,847</td>
<td>748,873</td>
<td>719,028</td>
<td>710,629</td>
<td>526,646</td>
<td>605,963</td>
<td>690,774</td>
<td>690,202</td>
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**Ending Cash Balance**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2,864,282</td>
<td>2,420,949</td>
<td>2,908,376</td>
<td>2,918,377</td>
<td>2,621,644</td>
<td>2,266,291</td>
<td>2,205,024</td>
<td>2,213,528</td>
<td>2,095,053</td>
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**Open encumbrances**

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<td></td>
<td>276,790</td>
<td>384,807</td>
<td>466,791</td>
<td>397,288</td>
<td>640,649</td>
<td>880,834</td>
<td>901,745</td>
<td>434,329</td>
<td>826,790</td>
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**Grant Awards**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Grants</td>
<td>737,294</td>
<td>700,000</td>
<td>670,438</td>
<td>631,948</td>
<td>568,497</td>
<td>591,444</td>
<td>499,700</td>
<td>524,945</td>
<td>376,318</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mini Grants</td>
<td>95,000</td>
<td>100,256</td>
<td>92,813</td>
<td>100,288</td>
<td>69,706</td>
<td>63,366</td>
<td>71,633</td>
<td>57,644</td>
<td>61,802</td>
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<tr>
<td>EE partner- and sponsorships</td>
<td>147,800</td>
<td>147,800</td>
<td>174,870</td>
<td>155,670</td>
<td>163,656</td>
<td>154,050</td>
<td>161,475</td>
<td>155,875</td>
<td>127,500</td>
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**Total Grant Awards**

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>980,094</td>
<td>948,056</td>
<td>938,121</td>
<td>887,906</td>
<td>801,859</td>
<td>808,860</td>
<td>732,808</td>
<td>738,464</td>
<td>565,620</td>
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**Total Commitments (5)**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating + Awards</td>
<td>1,451,009</td>
<td>1,451,945</td>
<td>1,438,796</td>
<td>1,365,160</td>
<td>1,237,211</td>
<td>1,284,407</td>
<td>1,223,525</td>
<td>1,209,412</td>
<td>1,036,413</td>
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(1) Includes one-half of civil penalties collected by Ohio EPA air and water programs, plus reimbursements and donations.
(2) Includes staff salaries and benefits, reimbursements to volunteers for travel, and substitute teachers.
(3) Includes rent, printing, communications, and postage.
(4) Includes final payments to previous fiscal years' grantees.
(5) Comparable to annual budget.
Ohio Environmental Education Fund
Program Highlights 2018

Educational Priorities for SFY 2018

Ohio law established six allowable uses of OEEF funds, serving three target audiences: pre-kindergarten through university students and teachers, the adult general public, and the regulated community. Funding priorities for OEEF grant programs are set by the OEEF Advisory Council in consultation with the Ohio EPA director. Ohio EPA is interested in using OEEF funds to support projects that are closely linked to the Agency’s overall regulatory priorities and efforts to protect Ohio’s environment. This year, funding was directed to five of the most pressing areas where Ohio EPA has determined an immediate need for more education, awareness and outreach efforts due to significant environmental impacts in our state:

- projects that demonstrate and encourage the use of innovative storm water management practices;
- projects that demonstrate and encourage the reduction of air emissions, including, but not limited to, promotion of alternative modes of transportation;
- projects that encourage and explain the importance of habitat restoration efforts to increase biodiversity and improve air and water quality;
- targeted efforts to encourage nutrient management practices that will reduce nutrient loadings to rivers and streams from urban and rural areas; and
- for the pre-K through university audience, projects that encourage students to consider careers in environmental science and engineering. OEEF funds also support this goal through annual sponsorship of a number of K-12 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) programs and a statewide network of environmental professionals volunteering as career ambassadors, through a multi-year partnership with the Environmental Education Council of Ohio.

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**OEEF Grant Awards by Audience**

**SFY 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Audience</th>
<th>Grant Dollars Awarded</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Kindergarten - University</td>
<td>$88,888.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Public</td>
<td>$52,177.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulated Community</td>
<td>$297,055.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Grant Dollars Awarded in SF18: $438,120*
Ohio EPA is also sensitive to the importance of serving all geographic regions of the state. OEEF grants have been awarded to entities in 83 of Ohio’s 88 counties. OEEF staff members are continuing a multi-year effort to offer grant writing workshops and assist applicants in counties where fewer than two grants have been awarded. This year, five grant writing workshops were offered around the state, with 173 people attending.
Water Quality Monitoring and Education

Ohio EPA’s Office of Environmental Education (OEE) provides statewide coordination of Project WET (Water Education for Teachers), a highly respected national curriculum for elementary and middle school grades, and its secondary level curriculum *Healthy Water, Healthy People* (HWHP), training middle and high school students and teachers to monitor water quality in local streams. The OEE also assists Ohio EPA’s Division of Surface Water in training adult volunteer monitors to collect stream quality data under Level 1 of Ohio’s Credible Data program, using HWHP.

This year statewide, 168 new educators were trained in Project WET, 159 in *Healthy Water, Healthy People*, 10 in *The Wonders of Wetlands*, and 90 in Project WET’s new early childhood curriculum, *Getting Little Feet Wet*. 
Ohio Environmental Education Fund  
Grants for the Pre-Kindergarten to University Audience

*In SFY2018, OEEF funded 23 Pre-Kindergarten - University projects for a total of $297,055.*


**Columbus City Schools – Cedarwood Elementary**, “Kindergarten Life Science Triad,” F-18M-002, $5,000, Franklin County, Audience: Pre-School – University, Contact: Heather Allen, hallen704@columbus.k12.oh.us, 614-397-1460.

**Canal Winchester Local Schools – Canal Winchester Middle School**, “How Does Runoff Affect Soil and Water Quality of a Wetland Ecosystem,” F-18M-003, $500, Franklin County, Audience: Pre-School – University, Contact: Steven Bocock, sbocock@cwls.us, 614-833-2151.

**Graham Local Schools – Graham Elementary School**, “Graham Elementary Trout in the Classroom Aquaponics Adventure,” F-18M-004, $5,000, Champaign and Logan Counties, Audience: Pre-School – University, Contact: Emily Kay Shreve, shrevee@grahamllocalschools.org, 937-539-1521.

**Antwerp Local School District – Antwerp Local Schools**, “Native Plant Prairie and Wildlife Area,” F-18M-005, $5,000, Defiance and Paulding Counties, Audience: Pre-School – University, Contact: Linda Mabis, mabis.l@antwerpschools.org, 419-258-5421.

**Slow Food Columbus**, “Slow Food Columbus Low-Tunnel Environmental Project,” F-18M-007, $5,000, Franklin County, Audience: Pre-School – University, Contact: Christina Weatherholtz, cweatherholtz3151@columbus.k12.oh.us, 614-365-5556.

**Holmes SWCD**, “Learning About My Watershed,” F-18M-008, $1,300, Holmes County, Audience: Pre-School – University, Contact: Michelle Wood, mwood@co.holmes.oh.us, 330-674-2811.

**Cleveland Metropolitan School District – Campus International High School**, “Stream and Water Quality Analysis,” F-18M-010, $2,035, Cuyahoga County, Audience: Pre-School – University, Contact: John Dutton, john.dutton@campusinternationalschool.org, 216-308-3940.

**Imago**, “School Yard Environmental Learning Stations,” F-18M-011, $4,236, Hamilton County, Audience: Pre-School – University, Contact: Ellie Falk, efalk@imagoearth.org, 513-921-5124.

**Athens City Schools – Athens Middle School**, “Inquiring Minds: Soil and Water,” F-18M-012, $4,153, Athens County, Audience: Pre-School – University, Contact: Mary Ann Hopple, mhopple@athenscsd.org, 740-541-1898.

**Wyandot Soil and Water Conservation District**, “Virtual Watershed Table,” S-18M-020, $3,470, Wyandot County, Audience: Pre-school to University (grades 2,3,4 and 8-12), Contact: Angie Ford, angie.ford@oh.nacdnet.net, 419-731-2566.
The Children’s Museum of Findlay, “Water Table Project,” S-18M-022, $2,500, Hancock County, Audience: Pre-school to University (Pre-school and grades K-5), Contact: Shari Wiseman, shari@cmfindlay.com, 567-250-9616.

Champion Local Schools – Champion Middle School, “Champion Local School New Stormwater Basin,” S-18M-023, $5,000, Trumbull County, Audience: Pre-school to University (grades k-12), Contact: Dave Murduck, dave.murduck@neomin.org, 330-847-2340.


Franklin County Drainage Engineer, “Augmented Reality Sandbox,” S-18M-029, $4,785, Audience: Pre-school to University (grades 4 and 7-12), Contact: Kate Radtke, kradtke@franklincountyengineer.org, 614-525-7318.

Columbus Public Health, “Air Monitoring Education Project,” F-18G-001, $28,865, Franklin County, Audience: Pre-Kindergarten – University (High School). Contact: Richard Hicks, rickh@columbus.gov, (614) 645-7155.

Logan County Soil and Water Conservation District, “Exploring Effects of Water Quality in Western Ohio,” F-18G-002, $21,272, Auglaize, Darke, Hardin, Logan, Mercer, Miami and Shelby Counties, Audience: Pre-school to University, Contact: Dave Shellhaas, dshellhaas@mresc.org, (937) 599-5199.

Public Media Connect, “Let's Get Wild: Teachers Learn to Teach about Nature,” F-18G-003, $37,000, Brown, Butler, Clark, Clermont, Clinton, Darke, Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Greene, Hamilton, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Licking, Marion, Miami, Montgomery, Morrow, Pickaway, Preble, Richland, Ross, Scioto, Shelby, Union and Warren Counties, Audience: Pre-school to University, Contact: Tina Spaulding, tspaulding@thinktv.org, (937) 220-1670.

Columbus Jewish Day School, “CJDS/EPA Storm Water Quality Enhancement, Education and Awareness Program,” F-18G-004, $19,351, Franklin County, Audience: Pre-school to University, Contact: Gina Freeman, gfreeman@cjds.org, (614) 939-5311.

Brookville Local School - Brookville Intermediate School, “Brookville Biodiversity Project,” F-18G-015, $20,136, Montgomery County, Audience: Pre-school to University, Contact: Annette M Drake, drakea@brookvilleschools.org, (937) 833-6731.

The Ohio State University - Center for Automotive Research, “Fueling our Future: Introducing 7th Graders to Careers in Clean Energy,” F-18G-030, $34,862, Champaign, Cuyahoga, Franklin, Madison, Portage, Stark, Summit, and Union Counties, Audience: Pre-school to University (Grade 7), Contact: James Durand, durand.14@osu.edu, (434) 996-6829.

Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park, “CVNP Environmental Career Academy,” S-18G-038, $44,972, Summit County, Audience: Pre-school to University (Grades 8-12), Contact: Katie Wright, kwright@forcvnp.org, (330) 657-2796.

Together We Grow, Inc., “Newark City Schools Green Machine Composting Program,” S-18G-062, $35,473, Licking County, Audience: Pre-school to University, Contact: Pamela Roberts, togetherwegrowinc@gmail.com, (740) 504-7351.
Ohio Environmental Education Fund
Grants for the General Public Audience

In SFY 2018, the OEEF funded 3 adult education projects for a total of $52,177.

**Clean Fuels Ohio**, “Drive Electric Ohio,” S-18M-026, $4,803, Audience: General Public, Contact: Ellen Eilers, ellen@cleanfuelsohio.org, 614-884-7336.

**Greene Soil and Water Conservation District**, “Greene County Test Your Well Event,” S-18M-035, $1,000, Audience: General Public, Contact: Lee Eltzroth, lee.eltzroth@oh.nacdnet.net, 937-372-4478.

**Western Reserve Land Conservancy**, “Cleveland Neighborhood Tree Steward Program,” F-18G-013, $46,374, Cuyahoga County, Audience: General Public, Contact: Elizabeth Grace, egrace@wrlandconservancy.org, (216) 513-4073.

Ohio Environmental Education Fund
Grants for the Regulated Community Audience

In SFY 2018, the OEEF funded 3 adult education projects for a total of $88,888.

**Madison Soil and Water Conservation District**, “Agricultural Drainage Workshop,” S-18M-042, $875, Audience: Regulated Community, Contact: Julia Cumming, Julia.cumming@oh.nacdnet.net, 740-852-4004.

**Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District**, “Storm Sewer Retrofit Project,” $49,513, S-18G-051, Statewide, Audience: Regulated Community, Contact: Adam Lehmann, adam.lehmann@hamilton-co.org, (513) 772-7645.

**The Ohio State University - Department of Extension-Hancock County Extension Office**, “Incorporating Livestock Manure into Growing Crops in the Lake Erie Basin,” S-18G-065, $38,500, Statewide, Audience: Regulated Community, Contact: Glen Arnold, arnold.2@osu.edu, (419) 422-3851.
Ohio Environmental Education Fund
Statewide Sponsorships in SFY 2018


OEEF provided environmental science and engineering scholarships to 21 university students to encourage them to complete their degrees and enter professional practice in Ohio. Students in four-year programs who received a $2,500 scholarship for 2018-2019 include:

- Eli Barber, Bowling Green State University (Environmental Science, Geospatial Analysis), Bowling Green
- Jordan Budrevich, University of Toledo (Environmental Engineering, Sustainability Studies), Silver Lake
- Katja Diekgers, Miami University (Zoology, Environmental Science), Los Altos, CA
- Destiny Funk, Otterbein University (Zoo and Conservation Science, Biology), Milan
- Jessie Gibson, Ohio State University (Environment, Economy, Development and Sustainability), West Salem
- Dani Huffman, Kenyon College (Environmental Studies), Granville
- Lataisha Jones, Kent State University (zoology and Biological Sciences), Barberton
- Alexandra Nelson, University of Mount Union (Environmental Science), Warsaw
- Emily Nicholls, Ashland University (Biology), Mt. Vernon
- Hayley Nininger, Ashland University (Biology, Toxicology), Centerburg
- Andrew Oppliger, Ohio State University (Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife), Westerville
- Kayla Parry, Cedarville University (Environmental Science), Hamler
- Amber Pitsenberger, Otterbein University (Zoo and Conservation Science, Biology), Howard
- Alexandra Smith, Ohio State University (Earth Science), Medina
- Angie Sullivan, Ohio Northern University (Civil Engineering), Medina
- Amanda Szinte, Ohio University (Wildlife and Conservation Biology), Madison
- Tyler Theaker, Ashland University (Biology and Environmental Science), Bellville
- Lydia Trick, University of Cincinnati (Biology and Environmental Studies), Kettering
- Jordin Vidmar, Ashland University (Toxicology and Biology), Wadsworth
- Lucille Williams, University of Rio Grande (Wildlife Conservation), Athens
- Nicholas Willse, University of Cincinnati (Environmental Studies and Biology), Medina

Since the scholarship program began in 2000, $869,950 has been awarded statewide to 353 students at 46 Ohio colleges and universities. Funding comes from civil penalties collected by Ohio EPA for violations of air and water pollution control laws.
Ohio EPA presented $100 prizes to the 27 winners of the Governor’s Awards for Excellence in Environmental Protection Research at this year’s State Science Day at the Ohio State University on May 12. In addition, OEEF funding provided $10,000 as a title sponsor of the event, the equivalent of a state championship for student science research. The primary objective of State Science Day is to provide an opportunity for young students to demonstrate their abilities and interest in science through individual experimentation and research.

2018 Governor’s Award Winners
for Excellence in Environmental Protection Research

7th Grade

First Place: Ms. Liliana Marie Rose Hunt, Bishop John King Mussio Central JS, Steubenville, Does Hydraulic Fracturing Increase the Salinity of Surface Water?

Second Place: Ms. Grace Kruse, Bloom Carroll MS, Carroll A Study of Leafy Greens in Closed Aquaponic Systems

Third Place: Mr. Luke Fahey, All Saints, Cincinnati Finding a Better Alternative for Plastic Drinking Straws

Honorable Mention: Ms. Riley Mae Ferris, St. Columban, Loveland How Does Radiation Affect the Growth of a Plant’s Height?
8th Grade

First Place: Mr. Kalib Joshhua Riddle, Liberty Union MS, Baltimore
*Basalt Carbon Capture*

Second Place: Mr. Brandon T Hood, Tippecanoe MS, Tipp City
*Brick BY Brick*

Third Place: Mr. Saptarshi Mallick, Walnut Hills HS, Cincinnati
*Effect of Acid Rain on the Chlorophyll Content and Growth of Ivy Plants*

Honorable Mention: Ms. Carsyn Hagans, Archbold MS, Archbold
*A Survey of Lichen Diversity in Western Fulton County Cemeteries for Use as Air Quality Indicators*

9th Grade

First Place: Mr. Lohith Savardekar, Dublin Coffman HS, Dublin
*Exploring Nitrate Runoff levels in GMO vs. Non GMO Soybean Plants*

Second Place: Ms. Maeve Gaffney, St. Vincent St Mary, Akron
*The Effects of Plant Species on Energy Produced in Soil*

Third Place: Ms. Josephine Grace Rose, Carroll HS, Dayton
*Comparing Methods of Biodenitrification*

Honorable Mention: Mr. Darrell Lee Davis & Mr. Jordan Elijah Dickerson
*National Inventor's Hall of Fame STEM HS, Akron*
*Project Clean The Air*
10th Grade

First Place: Mr. Grant Arnold, Carroll HS, Dayton
Soil Additives to Aid Plant Growth Amidst Temperature Increase

Second Place: Ms. Delanyo Mensah, Athens HS, The Plains
Voltage Management Scheme for Renewable-Energy-Integrated Power Grids

Third Place: Mr. Ian Wolfe, Bloom Carroll HS, Carroll
The Effect of Sun Tracking on Solar Panel Efficiency

Honorable Mention: Ms. Emily Obermiyer & Mr. Dakota Obermiyer, Brookfield HS, Brookfield
The Effect Therapy Dogs have on Children's Reading Level and Attitude Towards Reading
11th Grade

First Place: Mr. Bryan Rego, The University School, Chagrin Falls
*Microplastic consumption by freshwater mussels in a mesocosm*

Second Place: Mr. Jonah Carter & Mr. Max Anthony Herrmann, Carroll HS, Dayton
*Genetically Engineering Nonpathogenic E.coli to Bind to a Cellulose Matrix Using Curli Fibers and Cellulose Binding Domains*

Third Place: Mr. Mohit Dighamber, Sycamore HS, Cincinnati
*Optimizing Microbial Bioremediation to Enhance Hydrocarbon Removal*

Honorable Mention: Mr. David S. Baden, Patrick Henry HS, Hamler
*America's Next Generation of Green Energy: Biodigesters*

12th Grade

First Place: Ms. Jamie C Bradbury, Geneva HS, Geneva
*Bioremediation of Oil Contaminated Soil Using Mushroom Mycelium*

Second Place: Ms. Caroline F. Karbowski, Summit Country Day, Cincinnati
*Droplet Vitrification - A Favorable Method of Cryopreservation for Deeringothamnus rugelii, Deeringothamnus pulchellus, and Asimina tetramera*

Third Place: Mr. Ca'Marea Snipes-Thomas, Horizon Science Academy, Lorain
*Reducing CO2 by Using a Special Filtering System*

Honorable Mention: Ms. Abigail Lynn Jones, Lehman Catholic HS, Sidney
*The Effects of Isoflavones on the Inhibitory Effects of Nitrogen on Soybeans*
Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Ohio Envirothon, $1,000, [https://ofswcd.org/envirothon.html](https://ofswcd.org/envirothon.html)

Ohio EPA sponsored the Oral Presentation Medallion at this year’s Ohio Envirothon state championship for high school teams, June 11-12 at Cedarville University. The Big Walnut FFA 1 team from Delaware County won this award and the Fort Jennings 1 team from Putnam County placed first in the overall competition. The Envirothon is the nation’s largest high school environmental competition, testing student knowledge of soils and land use, forestry, wildlife, aquatic ecology and current environmental issues. This year’s competition theme was “Western Rangeland Management.”

National Engineers Week Future City Competition, Ohio Region, $1,000, [www.futurecity.org](http://www.futurecity.org) and [www.futurecity.org/ohio](http://www.futurecity.org/ohio)

Heritage Middle School in Westerville took top honors at Ohio’s Future City Competition, January 20 at Eastland Career Center in Groveport. Perry Middle School in Perry won the “Best Use of Water Resources Engineering” Award sponsored by Ohio EPA. Teams work with a teacher and engineer-mentor to design a city of the future, using SimCity™ software. Teams must also build a scale model of their city, write an essay and prepare an oral presentation on this year’s topic “Engineering Solutions to Help Senior Citizens Remain Active and Independent.” OEEF support also helped the Heritage team travel to Washington, DC to compete in the national Future City Competition during National Engineers Week in March.

TIE is a 2½-day professional development conference giving teachers the opportunity to experience first-hand real world environmental challenges, and to learn how they are being addressed by scientists and engineers in industry and government. Established in 1993, the conference is presented each October to a select group of 60 elementary and middle school teachers from across Ohio, each sponsored by a member company of the Ohio Chemistry Technology Council. Engineers, educators and scientists from the chemical industry and Ohio EPA present environmental science in understandable, entertaining and action-packed experiments.


The annual Ohio Stormwater Conference is dedicated to advance the knowledge and understanding of comprehensive storm water management for those dealing in all aspects of planning, design, implementation and regulatory compliance. The conference provides updates on environmental issues, new technologies, regulatory information and pollution prevention. The 2018 Conference in Sandusky May 9-11 attracted 900 attendees, exhibitors & sponsors, and over 90 presentations on stormwater management.
Ohio Environmental Education Fund
Statewide Partnership in SFY 2018

Environmental Education Council of Ohio, $61,000

In 1995, Ohio EPA’s Office of Environmental Education initiated a long-term partnership with EECO to build statewide capacity for environmental education in ways that could not be accomplished within the confines of a short-term general grant. Through this 23-year partnership, Ohio EPA and EECO are able to provide professional development opportunities and regional resource fairs for teachers and non-formal environmental educators, as well as quality curriculum resources aligned with the Ohio Department of Education’s Learning Standards and Model Curriculum.

Environmental Career Ambassadors

For K-12 education, the partnership continues to focus on the STEM disciplines (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). In 2013 Ohio EPA and EECO joined forces with The Ohio State University School of Environment and Natural Resources to launch a new statewide network of volunteer career ambassadors in environmental science and engineering. More than 400 professionals in 68 Ohio counties have volunteered, indicating their willingness to:

* Make classroom presentations
* Participate in school career fairs
* Host field trips
* Offer internships
* Offer job shadowing opportunities
* Mentor young professionals, and
* Recruit additional career ambassadors

This year EECO members, Ohio EPA staff members and volunteer career ambassadors spoke with 39,697 middle school, high school and college students and 6,759 teachers through career fairs and classroom presentations. The partners and volunteer ambassadors also provided presentations and career events to 5,732 students, mentored 12 high school students, offered 183 high school and college internships and 10 shadowing opportunities to allow students to observe environmental professionals at work. Recruitment presentations and exhibits were offered at events reaching 692 environmental professionals.

Part-time regional directors work closely with educators at the local level to offer workshops and share teaching resources. This year the partners offered 22 regional professional development workshops to 1,738 educators, offering teachers certification in nationally recognized curricula such as the Leopold Education Project; Project Learning Tree; Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) and Healthy Water, Healthy People; Project WILD, Project WILD Aquatic, Flying WILD, and WILD School Sites; Windows on Waste; and the Wonders of Wetlands. The partners also exhibited or presented at 18 special events, festivals and conferences with more than 20,000 participants.