

**OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FUND  
GENERAL GRANT PROGRAM**



**GRANTS AWARDED IN STATE FISCAL YEAR 2000**

During the fall 1999 and spring 2000 grant rounds, the OEEF funded the 23 projects listed below, for a total of \$912,052.51.

**OEEF Grants Awarded November 1999**

**Ohio Leopold Education Project**, *Leopold Education Project Facilitator Workshops*, \$36,720.00, January 2000-Spring 2001, statewide, 00G-007

Provides three workshops across the state to train 120 facilitators in a nationally recognized conservation program teaching ecological observation and a land ethic for respecting and managing environmental resources. Each of the 120 facilitators will then conduct in-service workshops in their own communities for at least 20 formal and non-formal educators, with curriculum materials provided by the grant. Collaborators include the ODNR Division of Wildlife, the Ohio Department of Education, the Environmental Education Council of Ohio Region 4, the Springfield Education Association, and four outdoor education/nature centers.

**Miami University Department of Zoology**, *College Students as Volunteer Environmental Educators*, \$15,594.00, January 2000-September 2001, Butler County, 00G-008

Provides training for 24 student volunteers, and curriculum and resource materials for teachers, to provide a series of sequential, day-long outdoor environmental education opportunities for 1500 local children. Grade-appropriate programs with pre-and post-visit tests will be developed to offer in the Miami University Natural Areas.

**Ohio State University at Lima**, *Decisions, Decisions, Decisions*, \$46,349.00, November 1999-July 2001, Allen County, 00G-011

Enables 30-40 at-risk youth in Lima City Schools' Alternative High School to identify and analyze local environmental issues in Allen County. Students will investigate the issues and explore careers by shadowing local officials and environmental professionals serving as volunteer mentors. They will conduct a Mock City Council meeting to address proposed solutions to the environmental

problems identified, assuming the various stakeholder roles, and prepare a documentary video, allowing for development of videography, production and computer skills.

**Community Food Initiatives, Gardening Angels/Edible Schoolyard Project,** \$39,497.00, January 2000-December 2001, Athens County, 00G-013

The Gardening Angels Project will provide 1000 low income and other residents of Athens County with instruction, materials and experience in sustainable food production, in an effort to: demonstrate the environmental benefits of sustainable agricultural practices; create employment opportunities in food related businesses; and produce more food locally, with multiplier effects to benefit the local economy. The Edible Schoolyard Project creates school gardens at ten public schools, for use by 1000 students. The grant provides seeds, vegetable starts, worm composting bins, curriculum materials, and guest instructors on sustainable food production, preparation and processing.

**Ohio Chemical Council, ENVIROCHEM OHIO,** \$49,800.00, December 1999-December 2000, statewide, 00G-014

Develops a "Self-Help Guide to Environmentally Sound Chemical Operations" manual for the chemical industry, designed to be useful to small operators. Includes available pollution prevention resources. Provides regional workshops and training on the use of the manual to more than 100 companies with 226 facilities. The OEEF grant supplements \$48,500 in funding from the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority.

**Ohio State University Extension and Ohio Compost Association, Composting Y2K: Composting Operation Education Program,** \$49,919.00, November 1999-February 2001, statewide, 00G-015

Develops a manual and program to teach operators of large scale composting sites in Ohio to safely produce quality compost without detrimental environmental effects. Content includes principles of composting, facility design and sizing, operation and management practices, health issues, compliance with composting rules and regulations, and economic considerations. Includes a literature review, survey of Ohio registered composters and regulators, and pre-and post-tests with a treatment and control group to evaluate the effectiveness of the program. Upon completion, the program will be offered for a fee at locations throughout the state.

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**Ohio Hunger Task Force, Inc.,** *Earth Partners*, \$42,583.00, January 2000-December 2000, Franklin County, 00G-016

Provides a hands-on, partially self-designed environmental education program for 50 low income and minority youth ages 13-18 who are participating in the OHTF's after school programs. Participants will investigate how environmental justice, brownfields, waste management and recycling issues affect their neighborhoods, teach younger children in the program about these issues, and design and carry out entrepreneurial service projects to raise money by bettering the local environment. Builds on a previous OEEF grant to OHTF for an after school program for elementary children (98G-036).

**Seventh Generation,** *Watershed Education Partnership Project 2000*, \$34,677.43, January 2000-December 2000, Lorain County, 00G-028

Provides the means, training and support for 15-30 teachers to develop interdisciplinary lesson plans incorporating the Black River Watershed, and carry out field activities with their students in the watershed. Teachers will become certified in use of the Adopt-a-Watershed Program's integrated, K-12th grade science curriculum and the GLOBE (Global Learning to Benefit the Environment) program, where students make field observations of local environmental conditions in accordance with scientific protocols and post the results to an international database for comparison to satellite data. The grant will also equip the Black River Education Center adjacent to the Lorain County Joint Vocational School as a schoolyard habitat. Fifteen teachers will join Oberlin College students in a course introducing the geology, ecology, natural and social history, and political and economic issues relating to the Black River Watershed, and the college students will assist the teachers in carrying out field activities with the K-12 students. Collaborators on the project include the Oberlin College Environmental Studies Program, the Lorain County JVS, and the Elyria Schools. (This project builds on a previous OEEF grant to Seventh Generation in 1997 for the Watershed Education Partnership curriculum, Grant 97G-121. OEEF has also funded the GLOBE program in several other Ohio counties, in Grants 99G-064 and 99G-108.)

**Ohio State University Extension - Carroll County,** *Classroom in the Country*, \$23,588.00, November 1999-October 2001, Carroll County, 00G-030

Provides two day-long field workshops and classroom materials for teachers from seven elementary schools to use environmental education activities featuring groundwater, surface water and watersheds, source and nonpoint source pollution, soil ecology, wildlife habitat, forestry, land use planning, sustainable food and fiber production, wetlands, and endangered species. Also provides two day-long field trips for all fourth grade students in the participating schools, and a

district wide advisory committee of teachers, school administrators, and natural resource professionals. Collaborators include the Carrollton Schools, Sherrodsville School, Carroll Soil and Water Conservation District, Carroll County Office of Litter Prevention and Recycling, and Environmental Education Council of Ohio Region 10.

**Perry County Health Department**, *Picture Perry County*, \$34,320.00, January 2000-December 2001, Perry County, 00G-031

Provides environmental education programming for all fifth grade classes in Perry County, focusing on environmental laws and regulations, the link between environmental hazards and human health risks, and the role of public health officials. Each student will receive a recyclable camera to use in researching and photographing environmental health hazards in their communities, and enter an essay/photo contest, with the winning entries to be displayed at local events. Collaborators on the project include the Perry Hocking Education Service Center, the Coshocton-Fairfield-Licking-Perry Solid Waste Management District, and the Perry County Litter Prevention and Recycling Program.

**IMAGO, Inc.**, *Environmental Education Through Woodland Indian Traditions*, \$23,574.00, December 1999-August 2001, Hamilton County, 00G-034

Adds an Eastern Woodland Native American component to the environmental education curriculum at the Earth Center nature center. Middle and high school students will construct three wigwams, food drying racks, garbage pits, a three sisters garden and pond site, and compare environmental impacts of the daily life of Native peoples to those of their own daily lives. Includes development of a curriculum for staff naturalists to use the Woodland Indian culture to teach local elementary school students and scout troops about natural resource conservation.

**University of Cincinnati, Center for Environmental Communication Studies**, *Linking Community with Environment*, \$49,968.00, January 2000-December 2000, Hamilton County, 00G-035

Provides high school teachers with background information, curriculum, and audio-visual materials related to the environmental history of the Fernald Environmental Management Program and its impact in surrounding communities. The Fernald site is a former uranium processing facility that supplied feed materials for America's nuclear weapons production complex for nearly forty years, and is currently undergoing environmental remediation as part of the Superfund program. In addition to curriculum development, the grant provides a workshop for graduate credit to give up to 30 area local high school science and social studies teachers an introduction to using environmental history in the

classroom with a well-known local example. The project includes 25 video interviews of Fernald-area community members, to add to the Fernald Living History Project. Audiovisual materials, the curriculum, and a web site will be available for teachers to adapt and use in other Ohio communities whose environment has been impacted by formerly used defense sites. Collaborators on the project include the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board, Fernald Residents for Environmental Safety and Health, Fluor Daniel Fernald, and Ohio EPA's Office of Federal Facilities Oversight.

### **OEEF Grants Awarded April 2000**

**Ohio State University at Lima, *Inquiry, Scientists and the Environment*, \$46,469.00, June 2000-January 2001, Allen County, 00G-039**

Provides curriculum and problem solving activities on four local environmental issues and environmental science careers for 2,600 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students in Allen County. Through role playing as scientists, students will investigate air and water pollution, solid waste, habitat and wildlife issues related to the science and social studies curriculum. Incorporates existing curricula, including *Projects WET, WILD, and Aquatic WILD, Plant Patrol, Energy Quest, and Decisions, Decisions*. Collaborators include Lima City Schools, Allen County Education Service Center (nine school districts), Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District, Ottawa River Coalition, and Allied Environmental Services.

**Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG), *Portage River Basin Package Treatment Plant Workshop*, \$10,617.00, June 2000-August 2001, Hancock, Ottawa, Sandusky and Wood Counties, 00G-044**

Provides a workshop and field trip on proper maintenance, safe operation, and pollution prevention for operators of extended aeration "package" sewage treatment plants. These plants typically serve subdivisions, mobile home parks, or individual businesses such as restaurants, campgrounds, motels, marinas and gas stations in rural and suburban areas where public sewers are not available. Collaborating partners include the Wastewater Committee of the Portage River Basin Council, the Hancock, Ottawa, Sandusky and Wood County Health Departments, and the Cities of Bowling Green and Fostoria.

**Ashtabula Area City Schools, *Waterways Adventure*, \$48,828.00, May 2000-December 2001, Ashtabula County, 00G-046**

Provides professional development for teachers, classroom supplies, and environmental science curriculum related to local wetlands and waterways for 2000 students in grades 4, 5, 6, 8, and 12. Students will conduct field monitoring at selected lake, river and pond sites, and share their results at the Ashtabula River to Lake Symposium, and the Great Lakes Science Symposium in Buffalo. Collaborators include After School Discovery, the Ashtabula County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Ashtabula River Partnership.

**Science and Mathematics Network**, *Linking to Learn*, \$49,508.00, May 2000-August 2001, statewide, 00G-047

Builds on a previous OEEF Outstanding Project, *Habitats for Learning*, to provide 13 months of in-person and on-line professional development for 30 teachers from grades 3-6 selected from all 12 education regions of the state. This pilot program will help the teachers enhance their outdoor environmental science instruction through inquiry teaching, facilitation, student-led investigations, and by embedding computer technology into the curriculum, with on-line resources such as Web sites, WebQuests, and a ListServ linking them to participating experts, teachers and classrooms statewide. Collaborators include the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Instructional Technology Services of Central Ohio, and the Environmental Education Council of Ohio.

**Weston Elementary/Otsego Local Schools**, *Weston's World of Wonder: outdoor learning lab*, \$31,287.00, May 2000-August 2001, Wood County, 00G-049

Provides a land lab/outdoor classroom for use by 300 students and their teachers, and by local park programs for the general public, and college environmental education students doing student teaching. Also includes teacher inservice and development of K-6 lessons in environmental education, building on previous OEEF Outstanding Project *Habitats for Learning*, *Project WET* and *Project WILD*. Involves elementary students, parents, teachers, and staff in planning, construction, maintenance and evaluation of the site. Includes prairie, Black Swamp, and hibernation simulations, as well as a small pond and pathways, butterfly and herb garden, rock learning circle, weather station, and compost bin.

**Innovative Farmers of Ohio**, *Farmer-to-Farmer Education for an Environmentally Sound Agriculture*, \$50,000.00, May 2000-May 2002, statewide, 00G-054

Educates over 1000 farmers on how to implement ecologically sound farming processes, and the environmental and economic consequences of certain farm management choices. Provides a series of 4 workshops, 16 farm tours, and 10 community-oriented "learning circles" involving peer-to-peer sharing by local farmers in an informal setting of farming practices and personal, practical

experiences with the environmental consequences of farm management decisions. These gatherings will be augmented with visiting experts from the scientific community and state and federal agencies. Collaborators include OSU Extension, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association, and Stratford Ecological Center.

**Columbus Health Department**, *Project CLEAR*, \$49,103.00, May 2000-December 2001, Franklin, Delaware, and Licking Counties, 00G-057

Funds education and public involvement components of an ongoing community effort to reduce air emissions that contribute to ground level ozone formation. Activities include a survey of local public knowledge and attitudes about ozone and health-related effects, a brochure and speakers' bureau for presentations to local organizations, a program targeting 2,000 asthma patients and their families, 25 deliberative issue forums seeking input from 400 citizens on appropriate public policy strategies to reduce ozone, and integration of ozone education information in programs conducted by the Ohio Energy Project in 20 central Ohio schools. Collaborating partners include: the American Lung Association of Mid-Ohio; Center for Public Deliberation; Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission; OSU Extension and School of Public Health; allergist/immunologist Dr. Don McNeil; Ohio Energy Project; and Ohio EPA Division of Air Pollution Control.

**ReUse Industries**, *Recyclebration!*, \$50,000.00, May 2000-April 2002, Vinton County, 00G-060

Involves 300 students and 20 adults in creating more than 50 new prototype products from donated used and recycled materials. These products will then be demonstrated by the inventors at two annual Recyclebration festivals, teaching 1,000 area residents about expanded donation and reuse opportunities, and introduced into the sales inventory at the reuse center to generate income for future festivals. A video documentary of the festivals will also be disseminated. Four Americorps VISTA volunteers will be assisting with the project.

**Santroch Elementary/Barberton City Schools**, *Hands Together*, \$46,333.08, May 2000 - April 2002, Summit County, 00G-064

Equips a new land lab outdoor classroom and provides support for daily classroom activities, an environmental club, a weather station, a web site and long distance learning activities, a backpack program, a cross-curricular environmental handbook, field trips to the Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center and a planetarium, guest speakers, four environmental family science nights, and an Earth Day Fair to showcase activities. Program will be multi-disciplinary, including creative writing, music, art, citizenship, math and science components. Collaborators include the University of Akron Outdoor

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Education Graduate Program, OSU Extension and local Master Gardener volunteers.

**Bowling Green State University/Environmental Health Program, *On-Site Septic System Educational Program: A Collaborative Approach*, \$49,310.00, May 2000-September 2001, twelve counties in Northwest Ohio, 00G-068**

Provides training in field applications and inquiry, to enable 20 health department sanitarians and 4 BGSU students to evaluate the siting and operation of on-site septic systems, and educate at least 800 households in proper maintenance of these systems. Collaborators include Health Departments in Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Henry, Huron, Lucas, Ottawa, Paulding, Sandusky, Williams, and Wood Counties.

**Ohio University, University College, *Freshman Year Enrichment: Environmental Literacy Program*, \$34,008.00, Athens County, OOG-069**

Supports continued implementation of a successful pilot program to connect first-year students with their local environment, increase their environmental literacy, and improve their level of environmentally responsible behavior. Provides a fall quarter freshman course of up to 100 students and 20 peer mentors working in small groups, followed by courses during the winter and spring quarters that link to faculty in 7 different departments, and incorporate group projects and service opportunities. Partner agencies providing service learning opportunities for students include ReUse Industries, Rural Action's Forestry Program and Monday Creek Restoration Project, Community Food Initiatives, and the Wayne National Forest.

### **Environmental Education Sponsorships in SFY 2000**

**Ohio Academy of Science**, *Environmental Science and Engineering Scholarship Program*, \$50,000.00, university students, statewide, #00G-001

**Ohio Academy of Science**, *State Science Day 2000*, \$12,500.00, Grades 7-12, statewide, #00S-001

For additional information, contact:

**Ohio EPA  
Office of Environmental Education  
Lazarus Government Center  
P.O. Box 1049  
Columbus, OH 43216-1049**



or visit our offices at the Lazarus Government Center, 122 S. Front Street,  
Columbus, OH 43215.

Phone: 614-644-2873

Fax: 614-728-1275

E-mail: [carolyn.watkins@epa.state.oh.us](mailto:carolyn.watkins@epa.state.oh.us)

Web site: <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/other/oeemain.html>