

Grants for Schools from



Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF)

- Education grants for pre-K-12 environmental education projects
- Mini grants \$500 - \$5,000
- General Grants \$5,000 - \$50,000
- Online Letters of Intent to apply no later than **January 8** and **July 8**, 2016
- Complete applications due **January 15** and **July 15**, 2016
- Online applications only:
<http://epa.ohio.gov/oeef/EnvironmentalEducation.aspx#131364250-environmental-education>
- Eligible projects include outdoor learning areas, environmental science supplies, stream monitoring programs, professional development for teaching staff, and alignment of environmental programs and activities with Ohio's New Learning Standards.
- OEEF prefers not to fund curriculum development, and strongly encourages projects that utilize or adapt excellent existing environmental programs such as Project WET, Project WILD, Project Learning Tree, the Leopold Education Project, or the GLOBE program
- Eligible applicants include Ohio-based schools, school districts, universities, state and local government agencies, for- and non-profit organizations
- Funding comes from one-half the penalties Ohio EPA collects for violations of the state's air and water pollution control laws.

Grants for Schools from



Ohio Clean Diesel School Bus Fund

- Grants to Ohio school districts **in any county** to retrofit diesel school buses with pollution control equipment
- Goal to reduce children's exposure to diesel exhaust, and to improve air quality in Ohio
- \$5,000 - \$300,000
- Five percent in-kind match required – can be met with staff time
- Applications due **March 1** and **October 17**, 2016
- Application available online at <http://epa.ohio.gov/oe/EnvironmentalEducation.aspx#131364251-clean-school-bus-grants>
- School districts may choose diesel particulate filters, diesel oxidation catalysts, closed crankcase filtration systems or a number of other retrofit technologies that have been verified by US EPA or the California Air Resources Board for reducing diesel emissions
- School buses of model years 1994-2006 are eligible for retrofit if they travel at least 5,000 mpy. Buses must be kept in service for four years after equipment installed.
- Priority for funding will be given to school districts with anti-idling programs in place, and districts in counties that are not in attainment of national air quality standards for fine particulates (PM 2.5)
- Ohio EPA has awarded \$8.3 million in grants to 174 school districts since the program began in 2006, to retrofit 2,622 school buses with emission controls and 1,018 buses with idle reduction equipment.
- The grants have removed nearly 204 tons annually of air pollutants such as particulates, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons. These benefits continue each year the buses remain in service.
- Funding comes from civil penalties collected by Ohio EPA for violations of Ohio's pollution control laws, and federal grants from US EPA

Grants for Schools from



CMAQ Program Eligible Counties & Townships



Diesel Emission Reduction Grants (DERG)

- Grants to Ohio School Districts only **in eligible counties** to pay up to 80% of the cost of **replacing aging diesel school buses** with newer, cleaner diesel or alternative fueled buses such as dual fuel, propane or compressed natural gas
- \$50,000 - \$1 million
- Minimum cash match: 20%
- Applications due **December 1, 2015** (another round in 2016 TBA)
- Eligible projects: bus replacement, engine repower, retrofits with emission control equipment, installation of anti-idle equipment
- Application available online at <http://epa.ohio.gov/oe/EnvironmentalEducation.aspx#131364252-diesel-emission-reduction-grants>
- Buses must continue to operate in eligible counties for five years after replacement
- Funding comes from Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality grants to Ohio from the Federal Highway Administration

Are you looking for career connections?

Ohio students, teachers, and career counselors need a better understanding of the wide variety of STEM Careers. They also want to know about the specialized training and skills needed for these careers. Students need to see how what they are learning is connected to real world jobs.



A network of environmental professionals has been established to link students with career opportunities. These Career Ambassadors are willing to make classroom or school career fair presentations for middle school, high school and college students about their career. Some can also provide shadowing, internship, field trip and scholarship opportunities.



Why career connections?

Ohio is emphasizing Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields to prepare students for jobs in the state's emerging high-tech economy. Employers looking to fill a wide range of positions in environmental science and engineering are reporting a shortage of qualified applicants.

Environmental Professionals are interested in working with schools to ensure a highly qualified workforce for the future.



The Ohio Department of Education learning standards and model curriculum strongly emphasize student learning about real world careers.

This career initiative is made possible by a partnership among the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, The Ohio State University and the Environmental Education Council of Ohio.



The career connections:

Teachers can work with environmental professionals to demonstrate real world career connections to Common Core topics. Career Ambassadors are a network of professionals that can be identified and accessed via an on-line platform through The Ohio State University. These professionals are volunteers interested in increasing awareness of environmental careers in Ohio. They work in areas such as air quality; environmental health and toxicology; energy; recycling; sustainability; land use and conservation; soils and geology; outdoor recreation and parks; water resources and water quality; fisheries, forestry and wildlife.

Possible STEM career connection opportunities available include:

- **Classroom presentations**
- **Career fairs**
- **Field trips**
- **Mentorships**
- **Internships**
- **Shadowing**
- **Scholarships**