



DEP's Environmental Education Grants Program and Other Initiatives

Citizens Advisory Council

November 18, 2014

Environmental Education Fund

- Environmental Education Act of 1993
- Five percent of fines and penalties collected from...
 - Clean Water fund
 - Clean Air fund
 - Solid Waste Abatement fund
 - Well Plugging fund
 - Other funds
- Awarded more than \$9 million; 1,600 projects
- Averaging \$300,000 per year in awards



Program Overview

- Environmental Education Fund
- PDE - provide support and resources for educators/students; school-based EE evaluation
- DEP - EE grants; non-formal EE
- Advisory Council on Environmental Education



2015 EE Grant Round

- **Application Process**
 - Due date December 19th
 - Summary proposal emails
- **Maximum Request** – \$3,000
 - One year projects
 - No match requirement
 - Broader scope projects can apply for second year of funding
- **Timeline** – Activity begins July 1, 2015, ends June 30, 2016; no time extensions
- **Final Report**



Eligible Applicants



- Public and private schools/school districts (K-12)
- Colleges and universities
- Intermediate units
- Environmental education centers
- Nonprofit conservation/education organizations and businesses
- County conservation districts

Topics

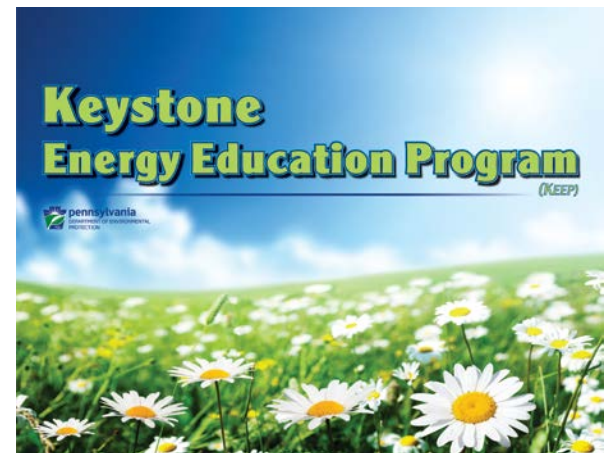
- Energy Education
- Watersheds
- Air Quality
- Brownfields
- Curriculum Revision or Integration
- Formal and Non-formal EE
- Environmental Literacy Planning/Programming



SCOOP
that
POOP!
Pooches for the Planet
CLEAN YARDS | CLEAN WATERS | CLEAN SHOES

Specific Topics

- **School Outdoor Learning Areas**
- **Keystone Energy Education Program**
- **Watershed Education**
 - Abandoned mine drainage
 - Water conservation
 - Non-point source pollution
- **Field Trips/hands-on supplies**
- **Air quality**
 - Ground level ozone
 - Transportation
 - Electricity generation issues
- **Formal and Non-Formal EE Certification**
- **Other topics—forestry, IPM, biodiversity**



2015 EE Grant Timeline

- Grant round opens—Oct. 6th
- Proposal email—Nov. 7th
- Due date—Dec. 19th
- Grant review
 - 75 raters approx.
- Award announcement – around Earth Day
- Start date—July 1, 2015
- Completion date—June 30, 2016
- Final report due—July 15, 2016



Project Options

1. Curriculum Integration

- **Applicants:** school districts;
- private and charter schools
- **Audience:** teachers (K–12)
- **Purpose:** articulate the EE standards into K–12 curriculum



2. Curriculum Revision

- **Applicants:** same
- **Audience:** same
- **Purpose:** revise or write lessons plans/units; provide classroom assessment



Project Options

3. Keystone Energy Education Program

- **Applicants:** school districts; private and charter schools
- **Audience:** teachers, students, building managers, administration
- **Purpose:** reduce school building's energy use with student energy team



Project Options

4. Outdoor Learning Resource Projects

- **Applicants:** school districts;
- private and charter schools
- **Audience:** teachers and students
- **Purpose:** develop trails, energy or agriculture demonstration projects, ponds and other outdoor areas integrated into curriculum for experiential learning



Project Options

5. Field Trips and Hands-on Activity Supplies

- **Applicants:** public, private and charter schools
- **Audience:** students
- **Purpose:** provide educational resources, materials, equipment, transportation, entrance fees for hands-on activities



Project Options

6. Other EE Projects

- **Applicants:** county conservation districts, non-profits, municipalities, businesses, colleges/universities
- **Audience:** Any target audience
- **Purpose:** environmental education on specific topic



Success Stories Snapshots

- Strath Haven Middle School
 - Green roof project with students (ground and roof)
 - Soil chemistry, water runoff, temperature, botany/zoology Middle School science labs
- Audubon Society of Western PA
 - Partnered with Fox Chapel Area School District on Energy Conservation effort
 - School and home energy audits



Success Stories Snapshots

- Elk County Conservation District
 - Partnership with county planning department
 - Rain barrel workshop for 51 attendees
- Mount Washington Community Development Corporation
 - Emerald Trail Corps Program
 - Instruction and field-based practice (sustainability, invasives, soils, open spaces)



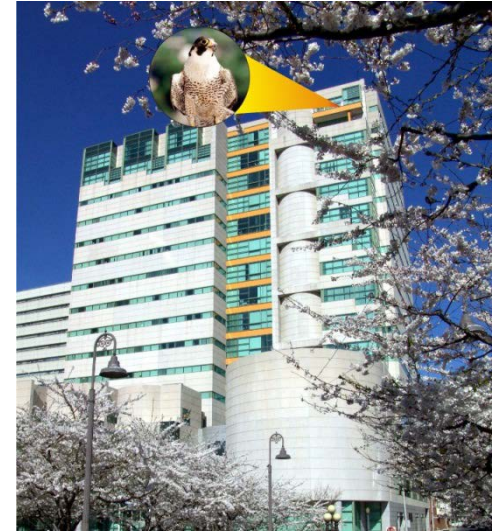
▶ Keystone Energy Education Program

- Workshops
- Sessions for teachers (grades 5-7) and building managers/administrators
- Individuals or teams may attend
- Act 48 credit hours
- Energy conservation, basics, careers, student teams and more
- Energy Educator Workshops
 - 12 per year in regional locations



Peregrine Falcons

- **Peregrine Falcons**
 - Nesting location
 - History
 - Reproducing since 2000
 - Current pair from SE PA bridges
 - PA Game Commission
 - PA Falcon Cam
- Spring Educator Workshop
- May Banding Event
- Falcon Watch and Rescue
- @FalconChatter



Environmental Education Outreach

- **Youth Programs**
 - Classroom, EEIC
 - Sci-Tech example
- **Outreach Events**
 - DEP at Home exhibit
 - PA Farm Show, Ag Progress Days, Home Shows
- **Work closely** with other programs
 - PA State Museum
- Educator guides and teaching posters



▶ Environmental Education Outreach

- **Environmental Education Website**

- Falcon site
 - Social media
- Just for Kids
- Grants
- Go with a DEP Inspector
- Environmental Heritage





“If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in”

Rachel Carson

Ann Devine
adevine@pa.gov

