



PA Department of Environmental Protection: Environmental Education Program

Citizens Advisory Council

April 19, 2022

Tom Wolf, Governor

Patrick McDonnell, Secretary

DEP Environmental Education and Information Center

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Environmental and Education and Information Center is staffed with two DEP employees. The work of this office includes:

- Administration of the DEP Environmental Education Grant Program
- Manage the DEP PA FalconCam
- Publish the quarterly newsletter “Teaching Green”
- Continue work with the NOAA B-WET Funded Environmental Literacy Task Force
- Ensure DEP is in compliance with the educational component of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement
- Represent DEP as a member of the PA Advisory Council on Environmental Education
- Continue to collaborate with the PA Department of Education during the revision of the Environment and Ecology Standards
- Support and provide professional development for formal and non-formal educators
- Represent DEP at events (i.e. the virtual Governor’s Residence Earth Day Celebration, Ag Progress Days and Farm Show)

DEP Environmental Education Grants Program

Funds Pennsylvania environmental education projects that 1) Address program priorities; 2) Provide meaningful opportunities to learn about environmental issues; and 3) Develop skills needed to make informed decisions and take responsible action on behalf of the environment.

2023 EE Grant Project Period: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

Applications will be accepted in August 2022. Application deadline is 4:59 p.m. Dec 9, 2022!

Program Priorities: **Environmental Justice**, **Climate Change**, and **Water**

Award Types: *Funds are provided on a reimbursement basis*

- **Mini Grants up to \$3,000 for local** (school, county, municipality or other defined area) environmental education projects.
- **General Grants (Level I): up to \$20,000** for large-scale, regional and/or statewide environmental education projects.
- **General Grants (Level II): up to \$85,000** for non-formal environmental education programs:
 - Wide engagement(at least 60 counties) of teachers and youth
 - Opportunities to participate at the **county, state *and* national levels**

DEP Environmental Education Grants Program

Eligible Applicants:

- Public schools and school districts (PreK-12) (includes Intermediate Units and Charter Schools)
- Incorporated private schools (under limited circumstances, private religious schools may be exempted from the incorporation requirement)
- Incorporated conservation and education organizations and institutions
- Universities and colleges
- County conservation districts
- Businesses (must be registered to do business in Pennsylvania)

Ineligible Applicants:

Entities, including municipalities, that do not appear on the list of Eligible Applicants cannot receive 2023 Environmental Education Program funds and **are encouraged to partner** with an eligible applicant to deliver environmental education programs.

For more information, including a copy of the current EE Grants Program Manual visit:

www.dep.pa.gov. Select **Grants** icon and scroll to **Environmental Education**

QUESTIONS? RA-epEEgrants@pa.gov



DEP Environmental Education Grants Program

Examples of projects funded by the DEP Environmental Education Grant Program:



Stroud Water Research Center: Watershed Education Mobile Lab

Meaningful: Actively engaging K-12 students in hands-on exploration of a local watershed issue!

Watershed: Work with outside organizations (Creek Connections, Project WET, etc.) OR explore on your own!

Educational: Pennsylvania student 3 times during K-12 career (Elementary, Middle School, and High School).

Experiences: Tree Planting, clean-up, writing letters, social media, create composting bins, establish recycling at your school... THE OPTIONS ARE ENDLESS!

GET HELP! Contact...

- o Creek Connections
- o County Park Rangers
- o PA Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- o PA DCNR-State Parks
- o PA Fish & Boat Commission
- o NOAA
- o PAEE

The image is a flyer for 'Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences'. It features a large, stylized outline of a speech bubble containing text. To the right of the text is an illustration of a white heron and a green frog. At the bottom, there is a list of contact information for various organizations. The Allegheny College Creek Connections logo is in the top right corner.

Sprocket Mural Works



Allegheny College: Creek Connections

DEP PA FalconCam

Update for 2022:

- First full season for new male banded 85/AK
- Five eggs laid in March; Largest clutch since 2010
- Anticipate hatch in mid-April
- Banding scheduled for late April or early May
- Falcon Watch and Rescue scheduled for late May into early June
- DEP collaborating with Shavers Creek and Hawk Mountain for a series of Teacher Workshops in June



Teaching Green Newsletter

- Promotes DEP Initiatives such as:
 - Climate Action Plan 2021
 - Pick Up PA, Keep PA Beautiful, Litter Hawk Program
- Provides updates on grant opportunities:
 - Describes current DEP Environmental Education Grant funded projects
 - Provides information on additional grant programs such as NOAA B-WET
- Promotes Professional Development Opportunities for Formal and Non-formal Educators:
 - Concentration on Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) training
 - With PA Department of Education (PDE), continue to promote the US Green Ribbon Schools and PA Pathway to Green Schools initiatives
- [Sign up for Teaching Green](#)

NOAA B-WET Funded PA Environmental Literacy Task Force

- DEP continues to collaborate with the Pennsylvania Environmental Literacy Task Force and its efforts to encourage formal and non-formal educators to incorporate the Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) framework into their classrooms and/or programs.
- This Task Force also unveiled a new website entitled PA Gateway to Green which serves as an online hub for Pennsylvania educators (formal and nonformal) to access environmental education (EE) resources from government agencies, non-profits, and other partners to improve environmental literacy (ELIT) of citizens across the commonwealth.
 - See: <https://pagatewaytogreen.org/>



**Meaningful Watershed
Educational Experience**



Environmental Justice

The EE&IC continues to reflect this priority for the 2022 DEP Environmental Education Grant program. In 2022, over 90% of awardees will go to Environmental Justice Areas.



PA Advisory Council on Environmental Education

- As directed by the PA Environmental Education Act of 1993 DEP, DCNR, and PDE lead the Advisory Council
- Numerous council members are serving on the Standing and Content Committees developing the newly revised Environment and Ecology Standards.
- The new standards will include the Environmental Literacy and Sustainability domain standards. These standards will include Climate Change.
- These standards are scheduled to take effect on July 1, 2025.



Recycling Education

- Recycling presents an opportunity for teachers to utilize the Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) framework for engaging students in projects that help improve a school's sustainability practices.
- Bay Backpack is an excellent resource with tools for developing or improving a school's recycling program: <https://www.baybackpack.com/action-projects/recycling-waste-reduction-programs>
- DEP recently released "Guidelines for Recycling in Your Community". The booklet provides information to help maximize the social, environmental, and economic benefits of recycling including locating local recycling programs and local recycling rules.
 - See: dep.pa.gov/recycling

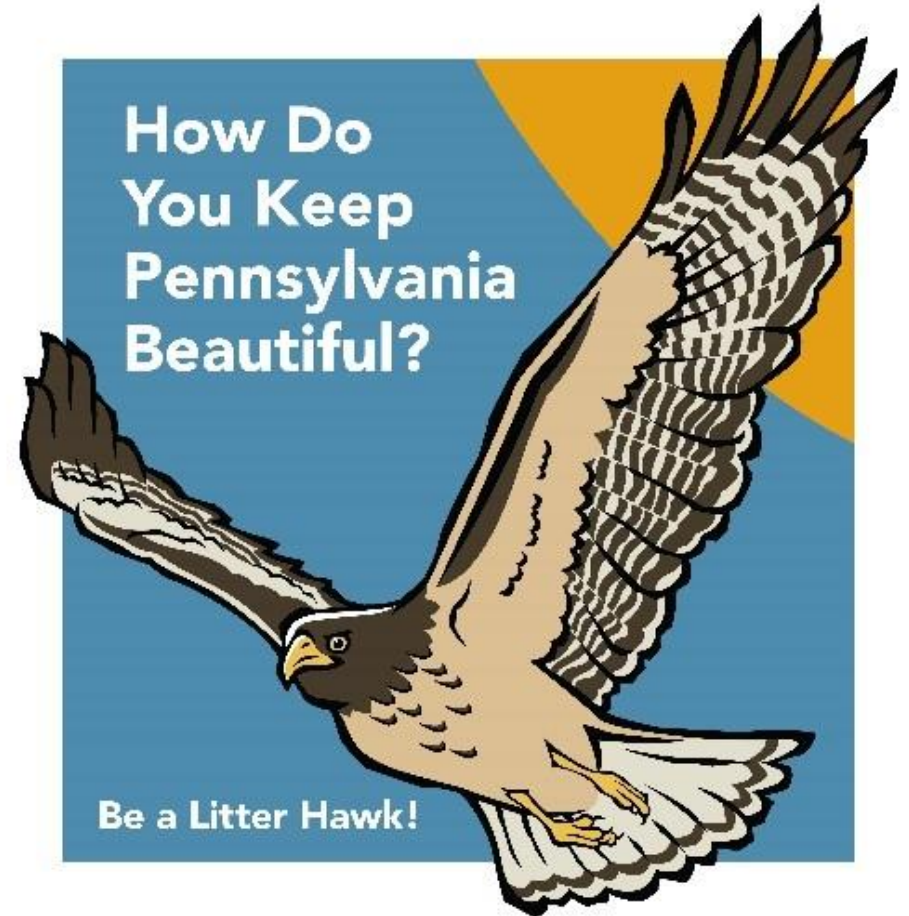


Guidelines for Recycling in Your Community



Keep PA Beautiful

- DEP, PennDOT, DCNR, PDE, and additional state agencies are collaborating with Keep PA Beautiful to address littering.
- DEP has been promoting Keep PA Beautiful through environmental education channels and in Teaching Green.
- Keep PA Beautiful recently concluded the 2022 Litter Hawk Youth Award program. The program provides a way for students in kindergarten through grade six to express their concerns about litter through art, words, or video. Each participant completed a designated project specific to their grade level addressing the theme “How do you keep Pennsylvania beautiful?”
 - For their stories, visit Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful’s Facebook page at:
<https://www.facebook.com/keeppabeautiful/>





Bert Myers

DEP Environmental Education Specialist
Program Supervisor
gimyers@pa.gov