

# Ohio Environmental Education Fund

## Financial Summary State

Fiscal Year 2024



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

[Environmental Education | Ohio Environmental Protection Agency](#)

email [oeef@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:oeef@epa.ohio.gov)

## Ohio Environmental Education Fund Fiscal Activity SFY 2015-2024

	SFY2015	SFY2016	SFY 2017	SFY 2018	SFY 2019	SFY 2020	SFY 2021	SFY 2022	SFY 2023	SFY 2024
<b>Revenues (1)</b>	646,840	1,035,413	1,170,226	1,042,521	671,191	1,162,769	448,726	780,768	810,466	322,579
<b>Expenditures</b>										
Personal Service (2)	299,836	300,722	299,394	318,778	301,437	329,704	183,040	11,671	17,073	3,384
Supplies & Maintenance (3)	91,222	98,375	95,229	91,893	106,874	74,848	36,924	2,619	6,268	10,038
Indirect	78,600	91,620	76,325	60,122	73,557	80,442	61,102	0	0	0
Equipment	5,889	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>475,547</b>	<b>490,717</b>	<b>470,948</b>	<b>470,793</b>	<b>481,868</b>	<b>484,994</b>	<b>281,066</b>	<b>14,291</b>	<b>23,341</b>	<b>13,422</b>
<b>Grant Payments (4)</b>	526,646	605,963	690,774	690,202	454,526	734,038	194,184	444,714	295,997	523,829
Ending Cash Balance	2,266,291	2,205,024	2,213,528	2,095,053	1,846,020	1,789,756	1,795,704	2,117,468	2,608,596	2,393,925
Open encumbrances	880,834	901,745	434,329	826,790	506,210	174,558	245,629	132,507	65,363	63,959
<b>Grant Awards</b>										
General Grants	591,444	499,700	524,945	376,318	352,914	150,000	202,399	312,693	407,933	488,924
Mini Grants	63,366	71,633	57,644	61,802	59,905	26,263	22,816	35,660	44,308	45,887
EE partner- and sponsorships	154,050	161,475	155,875	127,500	127,500	131,000	131,000	131,000	149,500	149,500
<b>Total Grant Awards</b>	<b>808,860</b>	<b>732,808</b>	<b>738,464</b>	<b>565,620</b>	<b>540,319</b>	<b>307,263</b>	<b>356,215</b>	<b>479,353</b>	<b>601,741</b>	<b>684,311</b>
<b>Total Commitments (5)</b>										
Operating + Awards	1,284,407	1,223,525	1,209,412	1,036,413	1,022,187	792,257	637,281	493,644	625,082	697,733

Some operating expenses and grant awards were made from other Ohio EPA budget lines during pandemic and recovery in SFY 2021-2024.

- (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 2024

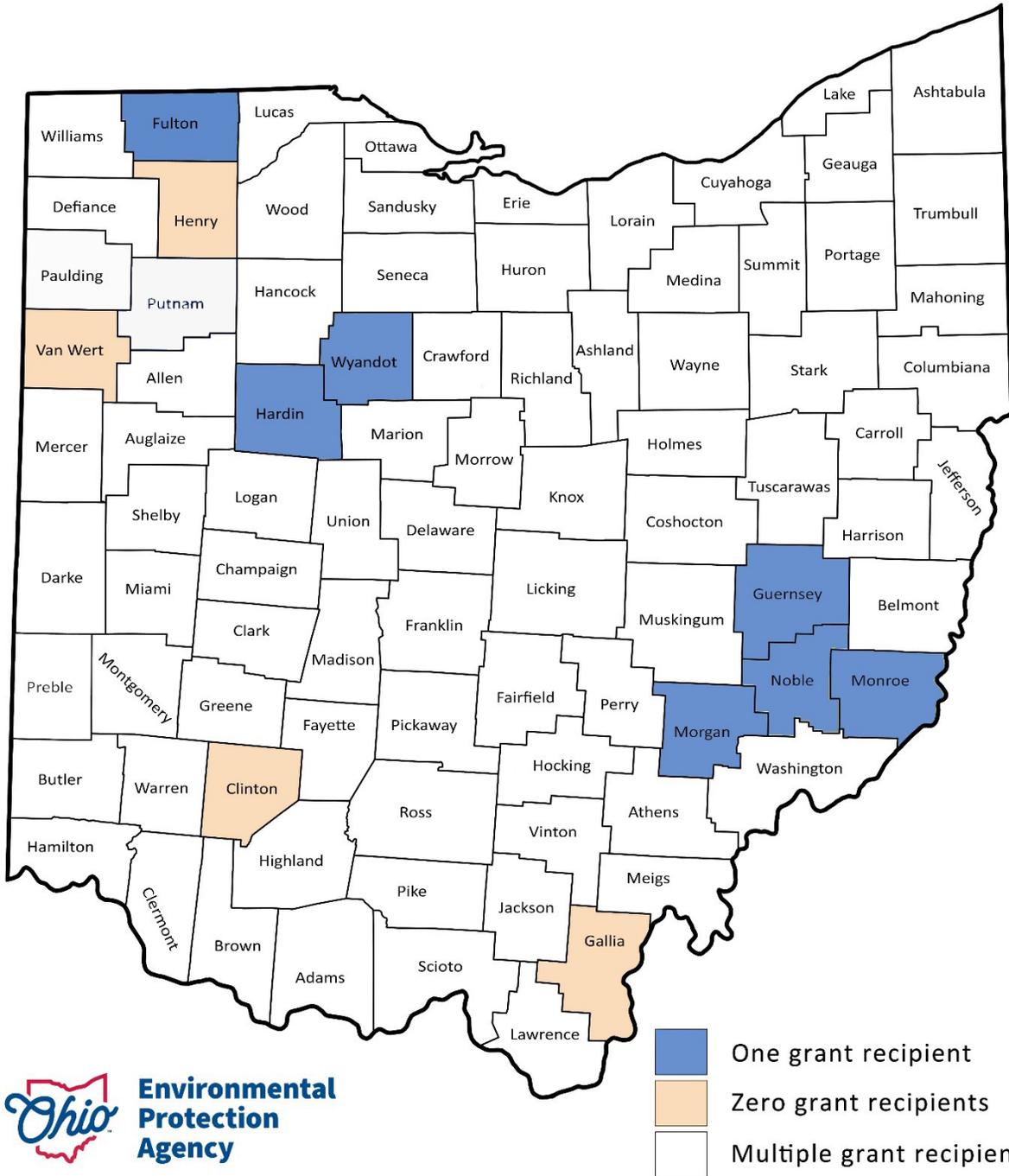
### Educational Priorities for SFY 2024

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, grantmaking 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 several 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.

Ohio EPA is also sensitive to the importance of serving all geographic regions of the state. OEEF grants have been awarded to entities in 84 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. Grant applications targeting audiences in these underserved counties receive additional points in the scoring.

# Ohio Environmental Education Fund Under-Served Audiences by County as of 6/1/2024



## Water Quality Monitoring and Education



Ohio EPA's Office of Environmental Education (OEE) provides statewide coordination of Project WET (Water Education Today), a peer-reviewed science-based curriculum, dedicated to solving critical environmental challenges by teaching the world's educators about water. This curriculum provides hands-on, [science-based water education resources](#) to formal and non-formal educators. These resources encourage responsible environmental stewardship and promote meaningful action to address environmental challenges, climate change, social justice, and sustainability.

During this fiscal year, **393** Ohio educators (formal and non-formal) were trained in Project WET curriculums, with the following breakdown (by Project WET coursework):

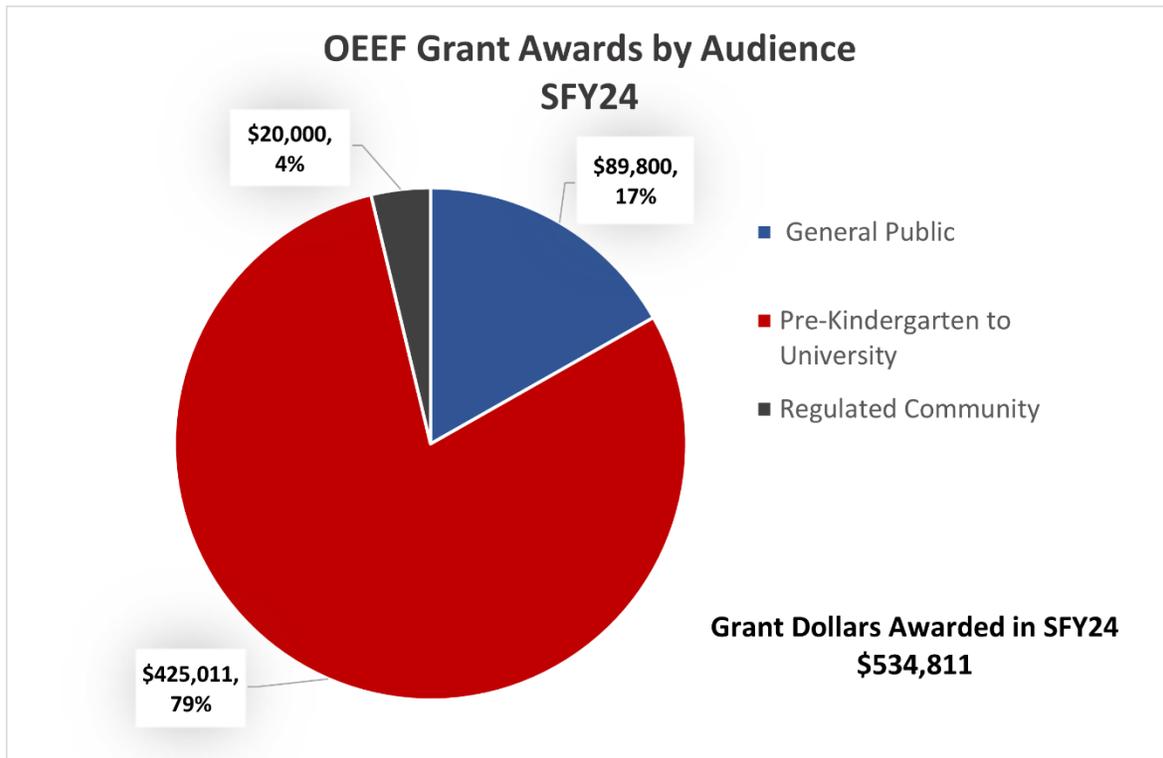
- **207:** [Project WET 2.0 Educator Guide and Sampler Guide](#),
- **41:** [Getting Little Feet Wet – Project WET's Early Childhood Education Guide](#),
- **71:** [Healthy Water, Healthy People \(HWHP\) – Water Quality Educator's Guide](#),
- **44:** [Wonders of Wetlands Guide](#), and
- **30:** [Climate, Water and Resilience](#).

Project WET provides distance learning resources for parents and teachers through its [WET connect](#) virtual classroom, in support of the traditional activity guides.

Ohio EPA Project WET coordinators work in collaboration with coordinators of [Project WILD](#) and [Project Learning TREE](#) from the [Ohio Department of Natural Resources](#). The Ohio Department of Education collaborates in review of science standards across all three curriculums. The Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts consistently use these curriculums in schools and park settings. The Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water with assistance from OEE staff, use the HWHP course work to train volunteers statewide in Ohio's Level 1 Credible Data program.



## Ohio Environmental Education Fund Grants Awarded in 2024 by Target Audience



### Grants for the Pre-Kindergarten through University

In SFY 2024, OEEF funded 16 Pre-Kindergarten through University projects for a total of \$425,111.

**Archbishop Carroll High School**, “Farm to Table an Interactive Hydroponics and Aquaponics Program,” F-24M-009, \$3,442, Montgomery County, Audience: Preschool to University (Grades 10 and 11), Contact: Todd Tayloe, [ttayloe@carrollhs.org](mailto:ttayloe@carrollhs.org), 937-253-8188.

**Belmont Soil and Water Conservation District**, “Uncovering Captina’s Critters,” S24G-026, \$13,749, Belmont County, Audience: Preschool through University (Primary) General Public (Secondary), Contact: Turner Provost, [captina.coordinator@gmail.com](mailto:captina.coordinator@gmail.com), 740-526-0027.

**Black Swamp Conservancy**, “Learning Landscapes: Outdoor Learning on Protected/Restored Lands,” S24G-029, \$34,648, Wood, Henry, Lucas counties, Audience: Preschool through University (Primary), General Public (Secondary), Contact: Laura Rodriguez, [lrodriguez@blackswamp.org](mailto:lrodriguez@blackswamp.org), 419-833-1025.

**Case Western Reserve University – Leonard Gelfand STEM Center**, “SALT-FRESH,” S24G-040, \$49,317, Cuyahoga County, Audience: Preschool to University (Primary), Contact: James Bader, [jxb14@case.edu](mailto:jxb14@case.edu), 216-368-5930.

**Dayton Society of Natural History**, “Knowledge in Nature. Teaching through Nature Trails at the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery,” S24G-038, \$30,945, Butler, Clark, Greene, Hamilton, Madison, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, Shelby, Warren counties, Audience: Preschool to University (Primary), General Public

(Secondary), Contact: Tracey Tomme, [ttomme@boonshoftmuseum.org](mailto:ttomme@boonshoftmuseum.org), 937-275-7431.

**Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District**, “Magnified Macros,” S-24M-029, \$4,999, Franklin County, Audience: Preschool to University (Grades 9-12) Contact: Amy Tressler, [atressler@franklinswcd.org](mailto:atressler@franklinswcd.org), 614-486-9613.

**Girl Scouts of North East Ohio**, “Education Encouraging Habitat Restoration,” F24G-006, \$31,175, Summit County, Audience: Preschool to University (Primary), General Public (Secondary), Contact: Katie Brenckle, [kbrenckle@gsneo.org](mailto:kbrenckle@gsneo.org), 330-430-9605.

**Metro Schools – Metro Early College School**, “Environmental Justice Water Quality,” F-24M-018, \$999, Franklin County, Audience: Preschool to University (Grades 9-12), Contact: Kevin Cox, [cox@themetroschool.org](mailto:cox@themetroschool.org), 614-259-6639.

**Mill Creek Alliance**, “Mill Creek Alliance Outdoor Environmental Education Program,” F24G-013, \$48,064, Hamilton County, Audience: Preschool to University (Primary), General Public (Secondary), Contact: John Dwyer, [info@themillcreekalliance.org](mailto:info@themillcreekalliance.org), 513-563-8800.

**New Philadelphia City Schools – New Philadelphia High School**, “Appalachian Ohio Tick Project” (continuation and expansion), S24G-025, \$50,000, Tuscarawas County (Primary), other Southeastern Ohio counties (Secondary), Audience: Preschool through University (Primary), General Public, Regulated Community (Secondary), Contact: Kip Brady, [bradyk@npschools.org](mailto:bradyk@npschools.org), 330-364-0644.

**Nuhop Center for Experiential Learning (Camp NuHop)**, “Climate Classroom Catalyst: Fresh Air for Teaching, Learning and Impact”, S24G-028, \$26,216, Ashland and Richland counties, Audience: Preschool through University (Primary), Contact: Trevor Dunlap, [trevor@nuhop.org](mailto:trevor@nuhop.org), 419-938-7151.

**Ohio Sickle Cell and Health Association**, “The Environmental and Climate Justice Academy,” S24G-020, \$31,561, Franklin County, Audience: Preschool to University (Primary), General Public (Secondary), Contact: Wanda Dillard, [dillard.19@icloud.com](mailto:dillard.19@icloud.com), 614-886-1866.

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help School**, “OLPH Butterfly Conservatory,” F-24M-016, \$2,005, Franklin County, Audience: Preschool to University (Grades K-8), Contact: Kirsten Harberts, [kharberts@ourladyofperpetualhelp.net](mailto:kharberts@ourladyofperpetualhelp.net), 614-302-6634.

**Putnam Soil and Water Conservation District**, “Illuminating Watersheds,” S24G-021, \$19,120, Putnam, Paulding, and Allen Counties, Audience: Preschool to University (Primary), General Public and Regulated Community (Secondary), Contact: Bonnie Brooks, [bonnie.brooks@putnamcountyohio.gov](mailto:bonnie.brooks@putnamcountyohio.gov), 419-523-5159.

**University of Akron**, “The Nature Inspiration Academy: Biomimicry Exploration Activity Kits (BEAKs) and Affinity Groups,” F24G-014, \$50,000, Cuyahoga and Summit counties, Audience: Preschool to University (Primary), General Public (Secondary), Contact: Gary Holliday, [gh30@uakron.edu](mailto:gh30@uakron.edu), 330-972-7437.

**University of Cincinnati - College of Education, Criminal Justice, and Human Services (CECH)**, “Learning about Biodiversity and Restoration Through Bats F24G-015, \$28,871, Hamilton County, Audience: Preschool to University, Contact: Joseph Johnson, [john5jp@ucmail.uc.edu](mailto:john5jp@ucmail.uc.edu), 859-699-8617.

## Grants for the General Public

*In SFY 2024, OEEF funded nine General Public projects for a total of \$89,800.*

**Ashland Soil & Water Conservation District**, “Mohican Area Septic & Drinking Water Safety & Education,” S-24M-027, \$4,632, Ashland, Holmes, and Knox Counties, Audience: General Public, Contact: Jane Arlene Houin, [jhouin@ashlandcounty.org](mailto:jhouin@ashlandcounty.org), 419-281-7645.

**Cincinnati Chapter - Izaak Walton League**, “Restart SSS Program to Educate about Nutrient Loading in Little Miami River,” F24G-010, \$39,758, Clermont and Hamilton counties, Audience: General Public (Primary), Regulated Community (Secondary), Contact: Alison Lang-Hickey, [alanghickey@gmail.com](mailto:alanghickey@gmail.com), 513-608-2469.

**Friends of the Lower Olentangy (FLOW)**, “Olentangy Septic Smart,” F24M-013, \$5,000, Delaware and Franklin Counties, Audience: General Public, Contact: Laura Fay, [lfay2311@gmail.com](mailto:lfay2311@gmail.com), 614-580-2656.

**Holden Forests & Gardens**, “Resources for Sustainable Cultivation of Ohio Forest-Grown Products,” F-24M-020, \$5,000, Adams, Ashtabula, Athens, Belmont, Coshocton, Cuyahoga, Fairfield, Franklin, Gallia, Guernsey, Hocking, Jackson, Licking, Meigs, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Pickaway, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, Vinton, and Washington Counties, Audience: General Public, Contact: Jessica Miller, [jmiller@holdenfg.org](mailto:jmiller@holdenfg.org), 440-946-4400.

**Ohio Wetlands Association**, “Wetland Curriculum Guide Training & Wetland EnviroScape Model Purchase,” S-24M-030, \$5,000, Statewide, Audience: General Public, Contact: Laura Manns, [laura@ohwetlands.org](mailto:laura@ohwetlands.org), 206-530-0102.

**Procter Camp and Conference Center**, “Vernal Pool Education Space,” F-24M-006, \$5,000, Madison County, Audience: General Public, Contact: Danielle B. Vogel, [dvogel@proctercenter.org](mailto:dvogel@proctercenter.org), 740-490-6025.

**Rivers Unlimited 501 (c)3**, “Citizens Water Quality Monitoring on the Lower Great Miami River Watershed”, S24G-030, \$15,500, Hamilton and Butler counties, General Public (Primary) Preschool through University, Regulated Community (Secondary), Contact: Michael Miller, [mmmilermc@gmail.com](mailto:mmmilermc@gmail.com), 513-675-0293.

**Western Wildlife Corridor, Inc.**, “Habitat Restoration Education,” S-24M-026, \$4,910, Hamilton County, Audience: General Public, Contact: Matthew Trokan, [matt@westernwildlifecorridor.org](mailto:matt@westernwildlifecorridor.org), 443-889-7222.

**Youngstown City Health District**, “Litter League,” F-24M-005, \$5,000, Mahoning County, Audience: General Public, Contact: Robert Burke, [bburke@youngstownohio.gov](mailto:bburke@youngstownohio.gov), 330-742-8280.

## Grants for the Regulated Community

*In SFY 2024, OEEF funded one Regulated Community project for a total of \$20,000.*

**Clermont Soil & Water Conservation District**, “Fostering Sustainable Behavior Trainings and Nutrient Runoff Load Reduction Campaign,” F24G-009, \$20,000, Clermont and Hamilton counties, Audience: Regulated Community (Primary), General Public (Secondary) Contact: Sara Fehring, [sara.fehring@hamilton-co.org](mailto:sara.fehring@hamilton-co.org), 513-772-7645.

## Ohio Environmental Education Fund Statewide Sponsorships in SFY 2024

**Ohio Academy of Science**, *Environmental Science and Engineering Scholarship Program*, \$47,500, [www.ohiosci.org](http://www.ohiosci.org).



OEEF provided environmental science and engineering scholarships to 10 university students to encourage them to complete their degrees and enter professional practice in Ohio. Students in four-year programs who received a \$5,000 scholarship for the 2024-2025 academic year include:

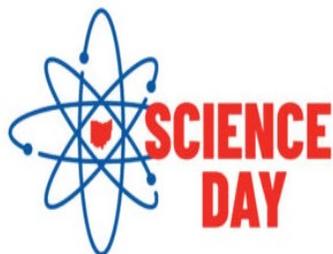
- Christine Andreeva, The Ohio State University (Environment, Economy, Development, and Sustainability), Bloomington, Illinois
- Allie Carter, The Ohio State University (Forestry, Fisheries & Wildlife), Carroll, Ohio
- Rachel Ingle, Ohio University (Cellular and Molecular Biology), Dayton, Ohio
- Mackenzie Morris, The College of Wooster (Environmental Studies- Conservation), Chardon, Ohio
- Madalyn Mull, Otterbein University (Chemistry), Wellington, Ohio
- Stephanie Pflaum, Ashland University (Biology and Environmental Science), Hinckley, Ohio
- Maizy Pratt, Ohio Wesleyan University (Microbiology), Columbus, Ohio
- Maya Reynolds, Ohio State University (Environmental Policy and Decision Making), Dayton, Ohio
- Andrew Shenal, Kent State University (Environmental Studies), Brunswick, Ohio

One student in a two-year program is receiving a \$2,500 scholarship for the 2024-2025 academic year:

- John Roebker, Cincinnati State Technical College (Environmental Engineering Technology), Park Hills, Kentucky

Since the scholarship program began in 2000, \$1,147,450 has been awarded statewide to 417 students at 52 Ohio colleges and universities. Funding comes from civil penalties collected by Ohio EPA for violations of air and water pollution control laws.

**Ohio Academy of Science**, *State Science Day 2024*, \$12,500, [www.ohiosci.org](http://www.ohiosci.org)



Ohio EPA presented \$100 prizes to the 24 winners of the Governor's Awards for Excellence in Environmental Protection Research at this year's virtual State Science Day over several days in May. In addition, OEEF funding provided \$12,500 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.

**2024 Governor's Award Winners for  
Excellence in Environmental Protection Research**

**7th Grade**

- **First Place:** Caroline Strottman, St. Columban Elementary School, Clermont County, *Does the Health of the Little Miami River Deteriorate as it Flows Downstream?*
- **Second Place:** Jash Patel, Incarnation Catholic School, Montgomery County, *Fertilizer Runoff and Water Health in Streams and Ponds*
- **Third Place:** Norah House, Athens Middle School, Athens County, *Acid Mine Drainage Remediation*
- **Honorable Mention:** Misha Rajan, Mason Middle School, Warren County, *Natural Alternate for Effective Wildfire Control*

**8th Grade**

- **First Place:** Samhita Paranthaman, Mason Middle School, Warren County, *A Novel Two-Pronged Approach to Control Harmful Algal Blooms and Mitigate Microcystin Levels*
- **Second Place:** Samipa Patel, Solon Middle School, Cuyahoga County, *The Effects of Various Substances on Tannin-Rich Plants*
- **Third Place:** Aiden Bills, St. Columban Elementary School, Clermont County, *Roofing Choices for a Cooler City*
- **Honorable Mention:** Elijah Moore, Trinity Lutheran School, Lucas County, *Can Salt Help Climate Change?*

**9th Grade:**

- **First Place:** Ragan Raj, Upper Arlington High School, Franklin County, *Juglone's Effect on Germination and Cellular Respiration Rates in Soybean and Corn Varieties*
- **Second Place:** Mirabel Hattier, Beaumont School, Cuyahoga County, *The Effect of a Muslin Retractable Bag on Different Types of Food*
- **Third Place:** Cora Gutierrez, Tri-Village High School, Darke County, *Flood-Resistant Device for Trapping Trash Debris in an Agricultural Creek*
- **Honorable Mention:** Isaiah Fuhr, Rock Hill Senior High School, Lawrence County, *Finding a Superior Alternative to the Weedkiller Roundup®*

**10th Grade:**

- **First Place:** Claire Jordan, Carroll High School, Montgomery County, *The Effect of Water Contamination on Arthrospira platensis Growth*
- **Second Place:** Winnie Bodin, Benjamin Logan High School, Logan County, *Biological and Chemical Assessment on the Mad River Over Six Years*
- **Third Place:** Olivia Rodriguez, Carroll High School, Montgomery County, *Effectiveness of Lithium-Ion Batteries Based on Price, Charging Time, & Efficiency*
- **Honorable Mention:** Keith Butler, Archbishop Alter High School, Montgomery County, *Various Concentrations of Bromine Fire Retardants*

### **11th Grade:**

- **First Place:** Ryan Chen, Mentor High School, Lake County, *The Effect of Humidity, Temperature, and pH on the Efficiency of Plastic Bottle Decomposition by the Pestalotiopsis microspore and its Enzyme Activity*
- **Second Place:** Dylan Vance, Benjamin Logan High School, Logan County, *A Two-Year Study of The Presence of Microplastics within Indian Lake, Logan County*
- **Third Place:** Phoebe Green, Global Impact STEM Academy, Clark County, *How Does the Angle of Solar Panels Affect the Amount of Energy that They Produce?*
- **Honorable Mention:** Nehemiah Hughes, Akron STEM High School, Summit County, *The Effects of Cross-linkers on Vitrimers Networks*

### **12th Grade:**

- **First Place:** Jillian Medvecky, Mentor High School, Lake County, *Comparing the Amount of Bacteria and Heavy Metals in Two Types of Artificial Turf Infill*
- **Second Place:** Xinrui Han, Athens High School, Athens County, *Development and Application of Water Quality Detection Method Based on Smartphone Color Recognition*
- **Third Place:** Matthew Devine, University School, Cuyahoga County, *Antifouling Zebra Mussel Adhesives with Ultraviolet Radiation*
- **Honorable Mention:** William Kohut, Lakewood High School, Licking County, *Co-polymerization of Carbon Dioxide: The Use of Cobalt Salen and Cyclohexene Oxide for Polymer Synthesis*

**Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Ohio Envirothon, \$1,000, [2024 NCF-Envirothon Ohio](#)**



The Envirothon® is an environmental and natural resource conservation problem-solving, teambuilding and leadership experience and competition for high school students (grades 9-12 or ages 14-19) across the United States, Canada, and China. Incorporating STEM (*Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math*) principles, experiential learning, and hands-on outdoor field experiences, the Envirothon fosters student learning in the areas of aquatic ecology, forestry, soils and land use, wildlife, and current environmental issues.

The 2024 NCF-Envirothon Ohio Competition was held at Hocking College on June 4 and 5. Ohio EPA sponsored the Oral Presentation Medallions which was won by Lynchburg-Clay High School from Highland County (top left picture). Lynchburg-Clay High School won the overall competition and represented Ohio in the national Envirothon competition hosted by Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York at the end of July. This year's competition theme at both the state and national levels was "Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future."

### **National Engineers Week Future City Competition, Ohio Region, \$1,000,**

[www.futurecity.org/ohio](http://www.futurecity.org/ohio)



Future City is a project-based learning program where students in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades imagine, research, design, and build cities of the future.



On January 20, 2024, Indian Hill Elementary School in Cincinnati won the Ohio region DiscoverE's Future City Competition by designing the best 100% electrically powered city with energy generated from sources that keep their citizens and the environment healthy and safe. Teams of 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders researched technologies, designed cities, presented plans and models, wrote 1,500-word essays, and designed an innovative and futuristic climate adaptation and mitigation strategy to keep their residents healthy and safe.

Ohio EPA sponsored the "Best Use of Water Resources Engineering – Sam Chebaro Memorial" special award, which was won by Indian Hill Elementary School with their city, *Kathari*. For this award, conceptualized cities were evaluated on their plans for handling outflows from industrial, commercial, and residential waste streams. This category calls for recycling strategies and advanced energy plants that minimize pollution, along with treatment techniques and efforts to keep effluent streams away from residential areas, green spaces, and water sources.

OEEF support also helped Indian Hill Elementary School compete in the national Future City Competition held on February 16-19, 2024.

### **Ohio Stormwater Association and Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners, "Ohio Stormwater Conference 2024," \$1,000, <https://ohstormwaterconference.com/>**



This annual conference is dedicated to advancing 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 2024 Ohio Stormwater Conference was held May 8-10, 2024.

**Ohio Chemistry Technology Foundation**, \$1,000, “Teachers, Industry and the Environment (TIE) Conference,” <http://www.ohiochemistry.org/aws/OCTC/pt/sp/tieconference>



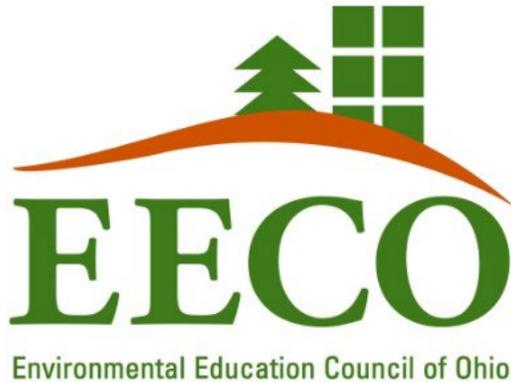
TIE is a 2½-day professional development conference giving teachers the opportunity to experience first-hand real world environmental challenges, and to learn how they are being addressed by scientists and engineers in industry and government.

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, or Ohio EPA. Engineers, educators and scientists from the chemical industry and Ohio EPA present environmental science in understandable, entertaining, and action-packed experiments. The FY24 TIE Conference was held October 17-18, 2023.



## Ohio Environmental Education Fund Statewide Partnership in SFY 2024

**Environmental Education Council of Ohio (EECO), \$83,000**



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 29-year partnership, Ohio EPA and EECO 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 480 professionals in 84 Ohio counties have volunteered, indicating their willingness to:

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



Career ambassadors recorded a popular series of online [video career chats](#). These prerecorded videos are an outstanding resource for educators and have over 1,800 individual views. Many teachers show the videos to students in multiple classes, so a single view may represent a much greater viewership. The conservative estimate of the total outreach for these videos is over 10,000 students.

This year EECO staff, partner organizations, Ohio EPA staff members and volunteer career ambassadors spoke with **59,977 middle school, high school and college students** through career fairs and classroom presentations. The partners also mentored **97 students**, offered **102 high school and college internships** and **23 job shadowing opportunities** to allow high school students to observe environmental professionals at work.

Ohio EPA staff and EECO’s part-time **regional directors** work closely with educators at the local level to offer workshops and share teaching resources. We offered many workshop options this year from virtual, hybrid and in-person events. This year the partners offered **39 regional professional development workshops to 3,181 educators**, offering teachers certification in nationally recognized curricula such as Project Learning Tree; Project WET (Water Education Today) and Healthy Water, Healthy People; Project WILD, Project WILD Aquatic, Flying WILD, and WILD School Sites; Climate modules for all three projects and their Early Childhood components; Windows on Waste, and the Wonders of Wetlands. The partners also exhibited or presented at **140 special events, festivals, and conferences, interacting with 59,977 participants.**

### Outstanding Environmental Education Grants Recognized



Through the partnership agreement, EECO conducted an independent review of completed OEEF Pre-Kindergarten through University grant projects from 2014 through 2023 to evaluate their success and identify OEEF Outstanding Project award winners. The great variety of projects are evaluated through rubrics to identify projects which exemplify engaging and effective environmental education. Fifteen projects were recognized as OEEF Outstanding Environmental Education Projects.

**Boardman Local School - Boardman Glenwood Junior High School**, “School Cafeteria Waste Reduction Stems Community Compost Education,” # F17G-004, \$15,728.00, Mahoning County, Audience: Preschool-University (Grades 7-8), Contact: Laura Kibby, [laura.kibby@boardmanschools.org](mailto:laura.kibby@boardmanschools.org), (330) 726-3414.

**Franklin Park Conservatory**, “Green STEM Girls,” S-19M-038, \$4,299.20, Franklin County, Audience: Preschool - University (High School Grades 10-12), Contact: Jenny Pope, [jpope@fpconservatory.org](mailto:jpope@fpconservatory.org), 614-715-8026.

**Logan County Soil and Water Conservation District**, “Exploring Effects of Water Quality in Western Ohio,” F-18G-002, \$15,009.97, Auglaize, Darke, Hardin, Logan, Mercer, Miami and Shelby Counties, Audience: Preschool to University, Contact: Dave Shellhaas, [dshellhaas@mresc.org](mailto:dshellhaas@mresc.org), (937) 599-5199.

**Miami County Park District**, “Habitat Heroes - Hug the Pollinators!,” #S17G-048, \$49,790.99, Miami County, Audience: Preschool to University, Contact: Cinda Hanbuch Pinkerton, [cindahp@miamicountyparks.com](mailto:cindahp@miamicountyparks.com), (937) 478-1036.

**Miami Township/Centerville – Miami Valley School**, “Let’s Get Vertical – Hydroponics,” F-20M-003, \$2,200, Montgomery County, Audience: Preschool - University (Junior High), Contact: Linda L. Hallinan, [linda.hallinan@mvschool.com](mailto:linda.hallinan@mvschool.com), 937- 901-9112.

**Milford Exempted Village School District – Milford Junior High**, “Conservation Career Training through Turtle Telemetry,” F-19M-001, \$4,514.45, Clermont County, Audience: Preschool - University (Junior High), Contact: Rachelle Rapp-Dickerson, [rapp\\_r@milfordschools.org](mailto:rapp_r@milfordschools.org), 513-368-3388.

**New Philadelphia City Schools**, “LIFE: Learning In Forest Ecosystems,” S15G-036, \$21,305, Tuscarawas County, Audience PreK-University (Grades 5 and 12). Contact: Joseph Brady, [bradyk@npschools.org](mailto:bradyk@npschools.org), (330) 364-0644.

**New Philadelphia City Schools, New Philadelphia High School**, “The New Philadelphia City Schools Tick Project,” S-22G031, \$31,154.85, Carroll, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Stark and Tuscarawas Counties, Audience: Preschool-University (elementary, middle, and high schools), Contact: Kip Brady, [bradyk@npschools.org](mailto:bradyk@npschools.org), (330) 340-5441.

**Oberlin College, Environmental Studies Program**, “Incorporating Community Voices and Real-time Feedback Displays of Resource Use into Public School Curriculum,” #F14G-009, \$46,254.09, Lorain County, Audience: Preschool-University (K-12 and Undergraduate) and General Public. Contact: Cindy Frantz, [Cindy.Frantz@oberlin.edu](mailto:Cindy.Frantz@oberlin.edu), (440) 775-8499.

**Oberlin College - Environmental Studies Program**, “Pilot Integration of Environmental Dashboard in Ohio: Teacher Training and Curriculum Development,” #F17G-011, \$48,432.16, Cuyahoga, Lorain, Lucas, and Summit Counties, Audience: Preschool-University, Contact: John Petersen, [jpetersen@oberlin.edu](mailto:jpetersen@oberlin.edu), (440) 775-6692.

**Ohio Wetlands Association**, “Integrating Project WET, Wetlands & H2Ohio into 7th Grade Curriculum,” F-22M-011, \$945, Franklin County, Audience: Preschool to University (Grade 7), Contact: Laura Manns, [laura@ohwetlands.org](mailto:laura@ohwetlands.org), 206-530-0102.

**Ohio Wetlands Association**, “Integrating Project WET, Wetlands & H2Ohio into 7th Grade Curriculum, F23M-010, \$3,729, Franklin, Lucas, and Putnam Counties, Audience: Preschool to University (Grade 7), Contact: Laura Manns, [laura@ohwetlands.org](mailto:laura@ohwetlands.org), 206-530-0102.

**St. Clair Superior Development Corporation**, “Microgrid Engineers of Tomorrow,” S19G-041, \$23,112, Cuyahoga County, Audience: Preschool to University, Contact: Philip Hewitt, [phewitt@stclairsuperior.org](mailto:phewitt@stclairsuperior.org), (216) 881-0644.

**The Ohio State University - Center for Automotive Research**, “Fueling our Future: Introducing 7th Graders to Careers in Clean Energy,” F-18G-030, \$31,516.18, Champaign, Cuyahoga, Franklin, Madison, Portage, Stark, Summit, and Union Counties, Audience: Preschool to University (Grade 7), Contact: James Durand, [durand.14@osu.edu](mailto:durand.14@osu.edu), (434) 996-6829.

**The Ohio State University, College of Education and Human Ecology - Ohio Resource Center**, “Curious KIDSS,” F-16G-002, \$45,727.31, Statewide, Audience: Pre-Kindergarten – University (Grades K-2). Contact: Tracy Cindric, [tcindric@ohiorc.org](mailto:tcindric@ohiorc.org), (614) 247-7978.