

Ohio Environmental Education Fund Grant Application Review Process

OEEF staff review for eligibility

Peer Review based on substantive expertise

OEEF Advisory Council considers based on
funding priorities

Ohio EPA Director makes final funding decision

Advisory Council Review considers the highest-ranked proposals from the peer review, based on their quality and the OEEF's overall funding priorities. The council includes six appointees of the Governor who represent various constituencies, as well as one appointee of the Board of Regents, two legislators and three ex-officio members representing Ohio EPA, ODNR, and the Ohio Superintendent of Public Education. If \$350,000 is available to award in a grant cycle, the Council considers the highest ranked proposals totaling twice this amount. Applicants may attend the Council meeting and respond briefly to questions from the Council, but not make presentations. Each Council member selects their top five for discussion. Their overall choices determine the order in which proposals are discussed at the meeting. Discussion begins with the most-requested proposal and continues until all available funds have been recommended. Council recommendations are forwarded to the Ohio EPA Director, who makes the final award decision.

Peer Review considers the substantive strengths and weaknesses of the application, by professionals in education and environmental fields who volunteer their time to the OEEF. Many are former grant recipients. Applications are matched with reviewers according to audience targeted, and substantive expertise.

Staff Review considers whether the application conforms with OEEF guidelines. Proposals too weak to realistically be competitive for funding may be eliminated at this level. Proposals that are acceptable overall but include one or two ineligible line items in the budget may be forwarded for peer review with a note that these items will not be funded. All decisions of the staff are final.