



Public Interest Center | P.O. Box 1049 | Columbus, OH | 43216-1049

FOR RELEASE: November 23, 2011
MEDIA CONTACT: Heather Lauer, (614) 644-2160
CITIZEN CONTACT: Darla Peelle, (614) 644-2160

Ohio EPA Awards \$30,937 Environmental Education Grant to Butler County Organization

Talawanda High School, Butler County, has been selected to receive a \$30,937 Ohio EPA environmental education Fund grant to conduct the Healthy Water, Healthy People Project – Erik Sustainability Initiative. Ten grants were awarded statewide for almost \$340,000.

Students will investigate the effects of agricultural chemicals on the watershed of the 100 acre Erik Outdoor Education Area at the newly constructed LEED Gold- certified Talawanda High School.

Students will learn firsthand about how agricultural chemicals impact their area's natural ecosystems. Students then will make recommendations to the board of education regarding the future use of the agricultural land. The grant request includes monitoring equipment and hand-held GPS units for the students to use, and certification of the teachers in Project WET's secondary water monitoring curriculum, Healthy Water, Healthy People. Collaborators include Butler Soil and Water Conservation District, Pheasants Forever and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Ohio Environmental Education Fund is administered by Ohio EPA. Grants up to \$50,000 are funded from one-half of the civil penalties collected by the Agency for air and water pollution control violations. Eligible grant recipients include environmental groups, public and private schools, colleges and universities, trade or professional organizations, businesses and state and local governments. Approximately \$1 million is given each year.

The next OEEF application deadline is Jan. 17, 2012. An electronic letter of intent to apply is due on Jan. 10. For additional information, contact the Ohio Environmental Education Fund at (614) 644-2873 or visit www.epa.ohio.gov/oeef/.

-30-

www.epa.ohio.gov