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**Ohio EPA Awards \$4,991 Environmental Education Mini Grant
To Statewide Organization**

Ohio EPA has awarded a \$4,991 to Three Scale Research, Inc. to develop an online interactive educational wetlands map for fifth grade students. Thirteen projects throughout the state were funded a total of \$50,000.

A mini grant to Three Scale Research will support the development and beta-testing of an online, interactive map for an Ohio wetland allowing students to learn about the water cycle and pollination cycle, the anatomy and behaviors of amphibians, migratory birds, insects and reptiles that live in wetlands, and how decomposers such as fungi, bacteria and algae affect water quality. The wetland map will include detailed color illustrations and diagrams. When clicked on, each interactive feature will bring up a pop-up box with educational text, pictures, slideshows, panoramas, links to other educational websites, or videos. The map also will include tools that allow the user to pan, zoom in, zoom out, and grab. Teachers from Olentangy Berkshire Middle and New Bremen Elementary Schools are providing advice regarding age-appropriate content and alignment with state science standards. The map will be disseminated statewide and made available online at no cost to schools.

The Ohio Environmental Education Fund gives out approximately \$1 million each year for environmental education projects targeting kindergarten through university students, the general public, and the regulated community. General grants are given for projects lasting up to 30 months and costing up to \$50,000.

Mini grants are available for projects lasting up to 12 months and costing between \$500 and \$5,000. Proposals for classroom projects, conference speakers, and other activities that are eligible under the general grant program are eligible under the mini-grant program, but the application process is streamlined. Ohio EPA's Office of Environmental Education reserves up to \$50,000 each grant round to fund projects submitted under this program. Just like the general grant program, there are two mini-grant rounds each year, with the next application deadline on July 16, 2012. An electronic letter of intent to apply is due on July 9.

For more information, contact Ohio EPA's Office of Environmental Education at (614) 644-2873. Staff is available to assist potential grant applicants who contact the office before the submission deadline. Information also is available [online](#).