Outstanding Grant Projects 2012

- General Public
- Pre-School through University
- Regulated Community

Office of Environmental Education
http://epa.ohio.gov/oee
About the Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF)

The OEEF was created by the General Assembly in 1990 to enhance Ohio citizens’ awareness and understanding of environmental issues. It is administered by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) and provides general grants up to $50,000, and mini-grants up to $5,000, to support environmental education efforts within the state of Ohio. The OEEF derives its monies from one-half of the civil penalties collected for violations of Ohio's air and water pollution control regulations.

The OEEF funds education efforts targeting three audiences: pre-school through university students and teachers, the general public, and the regulated community. OEEF supports projects that increase public awareness and knowledge about environmental issues, and provide the skills to make informed decisions and take responsible actions. Environmental Education (EE) is based on objective and scientifically sound information, and does not advocate a particular viewpoint or course of action. It teaches individuals how to weigh various sides of an issue through critical thinking, and it enhances their problem-solving and decision-making skills. The successful grant projects highlighted in this booklet exemplify some of the state’s best examples of effective environmental education.

Selecting Outstanding Grant Projects

Periodically, the OEEF contracts with the Environmental Education Council of Ohio (EECO) for independent evaluation of the success of completed grant projects targeting a general public audience of adult learners and families, pre-school through university-level learners and members of the regulated community. EECO assembles a team of formal and non-formal educators and representatives from community-based organizations to select the best completed grant projects to honor with OEEF Outstanding Project Awards. The team reviews current scholarship on adult learning, and publications such as EECO’s Best Practices Guidelines for Environmental Education: Guidelines for Success, online at http://www.eeco-online.org/publications/pdfs/beeps.pdf, and the North American Association for Environmental Education’s Guidelines for Excellence series, available online at http://www.naacee.net/publications. Because OEEF grant projects are quite diverse and grant products are often similar in format to portfolios, the team decided to use a holistic instrument for the grant evaluation process. For the pre-school through university audience, the team developed paragraph rubrics for three categories: curriculum development, student activity, and professional development for K-12 educators. For the adult general public and regulated community audiences, the team developed paragraph rubrics for four categories: seminar or workshop, print product, media product, and a combined rubric for multi-faceted public awareness campaigns that include more than one of these elements. These instruments have been refined several times over the years as new award winners have been selected. A tool for Website evaluation has also been added. The instruments and the award winners are posted at http://www.epa.ohio.gov/oeef/oeef_featured_ee_projects.aspx.

This booklet showcases 10 outstanding projects for the general public audience and 12 outstanding projects for the pre-school to university audience that were selected in late 2011 as well as 15 outstanding projects for the regulated community that were selected in 2012. OEEF would like to lift up these excellent examples of effective environmental education to inspire educators and prospective grant applicants.
Outstanding OEEF Grant Projects for the General Public Audience

Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Firelands Chapter, Vermilion River Watershed Educational Book, $49,825, Ashland, Erie, Huron and Lorain Counties, Grant #07G-007, Contact: Mary Garvin, mary.garvin@oberlin.edu.

*Living in the Vermilion River Watershed* was created as a collaborative project between the Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Firelands Chapter, and Oberlin College to educate citizens about a small watershed drained by one of the cleanest rivers in the state. The book’s 23 articles and over 300 full color photographs are intended to encourage local pride in the river, and a commitment to protecting the health of its surrounding natural habitats. Chapters include local wildflowers, the river’s geologic history, farming practices in the watershed, birds, fish, mammals, and the river’s current water quality, as well as suggestions for what residents can do to be good stewards of the land and water. Ten thousand copies of the book were distributed free of charge to residents of the watershed via libraries, local government offices, and schools, and the book has been incorporated into the curricula of several school systems in the watershed.

Butler Soil and Water Conservation District, The Greatest Show in Earth, $50,000, Butler, Hamilton, Montgomery, Preble, and Warren Counties, Grant #07G-048, Contact: Kevin Fall, fallke@butlercountyohio.org, (513) 887-3720.

Provided a three-dimensional, mole’s-eye-view of the world that lets visitors feel as if they are underground. A trailer housing a soil tunnel and lab carries a museum-quality interactive exhibit to schools, fairs and other events in several southwest Ohio counties. Topics covered included soil formation and composition; the role of soil in food production, water purification and habitat; and the importance of soil and water conservation.
Cuyahoga River Community Planning Organization, Watershed Stewardship & Management Training for Cuyahoga River Tributaries, $49,954, Cuyahoga County, Grant #07G-051, Contact: Jane Goodman, goodmanj@cuyahogariverrap.gov.

A series of Building Better Watersheds workshops trained community leaders, watershed stewardship groups and the public in four Cuyahoga River tributary watersheds that were undergoing rapid urbanization and loss of natural infrastructure. Participants from Brandywine Creek, Furnace Run, Mud Brook and Sagamore Creek communities received a comprehensive watershed-owner’s manual developed for the project, as well as detailed maps of their watersheds' critical natural features and a packet of tools and resources to support better decision making. They used the materials to identify specific locations for conservation and restoration in each community. In follow-up workshops, participants reviewed their local storm water and green infrastructure ordinances and identified gaps and set goals for further action. The project created Planning Partnerships among watershed communities led to the development of two state-endorsed Balanced Growth Watershed Plans.

The Breathing Association, CLEAR the Air, $49,982, Franklin County, Grant #08G-009, Contact: Judith Kress, jkress@breathingassociation.org, (614) 457-4570 ext. 22.

Provided a DVD, educational displays, games, and brochures in English, Spanish and Somali to educate low-income residents about smog as well as the health and economic benefits of taking steps to improve air quality through personal action. A tool kit for parents, educators, physicians, clinics, and non-profit agencies serving the target population was also created and is available on the agency’s website at http://www.breathingassociation.org/general/toolkit.asp

Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District, Central Ohio Rain Gardens, $49,742, Franklin County, Grant #09G-017, Contact: Stephanie Suter, (614) 486-9613, stephanie-suter@franklinswcd.org.

Provided a series of educational workshops, brochures, a website, guides, and installed 16 residential rain gardens in the Brook Run subdivision in Westerville to show how rain gardens can collect storm water runoff from downspouts, driveways, and sidewalks to reduce flooding and prevent storm water pollution in waterways. Neighborhood storm water runoff volume was monitored before and after installation of the rain gardens. Educational materials and results of the project and monitoring data have been distributed and recognized locally, statewide, and nationally. Photos and the project report are posted at http://www.centralohioraingardens.org/?cat=5.
Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil and Water Resources, Project SWEETER/Source Water Environmental Education Teams Enhanced Resources, $47,540, Statewide, Grant #09G-020, Contact: Jeanne Russell, jeanne.russell@dnr.state.oh.us, (614) 265-6682.

Forty-seven local Source Water Environmental Education Teams (SWEETs) teams were provided with EnviroScape© Drinking Water and Wastewater Treatment models and/or Envision 3000© ground water flow models, depending on their need. Two regional workshops were offered to train team members on educating the public about protecting drinking water sources (both surface and ground water) and managing storm water and wastewater. Over 300 outreach events were held during the grant period, reaching more than 31,000 citizens with their conservation message. The teams were led by Soil and Water Conservation District educators who partnered with at least two other agencies or organizations in their county.

Ohio Interfaith Power and Light, Energy Education and Audits for Ohio Congregations, $49,838, Statewide, Grant #09G-024, Contact: Gregory Hitzhusen, hitzhusen.3@osu.edu, (614) 292-7739.

Provided educational outreach and technical assistance to 190 congregations and 5,000 households in Ohio to conduct energy audits and implement energy conservation and efficiency measures. Components included educational workshops, print and Web-based materials, webinar training and set-up for energy tracking software, expert energy audit of institutional facilities, training and resources for household audits, congregational and household Web-based carbon footprint calculators, tracking of energy savings, and recognition of participants’ energy savings and emission reduction achievements. Energy audit resources are posted at http://www.ohipl.org/programs/energy-audits/

Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission, Lessons in Land Use, $39,280, Ashland, Crawford, Gallia, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, Morgan, Morrow, Noble, Tuscarawas, Washington, and Wyandot Counties, Grant #10G-017.

This two-pronged project included a series of Planning for Agriculture workshops, especially in counties that have not embraced planning and zoning, and a booklet (http://www.morpc.org/regional_dev/overview/overview.asp) that demystifies density and shows, with photos from Ohio towns large and small, that density can be desirable, attractive and cost-efficient, and can preserve rural farmland and open space.
Children unstructured their exploring. Without stepping into creeks, build forts, and explore nature without much adult intervention. Parents observed their children while staff explained the benefits of unstructured nature play, how to encourage their children to turn off the TV and video games, and how to make their own backyard more inviting for their children and nature. After their experience, parents filled out a survey, and children were given an Outdoor Nature Play Kit, as a reminder to get outside exploring. Two months later, parents were contacted through a phone survey, ascertaining the behavior change resulting from the program.

Columbus Downtown Development Corporation, RiverSouth Exhibits, $41,000, Franklin County, Grant #06G-012, Contact: Elise Yablonsky, eyablonsky@downtowncolumbus.com, (614) 545-4732.

Provided exhibits on the storm water management, energy conservation, and other “green building” features of the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)-gold certified renovation of the Lazarus Department Store building in Columbus. The project was part of the redevelopment of the “River South” district downtown. A series of signs along the Town Street façade and in the first floor gallery explain the history and environmental sustainability components of the building. Groups who come for guided tours of the green roof first view a slideshow about green roof benefits in the Ohio EPA sixth floor lobby area, then pass a series of three exhibit panels in the rooftop reception area before stepping out onto the green roof itself, where markers identify the types of vegetation on the green roof. The grant funds paid for the projector, exhibit panels, plant identification markers, and website development. For prospective tenants and the architecture and construction industry audience, the CDDC also developed a “Tenant Design and Construction Guidelines” booklet with more technical specifications about the green features and materials used in the renovation. Several thousand visitors tour the LEED-certified roof each year. The CDDC’s property manager conducts 30-40 minute tours the first Tuesday of each month from May through September in cooperation with the Ohio State University Urban Arts Space, which is also housed in the Lazarus building, and many tours by request for school groups, garden clubs, architects, and other visitors. The website URL is http://downtowncolumbus.com/home/moving-forward/lazarus-building and http://www.downtowncolumbus.com/progress/the-lazarus-building-green-roof.
Dublin City Schools, Wyandot Elementary School, P.O.N.D. (People, Water, Nature, Diversity), $44,388, Age Range: Elementary School, Franklin County, Grant #06G-016, Contact: Sharon Buda, buda_sharon@mail.dublin.k12.oh.us, (614) 761-5840.

Involved 587 students and 52 staff members in restoring riparian habitat around a half-acre pond behind the school, collaborating with a series of artists in residence to trace the impact of water quality in the pond, through the stream into which it feeds, and on to the Scioto River, Ohio River and Gulf of Mexico. Students and teachers worked with children’s author and biologist Ron Hirschi to explore the biodiversity of the pond through seining, then implemented an action plan to improve natural habitat. Students worked with playwright Tom Anderson, muralist Amy Yaich and stained glass artist Jane Albretch to create a play, murals and stained glass windows about biodiversity. Student investigations and authentic problem solving also led to: installation of a path to allow handicapped access to the pond; creation of bird feeders that were distributed to 18 schools throughout the city and local parks; and recognition of local businesses that demonstrate environmentally friendly business practices. DVD’s and Journey Tins documenting their efforts have been distributed nationally.

Action for Children, Nurturing Nature in the Wonder Years, $48,769, Age Range: Early Childhood, Franklin County, Grant #08G-005, Contact: Betsy Loeb, Betsyloeb@actionforchildren.org, (614) 224-0222 ext. 126

Provided professional development tools to help 25 early childhood directors, teachers and family child care providers incorporate environmental education content and activities into their curricula. In addition, 30 instructors from the resource and referral system throughout Ohio participated in a two-day train-the-trainer program. A Resource Guide for Nature Explorations that includes activity ideas from Metro Parks and website lists was created and distributed to all participants. Early childhood education expert Dr. Ruth Wilson led a seminar at Sharon Woods Metro Park for 62 parents and local educators. Wilson is a previous OEEF Outstanding Project awardee for her book Fostering a Sense of Wonder During the Early Childhood Years, available online at www.epa.ohio.gov/oee.
Black Swamp Bird Observatory, Ohio Young Birders Club (OYBC) Field Training Program, $25,355, Age Range: Middle and High School, Clark, Delaware, Erie, Franklin, Holmes, Huron, Lorain, Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, Union, and Wayne Counties, Grant #08G-056, Contact Kimberly Kaufman, kimkaufman@bsbo.org, (419) 898-4070.

The project goals go beyond getting young people outside and connected with nature, to reinforce career skills, instill a conservation ethic, and facilitate conservation action through peer interaction, mentoring, and leadership. The monthly field training program for youth ages 12-18 involved students from surrounding counties and members of the Amish birding community. In addition to field outings, OYBC members regularly participate in BioBlitz science projects, habitat restoration projects, generate content for the club newsletter, and host an annual conference where students present on conservation topics of their choosing. This project has been replicated in 16 other states listed at http://ohioyoungbirders.org/states_with_young_birder_clubs.htm and BSBO has partnered with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology to initiate a national Young Birders Network, including producing a How to Start a Young Birders Club Toolkit. The program Website is located at http://www.ohiyoungbirders.org/.

Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District, Partnering to Protect Water Resources: A Rain Garden Demonstration and Education Project, $50,000, Age Range: Elementary, Middle and High School, Clermont County, Grant #09G-018, Contact: Paul Berringer, pberringer@clermontcountyohio.gov, (513) 732-7075.

Provided demonstration rain gardens on the campuses of each of the nine local school districts within Clermont County, plus the Grant Career Center in Bethel. An accompanying classroom and field study curriculum helped teachers explain the installations and environmental benefits of rain gardens and rain barrels. A rain garden workshop for the general public was held in conjunction with the installation of one of the rain gardens, and was filmed by the Clermont County Today cable television program. A local Web page at http://www.clermontstorm.net/rgschools.aspx includes photos, the site list, and a printed guide to help residents create and register their own rain garden to help with storm water management.
Springfield Schools Foundation, *Taking a New Look at the Grove, an Endangered Oak Openings Ecosystem*, $14,328, Age Range: Elementary and High School, Lucas County, Grant #09G-037, Contact: Marty Perlaky, [sphs_mwp@nwoca.org](mailto:sphs_mwp@nwoca.org), (419) 867-5633.

High school biology honors students worked with gifted elementary students to document the condition of the Oak Openings ecosystem in The Grove, a 12-acre property owned by the Springfield Local School District. Students conducted a 12-month baseline survey of the site by sampling water and soil and preparing an inventory of native and invasive plant and animal species. They shared their findings with other students, community residents and leaders, and organizations with online environmental databases. The data gathered in this project is the basis for a multi-use restoration plan for The Grove that will include an outdoor classroom where students can study the unique characteristics of the Oak Openings ecosystem.

Miami University, Center for Environmental Education, Natural History and Conservation, *GREEN Teachers Institute: InteGreat Science*, $14,133, Age Range: Elementary and Middle School, 15 Southwest Ohio Counties, Grant #09G-075, Contact: Donald Kaufman, [kaufmadg@muohio.edu](mailto:kaufmadg@muohio.edu), (513) 529-4617.

Supported a week-long summer workshop and fall semester online course for 40 K-8 teachers, using inquiry-based, hands-on science activities and web-based instructional technologies to teach about ecological issues. After fulfilling all requirements, participants received four graduate credits from Miami University. Course Units and Activities in the life sciences include “The Role of Producers,” and “Food Chains and Webs,” posted at [http://InteGreatScience.org](http://InteGreatScience.org). Courses were created under the direction of master teacher John Farmer, adjunct instructor at Miami University and fifth grade teacher in the Forest Hills School District.
Delaware City Schools, David Smith Elementary School Arts Council, *Impact of Waste on the Olentangy River Through Arts Learning*, $4,899, Age Range: Elementary School, Delaware County, Grant #08M-027, Contact: Susanne Mussenden, susanne287@aol.com, (740) 447-2929.

Provided funding for guest artists, bus transportation, water quality monitoring and paper-making supplies for a program at an arts-integration school on how recycling and waste handling practices impact the Olentangy River Watershed. Over 400 K-4th grade students participated.

Elgin Local Schools, Elgin South Elementary School, *All about Energy*, $4,966, Age Range: Elementary School, Marion County, Grant #09M-005, Contact: Sandy Stevens, stevens_s@elgin.k12.oh.us, (740) 494-2677.

Provided supplies and a field trip to help 44 fourth and 52 fifth grade students learn about different forms of energy, how energy consumption affects the environment, alternative energy sources, and how to calculate and reduce their personal carbon footprint as well as the schools.
Bethany School, *Environmental Education and Decision Making Overnight Camp*, $2,824, Age Range: Middle School, Hamilton County, Grant #09M-041, Contact: Michelle Mellea, mellea@bethanyschool.org, (513) 289-6072.

Provided a two-night field experience at the Wilds for seventh grade students as a culminating event for a unit on environment, ecology and economic decision making. Student activities included using a decision making model on restoration of a wetland for an endangered frog species; interpretive hikes on land use, biodiversity, invasive species, and ecosystems; and a genetics workshop on species survival plans focused on rhinos. The students also studied Grailville’s constructed wetland wastewater treatment system.

Indianola Children’s Center, *Rain Garden for Young Children*, $4,783, Age Range: Early Childhood, Franklin County, Grant #10M-039, Contact: Tina Thonnings, indianolachildcenter@yahoo.com, (614) 262-1090.

An outdoor learning center was created on church property to allow toddlers and pre-schoolers ages 18 months to six years to experience nature in an outdoor setting. The site features gardens, pathways, play areas, and a green infrastructure rain garden that collects rain water from the church roof in order to limit large volume releases of water to the storm sewers. The project also provided professional development opportunities for teachers at the Center to use outdoor nature activities from the Growing Up WILD curriculum.

Miami County Park District, *The Quest for Science Knowledge through Nature Immersion*, $4,997, Age Range: Elementary and Middle School, Miami County, Grant #10M-048, Cinda Hanbuch-Pinkerton, (937) 667-1286.

Quest is an innovative multi-faceted family- and school-based environmental education program that addressed the growing need for children to connect with the natural environment to improve academic performance, environmental stewardship and health. This project involved students with their families in outdoor science and nature education that connect with student classroom studies and result in academic credit or incentives at school in correlation with the state Academic Content Standards. Examples of the multi-faceted Quest program included: river walks, a nature book club, pond dipping, soil investigating, bird and insect observations.
Ohio Dental Association, Dental Mercury Collection Program, $9,708, Grant #98G-047
Contact: Christopher A. Moore, chrism@oda.org (614) 645-7417.

The program collected mercury that was non-processed, non-contaminated and at least 98% pure. The education/prevention component of the project informed dentists about the collection program and provide recommendations on ways to properly manage and dispose of dental wastes. A total of 838 pounds of mercury was collected at 14 drop-off sites during the summer of 1998, then transported for recycling.

Ohio EPA Small Business Assistance Office, Best Management Practices Video for the Vehicle Salvage Industry, $11,707, Grant #02G-047

Created and distributed a 15-minute informational video on how salvage yard owners can achieve compliance with environmental regulations through the use of best management practices. Topics included proper management of automotive fluids such as antifreeze; used oil; gasoline and solvents; storm water and scrap tire management; reducing emissions of lead, mercury and volatile chemicals from metal crushing and smelting operations; and recycling of usable materials. Tapes were distributed to salvage companies, industry trade groups, regulatory agencies, local health departments, and were also given to public cable access TV stations across Ohio.

Lake County Engineer, Storm Water Education Outreach, $49,500, Grant #03G-052

The campaign increased public awareness of storm water pollution problems by airing radio and television promotions and publishing newspaper ads over a six-week period during the spring rainy season. The campaign included a newsletter, a water flow model that was displayed in public libraries, and two seminars on good housekeeping practices for maintenance personnel of storm sewer systems. Collaborators included Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Lake County Health District, Lake Soil and Water Conservation District, Lakeland Community College, OSU Extension, and multiple local jurisdictions.
Five Colleges of Ohio, *Pollution Prevention on the College Campus: A Consortial Approach to Education and Training*, $50,000, Grant #04G-057. Contact: Susan Palmer, palmers@kenyon.edu.

Working collaboratively, the Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) managers updated policies and procedures, created educational materials and a manual, and presented training sessions in pollution prevention to more than 200 sciences, arts, and theater faculty and staff at five residential colleges (Denison University, Kenyon College, Oberlin College, Ohio Wesleyan University, and The College of Wooster). The training covered environmental leadership, environmental management systems, ISO 14001 standards, regulatory compliance, security, chemical hygiene, emergency spill responses, and hazardous materials management. Train-the-trainer sessions and materials about best practices were also developed. To increase communication, dissemination of resources, and more efficient operations, the EH&S managers met with a variety of college administrators, jointly interviewed vendors, created an EH&S website, hosted a workshop and listserv for colleagues in Ohio, and reported on the project at a state safety conference.

American Farmland Trust, *Ohio Farmland Conservation & Preservation Education Project*, $48,092, Grant #05G-066

A demonstration project of nutrient Best Management Practices (BMPs) that cut the application of nitrogen and phosphorus nutrients by 26% and reduced NO₂ greenhouse gas emissions on nearly 1,000 corn acres. The program documented the effectiveness of performance guarantees to persuade farmers to adopt BMPs. Project included field days, ten community workshops and a guidebook on farmland conservation and preservation, to help agricultural landowners make informed decisions about the use of their land.

Erie County General Health District, “*School Environmental Health and Safety Program,*” $49,742, Grant #S08G-043. Contact: Christine Stelzer, cstelzer@eriecohealthohio.org.

The multi-faceted project assisted public and parochial schools in four counties to comply with new school safety and inspection requirements as Jarod’s Law was being implemented. Provided training workshops for school administrators, maintenance and custodial crews, faculty, and 19 sanitary inspector, as well as information sheets for parents, and a follow up session to debrief the first year implementation of the law. Topics included indoor air quality, presence of lead, asbestos, radon, fumes or vapors, and proper use and storage of chemicals. Collaborators of the project included the four county health departments, Bowling Green State University-Firelands Campus, Erie County Department of Environmental Services, Erie-Huron-Ottawa Educational Services Center, Ohio Department of Health, and 33 school districts.
Columbus Green Building Forum, “Green Building Education Program,” $49,895, Grant #S08G-060
Contact: Meera Parthasarathy, meera@cgbf.org.

The project pursued a multi-pronged strategy to disseminate principles and practical examples of green building design and technology to three audiences. The Columbus Green Building Forum (CGBF), worked with Food, Agriculture and Biological Engineering faculty at the Ohio State University, to create a Green Building Program for Construction Systems Management students. CGBF offered classes to OSU students, building industry professionals and the general public that included tours and presentations by local experts. Participants of the project had the opportunity to review vendor products and network with local business owners. OSU students also gave back to their neighborhood by participating in service learning projects.

CGBF also collaborated with the Weinland Park University Area Commission and supported the City of Columbus’ Neighborhood Stabilization program. Weinland Park has since become a significant part of the City’s program to renovate dilapidated houses into energy efficient and environmentally friendly homes. The project has brought jobs and new vigor into the community. Information about the project is online at www.cgbf.org.

Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs at Ohio University, Ohio Businesses and the New Energy Climate: Integrating energy efficiency and environmental sustainability into business planning, $44,600, Grant #F09G-011. Contact Scott Miller, millers1@ohio.edu.

In partnership with The Ohio Manufacturers’ Association, Ohio University delivered a targeted series of three workshops for leaders of Ohio-based businesses to help them integrate energy efficiency, environmental sustainability, and anticipated regulatory reductions in greenhouse gas emissions into their strategic, financial and supply chain planning. The workshops included “case studies” to showcase energy efficiency initiatives at Ohio facilities and encourage meaningful discussion about implementation and financing.
Five Colleges of Ohio, A Collaborative College Environmental Management System Initiative $49,894, Grant #F09G-034, Contact: Susan Palmer, palmers@kenyon.edu

The project accomplishments included laying the foundation for implementing comprehensive environmental management systems (EMS) at Denison University, Kenyon College, Oberlin College, Ohio Wesleyan University, and The College of Wooster. Training, tools, guidance, and practical experience was provided to those involved in environmental health and safety across each college, while extending the Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) commitment to environmental literacy. The project served as a model program for colleagues at other small colleges in Ohio by documenting and disseminating efforts to develop EMS frameworks. Highlights included two days of advanced training in environmental auditing, one week of peer-assisted campus assessments, and a day long workshop for EH&S staff at Ohio colleges and universities. Training collaborators included the University of Findlay School of Environmental and Emergency Management and the Laboratory Safety Institute.

County Commissioners Association of Ohio, “Training for the Solid Waste Management District Regulated Decision Makers (Commissioners, Trustees and Policy Committee Members),” $50,000, Grant #S09G-048. Contact: Jim Skora, jskora@gtenvironmental.com (330) 899-1105

Provided governing members of local solid waste management districts with an interactive DVD and formal training sessions to enhance their ability to comply with Ohio EPA regulations. Training presented the core regulatory requirements in solid waste rules and law, best methods for solid waste facility management and oversight, fiduciary responsibilities, contract management, development of solid waste management plans, plan implementation, policy development, rulemaking, facility siting, public hearings, and other solid waste management related responsibilities. Collaborators include the Organization of Solid Waste Districts of Ohio, Eastman & Smith, GE Environmental Inc., Altec Limited, Ohio EPA Division of Solid and Infectious Waste Management, and Ottawa-Sandusky-Seneca Solid Waste Management District.

The Miami Conservancy District, “People Prevent Pollution: Good Housekeeping at Municipal Operations in the Great Miami River Watershed,” $47,427, Grant # S09G-079

Provided training for 50 storm water managers and 200 maintenance staff employees of cities, counties, villages, and townships in the Great Miami River Watershed in ways to reduce storm water pollution run-off from municipal operations. Project assisted storm water managers in developing their Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, and helped communities apply for designation as Groundwater Guardian Green Sites. The City of Moraine, the Groundwater Foundation and Ohio State University Extension collaborated on the project.
Ohio Hospital Association, “Pharmaceutical Waste,” $41,400, Statewide, Grant #F10G-028, Contact: John Palmer, johnp@ohanet.org

This project determined the legal and practical barriers to implement a pharmaceutical take-back and redistribution, and best disposal practice program for hospitals. An operational manual was prepared to assist healthcare facilities in developing such a pharmaceutical disposal program and educate healthcare workers and the community about the importance of proper pharmaceutical waste management. The Ohio Environmental Council collaborated on the project.

Geauga County Combined Health District, Package Plant Extended Aeration Workshop, $2,555, Geauga and northeast Ohio counties, Grant #03M-040

Provided a two-day workshop on operation and maintenance of small wastewater treatment systems, for regulated entities and local health department inspectors. Includes on-site training at business and mobile home park systems, and demonstrations of various testing instruments. Data from random follow up inspections was analyzed to determine whether effluent quality was improved after operators attended the workshop, compared to previous years, and compared to the effluent from systems whose operators have not attended the training.

ShoreBank Enterprise Group/Cleveland Entrepreneurs for Sustainability, Next Generation Energy Workshop Series, $5,000, Grant #05M-010

The project provided a series of six workshops for 140 northeast Ohio businesses, focusing on energy efficiency technologies and practices, distributed energy generation, wind and solar power, clean fuels for fleet operations, and fuel cells. A component of the project included case studies for each of the five highlighted technologies as implemented in business contexts, and the costs and benefits of transition to next generation energy sources. Collaborators included the Earth Day Coalition Power Partnership for Ohio/Case School of Engineering.

Ohio Hospital Association, “Pharmaceutical Waste Management,” $3,500, statewide, Grant #F07M-023. Contact: John Palmer, johnp@ohanet.org

Provided a compliance seminar and Web-based training to help hospitals properly segregate and dispose of a variety of hazardous pharmaceutical wastes that are subject to multiple and increasingly complex regulations. The project included OSHA, NIOSH and US EPA recommendations on pollution prevention and management of hazardous drugs and hazardous wastes.