

NEWS RELEASE

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Wisconsin Environmental Education Board Announces Environmental Education Grant Program

The Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB), located at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, is seeking proposals for the 2003-2004 grant cycle. Public and nonpublic educational institutions, all units of government, and corporations (nonprofit, nonstock) are eligible for WEEB grants. Submitted proposals will be evaluated in five categories: general environmental education, forestry education, school forest, energy education, and mini-grants. Projects must be designed for Wisconsin residents and assist learners in achieving the goals of environmental education (EE).

Initiated in 1990, WEEB's mission is to "provide leadership in the development of learning opportunities that empower Wisconsin citizens with the knowledge and skills needed to make wise environmental decisions and take responsible actions in their personal lives, work places, and communities."

Proposals must meet one or more of the following priorities to be considered for funding:

- A. Assist the WEEB in meeting **statewide** initiatives, including:
 1. **statewide** assessment of student and teacher literacy on forestry-related topics/issues/concepts.
 2. **statewide** development of a mechanism to evaluate school forest management plans based on new criteria to include environmental education and forestry education components in the plan.
 3. **statewide** educational program(s) that train and equip non-industrial private forest owners to manage the forest on their properties in a sustainable manner. A strong evaluation component is required.
- B. Promote broad community environmental education through the development and implementation of community environmental education projects. Projects should increase:
 1. the number and/or diversity of individuals and/or organizations involved in environmental education
 2. community knowledge of specific environmental issues or problems
 3. community participation in the resolution of environmental problems
- C. Make use of existing resources and successful projects. This does *not* include support of the ongoing operations of a program. Existing resources and successful projects are defined as:
 1. interdisciplinary environmental curricula
 2. environmental education training for staff or group leaders
 3. environmental education programs developed for use on outdoor sites
 4. successful programs or WEEB projects developed by the applicant or another entity
- D. Create new environmental education resources or programs.
- E. Promote the implementation of Wisconsin's Environmental Education Academic Standards.

This year the Board anticipates awarding \$390,000 from the forestry account of the Conservation Fund, \$180,000 from Focus on Energy Funds and approximately \$50,000 from funds obtained via donations and surcharges on environmental fines.

Deadlines are September 26, 2002 for priority A proposals and January 11, 2003 for priority B-E proposals. For an application or more information on WEEB's environmental education grant programs see the Board's website at <http://weeb.uwsp.edu> or contact Ginny Carlton, Administrative Specialist, at 715/346-3805, email: weeb@uwsp.edu