

The following is the list of Environmental Education Grant projects for which DEC has sought funding. DEC will be preparing standardized workplans for successful applicants. In preparing the ACWA grant application workplan, applicants need only provide sufficient detail about the audience, anticipated timeframe, area of coverage, and anticipated benefit. We anticipate a 3-paragraph maximum. DEC will use this information to develop the standardized workplan specific to the applicant's task.

Citizen Science Education and Monitoring

Under the Citizen Science Education and Monitoring theme, Environmental Education sub-grants will be awarded to school districts, watershed councils, and similar entities for the purpose of conducting water quality education and monitoring. This may include participation in World Water Monitoring Day. DEC will work with sub-grantees on the development of sustainable monitoring projects including development of Quality Assurance Project Plans, data quality assessment/ quality control (QA/QC), database management, and other relevant components. Sub-grantees will be encouraged to coordinate with the Alaska Citizen Science Network (ACSN). The goal of these projects will be to increase the understanding science plays in assessing water quality. The project will also serve to facilitate interest in environmental careers.

Waterbody Debris Assessment and Removal

Under the Waterbody Debris Assessment and Removal theme, Environmental Education grant funds will be used to support waterbody clean-up programs largely conducted by non-profit organizations and tribes. These organizations frequently enlist K-12 and post secondary students into clean-up projects. Eligible activities could involve an analysis of a debris problem as well as incorporation of the physical clean up, lessons on the importance of healthy watersheds, strategic planning to insure long term funding is available to secure program viability, and clean-up program assessment. The standardized work plan will list a suite of possible tasks enabling the grantee to tailor the request to increase program maturity. For example, monies could be used to jump start a new program or assess the effectiveness of a longstanding event. The goal of these projects will be to: reduce active sources of debris and increase the capacity of communities to address pollution sources.

Green Infrastructure and Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMP) Education

Under the Green Infrastructure and Stormwater BMP Education theme, Environmental Education grant funds will support local community groups, educators and tribal entities as sub-grantees to educate local decision makers, the architectural/engineering community, and K-12 science classes about existing Green Infrastructure applications and Stormwater BMPs. Sub-grantees could incorporate field trips into environmental stewardship classes or as a part of Worldwide Monitoring Day. University continuing education credits will also be investigated and if feasible awarded to the recipients of the trainings. A number of resource materials already exist for this project; the materials can be used as training material and site visits could be used to demonstrate the viability of green infrastructure. In addition, the existing guidelines will be modified by DEC to address the various hydrologic regions. This project directly addresses local concerns by providing practical examples of how Green Infrastructure can meet both business needs (cost/benefit) and aesthetic needs. The goal of these projects will be to increase application of Green Infrastructure in Alaska. Green Infrastructure has been proven elsewhere to improve water quality and quantity.

Clean Boating Evaluation and Training

Under the Clean Boating Evaluation and Training theme, DEC will furnish local watershed groups or other community groups with tools and materials along with sub-grant funding to conduct locally-

oriented public awareness and education campaigns on the relationship between recreational boating, harbor operations, and water quality. Sub-grantees will be asked to gather information on resources available in their area (e.g., bilge pads availability) that can reduce impacts by surveying users. Combining a conversation on resource availability with instruction on proper boating techniques begins the critical thinking process on how to protect Alaska's waters and important salmon resource. Sub-grantees will conduct the training at local venues such as public boat launches, private boat launches, harbors and marinas, boating shows, and community events. The number of events will be maximized by using DEC's already-developed materials. Through these projects, DEC could begin to develop a comprehensive resource guide.

In addition, local entities (sub-grantees) will educate harbor decision makers, typically the harbor master and local government, about what constitutes clean boating; the Clean Harbors program benefits and begin the self assessment process. Sub-grantees will provide technical hands-on training in the self assessment process; this approach has proven to be an effective tool in enabling the decision makers to recognize operational shortfalls and begin to take action. Having a trusted local entity walk the decision maker through the analysis process results in action. Environmental Education will prove effective at increasing the number of fully certified clean harbors through one-on-one training at the beginning of the process.

The funding directed to these two user groups will enable DEC to expand the existing programs to rural Alaska, where impacts to fisheries can have significant long term subsistence effects. The goal of these projects will be to: increase citizen awareness, increase the number of clean harbors, and protect water quality.

On-Site Septic System Maintenance and Consequences

Under the On-Site Septic System Maintenance and Consequences theme, Environmental Education funds will be used by sub-grantees to provide critical information to local citizens and elected officials about the proper design and maintenance of septic systems. It will also provide training at the local level through local symposiums and site visits. Alaska has over 40,000 onsite wastewater systems serving roughly one quarter of the State's population. Ignorance of the need to properly maintain septic systems is the primary cause of failure. Alaska has good requirements for the design and siting of septic systems, but simple annual inspections and regular septic tank pumping are essential to septic system longevity, and these simple tasks simply are not performed for most systems. A failed septic system, particularly if the failure occurs during the winter, can expose residents, neighbors and the public to raw sewage for extended periods. The goal of these projects is to increase citizen awareness and reduce septic system failures.