



Request for Proposals: Earth Friendly School Initiative

Natural Biodiversity is pleased to announce an opportunity for a school or school district within the Allegheny Mountains region to receive assistance in developing a Sustainability Plan to “green” a school or multiple schools within their district. Through support from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, the Earth Friendly School Initiative Grant will produce a Sustainability Plan with distinct phases, steps to become a Bronze level National Wildlife Federation Eco-School, and ensure students play an active role in greening their school.

Who should apply: A public or private school or a school district within Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Indiana, Somerset or Westmoreland counties.

What is provided: Assistance in developing an action plan for sustainable operating procedures within the school district, guidance in implementing Phase 1 goals, techniques for incorporating students in the development and implementation of the Sustainability Plan, and up to \$1,800 in funding for project materials.

When will assistance be provided: October 1st, 2011 through June, 30th 2012

Why should your school apply: To reduce the school district’s carbon footprint, overall environmental impact, reduce operating costs, and enhance the environmental education opportunities for students, teachers, and the surrounding community.

Mission:

- Natural Biodiversity is a nonprofit organization whose mission is: “To heal and support the biodiversity of our landscapes and their abilities to sustain themselves and flourish; Engaging citizens and recognizing that they are an interdependent part of the Allegheny Mountain region.”
- As part of Natural Biodiversity’s environmental education programs, the Earth Friendly School Initiative will offer a school district the opportunity to become more sustainable by changing its operating procedures, and shrinking the schools overall carbon footprint. Assistance will guide first year implementation and involve students in experiential education opportunities throughout the process.

Eligibility:

- A school or school district within Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Indiana, Somerset and Westmoreland Counties serving any of the grades within the K-12 range.
- School must be dedicated to becoming more sustainable and participating in National Wildlife Federation Eco-Schools program.
- School must have a strong desire to integrate parallel environmental education, science and technology curricula within the district, or already offer a strong experiential environmental education curriculum.

538 Park Ave ~ Johnstown, PA 15902

Telephone: (814) 534-0204 ~ Fax: (814) 534-0206 ~ Website: www.naturalbiodiversity.org

Applications:

- Application instructions and materials are available through the Natural Biodiversity website www.naturalbiodiversity.org/news.shtml
- Applications should be sent via email to kstrosnider@naturalbiodiversity.org in PDF or Microsoft Word format, with a subject heading of “Earth Friendly School Application – *School Name*”. Applications may also be faxed to Kristina at (814) 534 - 0206
- Please contact Natural Biodiversity Assistant Director, Kristina Strosnider via email at kstrosnider@naturalbiodiversity.org or phone at (814) 534-0204 with any questions, comments or concerns.

Deadline:

- Applications must be received by 4 pm on Friday, September 2, 2011.
- Natural Biodiversity will notify applicants of our decision around Friday, September 30th, 2011.

Earth Friendly School Initiative Assistance:

- The selected school district will be granted assistance in the form of in-kind professional services by Natural Biodiversity and other experienced partner organizations. Partners include but are not limited to National Wildlife Federation, Saint Francis University Science Outreach, Green Building Alliance, Southern Alleghenies Resource Conservation and Development Council, Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society, Kiski Conemaugh Stream Team, and ArtWorks in Johnstown.
- Assistance will focus on creating a complete Sustainability Plan for operating procedures and practices for existing buildings, features, and grounds. Assistance will also entail achieving Bronze status from National Wildlife Federations (NWF) Eco-Schools Program; Natural Biodiversity will also consider a Sustainable Agriculture and Food strategy as an addendum to the eight NWF Eco-Schools pathways. Information about NWF Eco-Schools program can be obtained by conducting an internet search for *NWF Eco-Schools* or by going to the following website: www.nwf.org/en/Global-Warming/School-Solutions/Eco-Schools-USA/Become-an-Eco-School.aspx
- A sustainability committee will be formed and serve to guide the Sustainability Plan and implementation.
- In addition, up to \$1,800 worth of materials and supplies will be provided toward the project by Natural Biodiversity’s DEP Environmental Education Grant funding. The selected school will provide a 1:1 monetary and/or in-kind match to the worth of the materials provided.
- The school district must make an effort to reach goals and objectives made available by Natural Biodiversity within the application packet of instructions. This is the first of a multiple phase project with 100% funding and management in subsequent years being assumed by the participating school.
- In accordance with the grant, the project completion deadline is June 30, 2012