



1137 N. Dodge Blvd.  
Tucson, AZ 85716  
[www.watershedmg.org](http://www.watershedmg.org)

## Schoolyard Water Conservation Education Program: Grant Opportunity

**Application Deadline:** Applications must be postmarked by or e-mailed by Monday, October 13, 2014.

**Contact:** Joaquin Murrieta-Saldivar, WMG Schoolyard Program Coordinator  
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Watershed Management Group (WMG) is pleased to offer grant funding for schools to participate in WMG's Schoolyard Water Conservation Education (Schoolyard) Program. Schools will be selected to participate in the Schoolyard Program to complete projects between November 2014 and April 2015, with grant funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Schoolyard Program creates native habitat areas on school campuses that are irrigated with passive water harvesting earthworks (basins, berms, swales, etc.) and will be used as outdoor learning laboratories. Cisterns (plastic or steel culvert) can be integrated if school has additional funds beyond this grant.

WMG will provide funding for each selected school up to \$4,000. **Schools will be required to provide a one-to-one match for the grant funding provided; for example, if schools are awarded \$4,000, they will need to provide \$4,000 in match.** Half of the match can be non-cash sources, like in-kind services and materials. Schools with demonstrated financial need may qualify to have the cash match waived.

Native habitats in schoolyards are places where young people can connect with the natural world every day. WMG believes that hands-on learning about water conservation measures coupled with habitat conservation is a powerful way to reach students. Equipped with a deeper understanding of their natural surroundings, students will become invested stewards of natural resources. These concrete and practical experiences will ultimately influence conservation practices at their own homes and beyond.

## **What will be accomplished through the Schoolyard Program?**

### *1. Implementation of water harvesting programs in Arizona schools*

During the school year calendar of 2014-2015, WMG will select and begin work with four partner schools. Timelines for project completion will be tailored to each school's needs; classroom activities and planning will begin in the fall (Nov-Dec) and workshops may take place anytime between January and April. WMG will work specifically with one or two classrooms at each school.

### *2. Teach students through hands-on curriculum*

In collaboration with selected schools and teachers, WMG will teach water and wildlife habitat education activities addressing one or more of the following topics:

- a. Local Watershed History
- b. The Hydrological Cycle and Observing Water Flows
- c. Rainwater Harvesting
- d. Greywater Harvesting
- e. Urban Wildlife Gardening: Plants, Pollinators, Reptiles, Birds
- f. Building Healthy Soils for Habitat and Food
- g. Watershed Health and Policy: Local and Regional Advocacy
- h. Green Infrastructure

WMG will work with the selected classrooms to implement activities over the course of the project. In addition to activities designed by WMG, materials developed by Arizona Project WET, Project WILD, Environmental Education Exchange, and others will be utilized as appropriate.

### *3. Create a rain garden that attracts native wildlife*

WMG will work with teachers, students, and adult volunteers to plan and construct a rain garden on campus. The campus habitat must use native plants and demonstrate water conservation principles. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife grant stipulates that the school must maintain the habitat for a minimum of 10 years with the intent to use it as an outdoor classroom. The program should be fully integrated into the school curriculum. The rain garden will be created through weekday activities with students and weekend workshop with students and parents. The goal of the rain garden is to create a native plant garden that attracts wildlife and can be supported primarily by rainwater for irrigation.

### *4. Evaluate and promote project*

Progress will be monitored throughout the spring, summer, and fall of 2015, and necessary adjustments will be made for program improvement and project maintenance. WMG will seek feedback on the program during the project and once it has concluded. In addition, WMG strongly encourages schools to reach a broader audience by promoting the rain garden project among the larger student and parent population as well as other schools.

Over the course of the project, WMG will document the classroom activities, workshops, and participant experiences in order to create educational materials such as short videos, website materials, as well as print materials about the Schoolyard Program. WMG also requests that

schools occasionally make the project site available for tours and visits from interested partners and stakeholders.

### **What is required of the partner school?**

1. Provide matching funding. Half of the full match will need to be cash, with a 50% deposit at the start of the program. The cash match may be waived if the school has demonstrated financial need. If schools provide lunches for 80% of their students or more, they will qualify for a waiver.
2. Project must be approved by the school's principal, and a project team must be assembled. Project team should include, at minimum: the principal, coordinating teacher, and a representative from the facilities and/or grounds-keeping crews.
3. The coordinating teacher will help schedule and plan activities.
4. Commitment of at least ten adult volunteers to participate in hands-on workshops for installation of water harvesting features and gardens.
5. Evaluate the program at the end of the semester.
6. Commitment to maintaining the project for a minimum of 10 years.

### **How does a school apply to become a partner?**

- Fill out the attached application in full.
- Participate in the 2 hr workshop-training session; this is a requirement to apply.

#### **For Tucson-metro:**

- September 16, 2014 from 5:00 -7:00pm at the WMG-Living Lab

**WMG Living Lab & Learning Center**  
1137 N Dodge Blvd  
Tucson, Arizona 85716

All applications should be sent to Joaquin Murrieta-Saldivar, Schoolyard Program Coordinator, at [jmurrieta@watershedmg.org](mailto:jmurrieta@watershedmg.org) or mailed to Watershed Management Group, 1137 N Dodge Blvd, Tucson, AZ, 85716. Application must be emailed or postmarked by Monday, October 13, 2014. Schools will be informed of selection by October 31, 2014.

Please contact Joaquin with any questions regarding the Schoolyard Program.