



1137 N. Dodge Blvd.
Tucson, AZ 85716
www.watershedmg.org

Schoolyard Water Conservation Education Program: Grant Opportunity

Application Deadline: Applications must be postmarked by or emailed by Monday, September 26, 2016.

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Watershed Management Group (WMG) is pleased to offer continued 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 October 2016 and May 2017, 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 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 impart students with a meaningful understanding of the natural environment. 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 in their own households and beyond.

What will be accomplished through the Schoolyard Program?

1. Implementation of water harvesting programs in Arizona schools

During the Fall of 2016 - Spring of 2017, WMG will select and begin work with four partner schools. Timelines for project completion will be tailored to each school's needs; classroom activities will begin

in the Fall - Winter (November – March) and workshops may take place anytime between February and May. 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. Intro and Local-regional History of Watersheds
- b. The Hydrological Cycle and Observing Water Flows
- c. Passive - Rainwater Harvesting
- d. Shallow Ground Water
- e. Urban Wildlife Gardening: Plants & Pollinators
- f. Building Healthy Soils for Habitat and Food
- g. Watershed Health and Policy: Local and Regional Advocacy

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.

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 solely by rainwater for irrigation.

4. Evaluate and promote project

Progress will be monitored throughout the duration of the project (Fall 2016 – Summer 2017), 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 with the project 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 as a demonstration site 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 one of the 2.5 hrs workshop-training session; this is a requirement to apply.

For Tucson-metro:

- August 25th, 2016 from 4:30-7:00pm at WMG – Living Lab and Learning Center.
- August 30th, 2016 from 5:00-7:30pm at WMG – Living Lab and Learning Center.

WMG-LLLC. 1137 N Dodge Blvd.
Tucson, Arizona 85716

For Phoenix-metro: Date and place to be determine soon.

All applications should be sent to Joaquin Murrieta-Saldivar, WMG-Cultural Ecologist, at jmurrieta@watershedmg.org or mailed to Watershed Management Group, 1137 N Dodge Blvd, Tucson, AZ, 85716. Application (or postmarked by) deadline is Monday, September 26, 2016. Schools will be informed of selection by October 17, 2016.

Please contact Joaquin with any questions regarding the Schoolyard Program.