

US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Grant Programs to Address Threats to Coral Reef Resources

Environmental Education Grant Program

1. Overview/Summary

a. Agency contact information:

Teresa Ippolito
USEPA, Region 2
Communications Division
290 Broadway, 26th Floor
New York, NY 10007-1866
ippolito.teresa@epa.gov
Phone (212) 637-3671

b. Description of Grant Program as it Relates to Coral Ecosystem Conservation

The Environmental Education Grant Program was established under Section 6 of the National Environmental Education Act of 1990. The goal of the program is to support environmental education (EE) projects that enhance the public's awareness, knowledge, and skills to make informed and responsible decisions that affect environmental quality.

c. Eligibility

i. Who is/is not eligible?

Colleges and universities, local and tribal education agencies, state education or environmental agencies, not-for-profit organizations, and non-commercial educational broadcasting entities are eligible to apply for funds under the program. Grantees are located in all 50 United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and other U.S. Territories.

ii. What projects are eligible?

To be considered EE, a project must be based on sound science and promote environmental stewardship. The project must enhance critical-thinking, problem-solving, and effective decision-making skills, as well as teach individuals to weigh various sides of an environmental issue to make informed and responsible decisions. Environmental education does not advocate a particular viewpoint or course of action.

d. Grant Schedules/Cycles

Solicitation Notice August or September
Applications due Mid-November
Evaluation process December - April
Grants awarded May - June
Projects implemented July at the earliest

* The schedule for the current year is specified in the Solicitation Notice each year.

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- e. Grants Management
 - iii. What are the rules?
 - iv. Accountability and auditable trail.
- f. List - History (recent) of projects titles/abstracts that have been funded.

US Virgin Islands

Year	Organization and Project Name
2001	<u>University of the Virgin Islands in St. Thomas</u> Virgin Island Home and Farm Water Quality Assessment Education and Outreach
2000	<u>University of the Virgin Islands (UVI)</u> Understanding Coastal Pollution: A Dynamic Approach to Environmental Teaching
1999	<u>St. Croix Aquarium and Marine Education Center</u> Education Program: Marine Ecosystem Protection Video
	<u>St. Croix Environmental Association, Inc.</u> My Environment
1998	<u>Virgin Islands Conservation Society, Inc.</u> ECO-Camps
1994	<u>University of the Virgin Islands</u> Marine Field Service Curriculum

Puerto Rico

Year	Organization and Project Name
2004	<u>G Works Inc.</u> From My Area to the World and Back
2003	<u>Inter American University of Puerto Rico</u> Promoting Environmental Careers Through an Integrated Approach
2002	<u>Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico</u> Understanding the Wonders of Puerto Rico's Bioluminescent Bays and Lagoons
2001	<u>Ana G. Mendez University System, Colegio Universitario del Este</u> Integrating Environmental Health Education into the Preschool Curriculum

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2000 [Inter-American University of Puerto Rico, Inc.](#)
Barranquitas Campus Environmental Education Program (BCEEP)

1999 [Technological College of the Municipality of San Juan](#)
Getting a Head Start on Environmental Education

- g. **Matching Fund Requirements**
Grantees must provide non-Federal matching funds of at least 25% of the total cost of the grant project. The match may be provided by the grant applicant or by a partner organization. The match may be cash or in-kind contributions, such as salaries paid to the project managers and equipment purchased for the project.

- h. **Specific Criteria on How Proposals are Scored**
Grant applications are evaluated in a two-step process that involves participation by EE experts outside of EPA at the first level of review. In general, the first ranking is done by non-federal reviewers from schools, universities, state education agencies, and not-for-profit organizations. The second level of review is conducted by EPA, and the factors listed below may be considered prior to the awards being approved by EPA's Regional Administrators or by Headquarters.

Factors considered in making final selections include:

- .. cost-effectiveness
- .. effectiveness of collaboration and partnerships
- .. environmental or educational importance of the project
- .. effectiveness of delivery methods
- .. methods for evaluating and improving project
- .. measurable results
- .. geographic distribution of projects

2. Supplemental Information

- i. **Grant Application or FFO**
Each year EPA issues a Solicitation Notice that describes the application procedures and grant priorities for that year and contains all the necessary application forms. The Solicitation Notice is published in the Federal Register and is also available online at the web site below. Grant writing tips, and other EE grant information, including descriptions of grants issued by state, also are provided on this web site.

- j. **Helpful Hints/Strategy/Guidance on preparing the application**

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Below are several helpful tips to remember during the grant writing process. For more specific tips on grant writing, please refer to EPA's "Tips for Developing Successful Grant Applications," which is available online at www.epa.gov/enviroed/granttips.html.

- Carefully follow the instructions in the Solicitation Notice
- Write clearly and concisely
- Price the project competitively
- Identify measurable results

k. Samples of successful grant proposals that were funded.

2004 Grants

G Works Inc. \$20,844

Gretchen Guzman, Street L-A-13 Torremolinos, Guaynabo, PR 00969

From My Area to the World and Back

In this project, teachers help students define local environmental problems. The students use the colossal Earth Balloon as a laboratory in which they develop environmental stewardship, problem-solving, critical-thinking, and decision-making skills. They also identify and assess the causes and consequences of local environmental problems and consider how those problems relate to worldwide environmental issues. In examining potential solutions to the problems, the students come to understand that environmental stewardship has both local and global ramifications.

2003 Grants

Inter American University of Puerto Rico \$15,000

Amaury Boscio Vargas, P.O. Box 363255, San Juan, PR 00936-3255

Promoting Environmental Careers Through an Integrated Approach

Inter American University of Puerto Rico is conducting seminars on environmental areas of study for the academic community and participating students. The course of study includes field trips to develop students' knowledge about the environment and assignments to develop their problem-solving and research skills. Students are focusing their studies on the Laguna Tortuguero ecosystem with the cooperation of the Ecotourism Office of the Municipality of Vega Baja. Students hold workshops to share their acquired knowledge of the environment with the Vega Baja community and present their work to the university community at the annual Congress of the Center for Environmental Education and Interpretation. These students complete both bachelor's and master's degrees in a total of 5 years.

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2002 Grants

Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico \$23,043

Myrna L. Robles, P. O. Box 9023554, San Juan, PR 00902

Understanding the Wonders of Puerto Rico's Bioluminescent Bays and Lagoons
Working with the University of Puerto Rico Sea Grant College and the Puerto Rico Department of Education, The Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico is developing a documentary video and accompanying teacher guide about Puerto Rico's bioluminescent aquatic ecosystems. The video familiarizes students with conditions necessary to maintain the microorganisms that produce bioluminescence. Middle and high school students learn about the interdependence of organisms in the lagoon ecosystems and the impact of shoreline runoff and coastline degradation. Educators review the video prior to final production to ensure its applicability to educational standards.

2001 Grants

University of the Virgin Islands in St. Thomas \$14,130

Julie Wright, University of Virgin Islands, #2 John Brewers Bay, St. Thomas, VI 00802-9990

Virgin Island Home and Farm Water Quality Assessment Education and Outreach
Using materials that speak to the special needs of communities in the Virgin Islands, the project expands on the existing Virgin Islands Home and Farm Water Quality Assessment (VI*A*Syst) Program to educate residents about water quality and practices that can cause destruction of the important marine and terrestrial ecosystems in the Virgin Islands and teach them how to detect contaminants in drinking water. Through educational materials, workshops, and site visits, participants are encouraged to adopt practices in and around the home and farm that protect their health and safeguard water quality. The program, promoted by a multimedia campaign, also provides residents who obtain their drinking water from cisterns with low-cost water-testing kits, along with training in the use of the kits.

2000 Grants

University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) \$5,000

Mayra Suarez-Velez, #2 John Brewers' Bay, St. Thomas, VI 00802

Understanding Coastal Pollution: A Dynamic Approach to Environmental Teaching
The Sea-Grant Virgin Islands Marine Advisory Service and the Mathematics and Science Department of the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) are partners on this program to provide needed graphic environmental education materials and field experiences that engage students between the ages of 8 and 10. A medium that appeals to younger students, a comic book, is in development, with thought-provoking activities that depict characters who reflect the Virgin Islands' cultural diversity: black, Indian, Latino, and white ethnic backgrounds. The central issue is preservation of the future livelihood, as well as the environmental integrity, of the Virgin Islands through an understanding of the human impact on the Virgin Islands' precious tropical coastal zones. Five workshops are held to provide the perspective of teachers during development of the materials. Through 15 workshop presentations, approximately 400 students have the opportunity to complement the book activities with an interactive field experience at the MacLean

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Marine Science Center at UVI. In addition, the materials are slated for wide distribution at Coastweek and Earth Day events in the Virgin Islands.

1999 Grants

St. Croix Aquarium and Marine Education Center \$5,000

Longin Kaczmarek, P. O. Box 1217, Frederiksted, St. Croix, VI 00841

Education Program: Marine Ecosystem Protection Video

This program educates the public about the marine ecosystem by training staff of the Marine Education Center to teach educators, students, and the general public about protecting local marine ecosystems. Participants learn how to engage center visitors in activities that help them better understand local environments. They also learn how activities such as discharge of untreated sewage, damage to coral reefs caused by commercial activities, and non-point-source pollution affect the island's priceless ecosystems. Among the goals of the project is the fostering of effective education about marine ecosystems in local public schools. A video is being produced to facilitate the training of current and future staff.