

REAP Conservation Education Program 2011 Grants



A total of 23 conservation education grants were awarded for the May and November 2011 grant rounds, with awards totaling \$361,231. Approximately \$422,023 was leveraged through in cash and in-kind matches through these projects. Another \$31,500 was awarded to the University of Northern Iowa to assist and monitor implementation of CEP grants. A total of 10 projects requesting \$253,974 were not funded, and another project was funded at about one-third of request.

Perpetuate a Good Idea Grants

Exploring Outdoors to Teach the Core--\$4,728

Guthrie Center Elementary School (REAP CEP#12-02)

Contact: Brent Meier and Barb Gigar, Guthrie Center

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Project funded: June 2011

[Click here to review the project's midterm report.](#)

[Click here to review the project's final report.](#)

[Click here to review curriculum charts from the project.](#)

[Click here to review a case study.](#)

[Click here to review learning cycles.](#)

The project's goal is to use available resources such as an outdoor classroom to provide conservation education opportunities for pre-K-6 grade students. A second goal is to demonstrate to educators and administrators how comprehensive, site-based conservation education supports the Iowa Core.

GreenArts--\$5,000

Metro Arts Alliance, Des Moines (REAP CEP #12-11)

Contact: Kim Poam Logan, Des Moines

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Project funded: November 2011

[Click here to review the project's midterm report.](#)

[Click here to review the project's final report.](#)

Metro Arts Alliance (MAA) will adapt and build upon a GreenArts CEP grant, awarded one year ago, to connect people to nature and build conservation awareness through the arts. With this project, MAA will provide more in-depth education to support long-term learning and exposure; and will perform a more robust evaluation to improve the program and attract new partners. The program is expected to provide 100 hours of community and school-based conservation arts activities, impacting up to 1,000 community members.

Trees Forever GreenForce--\$5,000

Trees Forever, Marion (REAP CEP #12-12)

Contact: Meredith Borchardt, Marion

319-278-1131; mborchardt@treesforever.org

Project funded: November 2011

[Click here to review the project's midterm report.](#)

[Click here to review the project's final report.](#)

Trees Forever will work with six to 10 affiliated groups that haven't previously participated in GreenForce youth involvement training. Trees Forever also plans to reach an additional 25 high school and college clubs to let them know about opportunities with Trees Forever. Through this program, they expect to work with 150 youth and 60 adults, and have the youth become aware of environmental volunteer opportunities. They expect some to become regular volunteers.

REAP CEP Grants

Frog Watch: Expanding Citizen Science in Iowa--\$8,219

Dubuque County Historical Society (#12-07)

Contact: Meg Wall-Wild, Dubuque

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Project funded: June 2011

[Click here to review the project's midterm report.](#)

[Click here to review the project's final report.](#)

The National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium will provide training to a projected 70 volunteers participating in the American Zoo Association Citizen Science program, Frog Watch. Volunteers will be trained to recognize species by sound. They will also be able to accurately collect and upload data to the Frog Watch website and the Iowa North American Amphibian Monitoring Program. An estimated 300 schoolchildren will be introduced to Citizen Science and amphibians.

Salute to Songbirds Traveling Exhibit--\$5,000

Friends of Hartman Reserve (REAP CEP #12-03)

Contact: Laura Stammler, Cedar Falls

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Project funded: June 2011

[Click here to review the project's final report.](#)

Funds will be used to ship the Salute to Songbirds traveling exhibit back to California at the end of its traveling exhibit time period.

Project Archaeology: Investigating Culture and History--\$9,664

Golden Hills Resource Conservation and Development (REAP CEP #12-20)

Contact: Emily Haase, Oakland

712-482-3029; Emily@goldenhillsrcd.org

Project funded: November 2011

[Click here to review the project's midterm report.](#)

[Click here to review the project's final report.](#)

Golden Hills RC&D will conduct a workshop for up to 35 educators. One of the goals is for participants, at workshop's end, to be knowledgeable about the Glenwood Culture and history. Teachers will visit a reconstructed Glenwood Culture Earthlodge and see the work of an archaeological dig hosted by the Glenwood Museum. Another goal is for attendees to leave the workshop with the needed tools to develop their own lesson plans for indoor or outdoor classrooms.

Smart TrailSM--\$3,300

Harrison County Conservation Board (REAP CEP # 12-13)

Contact: Connie Betts, Woodbine

712-647-2785; cbetts@harrisoncountyparks.org

Project funded: November 2011

[Click here to review the project's midterm report.](#)

[Click here to review the project's final report.](#)

Harrison County Conservation Board will develop Smart TrailsSM, which incorporate quick response codes (QR) that allow for interactive interpretation. The Smart TrailsSM will bring interpretation to

hiking trails in three county parks. A code will be scan-able by a mobile device to see or hear audio or visual interpretation using a URL address. Goals are for hikers to become more knowledgeable of Iowa's natural resources and the Loess Hills, thereby increasing environmental literacy.

**Project WET Generation II Preservice Workshops--\$11,122
Iowa Academy of Science, Cedar Falls (REAP CEP #12-18)**

Contact: Marcy Seavey, Cedar Falls

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Project funded: November 2011

[Click here to review the project's midterm report.](#)

[Click here to review the project's final report.](#)

The Iowa Academy of Science will provide professional development workshops for Iowa preservice educators using Project WET (Water Education for Teachers). The goal is for at least 100 new preservice educators to be reached, and that they will be able to implement WET activities in future classrooms.

**Education for Cedar River Watershed: We're all in this Watershed Together--\$49,600
Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards (REAP CEP #12-15)**

Contact: Dennis Goemaat, Cedar Rapids

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Project funded: November 2011

[Click here to review the project's midterm report.](#)

[Click here to review the project's final report.](#)

Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards will coordinate an educational effort throughout the Cedar River Watershed, drawing on 20 county conservation boards (CCB) to accomplish their education goals. Their goal is for citizens to understand and advocate for the value of natural areas for flood mitigation and to improve water quality. The project will develop tools such as signs, displays, a presentation, news articles, and short videos using unified themes and messages.

National Association for Interpretation: National Workshop--\$17,560

Iowa Association of Naturalists (#12-05)

Contact: Amy Yoakum, Ames

515-232-2516; ayoakum@storycounty.com

Project funded: June 2011

[Click here to review the project's midterm report.](#)

[Click here to review the project's final report.](#)

Funds will be used to award scholarships to members of the Iowa Association of Naturalists to attend the National Association for Interpretation conference in St. Paul in November, 2011. Funding will provide scholarships to 56 IAN members.

Expanding Professional Networks at Winter Solstice 2012—\$13,200

Iowa Conservation Education Coalition (#12-08)

Contact: Heather Niec, Cedar Rapids

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Project funded: June 2011

[Click here to review the project's midterm report.](#)

[Click here to review the project's final report.](#)

Participants in this project will be able to integrate new knowledge and skills gained, access new resources and contribute to a support network to encourage quality environmental education. The project includes awarding 30 scholarships to participants to attend Winter Solstice, conducting reflection groups

to help scholarship recipients explore ways to apply what they learn at the conference, developing electronic tools to enable recipients to continue networking, and evaluating impact of program efforts.

Iowa Outdoors: Science Segments—\$18,172

Iowa Public Broadcasting Board, Des Moines (REAP CEP #12-19)

Contact: Wayne Bruns, Johnston

515-242-4183; wayne@iptv.org

Project funded: November 2011

[Click here to review the project's midterm report.](#)

[Click here to review the project's final report.](#)

Iowa Public Broadcasting Board will produce season two of the Iowa Outdoors television series. REAP CEP funding will assist with production of video segments highlighting environmental sciences, and this new feature will be added to the Iowa Outdoors series. The goal is for TV viewers and web users to be more knowledgeable and interested in conservation issues. It is hoped that this, in turn, will result in viewers making greater use of Iowa's state and county parks and other natural resources to observe phenomena explored in the programs.

Master River Stewards: Ensuring a Legacy of River Restoration--\$22,690

Iowa Rivers Revival (REAP CEP #12-09)

Contact: Jim Pease, Des Moines

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Project funded: June 2011

[Click here to review the project's midterm report.](#)

[Click here to review the project's final report.](#)

Master River Stewards provides hands-on classroom and field-based training for adults interested in knowing more about Iowa's river systems and using that knowledge to develop river protection and restoration projects. The project staff will develop curriculum that will be used to create a Master River Steward program, and to pilot the program with 25 adults from five watershed groups. Master River Stewards extends the models used in the Master Conservationist/Gardener programs, but focuses on rivers. The program is an eight-week course (four-hour sessions) that culminates in a volunteer project.

Watershed Steward Eco-Team Program--\$8,824

Iowa Stormwater Education Program (REAP CEP #12-22)

Contact: Pat Sauer, Ankeny

515-289-1999; psauer@iamu.org

Project funded: November 2011

[Click here to review the project's midterm report.](#)

[Click here to review the project's final report.](#)

Iowa Stormwater Education Program's goal is to improve and protect Iowa's water resources by working directly with urban neighborhoods in Cedar Rapids. In this pilot project, volunteers will create eco-teams in Cedar Rapids neighborhoods. These teams will hold eight meetings and work together to make meaningful changes to improve and protect Iowa water quality.

Gladys Black Eagle Nest Cam--\$8,000

Red Rock Lake Association (REAP CEP #12-24)

Contact: Ron Huelse, Pella

641-842-6282; bull@iowatelecom.net

Project funded: November 2011

[Click here to review the project's midterm report.](#)

[Click here to review the project's final report.](#)

Red Rock Lake Association will provide eagle education for K-16 students as well as the general public. Videos will be developed as part of the project, and placed on the web. The goals are for the targeted

audience to develop empathy for raptors, and for those reached to subsequently improve conservation practices and improve voluntary participation in nature.

Reiman Garden Butterfly Conservation Awareness and Education Application--\$13,400

Reiman Gardens (REAP CEP #12-16)

Contact: Nathan Brockman, Ames

515-294-2567; mantisnb@iastate.edu

Project funded: November 2011

[Click here to review the project's first tri-term report.](#)

[Click here to view the project's midterm report.](#)

[Click here to view the project's final report.](#)

Reiman Gardens will develop software and will provide on-site and remote interactive technology to further engage visitors in the Garden's butterfly wing. The project's goals are also to enhance educational programming, provide a needed support service to volunteers, and provide new interactive educational tools for schools, field research and butterfly enthusiasts throughout Iowa. REAP CEP funds will be used to establish a database with a user interface to help users identify butterfly species and access species-specific data.

Kellerton Grasslands Prairie Chicken Education--\$2,500
Ringgold County Conservation Board (REAP CEP #12-23)

Contact: Kate Zimmerman, Mount Ayr

641-464-2787; rangerkate@iowatelecom.net

Project funded: November 2011

[Click here to review the project's midterm report.](#)

[Click here to review the project's final report.](#)

Ringgold County Conservation Board will develop an educational kiosk to educate the public about protecting the prairie chicken and other species. The goal, in part, is for visitors and others they talk with to become better stewards of the land.

Burn Association and Prescribed Fire Education--\$4,975
Southern Iowa Oak Savanna Alliance (REAP CEP #12-10)

Contact: Jennifer Abraham, Leon

801-391-7099 (cell); Lincoln_85@hotmail.com

Project funded: June 2011

[Click here to view the project's midterm report.](#)

[Click here to view the project's final report.](#)

The Alliance will educate landowners in the southern Iowa region about the use of prescribed fire as a land management tool. In addition, they will help establish a private prescribed burn association aimed at ameliorating avenues of communication between landowners so they may help each other plan and execute prescribed burns on each others' property. The fundamental goal is to increase the amount of prescribed fire conducted in Iowa for land management purposes.

Using Consumption and Waste to Teach for Deeper Understanding--\$30,439

University of Northern Iowa Center for Energy & Environmental Education (REAP CEP #12-04)

Contact: Susan Salterberg, Cedar Falls

319-337-4816; Salterberg@uni.edu

Project funded: June 2011

[Click here to review the project's midterm report.](#)

[Click here to view the project's final report.](#)

UNI CEEE will conduct three graduate credit courses to provide 80 educators with a deeper content understanding of global consumption and waste issues. UNI will also introduce lesson plans to Pre-K-12

grade educators and future educators at conference sessions. UNI expects participants to know they are globally connected through the decisions they make and the products they buy. UNI also expects that teachers in the professional development course will be able to teach mini-units about consumption/waste.

**Green Holidays: Training Trainers to Create Socio-Cultural-Environmental Change--\$36,746
University of Northern Iowa Center for Energy & Environmental Education (REAP CEP #12-14)**

Contact: Susan Salterberg, Cedar Falls

319-337-4816; Salterberg@uni.edu

Project funded: November 2011

[Click here to view the project's midterm report.](#)

[Click here to review the project's second midterm report.](#)

Green Holidays will be targeted to non-formal educators/trainers. UNI CEEE plans to serve 125 new educators/trainers and continue to engage more than 100 existing trainers. A number of educational tools are available at www.reclaimyourholidays.org, and this project will allow creation of more tools, and coordination of train-the-trainer workshops. A needs assessment for K-12 will also be conducted. UNI expects educators to create more environmentally friendly holidays, and educate others about how to do this as well.

Tallgrass Prairie Center Educational Shorts Film Series--\$25,080

University of Northern Iowa (REAP CEP # 12-17)

Contact: Daryl Smith and David O'Shields, Cedar Falls

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Project funded: November 2011

[Click here to view the project's midterm report.](#)

The University will develop, write, shoot and edit a series of 10 educational short films. The overall theme will be "How to plant and establish a prairie reconstruction." Each film will be five to 10 minutes long and provide techniques and basic information to achieve a successful tallgrass prairie reconstruction. The shorts will be used by the Tallgrass Prairie Center and also via streaming from the TPC website.

Rainscaping Loess Soils--\$29,513

West Pottawattamie Soil & Water Conservation District (REAP CEP (#12-06)

Contact: Danelle Schmielau, Council Bluffs

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Project funded: June 2011

[Click here to review the project's midterm report.](#)

[Click here to review the project's final report.](#)

Rainscaping Loess Soils education will be offered to 520 professionals such as nursery/garden center owners, the general public, and college students. Goals are for participants to achieve an understanding of the capabilities and limitations of loess soils; learn effective rainscaping strategies; and incorporate this knowledge into the planning, design, installation and maintenance of Best Management Practices.

Managing Wildlife: Outreach for Women Landowners--\$28,499

Women, Food and Agriculture Network (REAP CEP #12-21)

Contact: Leigh Adcock, Ames

515-460-2477; leigh@wfan.org

Project funded: November 2011

[Click here to review the project's midterm report.](#)

[Click here to review the project's final report.](#)

Women, Food and Agriculture Network's goal is to increase and improve wildlife and hunting management practices on Iowa's private land by creating an outreach program targeting women landowners. They will hold peer-to-peer meetings with landowners in three locations, both to increase participants' knowledge of wildlife and hunting management practices, and to collect data to inform development of a communication piece directed at women landowners.

Assist and Monitor the Implementation of REAP CEP Grants--\$31,500

University of Northern Iowa (REAP CEP #12-01)

Contact: Paul Below, Cedar Falls

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Project funded: April 2011

UNI Center for Energy & Environmental Education will assist and monitor the implementation of CEP grants* with a goal to assure they are completed as approved by the CEP Board. The CEEE will also assist grantees in determination and reporting of grant outputs and impacts, and facilitate the marketing of CEP grant results to other educators who could benefit from them and to other audiences who should know about the work of the CEP Board. **The exception will be grant(s) awarded to the to the UNI staff member who fills this role; the DNR REAP CEP Coordinator will monitor those grant(s).*