REAP Conservation Education Program
2014 Grants (FY15)

A total of six conservation education grants were awarded for the May 2014 grant round, with awards totaling $130,392. Approximately $206,059 was leveraged through in cash and in-kind contributions through these projects. Another $31,500 was awarded to the University of Northern Iowa to assist and monitor implementation of CEP grants over a 12-month period. A total of six projects were not funded, totaling $121,251. Another grant proposal was disqualified because it did not meet REAP CEP requirements.

Mini-Grants

Women, Food and Agricultural Network Annual Conference Scholarships
Women, Food and Agriculture Network—$3,500 (REAP CEP #15-02)
Contact: Carol Schutte
641-430-2540; carol@wfan.org
Project funded: May 2014
Click here to review the project's midterm report.
Click here to review the project's final report.

CEP grant funds will support the attendance of 15 beginning women farmers from Iowa, who will attend WFAN's state conference held in November.

Community Tree Planning Educational Workshops
MIDAS Council of Governments--$3,032 (REAP CEP #15-03)
Contact: Shirley Helgevold
515-576-7183, ext. 212; shelgevold@midascog.net
Project funded: May 2014
Click here to review the project's midterm report.

CEP grant funds will fund, in part, a series of informational workshops in a six-county region regarding tree planning education, specifically helping communities conduct tree inventories and tree management plans. The workshops are prompted by the spread of Emerald Ash Borer disease.

NOVEMBER 2014

Community Tree Planning Educational Workshops
Region XII Council of Governments--$3,308 (REAP CEP #15-08)
Contact: Ainsley Brungardt
712-775-7814; abrungardt@region12cog.org
Project funded: November 2014
Click here to review the project's final report.

Region XII will coordinate and host six informational workshops for the communities within their six-county region. The attendees will learn about the importance of trees, tree inventorying, tree management plans and the Emerald Ash Borer disease.

Two-for-the-Price-of-None: Getting Kids Outdoors
Keep Iowa Beautiful--$3,500 (REAP CEP #15-09)
Contact: Martha McCormick
515-979-3311; nextstepadventure@mac.com
Project funded: November 2014
Click here to review the project's midterm report.

KIB will offer teachers two quality, experiential outdoor experiences co-facilitated by KIB staff and Polk County Conservation naturalists, a supplementary unit for them to use in their classrooms, a chance to become involved in Ft. Des Moines Park, and learn about themselves and their environment.

Turtles: Secrets of the Shell-Travels Further
National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium--$1,401 (REAP CEP #15-10)
Contact: Mark Wagner
563-557-9545; mdwagner@rivermuseum.com
Project funded: November 2014
Click here to review the project's midterm report.

The Museum will ship their Turtles exhibit to up to 20 sites for exhibit over an 18-month period.

Fostering Networking
Iowa Conservation Education Coalition--$3,500 (REAP CEP #15-11)
Contact: Linda Zaletel
515-382-5427; IowaEE@outlook.com
Project funded: November 2014
Click here to review the project's midterm report.
ICEC will foster nine new networks created during the Diving into Networking workshop. These new regional networks will connect educators and students with conservation projects occurring around Iowa to enhance EE. The network will also employ science education best practices.

Summer Ag Institute: Conservation in Agriculture
Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation--$2,800 (REAP CEP #15-12)
Contact: Will Fett
515-331-4182; wfett@iowaagliteracy.org
Project funded: November 2014
Click here to review the project's midterm report.
Click here to review the project's final report.
A two day (15 hour) Summer Ag Institute course – one of a series – will have a conservation theme and is designed for Preschool-High School educators to expand their curriculum including topics related to agriculture. The focus will be integrating available resources and hands-on activities about agriculture and the environment into existing classroom curriculum.

Prairie Chicken Festival
Iowa DNR Wildlife Diversity Program--$2,113 (REAP CEP #15-13)
Contact: Pat Schlarbaum
515-432-2823, ext. 104; Pat.Schlarbaum@dnr.iowa.gov
Project funded: November 2014
Click here to view the project's final report.
A Prairie Chicken Festival will be hosted in Kellerton, Iowa, and feature oral tradition stories from members of the Yankton Sioux Nation.

Pollination Celebration
Polk County Conservation-$24,680 (REAP CEP #15-14)
Contact: Patrice Petersen-Keys
515-323-5359; Patrice.petersen-keys@polkcountyiowa.gov
Project funded: November 2014
The PCC plans to educate families and adults about the importance of pollinator species. To accomplish this, they will partner with Blank Park Zoo, Reiman Gardens, Polk Soil and Water Conservation District, Polk County Master Gardeners and Central Campus School. The goal is to educate 1,000 people about pollinator species and actions they can take to help prevent the decline.

Collector's Corner
Science Center of Iowa--$33,880 (REAP CEP #15-15)
Contact: Patrick Rice
515-245-4005; Patrick.rice@sciowa.org
Project funded: November 2014
Click here to review the project's midterm report.
Collector's Corner will help 150 elementary and middle school students attending SCI Summer Camps learn where natural science is found, how they can interact with it and how it is relevant in their lives. An interactive 'library' of natural science, Collectors Corner gives participants the opportunity to display items they find in nature such as rocks, fossils, geodes, and other items that are safe and educationally related to natural sciences.

Using the Amplification Process to Identify Needed EE Strategies for Consuming Differently
University of Northern Iowa Center for Energy & Environmental Education--$12,117 (REAP CEP #15-16)
Contact: Susan Salterberg
319-337-4816; susan.salterberg@uni.edu
Project funded: November 2014
The UNI CEEE staff will conduct a literature review, interview experts and stakeholders, and hold discussions to learn, in part, what has worked and what hasn't worked in educating about the "stuff of life." In addition, they will pull in professionals from the field who are doing environmental education every day and, with them, identify model educational approaches to pilot in Phase II of this project.

Integrating Best Practices in Conservation Education Professional Development Using Proven Resources and Tools

Iowa Conservation Education Coalition--$55,025 (REAP CEP 15-17)
Contact: Linda Zaletel
515-382-5427; IowaEE@outlook.com
Project funded: November 2014
Click here to review the project's midterm report.

ICEC, along with partners, will engage 150 or more early childhood educators and 500 pre- or in-service educators/naturalists in professional development. In addition, monthly e-communication will take place. ICEC expects at least 50% of those reached to use the KinderNature and IowaEE websites.

Water Conservation Workshops for Pre-Service Teachers

Iowa Academy of Science--$28,915 (REAP CEP #15-18)
Contact: Eve Halligan
319-273-2021; eve.halligan@uni.edu
Project funded: November 2014

IAS will coordinate and provide up to 16 water conservation workshops to an estimated 320 pre-service teachers. The goal is to provide these pre-service teachers with knowledge, materials and tools to teach their future students about the importance of water as a resource in Iowa and the world.

GreenArts

Metro Arts Alliance of Greater Des Moines--$24,600 (REAP CEP #15-19)
Contact: Carla Thomas
515-280-3222; Carla@metroarts.org
Project funded: November 2014
Click here to review the project's midterm report.

GreenArts coonects people to nature and builds conservation awareness through the arts. The program will provide approximately 215 hours of arts-based conservation education to the community and to school children, impacting an estimated 10,200 community members, 3,750 students and 200,000+ others through a permanent installation of art work at the Des Moines International Airport.

Water Wise Cedar Rapids

City of Cedar Rapids-Utilities Department--$8,750 (REAP CEP #15-20)
Contact: Holly Ruble
319-286-5286; h.ruble@cedar-rapids.org
Project funded: November 2014
Click here to review the project's midterm report.
Click here to review the project's final report.

The City of Cedar Rapids' Utilities Department plans to reach at least 1,000 households with water conservation education, including distribution of toilet leak dye tabs and classroom activities. They also plan to affect 50 or more people with rain barrel education, 150 or more with efficiency toilet installation and 50 or more with irrigation rain sensor installation and information.

The Buzz in Agriculture: Farmer-to-Farmer Prairie and Pollinator Habitat Education

Practical Farmers of Iowa--$21,344 (REAP CEP 15-21)
Contact: Liz Kolbe
515-232-5661; liz@practicalfarmers.org
Project funded: November 2014

PFI will work with farmers to host four field days and one workshop for an expected 200 farmers to highlight ecologically and financially sustainable farming practices.

Iowa Low-Head Dam Modification Success Stories Booklet

Iowa Rivers Revival--$19,690 (REAP CEP #15-22)
Contact: Rosalyn Lehman
515-724-4093; rlehman@iowarivers.org
Click here to view the project's midterm report.

IRR will create a booklet to increase statewide awareness of low-head dam modification options by reaching a wide audience with compelling photos, information and resources.

MAY 2014
REAP CEP Grants

Diving into Networking
Iowa Conservation Education Coalition--$15,000 (REAP CEP #15-04)
Contact: Linda Zaletel
515-297-0701; iowaee@outlook.com
Project funded: May 2014
Click here to view the project's midterm report.
Click here to view the project's final report.

ICEC will host a workshop in February 2015 for an estimated 100 formal and non-formal educators to launch ongoing collaboration through nine new regional networks. The workshop, focused on water issues, will introduce research-based best practices in science education, and will create a common language for the network to function.

Discovery Slough
National Mississippi River Museum--$25,000 (REAP CEP #15-07)
Contact: Cristin Waterbury
563-557-9545; cwaterbury@rivermuseum.com
Project funded: May 2014

Discovery Slough will be a new traveling exhibit that will raise awareness and increase stewardship of Iowa's aquatic habitats. Created by the Museum, Discovery Slough will interpret the backwaters, wetlands, streams and major rivers of Iowa, and will reach approximately 300,000 people over a three-year period. A duplicate exhibit will be created for use at the Museum.

Young Investigators: Connecting Children with Nature through Project Work
Nature Connections--$40,518 (REAP CEP #15-05)
Contact: Lisa Roti
712-337-3669, ext. 1; friendsoflakesidelab@gmail.com
Project funded: May 2014
Click here to view the project's midterm report.
Click here to view the project's final report.

The Young Investigators' program goal is to reach every early childhood educator, student and school administrator in Northwest Iowa through training in a series of three cohorts over five years, impacting an estimated 1,200 children. The program will expose a new cohort to nature inquiry and provide them hands on training/resources to begin immediate implementation in their classroom.

Assist and Monitor the Implementation of REAP CEP Grants--$31,500
University of Northern Iowa (REAP CEP #15-01)
Contact: Tolif Hunt
319-273-3025; tolif.hunt@uni.edu
Project funded: May 2014

Over a 12-month period, the 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 will monitor those grant(s).*

Environmental Issues Instruction: Energy Systems of the Prairie
Upper Iowa University--$43,625 (REAP CEP #15-06)
Contact: Barb Ehlers
563-425-5322; ehlersb@uiu.edu
Project funded: May 2014
Click here to view the project's midterm report.

The goal of the project is to improve educators' environmental teaching skills and knowledge using the theme of energy. The issue to be explored is: Should we increase our energy sources? Upper Iowa University will plan and conduct two graduate workshops for 48 educators, impacting 2,400 students.