

Water Quality Update

ODEQ offers license plates for environmental education grants

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) will offer its \$25 environmental license plates for the fourth year, with proceeds going to environmental education.

Sales of the enviroplates have increased from 62 in 1993 to 451 as of September 1995, allowing the DEQ to fund more environmental education grants. Five \$200 grants were awarded in 1994, and 15 \$500 grants were distributed in 1995 throughout the state. The plates brought in more than \$10,000 for 1995.

The Oklahoma Environmental Quality Education Committee sponsors the grant program, aimed at encouraging teachers and youth leaders to develop effective environmental programs or strategies. The committee plans to provide additional educational initiatives within the next two years from increased environmental license plate sales.

“The program has been very successful and we hope it continues to grow,” said Jerry Langley, committee chair. “This is a worthwhile project and we’re trying to find more ways to fund environmental education.”

The \$25 badge of environmental support may be personalized with any combination of seven letters and spaces not already assigned. Of the \$25, \$1 goes to the Oklahoma Tax Commission to cover the cost of making the plates, and \$24 goes to the DEQ for grants.

‘State dollars are limited, so we looked for a way to raise money for environmental education through a “luxury” item,’ said Ellen Bussert, of the DEQ. She said the plates allow people to show support for the

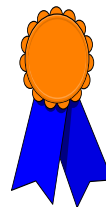
environment and there is no need to take money away from other programs.

Some of the 1995 recipients include Hardesty High School in Hardesty, OK. The school will use the \$500 grant to purchase water testing kits to test the water in rural drinking wells. Teacher Dale Eisenhower said the students are concerned about pollution due to hog operations. He said the \$450 test kit would be out of reach without the grant money. Rita Wilson, teacher at Sullivan Village Elementary School in Lawton, OK, will use the money to convert her classroom into an underwater research project. She plans to help her fourth graders understand underwater plants and animals, water conservation and quality, and water and sewage treatment.

“We’ve been proud of the program and we’re proud to encourage kids to be aware of Oklahoma’s beautiful environment,” Bussert said. ♦

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Governor Calls for Environmental Awards Nominations



Governor Frank Keating is calling for nominations for the Governor’s Environmental Achievement Awards, recognizing outstanding environmental efforts of Oklahomans, to be submitted February 1, 1996.

The awards, established by the Office of the Secretary of the Environment, will be given to individuals, organizations and businesses that have demonstrated a commitment to environmental excellence and successful environmental partnerships in Oklahoma.

They will be presented as part of the Governor's conference on the Environment being held April 24 and 25, 1996 in Oklahoma City. Governor Keating will be presenting awards to the six 1996 recipients and cutting the ribbon to the "Governor's Hall of Achievement," which will honor Oklahoma's most exemplary environmental efforts.

"These awards will highlight some of Oklahoma's most successful environmental endeavors. It is an opportunity to recognize Oklahoma individuals, organizations and companies which are demonstrating a commitment to Oklahoma's environmental heritage and economic future," said Keating.

Any Oklahoma environmental program, project or activity is eligible for consideration. Any single entity or variety of partnerships involving communities, businesses, non-profit organizations, government agencies, educational institutions, individuals, and others are invited to apply.

Nominations must be postmarked by February 1, 1996 and mailed to the Office of the Secretary of the Environment, P.O. Box 1075, Oklahoma City, OK 73101-1075. For more information, or to obtain nomination forms, call (405) 525-4780.♦

Oklahoma Group Wins Commerce Department Grant

An Oklahoma partnership that provides environmental compliance assistance to manufacturers has been selected to receive one of 17 cost-share grants being issued by the U. S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

The program is designed to help smaller manufacturers be both environmentally sound and competitive," said Commerce Secretary Ron Brown in a released statement. "This is one more example of how the Commerce Department's Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is playing a vital role in helping America's small- and medium-sized companies adapt to modern technologies, enabling them to grow and prosper and create jobs."

Receiving the grant award in Oklahoma is a partnership effort of the Oklahoma Alliance for Manufacturing Excellence Inc., Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality; the Oklahoma Department of Commerce; and the

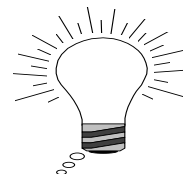
Oklahoma Department of Vocational-Technical Education.

"The goal of this program is to help smaller manufacturers solve environmental concerns in the most cost-effective manner before they become problems requiring regulatory action," said Kevin Carr, acting director of NIST's MEP.

Last January, NIST solicited proposals for projects in three areas and received 42 responses. Federal funding from NIST and EPA for the projects selected totals about \$6.1 million. To leverage federal resources, cost-sharing funding totals \$3.7 million.

As a non-regulatory agency of the Commerce Department's Technology Administration, NIST promotes U.S. economic growth by working with industry to develop and apply technology measurements and standards.♦

-adapted from *Texas & Southwest Environmental News*, Dec. 1995, Vol. 5(9)



RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT

Office of Environmental Justice Grant Programs Application Guidances FY 1996

This packet contains two separate applications for the grant programs available through the Office of Environmental Justice in fiscal year 1996. The first is the *Office of Environmental Justice Small Grants Program Pre-application Guidance*. This document contains all the information necessary to apply to the program. The second set of materials, the *Community/University Partnership (CUP) Grants Program Application Guidance*, **does not** include all of the forms required to apply. To obtain the necessary forms for the CUP application, call EPA's Grants Administration Division at (202) 260-9260, and request the "Application Kit for Assistance."

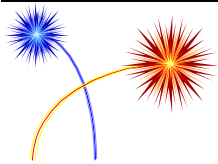
Although OEJ and CUP Grant programs are related, the program requirements are different. The particular requirements are outlined in these Guidance documents. Pre-applications for the OEJ and CUP Grant programs must be postmarked no later than March 2, 1996.

The purpose of the OEJ grant program is to provide financial assistance for projects that address environmental justice issues. Preference is given to community groups and federally recognized tribal governments, although state and local governments and academic institutions are eligible. A maximum of \$20,000 can be awarded for each grant. The CUP grants program was established to help community groups and tribal governments effectively address

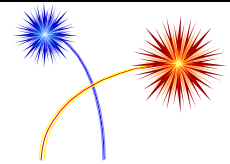
local governments justice issues through active partnerships with academic institutions. ♣

If you need a copy of any articles, contact "Hannah" Barbara Fulton: (405) 744-5653

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1st Annual Environmental Education Expo



WHEN: Friday, February 23, 1996

WHERE: Metrotech Business Conference Center, Oklahoma City

This promises to be an interesting conference for those of you involved in the environmental education field. The keynote address entitled "Moving People to Action" will be given by internationally known environmental education action expert William (Bill) Hammond. His successful program "The Monday Group" is featured in the Project WILD handbooks and has earned him a place on Vice President Gore's Globe Program Advisory Committee.

Panel discussions on:

- Grant writing
- Starting Environmental Clubs in Schools

Curriculum workshops on:

- Project WET
- Aldo Leopold
- The Spirit of the Last Great Places

Informative content workshops on:

- Biodiversity and Edible Insects
- Environmental Literacy Assessment in Southwest Oklahoma
- Starting Stream Monitoring Programs in Your School
- As well as 6 other exciting topics

And More.....

- Exhibit Fair
- Luncheon Address and Awards Ceremony

✂ Co-hosted by the OKAEE and OKEECC (The Oklahoma Environmental Education Coordinating Committee - a coalition of State Agencies including: the OK Conservation Commission, OK Department of Wildlife Conservation, OK Water Resources Board, and the State Department of Education) ✂

❖ For more information call OSU's Center for Environmental Education at (405) 744-7233
or e-mail OSUCEE@aol.com❖