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National Environmental Education Foundation Grants Go Paperless

Streamlined process saves trees and time for applicants

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The National Environmental Education Foundation announced today that it will save pounds of paper by moving to an online grant system. The new system will, in addition to conserving resources, streamline the application process for hundreds of teachers, students, land managers, nonprofits and others who apply for grants each year.

Through the use of the system, the organization estimates annual savings of at least 5,000 sheets of paper, more than 100 folders and storage space.

“Moving to a paperless grant system is consistent with our efforts to ‘practice what we preach’ as an organization promoting environmental literacy and shared stewardship,” said Diane Wood, NEEF’s president. “It’s also a true win-win. The system saves a lot of paper, makes the grant process easier for our many applicants and simplifies our in-house management. We can get grant money out more quickly, meaning the important work of our grantees can get under way sooner.”

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, more than 99 million tons of paper was used yearly as recently as 2005. Paper makes up the largest component of the U.S. municipal waste stream accounting for nearly 35 percent of all trash.

The organization, celebrating its 20th anniversary, was created to increase environmental literacy nationwide. Its programming engages business leaders, K-12 students and teachers, health care professionals, land managers and meteorologists. Last year, NEEF gave out more than \$300,000 in grants to individuals and organizations in 34 states.

A paperless grant program also speeds up evaluation and distribution of funds, making the new system “greener” all around.

Through partnerships with corporations, government agencies and nonprofits, NEEF helps Americans solve everyday environmental problems to generate lasting position change. Grants from the organization fund a wide variety of activities, from a high school student’s anti-litter education effort and grant money for environmental education courses to funds for park cleanups and beautification efforts.

Paperless grants represent only one of NEEF’s efforts to reduce its impact on the environment. A carbon neutral organization, NEEF’s offices are situated next to mass transit and major bus lines. An employee bike share, a “green” office and frequent lunchtime walks in area parks helped earn the organization the distinction of being one of Washingtonian Magazine’s Great Places to Work.

NEEF has already significantly reduced paper demand in the past two years, making most reports online only, including the organization's annual reports.

For more information about NEEF grants, visit: http://neefusa.org/grants/about_grants.htm.

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Knowledge to Live By

The National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) provides knowledge to trusted professionals who, with their credibility, amplify messages to national audiences to solve everyday environmental problems. Together, we generate lasting positive change.

NEEF partners with professionals in health, education, media, business and public land management to promote daily actions for helping people protect and enjoy the environment. Through our primary programs -- Classroom Earth, National Public Lands Day, National Environmental Education Week, Business and Environment, Earth Gauge® and Health & Environment -- we offer Americans knowledge to live by. To learn more, call (202) 833-2933 or visit www.neefusa.org.