



NEEF Greening STEM Integration Grant for Educators: Request for Proposals

Developments in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) are growing faster than ever and the need to find engaging ways to teach lessons in these subjects grounded in real-world experience is clear. The National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) believes that the natural world offers a compelling and universal context for investigations and applications of many STEM lessons. We call this approach Greening STEM, and it encourages bringing environmental topics and discussions into STEM lessons already established within a school's curriculum. By learning about STEM concepts in reference to real-life environmental examples or issues, the subject matter is more tangible and extends beyond the textbook or classroom, influencing the way students think about the world and the way they view their connection to it. Research (please see "[Benefits of Environmental Education](#)") shows that environmental education helps build creative thinking and relationship skills, fosters leadership qualities and makes school subjects rich and relevant.

NEEF, with major funding support from the Mitsubishi Corporation Foundation for the Americas (MCFA), is offering a total of \$12,000 in funding for teachers, after-school programs and nature organizations for projects that support the integration of Greening STEM into current or new programming or curriculum. Grants will range in size from \$500 to \$1,000 each.

Through these grants, NEEF will support educators who are leading the way in Greening STEM education and provide support for continued development and innovation of school programs and projects connecting STEM with environmental education. Applicants should describe current Greening STEM programs that they have played an integral part in developing and discuss how grant funds would be used towards expansion of existing programs, the introduction of new programs, and how these programs will be financially and programmatically sustainable. Exemplary applicants will show how grant funds will be used to create lasting impact among students and challenge them to address environmental issues at both a local and global scale. Exemplary applicants will also show how funded programs will impact other members of the community. Applicants should show strong support from school administration, or a program director in the case of an informal educator, in the form of a letter of support.

Eligibility

Applicant must:

- Register for National Environmental Education Week
 - [Learn more](#)
 - [Register here](#)
- Teach K-12 students in an educational setting in the United States or eligible U.S. jurisdiction;
- Be an employee of a school district or informal education institution; and

- Anticipate being an educator for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school year.

Current grantees are eligible to apply for this grant.

Criteria for Grant Selection

The below criteria are the basis for reviewing and scoring applications. Applications are scored to develop recommendations. Top scores are then reviewed and final decisions are made.

Successful applications will:

- Demonstrate that the applicant has been successful in implementing Greening STEM programming into an educational setting;
- Demonstrate the intention of the applicant to continue the success and improvement of Greening STEM programming at their school or organization;
- Describe how grant funds will advance and integrate Greening STEM into current programs or create new programs and how these programs will be financially and programmatically sustainable;
- Demonstrate how proposed Greening STEM programs will fit into school, district or state standards, or where applicable, program mission;
- Demonstrate student and/or community impact as a direct effect of proposed programming; and
- Demonstrate school administration or program director support for current and proposed Greening STEM programming in the form of a letter of support.

Funding Guidelines and Restrictions

Grants funds can be used to cover costs associated with delivering programs (e.g., curriculum/materials development, field trips, program supplies, transportation, professional development, etc.), as long as the result of the funding creates lasting impact beyond the single event/use.

Grant funds cannot be used for:

- Conducting lobbying, carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation;
- Influencing the outcome of any specific election through any means;
- Purposes other than charitable, scientific, or educational;
- Budget shortfalls, general support, or endowment funds;
- Land acquisition or real estate purchases;
- Individual scholarships or fellowships;
- Federal staff time;
- Reimbursement purposes (i.e., to cover costs associated with events or activities that have already occurred);
- Any costs not directly related to the funds requested in the proposal.

Timeline

Applications Open: February 18, 2016

Applications Due: April 5, 2016

Grantees Announced: April 22, 2016

Grant Period: April 22, 2016 – December 22, 2016
Final Report Due: January 23, 2017

Applications are accepted *only* through our online application system. Follow these steps to apply:

1. Create an account in our [online](#) system. This will take you to the home screen.
2. To start your application, click **Apply** on the left hand column. The **Greening STEM Integration Grant for Educators** will appear. Select it to begin your application.
3. Once you have completed the application, click **Submit Form**. If you do not click Submit Form, you will not have applied. You will be directed to a confirmation screen upon submitting.

Applications are due by 11:59pm CT on April 5, 2016. If you have any questions or problems, please contact us at grantsadmin@neefusa.org.