

Water Quality Grants

Kansas Department of Health & Environment

Kansas Association for Conservation & Environmental Education



Contact Information

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www.kansasgreenschools.org

Background

The Kansas Green Schools Program is a program of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE). The program is administered by KACEE with funds provided by the Bureau of Air, the Bureau of Waste Management, the Bureau of Water, and the Bureau of Environmental Remediation. The following guidance, in its entirety, refers to **Water Quality Grants**. For information on grants for air/energy or waste management, please refer to these guidance documents at: www.kansasgreenschools.org/grants.

The purpose of the Kansas Green Schools Program (KGSP) is to increase awareness and understanding of the complex environmental interrelationships that:

- Impact public health and the environment
- Promote environmental stewardship practices as they relate to water quality

KGSP Goals for Water Quality Grants

- Encourage actions to improve schools through an integrated holistic approach in areas including, but not limited to: water quality education activities, events and field experiences, water quality projects with local Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) groups, water quality monitoring or stream teams and professional development for teachers and/or students.
- Provide grants, in the **maximum amount of \$4,500**, as available for project planning and implementation and related training for teachers.

Eligible Entities

Any public or private K-12 school in Kansas that is registered on the KGSP Network may apply for a Green Schools grant. Please visit the Web site to register, registration is free: www.kansasgreenschools.org.

General Water Quality Grant Guidelines

- Maximum award for an Air and Energy grant is **\$4,500**, a detailed budget is required.
- Applications are to be submitted electronically at <http://www.kansasgreenschools.org/kansas-green-schools-water-quality-grants>, please select **Water** online grant application form.
- The deadline for submitting an application is **February 15, 2011**.
- A school receiving an Water Quality grant is required to submit a report of activities during the final implementation phase of the project. **Ten percent of the total grant award is held by the grantor until a final report is submitted.** Please see the **Water Quality Report Template** at: www.kansasgreenschools.org.
- A school receiving KGSP grant funding for Air Quality/Energy or Waste projects may also apply for an Water Quality grant in the same year **if** the following conditions apply:

1. Projects must be completed within specified timelines for all of the grant received by a school **AND**
2. Funding is available

As these cases are more complicated than a single award for a single project please contact, Rachel Wahle at rwahle@kacee.org for availability of such an opportunity. Please also contact Maureen Ruhlman if part of your project involves Waste Management grant funding at mruhlman@kdheks.gov.

Eligible Projects

Water quality grant projects should have a positive effect on health and the environment by taking action to reduce air pollution and/or save energy. Funded projects are **required** to have a classroom education component.

Eligible projects include but are not limited to:

- Workshops for educators or students
- Demonstration projects that are available for tours to show what was accomplished and how it was accomplished
- Mini-water celebrations within the school or district, older students hosting a water celebration for an elementary school
- Water monitoring projects, classes on how to monitor water
- Students partnering with WRAPS (Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy) groups to implement water quality community projects
- Education field trips to learn about water and water quality (this can be paired with a wildlife element)
- Xeriscaping at schools and community sites
- Constructing or using a rain barrel, rain or waterspout gardens
- Ongoing data collection
- Kansas stream teams
- Professional development for school administrators, teachers, staff, parents, and volunteers to assist with integrating the project into the school curriculum in a holistic and sustainable manner.
- Other projects that meet the eligibility requirements may also be considered for Water Quality Grants

Ineligible Projects and Expenses

The following **projects** are **ineligible** for funding:

- Projects that do not include a water quality component aimed at addressing non-point source pollution through projects or education
- Projects that do not include a classroom environmental education component

The following **expenses** accrued during **funded projects** that are **ineligible** for payment:

- Salaries for ongoing personnel is to be avoided
- The costs of preparing grant applications
- Costs incurred prior to the beginning of the fiscal reimbursement period of the grant contract.

- Costs incurred after the ending of the fiscal reimbursement period of the grant contract

Funding Match and Cost Sharing

A minimum match of 25% of the TOTAL project is required for this grant. The local match requirement is a minimum of 25% of the total proposed project cost. This match may be comprised of either financial and/or in-kind commitments such as hourly rates for volunteers or administrative overhead. In-kind donations such as community donations, volunteer time, services such as printing provided by the school, etc. are also acceptable sources of matching funds.

To calculate the minimum required match, divide the amount of grant funding you are requesting by 0.75. This will give you the total amount of "funding" required for the project. Subtract the amount you are requesting in grant funds and the remainder is the minimum required match. For example, if your school is requesting a grant of \$4500 divided by 0.75 gives you total amount of required funding for the project of \$6000. Therefore the minimum required match would be \$1500.

Please see the application for details and a sample budget: www.kansasgreenschools.org.

Grant Administration and Reimbursement of Expenses

Successful applicants will be required to sign and submit a grant agreement that obligates the school to the following:

- Agreement to complete the activities outlined in the grant proposal within the grant period.
- Agreement to utilize funding as outlined within the grant proposal within the specified grant period.
- Agreement to provide KACEE with a mid-year update on grant related activities by January 15th of the grant cycle.
- Agreement to provide KACEE with a final report available for download at: <http://www.kansasgreenschools.org/kansas-green-schools-water-quality-grants>

Upon execution of the signed grant agreement, the school will issued a check of 95% of the approved funding. The final 5% of the funding will be retained until the final report is completed.