

Ohio Environmental Education Fund Statewide Partnership in SFY 2019

Environmental Education Council of Ohio, \$61,000

In 1995, Ohio EPA's Office of Environmental Education initiated a long-term partnership with EECO to build statewide capacity for environmental education in ways that could not be accomplished within the confines of a short-term general grant. Through this 24-year partnership, Ohio EPA and EECO provide professional development opportunities and regional resource fairs for teachers and non-formal environmental educators, as well as quality curriculum resources aligned with the Ohio Department of Education's Learning Standards and Model Curriculum.

Environmental Career Ambassadors

For K-12 education, the partnership continues to focus on the STEM disciplines (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). In 2013 Ohio EPA and EECO joined forces with The Ohio State University School of Environment and Natural Resources to launch a new statewide network of volunteer **career ambassadors in environmental science and engineering**. More than 450 professionals in 71 Ohio counties have volunteered, indicating their willingness to:



- *Make classroom presentations
- *Participate in school career fairs
- *Host field trips
- *Offer internships
- *Offer job shadowing opportunities
- *Mentor young professionals, and
- *Recruit additional career ambassadors

This year EECO members, Ohio EPA staff members and volunteer career ambassadors spoke with **37,070 middle school, high school and college students and 5,142 teachers through career fairs and classroom presentations. The partners and volunteer ambassadors also provided presentations and career events to 9,500 students, 935 educators, mentored 12 high school students, offered 337 high school and college internships and 16 shadowing opportunities to allow students to observe environmental professionals at work.** Recruitment presentations and exhibits were offered at events reaching 629 environmental professionals.

Part-time **regional directors** work closely with educators at the local level to offer workshops and share teaching resources. This year the partners offered 27 regional professional development workshops to 1,101 educators, offering teachers certification in nationally recognized curricula such as the [Leopold Education Project](#); [Project Learning Tree](#); [Project WET](#) (Water Education for Teachers) and Healthy Water, Healthy People; [Project WILD](#), Project WILD Aquatic, Flying WILD, and WILD School Sites; [Windows on Waste](#), and [the Wonders of Wetlands](#). The partners also exhibited or presented at 32 special events, festivals and conferences with more than 24,000 participants.

Ohio EPA—Environmental Education Council of Ohio Partnership Regions



Environmental Career Ambassadors Initiative
<https://eeco.wildapricot.org/eca>