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October 2011

During the past two years, the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB) has built upon past successes and fostered leadership initiatives in the development of environmental literacy and the creation of sustainable communities. Identifying, analyzing, and synthesizing promising approaches to improving environmental education learning by schools, districts, institutions, and organizations in the state has continued to be a high priority for the work of the WEEB. The assistance of the environmental education consultant from the Department of Public Instruction during the 2010-11 academic year was invaluable in these efforts.

The WEEB has several working groups that ensure important tasks are completed in a timely manner, including committees on education, research, grants, development, legislative relations, planning, nominations, and communication. In addition, a close collaboration with the Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation has allowed joint fund raising projects to occur that assist with providing the essential resources needed to fund many of the environmental education activities taking place.

The previous two years has seen the WEEB transition from using EE 2010: A Plan for Advancing Environmental Education in Wisconsin as guidance for its work to the newly created Wisconsin’s Plan for Environmentally Literate and Sustainable Communities. This Plan is based on the input of a variety of groups from around the state concerned about the health and well-being of Wisconsin’s people, sustainability of its natural resources, and leaving a positive legacy for the future. It is built on the idea that sharing knowledge and best practices will help Wisconsin achieve a vision of environmentally literate and sustainable communities.

This report provides an overview of the projects funded by the WEEB’s grant program. These projects run the gamut from elementary school to secondary school to informal education settings, such as nature centers and zoos; subject matters that include not only science, but also mathematics, social studies, language arts, the fine arts, and physical education; and that are geographically dispersed across the state.

Even though much progress has been made in the past two years, there is still much work to be done. The WEEB is committed to making the most of its resources to provide leadership in environmental education for all residents of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Scott A. Ashmann, Ph.D.
Chairperson
Wisconsin is blessed with abundant natural resources. No other state in the nation is surrounded by two Great Lakes and the greatest river in the United States. It is our duty as citizens to protect these vital resources – not only for our time but for future generations. As an Eagle Scout, I was taught to leave your campsite cleaner than how you found it and the importance of environmental stewardship and conservation. We are all responsible for the environment we live in, and the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board is committed to providing valuable information so that we all can make wise and responsible environment-friendly decisions.

I thank the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board for its work in the continuing mission to promote environmental education and its commitment to policy that improves Wisconsin’s natural resources.
The UW System is proud to promote environmental education in its many forms, fulfilling society’s growing need for “sustainability-literate” college graduates. These educated citizens will be the next generation of scientists, engineers, planners, and business and government leaders destined for careers in the public and private sector of the emerging green economy. Wisconsin will increasingly rely on these highly qualified workers to develop the innovative, sustainable practices of the future. They will be critical to enhancing our state’s economic strength, improving the health of our environment, and creating more livable communities.

The Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB) is one of the state’s most credible—and incredible—sources of education and research-based information, empowering people with the knowledge they need to preserve Wisconsin’s precious natural areas. The UW System strongly shares and supports WEEB’s commitment to this vital cause.

Kevin Reilly, President
University of Wisconsin System

I thank the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB) for their continuing efforts to build an environmentally literate citizenry. The board has worked tirelessly with the state’s No Child Left Inside Coalition to complete the state’s first Environmental Literacy Plan. This plan ensures that every child will graduate with the environmental skills and knowledge needed to build Wisconsin’s economy and a sustainable future. The plan pays special attention to creating more opportunities to get children outside, it suggests pathways for districts to develop K-12 innovative environmental education programs, and it provides the context for sustaining environmental literacy.

Of course, environmental literacy is grounded in our state’s history. John Muir, Aldo Leopold and Gaylord Nelson are only a few examples of the individuals that have provided a lasting legacy of helping the people of Wisconsin understand that environmental stewardship and environmental literacy is important to the future of our state. Through its efforts and its grant funding activities, WEEB carries on the environmental stewardship traditions of our state and is helping build a sustainable future for all students and citizens in Wisconsin.

Tony Evers, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

As the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) celebrates its centennial in 2011, we look with excitement to our future. Over our next hundred years, Wisconsin’s 16 technical colleges will further their strong history as a doorway to better opportunities and higher wages that help Wisconsinites improve our quality of life including protecting our incredible natural resources. The technical colleges’ emphasis on developing and offering programs that benefit Wisconsin, such as new renewable energy and green technologies programs and incorporating green practices and principles into existing programs and facilities, has always been—and will always be—at the core of the WTCS mission. We are proud to work as a partner with the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board in our efforts to offer education and training that protects the future of Wisconsin’s natural resources.

Daniel Clancy, President
Wisconsin Technical College System

The Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources has a proud tradition of teaching children and adults about Wisconsin’s natural resources as well as providing opportunities for people to get outside and enjoy nature. Protecting our state’s natural resources requires the help of all our citizens. The Wisconsin Environmental Education Board provides leadership and resources to help educate citizens of all ages about the environment. I support the Board’s efforts in helping all of us become knowledgeable stewards of the environment.

Cathy Stepp, Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
**Agriculture**
Darlene Arneson, Madison 2007-

**Business & Industry**
Mike Krysiak, Green Bay 2004-2010
David Callewaert, Franksville 2010-

**Conservation and Environmental Organizations**
David Wisnfske, Monroe 2004-2009
David Callewaert, Franksville 2009-2010
Cheryl Riley, Hudson 2010-

**Department of Natural Resources**
Matthew Frank, Secretary 2007-2011
Cathy Stepp, Secretary 2011-
Vance Rayburn, Designee 2004-2010
Carrie Mickelson, Designee 2010-2011
Julie Sauer, Designee 2011-

**Department of Public Instruction**
Elizabeth Burmaster, Superintendent 2001-2009
Tony Evers, Superintendent 2009-
Shelley Lee, Designee 1999-2009
B. Scott Jones, Designee 2009-2010
Victoria Rydberg, Designee 2010-

**Energy Industry**
Okho Bohm Hagedorn, Shawano 2007-2010
Chip Bircher, Green Bay 2010-

**Environmental Educators**
Kathe Crowley Conn, Monona 2008-2011
Debra Weitzel, Middleton 2011-

**Forestry**
Gerry Mich, Appleton 2005-2011
Donald Peterson, Florence 2011-

**Higher Education**
Scott Ashmann, Green Bay 2008-

**Labor**
William Neuhaus, Kenosha 1990-

**Legislative Representative, State Assembly**
Donald Friske, Merrill 2005-2011
Louis Molepske, Stevens Point 2005-
Jeffrey Mursau, Crivitz 2011

**Legislative Representative, State Senate**
Neal Kedzie, Elkhorn 2003-
Fred Risser, Madison 2003-

**Nature Centers/Museums/Zoos**
Debra McRae, Franklin 2007-

**University of Wisconsin-System**
Kevin Reilly, President 2004-
Robin Harris, Designee 1996-

**Wisconsin Technical College System**
Daniel Clancy, President 2004-
Randy Zogbaum, Designee 2008-
Ann Westrich, Designee 2008-

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Ginny Carlton
Administrative Program Specialist

Randy Champeau
WCEE Liaison
The Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB)

Our Mission

To provide leadership in the development of learning opportunities that empower Wisconsin citizens with the knowledge and skills needed to make wise environmental decisions and take responsible actions in their personal lives, workplaces, and communities.

Our Primary Duties Established by 1989 Wisconsin Act 299 Are To:
- Identify needs and establish priorities for environmental education in Wisconsin.
- Create and maintain a competitive grants program that is in accordance with the needs and priorities identified by the Board through continual appraisal and evaluation.
- Be a catalyst in seeking private funds in support of the grants program.

Our Four Central Purposes Are To:
- Provide positive leadership, advocacy and policy making in the area of environmental literacy and education.
- Support the development of local leaders and their fellow citizens to become environmentally aware and concerned enough to act positively on environmental issues.
- Advocate the development and implementation of interdisciplinary environmentally-based curricula at all levels of the educational system.
- Support the continuing professional development of staff working at all levels of formal or informal education to enable them to accomplish needed environmental education goals.
The Status of Environmental Education in Wisconsin

The Wisconsin Environmental Education Board’s (WEEB) primary avenue for promoting environmental education is through grants to local, regional, and statewide projects. All grants awarded within the timeframe of this biennial report (2009-2011) are highlighted within the “Grant Program” section of this document. A few projects are also highlighted here as documentation of the WEEB’s efforts to achieve its four central purposes.

Central Purpose One: Leadership, Advocacy and Policy Making

Since its inception, the WEEB has been a very active, hands-on working group. In addition to operating an environmental grants program, the WEEB has become recognized as a consensus-building group on environmental education issues. The unique make-up and mission of the WEEB positions it to provide needed leadership to environmental education while recognizing the importance of establishing a common purpose and direction among diverse stakeholders.

The WEEB’s strategy for leadership, advocacy and policy making has included strategic planning, coalition building, advocating for additional staff resources, and enhanced networking and communication.

Strategic Planning

The WEEB strives to review and revise its state EE Plan on a five-year basis. This timeframe allows the plan to maintain the state’s strong EE heritage and respond to contemporary circumstances while also establishing a proactive agenda. On a ten-year cycle (i.e., in 2010, 2020, etc.), the WEEB hopes to provide for enhanced public input as part of its planning process.

The EE 2010 document identified seven priorities. They were:
1. Focus content of environmental education on holistic outcomes.
2. Support and enhance cooperation and communication within the environmental education community.
3. Support and enhance environmental education in PreK-12 schools.
4. Support and enhance implementation of environmental literacy in institutions of higher education.
5. Support and enhance the expansion of non-formal and non-traditional environmental education.
6. Develop a research and evaluation agenda for environmental education.
7. Secure long-term funding for environmental education in Wisconsin.

The next strategic plan, Wisconsin’s Plan for Environmentally Literate and Sustainable Communities is in development. It is scheduled to be released in November 2011. The six priorities are:
2. Education: Promote access to information and educational experiences needed to support environmental literacy and sustainable communities at work, school, home, and play.
3. Community Resources: Build the capacity of individuals, organizations, businesses, and governments to advance environmental literacy and sustainable communities.
4. **Research:** Promote research and identify strategies to advance environmental literacy and sustainable communities.

5. **Assessment:** Assess progress toward environmental literacy and sustainable communities.

6. **Funding:** Identify and share funding strategies and resources to advance environmental literacy and sustainable communities.

**Coalition Building/Environmental Literacy Plan**

The WEEB has worked with the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Public Instruction, the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education, the Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation, and ten other organizations that serve on the Wisconsin’s No Child Left Inside Coalition Steering Committee. This group, working with the broader Coalition of over 100 businesses, health, youth, faith, recreational, environmental, conservation, and educational groups representing over 70,000 people in Wisconsin, was charged with the task of creating an environmental literacy plan for Wisconsin’s pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade schools. The plan includes:

1. Specific content standards, content areas, and courses or subjects where instruction will take place.
2. A description of how state high school graduation requirements will ensure that graduates are environmentally literate.
3. A description of programs for professional development of teachers to improve their environmental content knowledge, skill in teaching about environmental issues, and field-based pedagogical skills.
4. A description of how the state education agency will measure the environmental literacy of students.
5. A description of how the state education agency will implement the plan, including securing funding and other necessary support.

**Wisconsin's Plan to Advance Education for Environmental Literacy and Sustainability in PK-12 Schools** may be viewed on the Department of Public Instruction’s (DPI) website and at [www.ncliwisconsin.org](http://www.ncliwisconsin.org).

**Support for DPI EE Consultant Position**

With the passage of the State’s 2009-2011 biennial budget, the Environmental Education Consultant position, administered through the DPI, was re-established. Unfortunately, with the passage of the State’s 2011-2013 biennial budget, the position was eliminated.

This position is an integral piece in the WEEB’s effort to promote environmental education within the state’s PreK-12 and higher education institutions. Tasks performed by the consultant include:

- Providing leadership in the design, redesign, implementation, and evaluation of the state Model Academic Standards for EE.
- Identifying, analyzing, and synthesizing promising approaches to improve EE learning by schools, districts, organizations, and institutions throughout the state.
- Collaborating with state and national higher education institutions to implement the federal No Child Left Behind Act under Title 2, Part B.
- Working with federal institutions in an effort to bring federal grant dollars into Wisconsin.

As future budget negotiations occur, the WEEB will continue to advocate for the re-establishment of the consultant position.

**Enhanced Networking and Communication**

The WEEB believes an informed citizenry is essential to economically and environmentally sustainable communities. Networking and communication are important tools to facilitate the development of an informed and environmentally literate citizenry. It is extremely important to match the communication tool to the audience. The WEEB will continue to reach out to under-served audiences and bring people together using newly emerging technologies. While the WEEB continues to support traditional networking and communication efforts such as professional conferences, the projects described on the next page provide insight into how the WEEB has helped to facilitate networking and communication in new ways.
Introduce Electronic Media Communications to Conservation Policy Makers and Staff in the Great Lakes Basin

**Great Lakes Non-point Abatement Coalition $5,000**

This project enabled people to “get together” through the use of compressed video technology at eight sites located on campuses in Fond du Lac, Green Bay, Superior, Marinette, Ashland, Stevens Point, and Washington and Outagamie Counties. County Board Supervisors and Land Conservation Committee staff saved time and money associated with travel by participating virtually rather than face-to-face. The four video conferences were:

- **February 15, 2010**: Meeting the phosphorus index of 6: What does that mean to producers; conservationists and water quality? What is a TMDL?
- **March 15, 2010**: DATCP’s Working Lands Initiative (re-organization of the former Farmland Preservation Program) and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
- **April 19, 2010**: Groundwater Issues in the Great Lakes Basin covering draw downs in our aquifer, non-point contamination, and recent groundwater legislation. Citizen monitoring projects in Manitowoc County and a report on the Forest Management Impacts on Water Quality Study conducted within the Superior drainage basin were also included.
- **May 17, 2010**: Global Warming in Wisconsin and Dane County Pilot Watershed Project.

Ninety-two people attended these virtual conferences, which is more than a traditional attendance of about 30 for a day-long meeting. Even though maps were provided with each invitation, it appeared that traveling to an unfamiliar meeting location and difficulties with campus parking conditions may have limited attendance. Sixty-seven people thought GLNAC, the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA), and the Wisconsin Association of Land Conservation Employees (WALCE) should invest in video conferencing or other forms of distance-learning technologies. A webinar or similar computer-based programming may be more cost effective than the use of video conferencing on a state-wide scale.

Spanish Translation of EEK! (Environmental Education for Kids)

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources $4,620**

The purpose of this project was to create a website that can translate forest ecosystem information and forest related activities into Spanish for children.

This grant was funded with dollars from the forestry account of the conservation fund. Hopefully, the completed project will serve as a showpiece upon which additional dollars can be garnered for translating the remaining components of the EEK! website.

Documenting Environmental Education Initiatives

To gain a better understanding of existing Wisconsin-based environmental education research, the WEEB supported the development of a database. This database, called the Wisconsin Environmental Education Research Database (WEEB) inventories Wisconsin-based, peer reviewed studies about environmental education since 1990. Grant applicants will be encouraged to use WEEB to justify the need for their proposed projects. WEEB can be found at the following web address: [http://www4.uwsp.edu/cnr/WEEB/WERD/Introduction.aspx](http://www4.uwsp.edu/cnr/WEEB/WERD/Introduction.aspx)

Making and Supporting Policy

Objective I.4 within the EE2010 document states, “Provide learning opportunities that foster the understanding of the interrelationship between environment and economics.” Two grant projects working to achieve this goal are described here.

Making Connections: Our Health, Our Environment and Our Economy

**School District of Bayfield $9,743**

The money provided from this grant was used to provide students, staff, and community members with opportunities to gain a better understanding of the connections that exist between food and its impact on our health, environment and economy. This was accomplished by establishing a school composting program, and by the continued development of a school garden and new greenhouse that was used to grow vegetables to be consumed by students and staff.
Developing a Conceptual Framework for the Creation of a Wisconsin Aquaculture High School Curriculum

University of Wisconsin Stevens Point $1,000

Aquaculture, which is the controlled rearing of aquatic animals and plants for food or natural resource enhancement, is the fastest growing food production system globally. Wisconsin’s aquaculture adds $21 million to the state’s economy, with food fish, game fish, and bait fish being raised on over 2,300 farms.

A survey of 350 Wisconsin high schools found that 65 of them include aquaculture as a significant portion of the curriculum. Most respondents indicated they lack the educational tools to effectively teach the subject. This grant provided funds to host a workshop for high school agriculture educators, fish farmers, and university staff. Workshop participants determined the essential concepts and lessons students need to learn as they complete a curriculum in environmentally sustainable aquaculture.

CENTRAL PURPOSE TWO: DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL LEADERS

Since environmental literacy includes citizen action experiences, it is not surprising that the WEEB has made ongoing efforts to encourage and financially support programming in order to develop local leaders. Objective V.3 within the EE2010 document states, “Encourage community based EE, including programming designed for adult participants and/or the involvement of non-traditional audiences.” Many of these programs are based on a “train-the-trainer” model in which one individual receives training with the understanding that he/she will then train additional individuals.

A review of the 2009 and 2010 grant award lists (pages 16 to 40) will reveal several projects with “leadership,” “leaders,” or “service learning” in the title. Three projects designed to develop local leaders are addressed here.

EnAct Steps to Greener Living: Citizen Led Sustainability Initiatives in Eau Claire County
Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System $5,000

Grant funds supported monthly train-the-trainer sessions during which individuals are trained to lead EnAct teams. Teams were comprised of Eau Claire residents who determine their individual economic and ecological impacts and then used various action skills to minimize negative impacts.

Mussel Surveys: Citizen Participation and Education in Assessing Watershed Health
Valley Stewardship Network $1,540

Citizen monitors were educated on mussels and their use as an environmental indicator. Citizens collected samples and submitted them to the DNR Mussel Monitoring Program of Wisconsin for scientific assessment.
CENTRAL PURPOSE THREE: CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT, DISSEMINATION, AND IMPLEMENTATION

The WEEB’s efforts to promote quality environmental education opportunities for all segments of society (preschoolers to adult learners) in multiple settings (schools, nature centers, parks, workplaces, etc.) have continued to be the foundation for developing lifelong learners that are informed and involved citizens who will help ensure an ecologically and economically sustainable environment.

Environmental Education and Art in Wisconsin: Connecting Communities, Conservation, and Creativity

Madison-Camguey Sister City Association $6,908

The project engaged Wisconsin and Cuban students in an academic year-long environmental education experience that included an international art exchange, using Sandhill Cranes as the common denominator.

Wisconsin’s Greater Sandhill Cranes are thriving, while the Cuban Sandhill Crane is endangered. The cranes served as an instrument through which learning opportunities addressing larger natural systems, environmental issues, and individual and collective potential for positive environmental impact was addressed.

In February 2011, nearly 400 pieces of Wisconsin student artwork travelled to the Grand Wetland of the North region of north-central Cuba, where they were presented to similar aged students from nine schools. Each of the Wisconsin students was able to individually pack their artwork into a suitcase that made the trip with the Project Director. A significant impact of the program was the knowledge and awareness of the parallel work occurring in Cuba.

Approximately 925 4th-6th grade students from 36 individual classrooms in seven Wisconsin communities participated in a quasi-experimental design program. The experimental group represented five communities and 21 classrooms, while the control group consisted of students from four communities and 15 classrooms. Control group members participated in a pre- and post-survey. Experimental group members participated in classroom lessons, field trips, and designed individual works of art for the international exchange. Data analysis is on-going. Submission of the final report, which will summarize differences between the control and experimental groups, is expected in 2012.


Milwaukee Public Schools $998

The Milwaukee Public Schools Science Curriculum Guide directs the teaching of science by grade level through
appropriate science learning targets (correlated with the Wisconsin state model academic standards) like Big Ideas of Science and Key Concepts of Science. Classroom teachers and Science Leadership members identified 25 areas of infusion/correlation between the curriculum guide and KEEP (K-12 Energy Education Program) lessons.

School Forest Education Plans
80 school districts Over $400,000

Since the program’s inception in 2005, the WEEB has invested over $400,000 to assist more than 80 school districts with their efforts to create a school forest education plan. These written plans provide detail related to:

- the rationale for having the school forest,
- the school forest site,
- the educational connections that can be made at the school forest or to the school forest, and
- the methods the district intends to use to sustain the school forest program in the short- and long-term.

The plans also provide the foundation upon which future site management, curricular, and staff development decisions are made. With the 2008 grant cycle, the WEEB limited eligibility for the school forest education implementation grant funds to districts that have a registered school forest and an approved school forest education plan on file.

Central Purpose Four: Professional Development

Environmental education is a lifelong learning process. Programs should address the needs of all citizen ages, from all walks of life. The more environmentally literate Wisconsin citizens are, the better equipped they are to participate in public decisions affecting our working, living, and recreational environments.

While many grants were provided for the professional development of teachers within our K-12 schools, several grant projects provided educational opportunities for others.

**Teacher Educators Networking for Environmental Education (TENFEE)**

University of Wisconsin Stevens Point $7,670

In July 2011, representatives from 13 institutions of higher education gathered to network about environmental education teacher preparation in Wisconsin. Staff from the Department of Public Instruction, Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education, the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education, and the Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation facilitated exploration of strategies to increase and improve environmental education for pre-service teacher instruction.
Non-formal Educator Training in Sustainable Forestry

**Wisconsin Woodland Owners Foundation**

This project worked with Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association members, landowners in southeastern Wisconsin, and the Boys Scouts of America, Southeast Wisconsin Council to provide workshops and forest-based activities for Scouts attending weeklong summer camp. Training was provided in Project Learning Tree (PLT), Project WILD (Wildlife in Learning Design), LEAF (Learning Experiences and Activities in Forestry), and the Leopold Education Project.

**Evaluation and Literacy**

Assessment is important to determine the environmental literacy of Wisconsin citizens. Wisconsin statutes state that the environmental literacy of Wisconsin students must be assessed (see 1989 Wisconsin Act 209). The 2001-2003 biennial report to the legislature indicated the WSAS/Knowledge and Skills tests at the fourth, eighth, and tenth grades provide a very incomplete picture of the environmental literacy of Wisconsin students and that it would be incorrect to suggest these tools are designed to assess environmental literacy.

In August 2009, the DPI announced that the state would be transitioning away from the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concept Exams (WKCE). As the new assessment protocols are developed, the WEEB will continue to advocate to include tools that can indicate more completely students’ level of environmental literacy.

The WEEB, through its request for proposal (RFP) materials, has strongly encouraged evaluation and assessment work be undertaken. Unfortunately very few proposals of this type have been submitted. A 2010 grant entitled “Assessing Environmental Literacy” for $5,000 was awarded. Unfortunately, no work was completed and the funds were returned to the WEEB. The *Wisconsin’s Plan for Environmentally Literate and Sustainable Communities* contains both “research” and “assessment” as goals. The WEEB has also established a research committee to help set a research agenda.

**Future Directions**

In the next few years, the WEEB will continue to actively partner with the:

- No Child Left Inside Coalition to implement *Wisconsin’s Plan to Advance Education for Environmental Literacy and Sustainability in PK-12 Schools.*
Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation to continue to seek private funds to support the WEEB’s work.

Other state and federal agencies, legislators, and stakeholders interested in promoting and enhancing environmental education for Wisconsin’s citizens as we collectively work to implement Wisconsin’s Plan for Environmentally Literate and Sustainable Communities in all segments of society.

While the WEEB has accomplished a great deal, the “to do list” continues to identify important initiatives.
Since its creation in 1990, the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board’s (WEEB) grant program has provided communities, schools, and organizations with funds to enhance environmental education programs.

Funds to support the grant program are provided by donations and state appropriations. For the 2009-2011 budget period, annual appropriations to the WEEB included $400,000 from the forestry account of the conservation fund (of which up to 5% can be used toward administrative expenses), and a 5% assessment on state environmental fines levied and collected. For the 2009 grant cycle, $25,000 from Focus on Energy was available for a variety of energy education initiatives.

In 2009, 161 grant proposals were submitted; 75 were funded. In 2010, 105 grant proposals were submitted; 49 were funded. Grant requests ranged from $97 to $30,000 (the maximum allowed).

Since 1997, when the WEEB was transferred from the Department of Public Instruction to the UW-System, the WEEB has distributed $6.4 million to 740 projects. The funded projects have generated well beyond the 25 percent match required. In fact, the matching funding from the projects, with the majority of the 2010 proposals yet to report their matching contributions, conservatively totals over $5.6 million. During this time period 1,463 grant applications were received requesting over $13.7 million. Obviously, only a portion of the applicants received funding.

The WEEB has received requests for proposals from every corner of the state and from virtually every type of organization, agency, and group eligible to receive funding. Each grant proposal submitted receives a rigorous review by volunteer committees. These volunteers represent the many entities interested and/or involved in educating the citizens of Wisconsin about the environment. A list of reviewers for the 2009 and 2010 cycles can be found on pages 42 and 43. Each project is evaluated at three levels: 1) completeness and accuracy of program requirements, 2) technical review, and 3) merit review.

The technical review team evaluates each project on the following:
- adherence to the WEEB priorities,
- budget accuracy and funding contributions,
- thoroughness of application page and statement of need,
- project goals, objectives, activities, and evaluations.

The merit review team then continues evaluation of those projects that passed the technical review to determine:
- overall quality and value of the project,
- ability to achieve goals,
- development of partnerships,
- use of existing resources, and
- promotion of community environmental education.

**General Guidelines**

Projects need to assist learners in achieving the goals of environmental education. The projects need to help people become environmentally aware, knowledgeable, skilled, and dedicated to commit to work individually and collectively to defend, improve, and sustain the quality of the environment on behalf of present and future citizens.

**Eligibility**

WEEB grants are available to the following Wisconsin entities:
- Corporations (nonstock, nonprofit corporations organized under chapter 181 of state statutes)
- Public agencies (counties, cities, villages, towns, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts, school districts and cooperative educational service agencies)
- State agencies, tribal governments, public colleges and universities
- Non-public education institutions (with some restrictions)
The following are NOT eligible:
- Individuals
- Private foundations
- Pervasively sectarian education institutions

Project Duration
Grants awarded as part of the 2009 grant cycle were made for the period of July 1, 2009 through December 31, 2010. Grants awarded as part of the 2010 grant cycle were made for the period of July 1, 2010 through December 31, 2011.

Funding Priorities for 2009 and 2010
The funded grants reflect the priorities that were in effect in 2009 and 2010. They include:
- Focus content of environmental education on holistic outcomes.
- Support and enhance cooperation and communication within the environmental education community.
- Support and enhance environmental education in PreK-12 schools.
- Support and enhance the implementation of environmental literacy in institutions of higher education.
- Support and enhance the expansion of non-formal and non-traditional environmental education.
- Develop a research and evaluation agenda for environmental education.

Assistance for Applicants
Information on past projects can be searched through the Internet and copies of funded proposals are available via the Wisconsin Interlibrary Loan System.

Final reports from grant recipients may be viewed at the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education Resource Library, UW-Stevens Point.

For a copy of the Request for Proposal (application form) contact:

Wisconsin Environmental Education Board
110B Trainer Natural Resources Building
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
800 Reserve Street
Stevens Point WI 54481
(715) 346-3805
www.uwsp.edu/cnr/weeb
weeb@uwsp.edu
2009 GRANTS

Aldo Leopold Nature Center, Inc.  $19,266
MONONA
LOST: in the Forest
(Learning Outside through Soils and Trees)
To develop a pilot program for three school districts in south-central Wisconsin to increase the scientific and environmental literacy of high school students and their teachers. The program will engage students in hands-on forestry field research studies to identify and compare forest habitat types at glaciated and un-glaciated sites.

Antigo School District  $246
ANTIGO
Antigo High School FCE Energy Resource Grant
To incorporate energy conservation concepts into a new “Skills for Living” course whose primary focus will be family finance, decision making skills, and goal setting.

Appleton Area School District  $820
APPLETON
Appleton West FCE Energy Resource Grant
To provide hands-on learning opportunities for students enrolled in the Life Skills class to use energy efficient appliances while washing dishes and clothes, which will in turn reduce their energy footprint.

Black River Falls School District  $932
BLACK RIVER FALLS
Black River Falls High School FCE Energy Resource Grant
To enable teachers to participate in professional development opportunities related to green building through the Energy Center of Wisconsin and to purchase equipment students can use to conduct energy efficiency investigations.

Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System: UW-Extension  $7,500
EAU CLAIRE
EnAct Steps to Greener Living: Citizen led sustainability initiative in Eau Claire County
To increase the knowledge of participating Eau Claire County citizens about sustainability and provide action skills development that allows the individual to determine the economic and ecological impacts of their actions using the EnAct Program. EnAct is a deep immersion program, modeled after The Natural Step framework, which empowers citizens to create more sustainable living and working environments.

Bayfield Regional Conservancy  $20,000
BAYFIELD
Conservation Options and Stewardship Toolbox and Workshops
To educate landowners on the effects of parcelization, conservation options and voluntary stewardship incentive programs in order to provide them with the knowledge and tools to make sound decisions regarding their land.
Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System: UW-Extension

WAUSAU

Ties to the Land: Intergenerational transfer of property
The Oregon State University curriculum entitled, “Ties to the Land” will be modified to serve the needs of Wisconsin forest owners. Program participants will be encouraged to develop a long-term plan for their land in order to fully reap the social, ecological, and economic benefits of their woodlands.

Boscobel Area School District

BOSCOBEL

A K-6 Education Plan for the Brandt School Forest
To create an education plan replete with educational goals and objectives, lessons designed to enhance student learning, and a framework that spans our curriculum and K-6 grade levels. Our goal is to have all K-6 classes access the forest and engage in sustainable natural resource management.

Boys and Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee: Mardak Center for Administration and Training

MILWAUKEE

Camp Whitcomb Mason Forest History and Urban Forest Program (Phase 2)
To educate central city youth from predominantly low income families about the forests’ role on Wisconsin’s history, present, and future; to enable 30 teachers to attend an Environmental Education Workshop, designed to provide educators with technical skills and fun activities that will bring forestry education into their classrooms; and to provide a forest history program to summer camp participants.

Chilton School District

CHILTON

An Education Plan for the Chilton School Forest
To draft and have the school board approve an education plan that details opportunities and provides connections to the classroom curriculum and state education standards, and provides the Chilton staff with the framework upon which future curriculum and lessons can be built.
Clintonville School District: $1,000
Clintonville High School
CLINTONVILLE
Clintonville High School FCE Energy Resource Grant
To purchase energy efficient sewing machines for students to use to learn basic techniques to repair clothing to extend the life of the product. Also, to enable students to complete service learning projects such as: creating energy efficient window blankets for installation in Habitat for Humanity homes; lap robes for the elderly; mittens and scarves for the homeless; recycling prom dresses for needy students; or assisting with US troops needs.

Community GroundWorks at Troy Gardens $7,495
MADISON
Youth Grow Local-Urban EE in the Garden
To provide a diverse, low-income population of 300 children with a safe, supportive environment in the city where they can learn to grow and prepare nutritious foods and develop a lasting respect and affection for nature. We will accomplish this by partnering with area community/youth centers and schools to schedule regular visits for children to participate in enriching, hands-on activities in our youth garden from May through October. In addition, this project will cultivate high school and college-aged environmental educators that help inspire younger children in our community to care for the natural world.

Community GroundWorks at Troy Gardens $19,869
MADISON
Youth Roots, Community Canopy: A forest education project for teens
To expose at least 100 teens to land stewardship and EE through regular service-learning opportunities at Troy Gardens and to develop a guide for working with teens on community forest stewardship that will be shared freely with programs across Wisconsin.
Cumberland Public Schools  $4,950
CUMBERLAND
An Education Plan for the Cumberland School District Forest
To evaluate current district/community assets, survey the PK-12 teachers to determine limiting factors related to school forest use, and develop an action plan to connect statewide environmental education standards to core curriculum state standards to develop an integrated environmental education curriculum experience. A major goal of this environmental education plan will be to increase student experiential activity in our outdoor environmental labs by utilizing the LEAF and Project Learning Tree programs and Green Charter School initiatives.

D.C. Everest Area School District  $29,579
SCHOFIELD
Environmental Connections II: Expanding opportunities for experiencing Wisconsin wildlife communities
To develop an interactive exhibit and supplemental activities depicting four Wisconsin wildlife communities, where students can explore animal behaviors, adaptations, interdependence, survival, natural cycles, and systems reinforcing what is taught during programs at the school forest and in the school classroom.

Deerfield Community Schools  $7,459
DEERFIELD
Laying a Foundation for the Deerfield School Forest
To develop the forest as a place for research and recreation by making a grid of the forest land, identifying plant species, developing deer exclosure sites, and installing weather stations and trail cameras in a variety of locations throughout the forest. Curriculum projects will include making activity boxes and conducting early release sessions to train teachers.
Edgewood College $7,390

MADISON

Edgewood-Login to Educational Augmented Reality Nature Tour (E-LearnT)

To create a comprehensive Augmented Reality Environmental Sustainability Tour that focuses on sustainability efforts put in place by Edgewood College, both in regard to its long-time stewardship of Lake Wingra and as the state’s only Green Tier College Campus.

Friends of the 1000 Islands $2,457

KAUKAUNA

Traveling Environmental Education Trunks: Reaching out to children who can’t come

To build three traveling education trunks containing curriculum and activities for the teacher requested topics of: Wisconsin Geology, Orienteering and an Introduction to Global Positioning Systems, and Native Americans. The 1000 Islands Environmental Center naturalist will facilitate programming with the trunks at no cost to Kaukauna Area School District schools. Other district schools may schedule programs with the trunks, when available, for a small fee.

Gillett School District $4,999

GILLETT

Project GREEN: Gillett Reaches for Energy Education Now!

To complete a district-wide School Building Energy Action Plan; offer KEEP courses within the school district; and compile age appropriate energy education lesson plans for each grade level.

Golden Sands Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) $2,239

KRONENWETTER

Let Them Lead

To install 5 motion sensor units and 3 programmable thermostats. To showcase changes, Bethlehem Community Preschool will host a community open house and conduct a Bright Idea Fundraiser. Classroom activities will reinforce energy conservation.

Golden Sands Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) $549

SCHOFIELD

In Harmony

To purchase instruments made from natural resources in an attempt to replicate the native American practice of using items such as horns, hides, and gourds for their instruments. Students will also create their own rhythm sticks by sawing, sanding, and dying with tea grounds. In addition, an Ojibwa guest speaker will share stories and artifacts.
Golden Sands Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D)  
SCHOFIELD  
Watts Up with That?  
To purchase a vending miser for the soda machine and other energy teaching tools and resources.

Golden Sands Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D)  
STEVENS POINT  
Grassland Environmental Education for Children-2010 Prairie Chicken Festival  
To create hands-on children’s activities, grade PreK-6, focused on grassland species.

Great Lakes Non-point Abatement Coalition (GLNAC)  
SHEBOYGAN FALLS  
Introduce Electronic Media Communications to Conservation Policy Makers and Staff in the Great Lakes Basin  
To introduce electronic media communication methods, through compressed video technology, to community leaders at eight UW–Extension campuses. River basins encompass multiple county boundaries that require a watershed approach to water quality problems. This technology will provide a forum of dialog, training, knowledge sharing and partnering to address non-point pollution sources reaching surface waters of the Great Lakes drainage basin.

Happy Tonics  
SHELL LAKE  
Shell Lake Butterfly and Native Plant Habitat  
To provide habitat tours, environmental education classes, film presentations and an Earth Day Event related to butterflies and the habitats they depend upon.

International Crane Foundation (ICF)  
BARABOO  
Enhancing the Environmental Education Value of the preK-5th Grade School Visit  
To hire a project coordinator to evaluate and reconfigure existing preK-5th grade school programming to be age appropriate, thematic, and aligned to state standards. The goal is to facilitate a greater level of student awareness, knowledge and concern for the environment and also a greater ability to think through environmental problems.

Izaak Walton League: Brown County Chapter  
DEPERE  
What’s in YOUR Backyard? Engaging Youth in their Local Watershed  
This project enables high school students to teach grade school youth about the wonders of their local watershed. Through a four-part watershed program, grade school students will have the chance to learn why we need to protect our watershed; will have the opportunity to assess the health of the ecosystem through water quality monitoring; and gain a better understanding of how daily activities can impact the health of their watershed.
Janesville School District $1,000
JANESVILLE
Janesville Parker/Craig High School Tech Ed Energy Resource Grant
To pay for consulting fees to certify a student built home as Energy Star and Green Built and to educate students regarding the standards for each program by enabling them to participate in hands-on learning of new construction techniques related to the certification standards.

Lena School District $5,000
LENA
An Education Plan for the Lena School Forest
To form a School Forest Education Plan Task Force (a subcommittee of the School Forest Committee) and charge it with drafting and validating a school forest education plan.

Little Chute Area School District $182
LITTLE CHUTE
Little Chute High School FCE Energy Resource Grant
To purchase dvd and print materials on energy consumption and conservation to serve as reference materials to assist students in researching and solving local energy problems they have self-selected.

Madison Metropolitan School District $3,440
MADISON
Development of the Madison School Forest Education Plan
To provide an opportunity to gather teacher, stakeholder, and community input and to collectively develop an education plan for the Jackson School Forest.

Manitowoc School District $7,621
MANITOWOC
Four-Year Olds in the Forest: Incorporating the school forest and nature in 4K classrooms
To increase the number of 4K groups that visit the School Forest and to train the 4K teachers to incorporate nature and the School Forest into their lessons.

Marathon Schools $334
MARATHON
Ecological Survey of the Rib River
For Ecology Club members to conduct a survey of the nearby Rib River, informing the public of the results, and giving helpful hints and suggestions about how to make the river, and the park surrounding it, better places to be. Students will take away knowledge in data collection;
gain a new understanding of how their actions effect the environment; and gain a newfound sense of self-worth with the knowledge that high school aged students can make a difference.

**Mellen School District $29,249**

**MELLEN**

**Integrating Environmental Education Across the Curriculum**

For middle school teachers to work together to develop, implement, revise, document, and publish cross-curricular projects that integrate environmental education with core curriculum and include outdoor experiences at the school forest. These projects will be presented and shared with the 5 school districts that are part of the Rural Community School Alliance.

**Merrill Area School District $7,500**

**MERRILL**

**The Secret Path**

To create a natural playscape on the grounds of our school that will provide children and their families with a place to encounter nature every day. Some of my students have never turned over a rock, climbed a tree, planted seeds or followed animal tracks in snow. This project will enable them to do so.

**Milwaukee Public Schools $995**

**MILWAUKEE**

**Energy Infusion: Developing a cross-reference energy education guide**

To enable one MPS leadership representative and three MPS teachers to attend a workshop session to correlate KEEP activities with standard core science activities and record the matches on a grid. Adjunct faculty will incorporate the newly created Cross-Reference Resource Guide into their subsequent KEEP courses and expand it to include correlations with other curriculum areas (e.g., social studies, math, language arts, music, art, etc.) The KEEP office will encourage other adjunct faculty around the state to model the MPS/KEEP Cross Reference Resource Guide for their districts.
Navarino Nature Center  $1,515
SCHIOCTON
**Hands-on Renewable Energy-Educational Supplies for Students and Adults to Learn More about Solar, Geothermal and Wind Power**
To educate visitors about how renewable energy systems work through the use of demonstration models. These models will show how solar (photovoltaic), wind, and geothermal systems function.

Neighborhood House of Milwaukee, Inc.  $4,970
MILWAUKEE
**Sustainable Gardening Project**
To support aquaponics and traditional gardening activities for students enrolled in summer and after school programs.

Neighborhood House of Milwaukee, Inc.  $5,427
MILWAUKEE
**Invasive Species Control**
To educate inner-city elementary and middle school students and teachers about woodland and prairie habitats and the impact invasive species, such as wild parsnip and prickly ash, have on them.

Neville Public Museum Foundation  $800
GREEN BAY
**Natural History Lecture Series**
For four lectures related to spiders, with the goal of increasing awareness, appreciation, and understanding of spiders and their benefit to people and the environment. This lecture series will directly connect to the Neville’s Spiders! exhibit, on display from May to November 2009.

Nicolet High School  $248
GLENDALE
**Nicolet High School Tech Ed Energy Resource Grant**
For "clean room" experiments in which students regulate the amount of electricity they consume in one week by measuring electrical use (watts/hour) associated with operating various small appliances.

Oakfield School District  $170
OAKFIELD
**Oakfield High School Tech Ed Energy Resource Grant**
To purchase a thermal laser detector in order to measure heat losses and gains associated with the use of solar collectors.

Oconto Falls School District  $5,000
OCONTO FALLS
**An Education Plan for the Oconto Falls School Forest**
An education plan that details opportunities and provides connections to the classroom curriculum and state education standards will provide the Oconto Falls staff with the framework upon with future curriculum and lessons can be built.

Onalaska School District  $957
ONALASKA
**Onalaska High School Tech Ed Energy Resource Grant**
To enable students enrolled in the Principles of Engineering and Architecture classes to design energy efficient structures by testing heat loss and R-Value of different materials. Also to allow students in the Building and Trades classes to investigate the thermal conductivity of materials used during home construction and remodeling.
Pittsville School District

PITTSVILLE

An Education Plan for the Pittsville School District
To create an education plan that familiarizes staff with the school forest and the opportunities it presents to enhance classroom instruction. Specifically, the plan will detail opportunities and provide connections to the classroom curriculum and state education standards. Currently, no Pittsville classes utilize the Pittsville School Forest; this can change.

Potosi School District

POTOSI

Potosi High School FCE Energy Resource Grant
To incorporate the use of an energy efficient refrigerator and watt meters into food labs, and then display the results of student projects in the room which is also used for concessions and staff meetings thereby also educating members of the larger community.

Prentice School District: Prentice High School

PRENTICE

Prentice High School Tech Ed Energy Resource Grant
To purchase “Energy, Power and Transportation Technology” textbooks to supplement existing district owned materials in order to provide students with information about insulation types, alternative sources for heating and cooling, appliance ratings, and energy conservation.

Random Lake School District

RANDOM LAKE

Random Lake Wind Study Project
To conduct a wind speed study to verify, through quantitative evidence, the potential of wind generated electrical power on our school property. The school districts’ student body will incorporate the study in their curriculum.

Research Education and Policy (REAP)

MADISON

Wisconsin Homegrown Lunch: Integrating and enhancing garden-based learning at Sherman Middle School Garden
To implement farm-to-school programming that helps students and school staff connect with the natural world and make healthy and sustainable food choices.

Rib Lake School District

RIB LAKE

School District of Rib Lake School Forest Implementation Project
For professional development and school forest training opportunities for District staff, designed to enhance their familiarity with forestry and environmental education curriculums and their knowledge of forestry education and environmental concepts.
River Revitalization Foundation, Inc. $6,000
MILWAUKEE

Milwaukee River Student Stewards-RiverQuest
To conduct a summer Student Stewards program to engage urban youth, college interns and volunteers in stewardship activities – ecological restoration – and exploration of the Milwaukee River basin. Students are responsible for all aspects of a RiverQuest project – where should the quest begin, what should be pointed out, what will be "discovered" at the end. They will write, draw and produce the document which can then be used by others to explore the area as a self-guided adventure. The target watershed area is bounded by Gordon Park on the North and Wright Street on the south, approximately 4.5 acres or 1 mile of river corridor.

Sauk Prairie School District $5,000
SAUK PRAIRIE

Education Plan for the Merrimac Community Charter School (MCCS) Forest
To form a task force to develop a plan to increase utilization of the school forest by secondary schools and community members and to detail connections between classroom curriculum and the state standards.

Sokaogon Chippewa Community $19,999
(Crandon)

Sokaogon Chippewa Forestry Education Program
To develop and distribute educational brochures and consultation services that identify common forestry maintenance procedures and fire prevention efforts in order to help tribal members become more efficient and knowledgeable in forestry practices and techniques, identification of various types of timber stands, maintenance procedures, and the ecology of the forest.
South Milwaukee School District  
$1,000  
SOUTH MILWAUKEE  
South Milwaukee Middle School FCE Energy Resource Grant  
To purchase amp meters, energy efficient appliances and reference materials that demonstrate easy ways for students and staff to conserve energy at home and at school.

Sparta Area School District  
$2,184  
SPARTA  
Kindergarten Students Noticing the Outdoors in Winter at Sparta Schools (K-SNOWS)  
To encourage development of snowshoeing skills, utilize nearby natural habitats, and support a life-long winter family past-time that will get community members outdoors.

St. Croix County Land and Water Conservation Department  
$5,000  
BALDWIN  
Increase St. Croix County Citizens’ Storm Water Pollution Knowledge Through Raingarden Education  
To educate St. Croix County citizens about storm water, the pollution it causes and how their actions affect storm water pollution. Specifically, to coordinate 9 raingarden workshops; to coordinate a raingarden installation demonstration; to provide a “clearing house” of storm water management information through the Land & Water Conservation Department website; and promote raingardens by establishing a St. Croix County raingarden tour.

Sustainable Resources Institute  
$4,700  
FLORENCE  
Woody Biomass Workshops  
To host workshops to promote discussion and develop an understanding of the effects of woody biomass harvesting and usage in regards to the environment, local economics, and society and to demonstrate woody biomass management and harvesting techniques.

Tomorrow River  
$5,000  
AMHERST  
Education Plan for Tomorrow River  
To support the School Forest Committee’s efforts to draft and validate a school forest education plan to enhance classroom instruction through experiential outdoor education that meets state education standards, integrates environmental education into the curriculum, and demonstrates sustainable natural resources management.

Trees For Tomorrow  
$20,000  
EAGLE RIVER  
Field Forestry Workshop for Middle School Students  
For a series of four-day field forestry workshops for middle school students and their teacher chaperones. These hands-on workshops will provide field experiences and factual information about: sustainable forest management practices used in Wisconsin, forestry field equipment, how and why various logging practices are used, and Wisconsin’s forests, forest fauna, watershed and soils. Participants will also gain the skills needed to become actively involved in sustainable forest management and natural resource issues in their home community as well as provide an opportunity for students to explore natural resource careers.
UW-Stevens Point (UWSP): College of Natural Resources (CNR): Learning Experiences and Activities in Forestry (LEAF)  
**STEVENS POINT**  
Providing Forest Restoration Assistance for Participants in the 2009 Central Wisconsin Earth Partnership for Schools Institute  
To provide planning and implementation assistance to teachers and students on ecological restoration projects at school forests and school grounds.

UW-Stevens Point (UWSP): College of Natural Resources (CNR): Learning Experiences and Activities in Forestry (LEAF)  
**STEVENS POINT**  
Engaging High School Students and Teachers with WI Forests at 2009 High School Conference  
To provide funding for speaker honorariums, publicity, evaluations, and travel reimbursements for schools to attend the conference.

UW-System: Board of Regents  
**MADISON**  
Adaptation and Expansion of the Key to Wisconsin Woody Plants for the iPod  
To update and expand the key to Wisconsin Woody Plants for the iPod to include approximately 100 native and invasive exotic shrub species; be compatible with newer handheld devices; and serve the diverse needs of K-12 teachers and students, environmental educators, foresters, natural resource managers, UW faculty and students, and amateur naturalists throughout Wisconsin and the upper Midwest.

Waukesha School District  
**WAUKESHA**  
Waukesha Butler Middle School FCE Energy Resource Grant  
To purchase an energy star front-loading washing machine, energy conservation print and video resources, and materials related to eating locally. Math skills will be reinforced by calculating energy savings achieved by incorporating lifestyle changes at home and school.

Wild Rose School District  
**WILD ROSE**  
Wild Rose High School Tech Ed Energy Resource Grant  
To purchase a set of watt meters that will be used to measure the electricity used to operate power tools needed to fabricate a wall clock; compare conventional light bulbs to CFL bulbs; and to provide a frame of reference for discussions related to a 10 KW wind turbine.

Wisconsin Association For Environmental Education (WAEE)  
**STEVENS POINT**  
Creation and Distribution of the Energy & Technology Toolbox for Environmental Education
To provide formal and non-formal environmental educators with the technology, resources and training to educate PreK-12 students on energy use, consumption rates, and efficiency. The Energy and Technology Toolbox contains a Kill-A-Watt meter and a CFL light bulb along with lesson plans, activities and resources directly related on how to use the technology.

**Wisconsin Association For Environmental Education (WAEE)**

**STEVENS POINT**

**Keynote Presenter**

Will Steger has been witness to the effects of global warming as he has traveled in the arctic over the past 40 years. He and his foundation are committed to making changes to stop global warming through education and empowerment. Grant funds will support a keynote presentation and workshops to motivate and inform educators as well as provide them with resources to bring back to their classrooms and nature centers.

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR)**

**MADISON**

**Support for WI PLT**

To provide Project Learning Tree (PLT) facilitator training to 200 individuals participating in early childhood programs, and to reprint the Trees of Wisconsin poster which will be distributed during these training sessions.

**Wisconsin Green and Healthy Schools Program Pilot Workshop**

To organize and conduct a day long pilot workshop in the south central Wisconsin area which will enable DNR program staff to connect face to face with area school personnel in an effort to provide an in-depth introduction to the green and healthy schools program; connect area resources, such as businesses, nature centers, non-profit organizations and local government with the schools; and help individual schools develop a plan for making their school green and healthy. By completing the steps of the web-based voluntary program, schools discover ways that they can provide a safe, healthy, clean and green school that promotes a productive learning environment and helps to conserve and protect our valuable natural resources.
**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR)**

**MADISON**

Spanish Translation-EEK!

Environmental Education for Kids

To translate into Spanish some of the forest ecosystem information and forest related activities for children in the EEK! – Environmental Education for Kids website.

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**Wisconsin Family Forest**

**OSHKOŠ**

Communication Tools for Woodland Owner Education through the Woodlands Advocate

To provide educational tools and support to Woodland Advocate volunteers who in turn work with private landowners seeking forest stewardship information.

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**Woodland Dunes Nature Center**

**TWO RIVERS**

Prairie Education for All Ages

To create a series of education programs focused on prairies: history, ecology, management, and landscape adaptations. Also, to establish a mowed, leveled trail around the prairie, with two small bridges to make passage possible during wetter periods; installation of informational signs; and supplemental prairie plantings.

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**WoodLINKS Wisconsin**

**GREEN BAY**

WoodLINKS Wisconsin Sustainable Forest Management Program

To expand the program content, from the processing of wood and manufacturing of finished wood products, to sustainable forest management and the jobs/careers involved on the ground in Wisconsin’s forests.
2010 GRANTS

Aldo Leopold Foundation $2,000
BARABOO
Reaching Unengaged Private Woodland Owners Through My Healthy Woods: A Handbook
To distribute the handbook to private woodland landowners from Crawford and Richland Counties.

Aldo Leopold Nature Center, Inc. $19,989
MONONA
Forestry FIRST: Field-based Investigations and Research for Students and Teacher
To provide teacher professional developments in science inquiry and to engage students in field-based forestry investigation and research experiences.

Bayfield School District $9,743
BAYFIELD
Making Connections: Our Health, Our Environment and Our Economy
To establish a school composting program, continued development of a school garden, and a new greenhouse to provide opportunities for students, staff, and community members to gain a better understanding of the connections that exist between the food we eat and its impact on our health, environment, and economy.

Black River Area Green School (BRAGS)- Charter School $9,941
BLACK RIVER FALLS
Providing a Stronger "Foundation" for Native Plant Species and Students
Utilizing the popular 4.1 mile Foundation walking trail throughout our city, students will create 8 distinct rain garden beds using 15 different Wisconsin native plants. Student projects will also include interpretive signs, a walking trail brochure, leading field trips for elementary students, and native plant identification workshops for the Karner Blue Garden Club and UW-Extension office.

Boys and Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee $19,998
MILWAUKEE
Camp Whitcomb Mason Forest History and Urban Forest Program (Phase 3)
To educate central city youth from predominantly low income families about the forests’ role on Wisconsin’s history, present, and future; to enable 30 teachers to attend an Environmental Education Workshop, designed to provide educators with technical skills and fun activities that will bring forestry education into their classrooms; and to provide a forest history program to summer camp participants.

Cambridge School District $5,000
CAMBRIDGE
Severson Learning Center School Forest Education Plan
To collect data, organize and evaluate the data, and prepare a district curriculum vision for K-12 use of the Severson Learning Center School Forest.

Central Wisconsin Environmental Station (CWES) $3,165
AMHERST JUNCTION
Citizen Science Monitoring for the Field Trip, Classroom and Beyond
To plan and implement new field trip offering and post-
Field trip activities for visiting school groups to engage them in citizen science monitoring. Wildlife trail and nest box cameras will allow students to build upon their observations of wildlife though live-feed video and digital images of animals that are difficult to observe (those in nest-boxes or those that are nocturnal).

Chequamegon School District  $5,000  GLIDDEN  Charter School/School Forest Mentoring Program  
To enable charter school students to use project based learning to create projects that incorporate our school forest and establish ties with community members.

Community GroundWorks  $19,979  MADISON  Woodland Workshops, Woodland Writing  
To expose hundreds of citizens of all ages to urban forest stewardship through regular forestry education and nature writing workshops; and to develop an interpretive trail guide using content created during the writing workshops.

Edgar Public Schools  $4,950  EDGAR  An Educational Plan for the Edgar School Forest  
To develop a school forest education plan that incorporates existing resources, such as the partnership with Edgar’s Scotch Creek Preserve, and successful district Science, Agriculture, and PE forest activities; and also increases utilization of the forest.

Elmwood School District  $3,375  ELMWOOD  Expanding Elmwood’s Environmental Education Experiences  
To provide opportunities for staff to participate in professional development workshops designed to enhance their familiarity with currently available Wisconsin based forestry education curriculums and their knowledge of forestry education concepts.

Flambeau School District  $16,193  TONY  Trails for Education  
To create an outdoor classroom at the School Forest; provide professional development for staff, and acquire field resource materials.
Friends of Horicon Marsh International

$2,200

Education Center

HORICON

Exploring the World of Ice and Snow with Snowshoes

To implement an active learning winter ecology program: Exploring the World of Ice and Snow with Snowshoes that will allow students to experience sections of Horicon Marsh not readily accessible in other seasons.

Galesville-Ettrick-Trempealeau School

$22,290

District (GET)

GALESVILLE

GET: Environmentally Aware! Environmentally Active! GET: To the School Forest!

For creation of grade-level appropriate (K-5) school forest curriculum, staff professional development and facility improvements.

Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes

$5,275

Green Bay Service Center

GREEN BAY

Great Lakes Flora & Fauna Portable Program

To provide hands-on, environmentally-focused portable program kits that come with easy-to-use directions for age-appropriate activities. Fauna kits will include animal furs and pelts, skulls and footprint molds from animals native to Wisconsin and the Great Lakes region. The flora kits will include materials related to native wildflowers, seeds, and trees.

Glacierland Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)

$4,927

GREEN BAY

Managing Your Woodlands Forestry Field Day

To educate private woodland landowners whose property lies atop the Niagara Escarpment about sustainable multiple use management issues and concerns, through the use of both indoor presentations and outdoor demonstrations.

Gordon Bubolz Nature Preserve, Inc.

$4,253

APPLETON

Skins, Bones, and the Unknowns

To develop a new educational program offering and train naturalists to deliver it.
Grafton School District $5,000
GRAFTON
Grafton School Forest
Education Plan
To create a School Forest Education Committee who will develop a K-12 educational plan that details lessons, resources, and opportunities in order to integrate and expand the current usage of the two school forests.

Hudson School District $30,000
HUDSON
School Forest Large Grant
For staff to participate in professional development workshops designed to enhance their familiarity with Wisconsin based forestry and environmental education curriculums and their knowledge of forestry education concepts; for the acquisition of classroom, field, and forest management resources needed to implement the schools forest educational and management plans; and for the construction of a shelter facility with storage, and educational kiosks to facilitate communication between the community and the district.

Janesville School District $750
JANESVILLE
Systematic Eradication of Garlic Mustard at the Janesville School’s Outdoor Lab
To develop and implement demonstration sites on the eradication of garlic mustard. There will be four methods demonstrated using a true research model with variable versus control sites. The results will be disseminated within an educational brochure designed for local citizens’ use.

Janesville School District $750
JANESVILLE
The Monitoring of Marsh Creek as it Flows Through Janesville School’s Outdoor Lab
To use the Water Action Volunteer (WAV) stream monitoring model, to collect dissolved oxygen, temperature, turbidity, stream flow, habitat, and stream macro invertebrate data. The main purpose of this project is to see how past usage has an effect on the health of Marsh Creek. Data will be recorded within the WAV data bank housed at UW-Madison and thus available for public use.

Madison-Camaguey Sister City Association $6,908
MADISON
Environmental Education and Art in Wisconsin
Students from four Wisconsin communities will keep journals, write poetry, create stories, become involved in community service projects, and create art work incorporating scientific knowledge about the importance of healthy ecosystems-wetlands in particular. The emphasis on art allows children to transform scientific learning into visual tools and bridge a gap between knowledge and feelings. Students’ art will be shared in their communities, with other participating schools, and ultimately with Cuban students. A major component of the project is an assessment of changes in students’ attitudes, knowledge, behaviors, and feelings of concern for the environment.
Marinette County: Land and Water Conservation Department

MARINETTE
Creating a Children’s Literature Garden
To provide an opportunity for children to “get their hands dirty” while learning about gardening, experiencing nature up close, and helping them gain a better appreciation for the natural world. In addition, local Master Gardeners will utilize the site to hold annual gardening classes and activities, and special events for children.

North Lakeland School District

MANITOWISH WATERS
North Lakeland Outdoor Education Curriculum Development Project (Phase II)
To develop a standards-based sequential outdoor education curriculum plan for grades one through four and to train teaching staff, via a two-day inservice, in the related content, methods and assessment.

Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility

STEVENS POINT
Developing a Conceptual Framework for a Wisconsin Aquaculture High School Curriculum
To host a workshop for agriculture educators, fish farmers and university staff to determine main concepts that will be used to create a conceptual framework for a high school aquaculture curriculum.

Northwoods Land Trust

EAGLE RIVER
Private Woodland Owner Voluntary Conservation Education Program for Oneida & Forest Counties
To inform woodland owners in Oneida and Forest Counties about conservation easements and the ways in which easements can enable landowners to be lasting stewards of their productive forest lands in perpetuity.

Princeton School District

PRINCETON
Integrating Environmental Science Activities in K-12 Science Curriculum
To provide high quality professional development workshops, student learning opportunities, and community experiences in order to foster an environmentally-conscious society.

Raptor Education Group, Inc (REGI)

ANTIGO
Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative (WBCI) Bird Monitoring Kit Project
To purchase a Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative (WBCI) bird monitoring kit and make it available to local educators, bird clubs, and other groups to check out.

Southwest Badger Resource Conservation & Development

LANCASTER
Forestry Advancement and Outreach to Potential Forest Stewards
This project will use one-on-one contacts, field days, workshops, and the media to provide information and education on forestry issues to private woodland owners. Also, to provide children with hands-on, in-the-woods opportunities to learn about forestry issues and develop a better understanding of the connections between the human and natural world.

Stevens Point Area School District

STEVENS POINT
Creating an Outdoor Learning Classroom at Jefferson School for the Arts
To develop a gathering area (amphitheater), prairie restoration area, tree planting area, and natural play area and to provide teacher training so they felt comfortable and knowledgeable about using the outdoor learning area.

Tomah Area School District

TOMAH
Integrating Hands-On Environmental Education in the Outdoor Setting
To implement new elementary and middle school curriculum designed to meet the needs of all students by incorporating a variety of action based research projects, community wide outreach activities, and hands on experimental inquiries.

Trees For Tomorrow

EAGLE RIVER
Natural Resources Education: a workshop for 4th-12th grade Wisconsin teachers
To host a four-day natural resource education workshop
for teachers, to enable them to teach their students about natural resources and sustainable natural resource management practices. Specifically teachers will learn about Wisconsin forests and fauna, outdoor skills, water management, and consumer connections.

**Trees For Tomorrow**  $19,990

**EAGLE RIVER**

**Urban Forestry Education: A workshop for Wisconsin teachers**

To host a five-day urban forestry education workshop for teachers. Teachers will learn about what an urban forest is, benefits of urban forests, how to manage an urban forest, jobs related to urban forestry, and connections urban forest have to other natural resources.

**UW-Eau Claire: Office of Research and Sponsored Programs**  $4,469

**EAU CLAIRE**

**Environmental Stewardship: A Paddle and Pedal Pollution Tour of the Lower Chippewa River**

To team University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire (UWEC) undergraduates enrolled in an "Environmental Writing and Leadership" course with six community agency partners to produce a Pedal and Paddle Pollution Tour of the Lower Chippewa River. The tour will include ten "stops" at GPS waypoints along the river where citizens can read a booklet or listen to a podcast informing them about a type of urban and rural point and nonpoint pollution affecting that waypoint. Preparing this tour will educate students about the types of pollution affecting the Lower Chippewa River; how this pollution impacts this important watershed; and help connect students to sites of civic action where they can develop long-term relationships and engage in continued civic action after they complete the course.
UW-Madison: Office of Research $10,000
Sponsored Programs
MADISON
Science on Wheels
To increase minority and disadvantaged gifted student interest in the natural environment through a three-month course designed to address students’ social-emotional development and ecological literacy as students explore the world around them from the unique perspective of a bicycle seat.

UW-Stevens Point (UWSP) $4,940
STEVENS POINT
Building a Higher Education Campus Sustainability Network
To establish a network of Wisconsin higher education institution representatives working on campus sustainability. To share strategies, best practices, innovations, and tools to enhance the sustainability of campus operations and the ecological and social literacy of graduates.

UW-Stevens Point (UWSP): $4,450
College of Natural Resources
STEVENS POINT
Pilot of the Wisconsin Environmental Education Research Database (WEERD)
To gather feedback on the role WEERD played in enhancing the "need" and "evidence of need" sections for 2010 grant applications and the quality of environmental education research.

UW-System: Board of Regents $9,275
MADISON
Wilderness Explorers Outdoor Education and Leadership Camp
To expand the week-long Wilderness Explorers program to include higher impact activities for more middle-school children, and to develop short and long-term assessment strategies to evaluate its outcomes.

UW-System: Board of Regents $19,751
MADISON
Schoolyards to School Forest
To provide a one-week Schoolyards to School Forests Teacher Professional Development Institute for 40+ teachers from 10 schools. The focuses will be a holistic, place-based approach to environmental education and urban forest benefits; exchange and communication among teachers and resource professionals; and support and mentoring for teachers to take students outdoors during the school day. Participating teachers will mentor their colleagues. The Institute will be followed with in-service workshops and support and will eventually reach an estimated 100 teachers. Web-based resources will extend the program state-wide.

Valley Stewardship Network $1,540
VIROQUA
Mussel Surveys: Citizen participation and education in assessing watershed health
To educate citizen monitors on mussels, their use as an environmental indicator and then collect samples to be submitted to the DNR Mussel Monitoring Program of Wisconsin for scientific assessment.
West Salem School District  

**WEST SALEM**

**Rain or Shine: EE every time**

To develop activities that are driven by state and district standards and can be used indoors at the Outdoor Education Center in inclement weather; to remodel the existing structures to create a safe, comfortable teaching station that will be used during inclement weather; and to encourage public participation in OEC events and classes.

Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education (WAAE)  

**STEVENS POINT**

**Creating GreenPrint for Wisconsin Citizens**

To develop the framework for creating a GreenPrint for all Wisconsin citizens to include a state-wide environmental literacy plan, a baseline survey of the environmental literacy of WI citizens, a K-12 environmental literacy plan and a WI environmental literacy report card.

Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education (WCEE)  

**STEVENS POINT**

**Flying WILD with Wisconsin Birds: Enhancing Wisconsin educators knowledge and skills**

To host a 4-day teacher workshop to enhance knowledge of Wisconsin bird conservation and provide teachers with the necessary skills to incorporate bird education programs and resources into their curriculum.

Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education (WCEE)  

**STEVENS POINT**

**Spread the Word About Wisconsin's EE Resources**

To create two conference exhibit components that can be used together or individually at an array of venues to
provide information about the EE in Wisconsin web site. The web site highlights Wisconsin’s environmental edu-
cation resources, events, organizations, grants, jobs, and
school activities.

**Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation (WEEF)**

**STEVENS POINT**

**Advancing K-12 Forestry Education through the LEAF Program**

To enable LEAF to serve as the central source for forestry education resources and networking for K-12 audiences.

**Wisconsin Heights School District**

(Mazomanie)

**MAZOMANIE**

**An Education Plan for Mazomaine High School Forest**

To form a School Forest Education Plan Task Force and charge it with drafting and validating a school forest education plan. Support services will be provided by the Mazomanie Science Outreach Outpost Director who will act as an environmental education specialist.

**Wisconsin Wildlife Federation:**

**$4,500**

**MacKenzie Environmental Center (POYNETTE)**

**Coyote Mentoring Weekend: Developing our capacity as teachers, leaders, and elders**

To host a weekend workshop that uses lecture, storytelling, discussions, group activities, and peer teaching sessions to enhance participants’ ability to work with students to cultivate a supportive, culturally relevant learning environment in their classrooms and communities.

**Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association**

**$19,357**

**Foundation (WWOA)**

**BURLINGTON**

**Non-formal Educator Training in Sustainable Forestry Activities**

For forestry based workshops for forest landowners and Boy Scout leaders and also to provide forest-based activities for Boy Scouts during their weeklong summer camp.
Grant Reviewers

Alvarez-Lewis, Christina 2010
Dane County 4-H

Bauer-Armstrong, Cheryl 2011
UW Madison Arboretum

Beaber, Amanda 2010
Trees for Tomorrow

Beimel, Beth 2010
K-12 Energy Education Program (KEEP)

Benton, Scott 2010
UW-Stevens Point Student

Bohanan, Robert 2009
UW-Madison: Center for Biology Education

Buchholz, Sunshine 2009, 2010
Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education (WCEE)

Buller, Sheri 2009
Tress for Tomorrow

Retired, SC Johnson

Wisconsin Environmental Education Board

Carreno, Beth 2010
Pheasants Forever

Ceylor, Linda 2010
WI Farmers Union

Cremey, Mike 2009
DNR: Gordon

Cremey, Tammie 2009

DeLaune, Jeff 2009, 2010
Johnson Controls

Stevens Point Area School District

Duckert, Cindy 2011
Lawrence University: Biology Department


Enlund, Abbie 2009
Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education (WAEE)

Eskew, Kelly 2010
K-12 Energy Education Program (KEEP)

Fannucchi, Genny 2009
DNR: Forestry Bureau

Fey, Bobbi 2009, 2010
Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation (WECC)

Fox, Lisa 2009
Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation (WECC)

Franzen, Rebecca 2010, 2011

Freivalds, Zaiga 2010
Gordon Bubolz Nature Center

Gaskill, Cindy 2009

Gilbert, Sarah 2009
Learning Experiences Activities in Forestry (LEAF)

Gizyn, Peter 2009
Trees for Tomorrow

Haney, Jesse 2010, 2011
Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation (WEEF)

Harvey, Lucy 2010
Heart, Amy 2009
Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA)

Horst, David 2010
Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region

Jilot, Tessa 2009, 2010
DNR: Forestry Bureau

Johnsrud, Jessica 2010
Woodland Dunes Nature Center

Keck, Don 2009
CESA 10

Keller, Julie 2009
UWSP: College of Professional Studies: Health Promotion and Human Development

Kinyon, Dave 2009
Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation (WECC)

Klemme, Diane 2009
UW-Stout: Home Economics

Knopppow, Brianna 2010
Trees For Tomorrow

Krsjzianiek, Eric 2011
Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA)

UW-Stevens Point: College of Natural Resources

Learning Experiences Activities in Forestry (LEAF)

Lane, Jennie 2011
K-12 Energy Education Program (KEEP)
Linde, Alec 2009,2011
Sierra Club: Chippewa Valley Chapter
Marher (Brodeen), Patty 2010
Manitowoc Public School District
Marinac, Pat 2009
Appleton Area School District
Stevens Point Area School District
Marshall, Gretchen 2009,2010
Learning Experiences Activities in Forestry (LEAF)
McKay, Molly 2011
Raptor Education Group, Inc. (REGI)
McKenzie, Kay 2009,2010
Wisconsin Family Forest
Madison Area School District
Miresse (Sinisi), Gina 2009,2010,2011
Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA)
K-12 Energy Education Program (KEEP)
Morgan, Carrie 2011
DNR: Communication and Education
Mortenson, Kelly 2009,2010
Learning Experiences Activities in Forestry (LEAF)
Moubry, Cindy 2011
Muto, Peter 2009
DNR: Retired
Niemi, Kevin 2009
UW-Madison: Center for Biology Education
Peterson, Don 2009
Sustainable Resource Institute
Ponlod, Amanda 2009
UWSP Student and WAEE Board
Quinn, Tom 2011
Central Wisconsin Environmental Station
Rice (Swanson), Nicole 2011
Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education (WCEE)
Rickert, Melissa 2009,2011
K-12 Energy Education Program (KEEP)
and CESA 10
Scharf, Zara 2009
Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA)
Schramm, Geoff 2010,2011
Ouzakee County Land and Water Conservation Department
Schuller (Ermer), Susan 2010
Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education (WCEE)
Girl Scouts of America: Woodland Council
Shankland, Katrina 2010
Midwest Renewable Energy Association
Tri-County School Forest Advisory Committee
Singer, Matt 2009
DNR: Darlington
Smith, Kelly 2009
UWSP Student and KEEP
Solin, Jeremy 2009,2011
Learning Experiences Activities in Forestry (LEAF)
West Salem School District
Todea (Holmes), Cheryl 2009,2010,2011
Trees for Tomorrow
Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education (WCEE)
Vander Wyst, Gary 2009,2011
DNR: Park Falls
Vennie Vollrath, Jacob 2010
UW-Stout
Verkullen, Lena 2011
Weltzy Environmental Center
Vogel, Shannon 2010
Central Wisconsin Environmental Station Volunteer
Tri-County School Forest Advisory Committee
Windjue, Sara 2009
K-12 Energy Education Program (KEEP)
Wineberg, Alison 2010
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Workman, Amy 2009
Aldo Leopold Nature Center
Wright, Sarah 2009
UW-Madison: Center for Biology Education
Wisconsin Public Service
Ziolkowski, Carrie 2009,2010
K-12 Energy Education Program (KEEP)
# Grant Application Statistics

## 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Projects Funded</th>
<th>Dollar Value Funded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>$97,649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forestry</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>$238,538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Forest</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>$141,462</td>
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<tr>
<td>Energy</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>$24,733</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>75</strong></td>
<td><strong>$502,374</strong></td>
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## 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Projects Funded</th>
<th>Dollar Value Funded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>$129,617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forestry</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>$249,584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Forest</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>$130,416</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>49</strong></td>
<td><strong>$509,617</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Total Dollars Requested**
  - 2009: $1,161,646
  - 2010: $1,023,300

- **Proposals Received**
  - 2009: 161
  - 2010: 105

- **Average Request**
  - 2009: $7,215
  - 2010: $9,745
As citizens of this state we all have a stake in preserving and enhancing our environmental heritage. We invite your input as we promote learning opportunities for our citizens so that everyone, youngest to oldest, will gain more knowledge and skill to ensure an even more positive legacy for our environment. The WEEB Development program is one way Wisconsin residents contribute to our State’s rich environmental heritage. These collective and individual efforts make a difference!

Public Support
The transfer of WEEB’s annual $200,000 general public revenue appropriation to a segregated fee appropriation in 2003 has enabled WEEB’s forestry and school forest education programs to blossom. Unfortunately, WEEB’s general environmental education grant program has been correspondingly restricted, both in terms of size and number of awards. Thus WEEB’s ability to carry out its mission to promote environmental education in all segments of society has been severely limited.

In 2003, the Board established a task force to identify possible revenue appropriation sources to help return the general environmental education grant program to its historical level. In addition to reauthorization of the GPR support and legislation to increase the level of funding from environmental fines, the task force identified several additional state revenue sources including: littering fines, a bottle deposit, a specialty license plate fee, a tax check-off donation program and a surcharge on plastic bags.

Sustained efforts since 2003, with legislative leadership from Senators Mark Miller and Fred Risser and Representatives Louis Molepske and Pedro Colon, among others, resulted in legislative authorization to increase funding for WEEB’s general EE grant program. Specifically, Wisconsin’s 2009-2011 budget included an amendment to increase the amount and relative percent allocation to WEEB from the surcharge on environmental fines. Once fully implemented, WEEB’s income for general EE grants is projected to gradually increase from its current average of about $90,000 per year to $252,000 per year (post 2010-2011).

Private Support
1989 Wisconsin Act 299 established the WEEB and authorized it to seek private funds to supplement state support of the grant program.

After extensive efforts to secure private funds produced returns well short of realistic goals, it became evident that raising funds with a directly associated nonprofit corporation as the depository for the funds was essential. In 2004, the Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation (WEEF), a nonstock nonprofit corporation, was registered with the state of Wisconsin; and in 2005 was approved by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)3 organization.

In 2007, the WEEF was approved as an “umbrella group” coordinator within the annual State Employee Combined Campaign (SECC) program. Contributions, grants, and interest on accounts generated $42,334 in the 2009-2010 budget cycle; a 19% increase over the year before. In 2009, the WEEF secured the first corporate donation ($15,000) from the Wisconsin Energy Foundation to support the goal of creating a comprehensive, statewide water education program. WEEF also played a key leadership role in the environmental surcharge initiative.

WEEF and WEEB will continue to work cooperatively to identify, cultivate, secure, and steward potential donors. If you are interested in contributing or finding out more about the WEEF and its work in support of the WEEB, refer to the WEEF website at:

www.wisconsinEEfoundation.org
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2009-2011 Biennial Report

A STATE BOARD TO PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN ALL SEGMENTS OF SOCIETY