

### **OWEA Public Education and Outreach Funding Assistance Request (EOFAR) Program**

The Ohio Water Environment Association (OWEA) is a 501(c)(3) Organization and a Member Association (MA) of the Water Environment Federation (WEF) that provides technical education and training for Ohio water quality professionals who clean water and return it safely to the environment.

The Public Education Committee is a Standing Committee of OWEA and committed to the organization's goal of informing and educating those inside and outside of our community on the importance of clean water, the wastewater treatment process and profession, and relating that work to state and federal clean water goals and objectives. The committee operates to honor OWEA's commitment to preserving and enhancing the water quality of Ohio now and in the future through public education and outreach to the citizens of Ohio of all ages.

The OWEA Public Education and Outreach Funding Assistance Request (EOFAR) Program was established by the Public Education Committee in 2015 to ensure continued success of OWEA's commitment to public education and outreach to the citizens of Ohio of all ages; particularly K-12.

#### **Evaluation Criteria and Process**

The following evaluation criteria ensure tracking and accountability for funds allocated to schools, other non-profit entities or groups, and municipalities interested in teaching and conveying the importance of clean water, the wastewater treatment process and profession, and how water professionals work together to create a clean surface water environment. The evaluation criteria and process provides a system that simultaneously promotes fair distribution of funds and leverages OWEA's public education and outreach goals and objectives.

1. Curriculum/project/activity is science-based and includes educational elements related to wastewater treatment and processes and the creation of clean water.
2. Curriculum/project/activity includes a wastewater treatment facility tour and/or a presentation from a local wastewater/water quality professional (including treatment plant operators, managers, laboratory staff, engineers, consultants, and state water quality protection agency staff).\*

*\*If unknown, OWEA will provide contact information for your local wastewater treatment facility and/or member wastewater professional.*

Funding may be requested individually or through an OWEA member on behalf of interested teachers and other citizen group representatives seeking funding to support a qualified public education or outreach event/activity. The form must be completed on-line at OWEA's website (see link at [http://www.ohiowea.org/public\\_education.php/](http://www.ohiowea.org/public_education.php/)).

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Members of the OWEA Public Education Committee review and determine the level of funding to be awarded. A check payable to the school or group/organization where the teacher/citizen is employed will be mailed with a form to be signed and returned by a representative of the school or citizen group/organization. The form is an agreement to use the money only as proposed unless otherwise approved; provide event/activity record keeping and/or follow up as necessary; and provide OWEA with an accounting of how the money was spent. The form also includes a liability waiver exempting OWEA from assuming any legal responsibility for participating students, teachers and other citizens.

**Amount Available**

The average funding level is \$500 per application/applicant, but varies depending on the number of applicants and funding level requested. Additional monies will be considered based on the amount available and the appropriateness / level of complexity of the project or outreach activity. Total program funds available varies from year to year, but currently is \$20,000 (YR 2015).

**Deadline**

Funds are available on a first come, first serve basis and must be used within the academic year requested (if school), or within three months of non-school. Projects will be evaluated using the above mentioned criteria. Recipients will be notified of Award within three weeks of application receipt. There are no limits to awards for each applicant (school or group/organization) so long as projects/activities are individual and unique.

If you have questions regarding this funding program, please contact the OWEA Public Education Chair or Vice-Chair, contact information accessible via [http://www.ohiowea.org/public\\_education.php/](http://www.ohiowea.org/public_education.php/), or, the OWEA Office:

Ohio Water Environment Association  
1890 Northwest Blvd, Suite 210  
Columbus, OH 43212  
Phone: 614.488.5800  
Fax: 614.488.5801  
Email: info@ohiowea.org