

Attachment – Youth environmental education projects of interest

Hennepin County supports organizations to actively educate, engage, and motivate residents to become environmental stewards and make positive behavior changes, such as taking action to prevent waste, recycle, reduce household hazardous waste, combat climate change, care for trees, protect pollinators, and improve our air and water quality.

Hennepin County is seeking youth projects that include activities like those described below. Other projects that fit the program criteria will also be accepted. For additional project ideas, visit hennepin.us/greenpartners to read about projects funded in the previous grant round and hennepin.us/environmentaleducation to access Hennepin County's environmental education resources.

All projects must follow COVID-19 guidance on social distancing, mask wearing, and gatherings: health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus

Projects of interest for youth environmental education include:

- **Cross-curricular projects:** Pair environmental science with social studies and other subjects like art, music, or creative writing.
- **Environment-based education:** Use environmental issues as a context for learning in various subject matters.
- **Outdoor education:** Engage youth through outdoor field experiences to study environmental topics ranging from air pollution to zebra mussels.
- **Field trips coupled with classroom education:** Attend in-person or virtual field trips. Use classroom curriculum, workshops, or take-home lessons to reinforce what youth learn on environmentally themed field trips, including trips to any of Hennepin County's [recommended sites](#).
- **Environmental action planning:** Identify and pursue solutions to environmental problems. Examine environmental issues, consider benefits and consequences of various actions, and create a youth-led action plan to address an issue.
- **Place-based learning:** Immerse students in their local environment, history, and culture by encouraging action in community initiatives. Explore biodiversity and natural areas near where youth live, explore local green infrastructure and learn about green jobs, conduct field studies, or partner with others to develop community-based projects.
- **Citizen science and service learning:** Involve youth in collecting scientific data or participating in restoration or stewardship projects that benefit the environment.

Projects that are not a good fit include projects to address structural barriers or infrastructure changes. Learn more about additional Hennepin County resources for [recycling at organizations, businesses](#), and [schools](#) and support to install significant projects to [protect water, habitat, and other natural resources](#)