

B-WET BAY WATERSHED EDUCATION & TRAINING PROGRAM

The Great Lakes Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Program is an environmental education program that supports locally relevant experiential learning in the K-12 environment. The primary delivery is through competitive grants.

B-WET Activities Show an Increase in:

- Teachers' confidence in their ability and their intentions to implement experiential learning in their classroom
- Students' enjoyment of learning about and protecting the Great Lakes
- Students' and teachers' ability to identify ways watersheds and the Great Lakes become polluted and ways to prevent this pollution

Program Priorities:

Using the environment to help advance student learning and problem solving abilities has been shown to increase academic performance, enthusiasm for learning and environmental stewardship. To accomplish this, B-WET Great Lakes incorporates:

Meaningful Watershed Education Experiences (MWEEs) for students

- Weaves together classroom learning with field experiences
- Sustained Activity
- Aligns with standards of learning

Professional Development for Teachers

- Reinforces a teacher's ability to teach, inspire, & lead
- Teachers learn why and how to use inquiry based learning in their classrooms

Great Lakes Literacy and Restoration

To achieve the goal of leaving the Great Lakes better for the next generation, B-WET projects align with the goals, strategies and principles of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan and the Great Lakes Literacy Principles. Funds are available for eligible applicants throughout the Great Lakes watersheds in the states of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

Funding: Availability of B-WET funds is dependent upon annual Congressional appropriations. Historically, awards have been between \$20,000 and \$120,000 per year for up to three successive years for a single project. B-WET funds can be used for various project expenses including buses, stipends, travel, supplies, and professional evaluators.

Eligible Applicants: K-through-12 public and independent schools and school systems, institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, state or local government agencies, and Indian tribal governments.

To learn more about the Great Lakes B-WET Program contact Cathy Green, Cathy.Green@noaa.gov, or visit our website at:

<http://thunderbay.noaa.gov/B-WET/>

