

Enviro-News

January, 2023

NY Climate Smart Community Awards in Western New York

Three awards were made recently under the New York Climate Smart Communities Program. The town of Amherst will

DOI Funding Guide for Invasive Species Management

Soil Health Tool

The ABCs of Soil Health

Is Your Congregation Cool?

Across the nation, Interfaith Power & Light and our state affiliates are helping congregations take action by lowering their emissions that contribute to climate change. Has your congregation done a project to reduce its carbon footprint? If so, you can help them become a Certified Cool Congregation. [Click here to find out more.](#)

Lead Pipes in your House? Get a Free Water Test

If you have

Clothing Recycling in Schools

Project Green Schools is excited to partner with [Planet Aid](#) in order to help schools and communities work together with a unified goal of recycling 25,000 lbs of clothing and shoes. Both Planet Aid and Project Green Schools will support you with everything that you need to organize and promote your drive. [Click to register](#) to host a drive this summer or fall.

2023 Envirothon Announced

The 2023 NYS Envirothon Current Issue is Posted! The current issue is "Adapting to Changing Climate". If you are a high school student, teacher, or parent and are interested in participating in our 2022-23 Regional Envirothon please contact our office at 716-434-4949 ext 4 or katherine.pfeifer@nacdnet.net. Review the <https://nysenvirothon.org/current-issue-study-guide>.

-Schooling Resources

[2022 update of the National Marine Ecosystem Status website](#)-The site provides a view of important data - including human actions and needs, so users can get a holistic understanding of how U.S. marine and Great Lakes ecosystems are doing. This is the first year the website provides Great Lakes data. This website is easy enough for High School students to use, yet robust enough to satisfy a discerning researcher.

[Our Beautiful Planet](#)- series of compelling 5-7 minute science films highlighting the cutting-edge research that climate

[Becoming a Climate Change Educator Toolkit](#)- a back-pocket resource for planning lessons.

[The Connect-Kids-to-Parks Field Trip Grant Program](#) (Connect Kids)- each grant provides reimbursement of up to \$40 per student (and \$80 for Special Education students) for field trips to state and federal parks, education and nature centers, forests, historic si

(PEYA) recognizes outstanding environmental stewardship projects developed by K-12 youth. The PEYA program honors a wide variety of projects developed by young students, school classes and clubs, youth camps, and youth groups. Each year, each of the 10 EPA regional offices selects up to one winner in each age group. Grades K-5 and Grades 6-12. Award winners receive a Presidential plaque. Deadline: **January 11, 2023**.

[The 2022 Changemaker Video Challenge](#)- Do you know any teens who are frustrated with the world and want to do something about it?! Encourage them to submit a video on one of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) highlighting their views and how they want to see things change! Teens simply create a short two-minute video showcasing their idea! 10 winners will be selected to receive up to \$500 to implement their vision. Deadline: **January 23**.

[EPA's 2022 Business Video Challenge](#). EPA will award a total of \$50,000 in prize money through this video challenge. High school and college students are invited to create stories illustrating how businesses in the U.S. are reducing toxic chemical releases through innovative pollution prevention practices, and by having a positive impact on the environment and communities. Participants have a chance to win up to \$5,000. Deadline: **February 17**.

[EPA's 2022 Student Video Contest](#) challenges students to create a short video connecting world population growth to one of three global topics: Climate Change, Waste, and Gender. The contest is an important, along with at least one sustainable solution. More than 80 cash prizes of up to \$1,200 will be awarded. Deadline: **February 22**.

[Slingshot Challenge](#), is a global video challenge designed to amplify the voices and ideas of the next generation of planet protectors. Participants will be asked to create a one-minute video outlining an innovative solution to a global environmental issue. Judges will select winners to receive cash prizes, as well as an invitation to the iconic National Geographic Explorers Festival in Washington, D.C. Students ages 13-18 and educators looking for ways to engage young people around environmental action are encouraged to participate. Deadline: **February 17**. [Learn more](#).

[Recycling Education and Outreach Grants](#) -For states, tribes, territories, local governments, and other organizations to fund projects to improve consumer education and outreach on waste prevention, reuse, recycling, and composting by providing them with the practical tools needed to reduce waste generation, decrease contamination in the recycling stream, and increase recycling rates across the country in a manner that is equitable for all. Deadline: **January 16, 2023.**

[NY Sea Grant's Biennial Research Call for 2024-2025](#) - Inviting Pre-Proposals for Research. The main goal of

sustainable development, use, protection, conservation, and management of our coastal resources. The research must be driven by stakeholder-

-proposals are invited specifically addressing
strategic Plan for 2024-2027. Research in many disciplines, including biology, chemistry,
geology, physical oceanography, engineering, social science, and others, will be appropriate. Pre-proposals are due
by: **Tuesday, January 17, 2023.**

[Tree Planting in Disadvantaged Communities After Ash Tree Loss Grant Opportunity](#)-The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Division of Lands and Forests announced funding for this two-year grant comes from the US Forest Service and National Association of State Foresters through the State Urban Forest Resilience Grant and from the NYS Environmental Protection Fund. Grant projects must plant trees for urban and community forests in New York State. Applications are due: **May 30, 2023**.

[The Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership \(ORLP\)](#) is a nationally competitive program targeting grant assistance to help economically disadvantaged urban communities with no, or almost no, access to publicly available, close-by, outdoor recreation. Funds can be used for the acquisition and/or development of, or to substantially renovate

[NIEHS Conference Grants](#)-The mission of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) is to discover how the environment affects people in order to promote healthier lives. Conference grant applications have a direct relationship to advancing the mission of NIEHS. In order to be responsive, all conference grant proposals must focus on or clearly indicate relevance to advancing our understanding of the role of environment and/or gene-environment interactions in disease/dysfunction. Deadline: **Rolling**.

[Avantor Foundation Science and Technology Education Grants](#) funds community-based organizations that teach science and technology to underserved high school students. Eligible applicants are invited to submit a Letter of Intent via email. Deadline: **Rolling**.

[Wells Fargo Clean Technology and Innovation Grant Program](#) funds projects and programs related to research and

[Cedar Tree Foundation](#)- Letters of Inquiry Accepted at Any Time. Areas: Environmental Education, Environmental Health, Sustainable Agriculture.

[Doris Duke Environment Program Grants](#) -For Nonprofits registered and working in the US. Permanent land protection (i.e., the acquisition of conservation easements or fee title interests to secure high-priority sites), management of lands already in protected status, and more. Deadline: **Rolling**.

[WalMart Community and Education Grants](#) . Rolling Deadline, but minimum 6 month lead time advised. 501 (c) (3) organizations, schools, religious organizations and government agencies for requests over \$250. For requests under \$250, get a local donation form from your nearest Walmart at the customer service desk.

[Environmental Research and Education Foundation](#). Open. All educational materials for sustainable solid waste management, including conferences typically not provided to support the development of educational projects.

[Toshiba America Foundation](#). Rolling deadline. Grades 6-12 Teachers. Under \$5,000. Inquiry based projects designed by teachers and teacher teams for use in the classroom. **Deadline for grants over \$5,000 is August 1.**

[KaBOOM! Let's Play Engineered Wood Fiber Surfacing Grants and Let's Play Maintenance Grants](#)- awards grants of \$750 each to communities who wish to top-off their Engineered Wood Fiber safety surfacing or who are working to make their existing playgrounds cleaner, safer and more inviting. **Rolling deadlines.**

[J-Serve Start-Up Grants](#)-J-Serve is the International Day of Jewish Youth Service. Grants are available for \$500 micro grant to communities that plan and execute projects that bring a minimum of 10 and maximum of 74 Jewish teens together in partnership with a least two movements or agencies in the community. **Rolling deadline.**

[Staying Bothered Foundation](#)-grants to nonprofits that have shown transformative leadership in the areas of education, mental wellness, and gender equity. Application deadline: **Rolling**.

[The Coca-Cola Foundation](#) partners with nonprofits that address priorities focusing on one of the following: Water Stewardship, Healthy and Active Lifestyles, Community Recycling and Education. **Rolling deadlines.**

_____ seeks to improve the health and well-being of vulnerable populations by making the places they live, learn, work and play safe and conducive to overall good health. Application deadline: **Rolling**.

[Cisco Global Impact Cash Grants](#) support nonprofit organizations in the U.S. and worldwide that provide assistance to underserved populations and leverage technology solutions to improve the reach, efficiency, and impact of services. Deadline: **Rolling**.

[Shell Foundation Grant](#) Programs that restore critical ecosystems, address water, air quality research, preserve wetlands and sponsor wetlands initiatives. Deadline: **Rolling**.

[Technical Assistance Grant Information](#)-The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)

Employment and Internship Opportunities

[Urban Ecologist/Natural Resource Specialist/Soil Conservationist](#)-Federal job, Batavia or East Aurora. Deadline: **January 3, 2023**.

[Preservation Buffalo Niagara Executive Director](#)- Deadline: **January 5**.

[EFNEP Educator](#)- Dunkirk, full-time. Position requires in-person and virtual p712.58 Ti

[Aquarium of Niagara Internships](#)-Opportunities for high school or college students to work with marine mammals, fish, penguins and turtles. Certain requirements must be met.

[Paid Internships in the Energy Sector in NY](#)- you will gain hands-on experience in the growing clean energy sector as either a part-time or full-time paid intern in one of many potential roles.

[Clean Air Coalition Internships](#)-The Clean Air Coalition is a grassroots environmental health and justice organization based in Buffalo, New York. All internships include some operations and administrative work.

[Service Collaborative of Western New York Vista Positions/Americorps](#)-Opportunities for paid community involvement. Check out the available opportunities and eligibility.

[Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens Internships](#)-Seeking individuals to work with Education Dept., Special Events, and Horticulture.

[EquiStar Intern](#) will assist both the Program Coordinator and Barn Manager in providing a therapeutic riding program during the summer sessions.

[Asha Farm Sanctuary Interns](#)- Asha's Farm Sanctuary provides a hands-on learning experience for students enrolled in colleges, universities, and trade schools.

Citizen Science

[Become a Water Reporter](#)- Download the App and record signs of water pollution, plastic debris or wildlife issues.

[Global Earth Challenge](#)-Collecting data from multiple citizen science projects. See how you can be involved.

Upcoming Community Activities:

Friday, December 30

Public Skating at Canalside- 10am to 10pm. <https://buffalowaterfront.com/canalside>

Saturday, December 31

Last Day Hike- 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Woodlawn Beach State Park. End the year with a walk in nature along one of the best remaining sand dune environments on Lake Erie. To register call (716) 549-1050.

New Year's Eve Learn to Snowshoe Walk-10am. Say goodbye to 2022 by trying a new winter activity snowshoeing! Rentals are \$10/person, \$7 for Friends members. Registration required; call 716-683-5959. Reinstein Woods Nature Center, Depew.

Hamburg-East Aurora Christmas Bird Count- Tom O'Donnell, tmodonnell@roadrunner.com, [716-284-5569](tel:716-284-5569)

Sunday, January 1

First Day Hike- with a hike led by a DEC Forest Ranger who will discuss how to prepare for any outdoor adventure. Registration required; call 716-683-5959. Reinstein Woods Nature Center, Depew.

First Day Hikes throughout NY-Check out the options at <https://parks.ny.gov/events/first-day-hikes.aspx>

First Day Hike & Yoga - Beaver Meadow Audubon Center, 1:00 PM to 3:15 PM. Welcome the New Year! Begin 2023 by connecting with nature and setting your intentions for the upcoming year! Join certified Yoga

Kenmore Garden Club- will meet at 10 a.m. at Kenmore United Methodist Church, 32 Landers Rd., Kenmore.

IMAGINE Greater Buffalo-12:30 to 1pm. Virtual. [Speaker and theme](#) changes weekly. [Link](#).

Wednesday, January 18

Virtual Program: Heat Pump Basics-Noon. If you currently heat with electricity, propane, or oil, a heat pump can save you money! Heat pumps are an energy- efficient, fossil fuel-free system that can heat AND cool your home. Get your questions answered at this session. Presented by PUSH Buffalo. Registration required; register online at www.reinsteinwoods.org/events.

Citizens for Regional Transit Annual Meeting-5:30 7:00pm, Online and open to the public. Free registration link to be provided. [Read more](#)

West Valley Citizen Task Force Meeting- 6:30 8:00 p.m. Ashford Office Complex, 9030 Route 219, West Valley, On-line webinar: [Register here](#)

Behind-The-Scenes Tour: Geology Rocks!- 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM at the Buffalo Museum of Science. Holmes! What kind of rock is this? Sedimentary, my dear Watson. Learn why this and other CoRn Y jokes are funny by

behind the scenes and see the rock cycle, marvel at our minerals and discover our large fossil collection. Age: 18+, Cost: \$30 per participant, 10% off for BMS Members. [Tickets](#).

New York State Winter Greenhouse Growers School-9:00 AM - 4:30 PM. Register for one or both sessions. [REGISTER HERE](#). VIRTUAL 9:00am - 12:15pm or IN PERSON at The Roycroft Powerhouse, East Aurora. IN-PERSON 1:15pm - 4:30pm at The Roycroft Powerhouse, 39 S. Grove Street, East Aurora, NY Lunch provided with in-person registration. NYS DEC Pesticide Recertification Credits will be available.* Only those who register and stay for the entire course will receive a Recertification Course Certificate upon completion of the course. Cost: VIRTUAL \$50 (\$45 CCE Erie Enrolled), IN-PERSON \$35 (\$30 CCE Erie Enrolled) Both Programs \$75 (\$70 CCE Erie Enrolled), [REGISTER HERE](#)

Explore Buffalo Cultural Speaker Series-7pm via Zoom, free. [African American Cultural Center of Buffalo](#), Tammy Curry. [Register Now](#).

Thursday, January 19

Sustain Our Great Lakes (SOGL) 2023 Funding Opportunity Webinar-2 to 3:30pm. In early January, SOGL 2023 will solicit applications for funding to restore and enhance habitat in the Great Lakes basin. The Request for Proposals will be made available at www.nfwf.org/greatlakes. This webinar will provide additional information on the SOGL 2023 funding opportunity including specific guidance on navigating the application process, answers to participant questions, specific guidance related to the funding categories offered in 2023 and answers to applicant questions. Register [here](#).

Clean Air Coalition January 2023 General Meeting-5:30 PM, virtual, [link](#).

Wellness Walks-10am to noon. Drop by Tiff Nature Preserve every Thursday and join us for a casual volunteered tour of the Preserve. **Ages:** All Ages, **Cost:** FREE. *Please call 716.825.6397 to confirm walk will take place.*

Daytime Behind The Scenes Tour: Geology Rocks!- 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM at Buffalo Museum of Science. Holmes! What kind of rock is this? Sedimentary, my dear Watson. Learn why this and other CoRn Y jokes are
e iceberg.

Come behind the scenes and see the rock cycle, marvel at our minerals and discover our large fossil collection. Age: 18+, Cost: \$30 per participant, 10% off for BMS Members. [Tickets](#).

Family-Friendly Bird Walk- 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM. Save your spot in our FREE guided bird walk for all ages at Tiff Nature Preserve. This program is just one of MANY offerings by guest speakers and partnering organizations during the region-wide annual Birds on the Niagara: An International Winter Birding Festival! Age: All ages. Cost: FREE. [Register](#).

Friday, January 20

International Take a Walk Outside Day-3:30 PM - 5:00 PM. Celebrate this international holiday with a guided afternoon walk at Tiff Nature Preserve in the golden hour of sunset and crisp winter scenery.

[Advance registration required](#). Space is limited. Age: All ages, Cost: \$8 per person. BMS Members save 10%.

Saturday, January 21

Learn To Cross-Country Ski-10am. Learn the basics of cross-country skiing before going on a short, guided ski tour. Rentals are \$15/person, \$10 for Friends members. Registration required; call 716-683-5959. Reinstein Woods Nature Center, Depew.

Woods Walk: Coping with the Cold-1pm. Join a guided walk to learn how animals survive the winter season. No registration required. Reinstein Woods Nature Center, Depew.

Winter Habitat Hike at Mossy Point-10am to noon. Join an Earth Spirit Naturalist on a winter walk through the

Scinight: Create A Backyard Sanctuary With Author Alan Baczkiewicz-7:00 PM to 8:30 PM at Buffalo Museum of Science. Guest speaker and author Alan Baczkiewicz will share a wealth of tips for backyard bird
be available for sale and signing by the author. [Advance registration required](#). Space is limited. **Age:** 18+,
Cost: \$20 per person. BMS Members save 10%.

Sierra Club Niagara Group Monthly Meeting-, 7-9pm, 4th Tuesday of Each Month. Our meetings are packed with discussion of current environmental issues. We have continued to meet online with members and invited guests. If you are interested in joining us, please send us an email at niagarasierra@gmail.com

Wednesday, January 25
Winter Wildflowers-

Friday, January 27

Art of Science-12:00 PM to 12:30 PM at Buffalo Science Museum. Create your own science craft and learn how it relates to one of our interactive science studios. All materials provided. Age: 3-5, Cost: \$5 per child.

[Registration required.](#)

Saturday, January 28

Family Nature Quest: Snowshoe Walk-10am. Enjoy a guided snowshoe walk along the trails. Rentals are \$10/person, \$7 for Friends members. Registration required; call 716-683-5959. Reinstein Woods Nature Center, Depew.

The Foundations of Horticulture Classes- 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays at the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens, 2655 South Park Ave., Buffalo. They will be taught by David Clark, CNLP, a nationally

Thursday, February 2

Educator Workshop: Project WET -4 to 7pm. Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) helps teachers use water to teach English language arts, science, math, and more. Participants will receive a free Activity Guide 2.0 that features 64 field-tested activities focusing on the physical properties of water, water quality and what impacts [Register](#)

Wellness Walks-10am to noon. Drop by Tiff Nature Preserve every Thursday and join us for a casual volunteer-led tour of the Preserve. **Ages:** All Ages, **Cost:** FREE. *Please call 716.825.6397 to confirm walk will take place.*

Certified Nursery & Landscape Professional Day Horticulture 101, events take place at Gardens, 6461 Transit Road, Depew, NY. [For info and registration.](#)

Public Comments, Civic Engagement and Activism

****This section will share ways to engage and follow policy at the federal and state level. Voting is one action, but civic engagement requires us to share our views and desires with our elected officials.**

Contact elected representatives today! You do [Get their contact info.](#) Then weigh in on the below! For sample emails to send to policy makers, check out Step 1 at <https://www.aashe.org/Climate-Solutions/>. Sign up for up-to-date policy alerts [here](#).

1. **Infrastructure bill implementation:** Contact your elected officials and encourage them to spend funding on needed infrastructure with climate-friendly solutions.
2. **State energy efficiency -** [state energy efficiency scorecard](#). NY is # 5. Contact your state legislators and governor to let them know you support their efforts to make our state more energy efficient for a healthier environment and economy.
3. **On a Campus?** Universities and colleges must be ambitious when it comes to tackling the climate crisis. One of the most important steps is to commit to the Global Climate Letter find out more [here](#).

The voters approved The Environmental Bond Act, for \$4.2 billion into environmental projects. Proposed bills to allocate some funding (bills with numbers already have a sponsor) are below:

Climate and Community Protection Fund creates a pool of money to fund and implement our landmark Climate Act. Its core investments include community benefits and broad labor, procurement, and responsible contracting standards.

Climate Accountability Act gives state agencies the power and guidance they need to effectively implement the Climate Act, ensuring that the energy system is accountable and transparent to the public while paving the way to full decarbonization.

Gas Transition and Affordable Energy Act (S.8198 / A.9329 of 2022) will give the Public Service Commission (PSC) the authority and direction to align gas utility regulations and system planning with the

Blueprint Bill (S.8405B / A.9881B of 2022) provides a plan to guide the replacement and redevelopment out a direction for moving forward with the transition off fossil fuels per the Climate Act.

The Fossil Fuel Subsidy Elimination Act (S.7438 / A.8483 of 2022) will end state subsidies of \$330 million to climate crisis contributors the fossil fuel industry.

Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper- <https://bnwaterkeeper.org/programs/volunteer/> for opportunities.

Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy will assign volunteers to specific clean up and planting projects throughout the summer. Learn more at bfloparks.org/volunteer

Buffalo ReUse can use volunteers for many things. To help, contact them at volunteer@buffaloreuse.org.

Clean Air Coalition of WNY-Help with mailings, phone calls, canvassing and Photovoice (documenting environmental challenges). To help, contact at 852-3813 or www.cacwny.org.

Garden Walk Buffalo helps to rejuvenate neighborhoods, helps make our neighborhoods more walkable, and has an incredible impact on Buffalo's image outside the region. For info, email GardenWalkBuffalo@yahoo.com.

Global Justice Ecology Project- volunteers needed for mailing and office support.

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8799.html> <https://globaljusticeecology.org/>

Go Bike Buffalo- If you're interested or want more information, info@gobikebuffalo.org

Habitat for Humanity needs volunteers to help impact lives of families in the city of Buffalo by building simple, decent homes. Call 204-

Tift Nature Preserve also needs volunteers for their programs, communications, fund-raising and other events. [716-825-](#)

Grant Opportunities/Tools

Household Goods (Appliances, Furniture, Kitchenware)-Goodwill, Salvation Army, Ladies of Charity, St. Vincent
DePaul Society (Main St.) 882-3600,
Ink cartridges-RecyclePlace.com and most manufacturers
Mascara Brushes- Contact wildlife rehabilitation facilities or

Slow Roll Buffalo

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/slowrollbuffalo/>

Western New York Earth Day

<http://www.wnyearthday.org/>

Western New York Environmental Alliance

<http://www.wnyea.org>