



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment



Colorado's Nonpoint Source Program *"Keep it clean, cause we're all downstream!"*

COLORADO
NONPOINT SOURCE
PROGRAM

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Health and Environment
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Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Outreach Grant Opportunities

What is it? Nonpoint source water pollution (NPS)—polluted runoff—results when precipitation interacts with pollutants to carry them over the surface of the ground or leach them into the ground water. It is pollution that cannot easily be “turned off” by technology. Rather, people must change habits and practices that affect the quality of our water. The key to controlling nonpoint source pollution is prevention: wise use of fertilizer and pesticides, controlling what flows into the gutters and storm drains, not over-watering gardens and fields, disposing of pet waste away from water courses, and other preventive measures.

Who is responsible? The Colorado Nonpoint Source Program is charged with increasing interest, involvement and knowledge of the public, educators and entities involved in water-related activities regarding NPS and water quality issues.

How is the goal achieved? The NPS Program has developed the Outreach Grant Program, with “mini grants” to fund small projects outside the more rigorous NPS grant program. The goal of the Outreach Grant Program is to support information exchange, education and hands-on efforts to provide information and alternative actions to the citizens of Colorado related to nonpoint source water pollution. One priority is to educational institutions with grants awarded before the start of each school year.

The Grants: The grants in this program are awarded by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Water Quality Control Division on a cost-reimbursement basis. Project sponsors are reimbursed for costs incurred to implement the project based on the budget provided in the proposal.



Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Outreach Grant Opportunities Annually

Consider applying for a nonpoint source water pollution outreach grant. It is not a difficult process and the rewards can be significant. Typical grants range from \$1,000 to \$2,500, with a grant maximum of \$5,000. Matching funds are required, but may be either in-kind or in dollars—increasing the reach of your program.

- √ **What?** Nonpoint source water pollution—sometimes called polluted runoff—involves almost every aspect of water use.
- √ **Why?** It is our water. We all live downstream. We all live in a watershed. We all have good reasons to keep our water clean.
- √ **How?** Prepare a simple four-page proposal with the components listed on the two attached sheets. Note that each category has specific questions to answer.

- Examples of Previously Funded Projects
- Identify potential sources of nonpoint source pollution and develop best management practices to prevent it.
- Create or adapt educational processes or products specific to NPS, such as a computer-generated slide show, a video, a play, a brochure or a school curriculum unit to share lessons learned in the study of NPS.
- Develop a community-school partnership to create a wetlands demonstration project as a tool for treating nonpoint source pollution and a means of educating students.

- √ **Match?** Outreach grants require a 40 percent match of the total project cost. Matching funds can be cash contributions to the project or in-kind donations such as the instructor's time and effort, equipment supplied by community sponsors, use of vehicles, outside consultants, or other types of donations. Document match in the final report.
- √ **When?** Proposals may be made year-round. They are reviewed by the Restoration and Protection Unit, Water Quality Control Division
- √ **Funding?** Grants are issued on a cost-reimbursable basis for expenses incurred, based on the line items in the project budget, up to the amount approved in the award.
- √ **Requirements?** You will be expected to provide periodic informal progress reports via e-mail to the Information and Education Coordinator. As part of your final report, you will submit copies of any materials produced by your project. Further, you will be expected to give one presentation at the end of the project, as approved by the Information and Education Committee.
- √ **Where?** Submit proposals electronically, with "Proposal" in the subject line. To submit your proposal or get additional information, contact:

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Components of a Nonpoint Source Outreach Grant Proposal

1. Sponsor Contact Information

- Name
- Work address
- Work telephone number
- Fax telephone number
- Home address
- Home telephone number
- E-mail

2. Project Name/Title

3. Project Category: Information/Education; Agriculture/Silviculture; Urban/Construction. Select one and include answers to appropriate questions at the end of this guidance.

4. Project Description

- Goal or purpose
- Expected outcome, benefits, results
- Steps or tasks which will accomplish the goal or purpose

5. Timetable

- Start and end date for the project
- Start and completion dates for key tasks

6. Budget

- Task-by-task breakdown in table format (template available)
 - ✓ Clearly identify which items will be funded by the grant, and which will be used as match.
- Identify source of matching funds

7. Target Audience

- Who or what
- The significance of targeting this audience

8. Nonpoint source pollution connection

- Describe component(s) of project that specifically deal with nonpoint source pollution

9. Coordination

- Partners in venture (if applicable) and their contribution to project
- Partnerships should help build on existing knowledge and products, rather than duplicating efforts.

10. Final products

- Define product to be developed

Examples: field notes, a specific product or plan, classroom training, a better management practice, or other efforts to improve water quality or understanding of nonpoint source pollution.

- Final report, including copies of any developed materials and match documentation
- Sponsors are required to make a presentation about the project, locally or to a state NPS organization, after consultation with the I&E Coordinator.

11. Evaluation

- How will the project be evaluated for success or failure?
- The evaluation will be the basis of the final report to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

Questions specific to information and education projects

1. If this is a school project, how will this project assist you or your school in achieving the State Content Standards, in particular the science standards? Will it improve the understanding of scientific investigation processes; of the interrelationships among science, technology and human activity; and of life process and how living things interact with each other and their environment?
2. What message(s) will your audience receive, embrace or learn? Will audiences learn about taking responsibility, “doing no harm” and water flows?
3. What lessons do you hope to teach and learn?

Questions specific to agricultural projects

1. How does this project relate to the agriculture/silviculture water quality issues in the area? How will this project enhance the impact of ongoing or previous water quality activities in the area?
2. How does the project relate to the management of local agricultural operations (for example, the practicality of applying results of a small demonstration to a farm field)? Will the project influence local best management practices and implementation?
3. How and where will the results of the project be shared?

Questions specific to urban and construction projects

1. How will this project assist in educating your target audience with urban runoff, pollutant reduction, pollution prevention or other preventative programs? Programs that target the proper use and disposal of household waste products are encouraged.
2. What is the main focus of the project (e.g., classroom education, training, small demonstration, improving technological understanding, innovative management practices, manuals or guidance materials)?
3. Does this project teach how best management practices can help clean up urban or construction runoff?