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## ABOUT CAPTAIN PLANET FOUNDATION GRANTS

For more than 25 years, the Captain Planet Foundation has supported educators and their work to facilitate youth-led projects that result in positive impacts to the environment of a school or community.

## OBJECTIVES FOR GIVING

Captain Planet Foundation grants are intended to:

- Empower youth by providing hands-on environmental stewardship opportunities
- Inspire youth and communities to become agents of change for their environment
- Serve as a catalyst for education that uses the environment as a context for applied and STEM learning

## TYPES OF FUNDING

There are two classes of support available from Captain Planet Foundation -- **material support** in the form of predetermined supplies, training, and activities; and **monetary support** to fund the materials necessary to implement proposed projects that meet CPF criteria.

### ***Material Support Grants***

**Project Learning Garden** is Captain Planet Foundation's holistic schoolyard garden program designed to turn schoolyard gardens into outdoor learning laboratories for multidisciplinary instruction. Schools selected to participate in Project Learning Garden are awarded with garden beds, gardening supplies, instructional supplies, a mobile cooking cart, professional development, and capacity-building valued at \$2,500 per school (non-cash). The current geographic emphasis for PLG includes public schools in the Atlanta Metro region (specifically City of Atlanta, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton, Gwinnett, and Henry Counties); as well as public schools in Ventura, Los Angeles, and Santa Barbara Counties in California. Other regions and school districts in the U.S. are occasionally included as initiatives of specific funding partners. Schools and organizations outside of the prioritized geographic regions can directly purchase assets from the PLG program with self-funding through the CPF store at: <http://www.projectlearninggarden.com/>.

**ecoSTEM Resource Kits** are curated material and activity kits organized by environmental theme (i.e. Renewable Energy, Water Quality, PolliNation, and Earth Soil & Decomposition). Perfect for teachers just getting started with project-based learning or who are new to using the environment as context for learning! ecoSTEM Kits provide a class set of materials that can be used and reused to carry out investigations, engineering design challenges, citizen science projects, and stewardship projects. ecoSTEM Resource Kits are available three ways: 1) Directly from CPF by receiving a Material Support Grant; 2) Crowdfunded as a selected project through the [DonorsChoose.org](http://DonorsChoose.org) platform; or 3) Directly purchased with self-funding through the CPF store at: <http://www.projectlearninggarden.com/>.

### ***Monetary Support Grants***

**ecoTech Grants** support projects that leverage technology to achieve greater or innovative environmental outcomes (this does not include simply adding iPads, tablets, or other devices to a project). Available as cash grants up to \$2,500, these grants support the purchase of materials and other direct expenses required to implement the project.

**ecoTech Grants** support projects that leverage technology to achieve greater or innovative environmental outcomes (this does not include simply adding iPads, tablets, or other devices to a project). Available as cash grants up to \$2,500, these grants support the purchase of materials and other direct expenses required to implement the project.

**ecoSolution Grants** are CPF's broadest category of monetary support for youth-led environmental projects. Available as cash grants for \$500 - \$2,500, these grants support purchase of materials and other expenses required to implement the project.

## ELIGIBILITY FOR ECOSTEM® KITS

Captain Planet Foundation's ecoSTEM Kits were curated to engage students in project-based learning, including observing phenomena, conducting inquiry investigations, making models, collecting data for citizen science projects, creating solutions to engineering challenges, and conducting environmental stewardship projects to solve real-world problems. Each kit contains supplies for 32 students.

Choose from 4 exciting kits, for use with Next Generation Science Standards, GA Standards of Excellence in Science, and state standards in Three-Dimensional Science. In addition to being available through DonorsChoose.org and for direct sale, a limited supply of kits are available as Material Support Grants through CPF.

- Limit 1 kit per application
- Educators (formal and informal), schools and eligible nonprofits that meet CPF funding criteria are welcome to apply
- Applications and awards work on the same schedule as ecoSolution grants (July 15 & January 15 each year)

## ELIGIBILITY FOR MONETARY SUPPORT GRANTS

Applicant organizations eligible for **monetary support** through Captain Planet Foundation must:

- Be exempt from federal taxation under the IRS Section 501 (includes most schools and nonprofit organizations), or have a fiscal sponsor that meets this criterion.
- Maintain an annual operating budget of less than \$3 million

*[Note to interested organizations based outside of the US: CPF's support of international work takes place with strategic partnerships with other major organizations. See International Partnerships for a description of projects CPF is currently involved with outside of the US]*



## USE OF FUNDS

Monetary support from CPF may be used for direct expenses associated with proposed projects. Preference is given to requests that have secured match or in-kind funding commitments to support projects.

### **Funds may NOT be used for:**

- Capital or building campaigns, purchase of real estate, or endowments
- General operating expenses
- Salary or contract services
- Beautification or landscaping projects
- Travel costs or field trips that are not an essential part of the proposed project (if included, identify the purpose of the field trip under "project activities")
- Scholarships
- Expensive equipment that can only be used once or by a few
- Promotional items such as t-shirts, flyers, postcards, etc.

## ELIGIBILITY

	<p><b>Project Learning Garden</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serves Early Childhood through 8th Grade</li> <li>• Public Schools in select priority regions (GA - City of Atlanta, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton, Gwinnett, and Henry Counties; CA - Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties)</li> <li>• Must demonstrate teacher and administrative support</li> </ul>
	<p><b>ecoSTEM Resource Kits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Available through CPF as funding allows and on a first come/ first serve basis</li> <li>• Available through DonorsChoose.org - applicant must be associated with an enrolled public school in the US</li> <li>• Available for direct purchase through CPF store</li> <li>• ecoStem Kits cannot be shipped to Alaska or Hawaii</li> </ul>
	<p><b>ecoSolution Grants</b></p> <p>Projects must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be based in the U.S.</li> <li>• Be solution-oriented</li> <li>• Be project-based</li> <li>• Be youth-led</li> <li>• Result in demonstrable environmental outcomes</li> </ul>
	<p><b>ecoTech Grants</b></p> <p>Projects must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be based in the U.S.</li> <li>• Integrate the use of technology to address environmental problem (not just devices)</li> <li>• Be project-based</li> <li>• Be youth-led</li> <li>• Result in demonstrable environmental outcomes</li> </ul>

## TIMELINES

Each grant program operates on a separate application cycle.

	Application Period	Notification	Final Report Due
<b>Project Learning Garden</b>	December 15 - March 15	mid-April	N/A
<b>ecoSTEM Kits</b>	July 16th - Jan 15th Jan 16th - July 15th	mid-March late-Sept	Survey
<b>ecoSolution Grants</b>	July 16th - Jan 15th Jan 16th - July 15th	mid-March late-Sept	April the following year Oct the following year
<b>ecoTech Grants</b>	July 16th - Jan 15th Jan 16th - July 15th	mid-March late-Sept	April the following year Oct the following year

## HOW TO APPLY

All Captain Planet Foundation grant applications are administered through the CPF Grant Portal. You'll need to create an account to submit an application. Be sure to review all requirements and the full application before submitting.

## PROPOSAL REVIEW

### **Monetary Support Grants**

Captain Planet Foundation reviews applications for **ecoSolution Grants** and **ecoTech Grants** based on the following criteria:

- Alignment with CPF objectives & project criteria
- Authentic inclusion of youth as leaders
- Capacity of the applicant organization to carry out the proposed project
- Potential for the project to demonstrate environmental outcomes

### **Material Support Grants**

Review of **Project Learning Garden** applications are based on the following qualifications:

- School located within the prioritized geographic regions
- Demonstrated administrative support
- Formation of Garden Team within the school community
- Preference given to public schools and Title I schools

Review of **ecoSTEM Kit** applications are based on the following qualifications:

- Demonstrated intent to use kits for engaged STEM learning
- Potential to reach broad range of students

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q: What are some examples of ecoSolution Grant projects that have been funded in the past?**

**A:** To see some of our exemplar grantees in the past, see Spotlight stories on our website

**Q: If my project proposal was not funded, how long do I need to wait to apply again?**

**A:** You may apply in the next grant round, but please do not submit the same proposal for the same project.

**Q: If I have received grant funds from Captain Planet Foundation in the past, can I apply again?**

**A:** Yes, but you must wait at least two grant rounds (or one year) AFTER your final report has been submitted for the funded project. You must also apply for support of a **different project**.

**Q: Can I submit an application for multiple grant types in the same round?**

**A:** No, please select the most appropriate category for your project.

**Q: Does Captain Planet Foundation fund multi-year projects?**

**A:** No.

**Q: If awarded, what are the reporting requirements?**

**A:** ecoSolution Grants and ecoTech Grants require a final report to be submitted at the completion of the project. Details will be provided with the acceptance notification. ecoSTEM Kits requires completion of a survey following the first year of use.

**Q: If my project involves a garden but I am not based in CPF's geographic priority areas, can I apply for support for my garden project through the ecoSolution Grants program?**

**A:** You may, but it is unlikely that CPF will fund a simple garden project. However, if your proposal integrates STEM or other innovations into the garden, it would be well considered.

**Q: When you say there is a requirement for projects to be student led, do you want students to design and write the proposal?**

**A:** Ideally, yes, the students should be a part of the entire process. However, at a minimum, the students **MUST** be the ones implementing the project.