

## Attachment 3 – 2024 youth environmental education possible projects

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 environmental education 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](https://hennepin.us/greenpartners) to read about projects funded in the previous grant round and [hennepin.us/environmentaleducation](https://hennepin.us/environmentaleducation) to access education resources.

Potential youth environmental education projects include:

- **Environment-based education and cross-curricular projects:** Use environmental issues as a context for learning in various subject matters. Pair environmental science with social studies and other subjects like art, music, and more.
- **Outdoor education:** Engage youth through outdoor field experiences to study environmental topics ranging from air pollution to zebra mussels.
- **Place-based learning and service 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, learn about green jobs, conduct field studies, or partner with others to develop community-based stewardship projects that benefit the environment.
- **Field trips coupled with classroom education:** Attend environmentally themed field trips, including at Hennepin County's [recommended sites](#). Use classroom curriculum, workshops, hands-on activities, or take-home lessons to reinforce what youth learn.
- **Indigenous and community science:** Engage Indigenous youth or Indigenous elders and cultural leaders in sharing traditional science and knowledge of the natural environment. Involve youth in collecting scientific data related to the environment to help scientists conduct research. Engage youth in investigating environmentally friendly actions they can take related to the topic they are investigating. Learn more from [University of Minnesota Extension](#), find [pollinator projects](#), and [additional opportunities](#).
- **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.

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