



YSI Foundation “Minding the Planet” Grant

The YSI Foundation proudly announces its **5th Minding the Planet** grant. Our 2010 grant will go to an organization that focuses on improving its local water quality while having a specific mission to positively affect regional or statewide water resource policy and decision making. Since 1990, YSI has publicly demonstrated commitment to its core values and good corporate citizenship through its 501(c)(3) Foundation. The Foundation grants have funded a variety of projects, including university environmental science scholarships, large scale restoration projects, a wetlands data center, and interactive child focused exhibitions related to protecting our water resources.

Last year’s winner, the University of West Florida in Pensacola, Florida funded a graduate student project, which will analyze nutrient and continuous dissolved oxygen data from five National Estuarine Research Reserves in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico and Florida Atlantic coast to determine the rate of primary production and net ecosystem metabolism.

This year the Foundation is pleased to fund a locally-based group whose water quality improvement efforts are impacting wider reaching policies and decisions. While there are many groups focused on improving their own water resources, this grant is designed to help an organization that acts on a local level in order to support the efforts of one or more other regional or state stakeholders. The Foundation believes it is important to support the efforts of organizations that synthesize their efforts with other organizations in order to have a more widespread and effective effort towards improved water quality for everyone - upstream and down.

Applications are due by Friday, March 19, 2010 at 5:00 pm Eastern Daylight Time. Only electronic applications will be accepted. All applications must be emailed to smiller@ysi.com by no later than this time.

Goals of Grant

The YSI Foundation will award **\$25,000** to a U.S.A. organization that demonstrates a clearly defined water quality improvement project that affects further reaching regional or statewide policies or decision making. The Foundation defines such projects as those including the following key components:

1. Have a clear goal for improving the local water quality.
2. Have demonstrated how their organization has impacted regional and/or statewide policy or decision making. Is the local project used as a model for a larger reaching project?

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3. Clearly engages local and regional/state stake holders or perhaps members of the local project also serve in a role for further reaching regional/state projects.
4. Have a clear vision for further development of their program.

Examples of the types of projects and programs that are eligible for funding with this grant include, but are not limited to:

- Local Riverkeeper program that serves as a model and mentor to other regional/state programs or helps establish standards for regional watershed protection.
- A local lake group whose activities affect regional/state waterway uses.
- Hypoxic zone study with the results impacting regional/state upstream activities or policies.

Funding period:

- The grant will be awarded at the 2010 National Water Quality Monitoring Council's (NWQMC) Seventh National Monitoring Conference in Denver, Colorado, April 25-29, 2010.
- One grant will be awarded for \$25,000 to the selected organization.
- Grant monies must be spent within three years of receipt. Those monies not spent must be returned to the YSI Foundation for redistribution to other grants.

Eligibility for grant:

- Must be a 501(c)(3) organization, a governmental organization, or an educational institution.
- Organization must conduct work in area(s) relevant to grant theme.
- Preference will be given to those organizations that demonstrate an ability to attract matching funds and have a sustainability plan in place.
- Preference will be given to those organizations who will commit to publishing and also presenting their work at NWQMC in 2012.

Grant timeline:

- Solicit grant applications: February 22 – March 19, 2010
- Grant applications due: March 19, 2010
- Selection process: March 19 – April 9, 2010
- Grant award announced: April 25-29 at NWQMC Conference in Denver, CO
 - The grant award recipient will be notified prior to April 12th so arrangements can be made for them to accept the award in person at the NWQMC Conference. The YSI Foundation will be able to help with travel to the NWQMC Conference if necessary.

Application:

There is no official application form. The grant application should contain no more than five (5) pages of text, written in English, including any figures or tables (but not including the cover page). Out of respect for our environment, the Foundation requires that proposals be submitted electronically. The grant application must include the following information at a minimum:

- Grant cover page (attached).
- Statement of the purpose, mission, or charter of the organization.
- Copy of IRS tax-exemption letter (if applicable)
- Brief statement of qualifications of project manager (if applicable).
- Scope of work and project's impact, goals, and clearly defined objectives, including items such as:
 - the anticipated regional/state impacts
 - identification of specific regional/state changes resulting from the local project
 - specific regional/state collaborations to complete the project
 - stated plan, or goals, for creating a larger regional/state impact
- Proposed schedule and budget.

Other than the page limit, there are no requirements for formatting of the application.

Responsibilities of grant recipient:

- Submit annual accounting of grant to YSI Foundation.
- Create a final project report describing the goals of the grant, the activities undertaken to achieve goals and objectives, difficulties encountered, work products, and funds spent. The final project report is to be completed within 90 days of the end of the funding period, or within 3 years of receipt of funding, whichever comes first. Include photo documentation.
- Create a final financial report showing the final balance sheet.
- Recipients agree to be featured in news articles about their projects, written and submitted to the media by YSI.
- Recipients agree to work with YSI to publish their work and present their work at NWQMC in 2012. Acceptable forms of publication include peer-reviewed journals, publicly available agency/institution reports, or grey literature.
- Recipients agree to provide YSI with a copy of any final publication(s) resulting from this funding.

Contact for information and application submittal:

YSI Foundation
 Attention: Susan Miller, Foundation President
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