



CAPTAIN PLANET FOUNDATION GRANTING GUIDELINES



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ABOUT CAPTAIN PLANET FOUNDATION GRANTS

For 25 years, the Captain Planet Foundation has supported educators who facilitate youth-led projects that result in positive impacts to the environment and communities. From what began as one broad Small Grants program that funded a wide range of project types - our grant making has since evolved into more specific categories.

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 stands up school-based programs where educators use the garden as an onsite learning laboratory and as a way to integrate the gardens into youth-based nutrition programs and school cafeterias. Geographic emphasis is in the Atlanta Metro region (predominantly Atlanta, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton and Gwinnett Public Schools), although other regions and school districts in the U.S. are included as initiatives of specific funding partners. Project Learning Garden provides gardens, materials, professional development, and capacity-building support valued at \$3,000 per school (non-cash). For more information

[Click Here.](#)



ecoSTEM Resource Kits are curated kits of materials and activities organized into environmental themes (i.e. Renewable energy, water resources, pollination, soil & decomposition). Perfect for educators just getting started with project-based learning or using the environment as context for learning. ecoSTEM Resource Kits are available from CPF or via the crowdsourcing platform

[DonorsChoose.org.](#) For more information [Click Here.](#)

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 smart devices to a project). Available as cash grants up to \$2,500, these grants support purchase of materials and other expenses required to implement the project. For more information [Click Here.](#)



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. For more information [Click Here.](#)

REQUIREMENTS

Project Learning Garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serves Early Childhood through 8th Grade • School in Metro Atlanta region (City of Atlanta, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton, Gwinnett public schools) • Must have teacher and administrative support
ecoSTEM Resource Kits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For educators looking to get started with project based learning • Available through CPF as funding allows • Available through DonorsChoose.org - applicant must be associated with an enrolled public school in the US • Available for sale through CPF store
ecoSolution Grants	<p>Projects must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be based in the U.S. • Be solution-oriented • Be project-based • Be youth-led • Result in real, demonstrable environmental outcomes
ecoTech Grants	<p>Projects must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be based in the U.S. • Integrate the use of technology to address environmental problem (not iPads or other tablets) • Be project-based • Be youth-led • Result in real, demonstrable environmental outcomes

ELIGIBILITY FOR MONETARY SUPPORT GRANTS

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

- Be based in the United States (and in some cases, prioritized geographic global regions)
- 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 in partnership with strategic partnership with other major organizations. See <http://captainplanetfoundation.org/global-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 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 and is available to teachers through Donors Choose, with a limited offer from Captain Planet Foundation to provide the last half of funds needed to buy the kit. Choose from 4 exciting kits, for use with Next Generation Science Standards, GA Standards of Excellence in Science, and state standards in 3-Dimensional Science.

In addition to being available through [DonorsChoose.org](https://donorschoose.org) and for direct sale, a limited supply of kits are available as material grant through CPF.

- Limit 1 kit per application
- Educators (formal and formal), schools and eligible nonprofits that meet CPF funding criteria are welcome to apply
- Applications and awards work on the same schedule as ecoSolution grants (September 30 and January 30 deadline)

TIMELINES

Each grant program operates on a separate application cycle.

	Application Opens	Application Deadline	Notification
Project Learning Garden	August 15	February 20	mid-March
ecoSTEM Kits	October 1 February 1	January 31 September 30	mid-April mid-December
ecoSolution Grants	October 1 February 1	January 31 September 30	mid-April mid-December
ecoTech Grants	October 15	March 15	mid-April

HOW TO APPLY

Project Learning Garden, ecoSolution Grants, ecoStem Resource Kits and ecoTech Grant applications are all administered through the CPF Grant Portal <https://captainplanetgrants.communityforce.com/>. Be sure to complete the full application before submitting.

REVIEW OF PROPOSALS

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

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 some of our Project Spotlights

<http://captainplanetfoundation.org/category/success-stories/>

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.

Q: If my organization's proposal was not funded, how long do we need to wait to apply again?

A: If your organization's application was not selected for funding, your organization must wait one grant round before submitting a new grant proposal.

Q: If my organization has been funded by Captain Planet Foundation in the past, can we apply again?

A: Yes, but you must wait at least one grant rounds (after a final report is submitted) before submitting another proposal.

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

A: No.

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 innovation into the garden project, 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.