

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2011-2012 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

LCCMR ID: 182-G

Project Title: State-wide Adoption of School Garden Environmental Education

Category: G. Environmental Education

Total Project Budget: \$ \$305,097

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 3 yrs, July 2011 - June 2014

Other Non-State Funds: \$ 0

Summary:

Increase the adoption of school garden-based ecology programs across Minnesota K-12 schools. We will scale-up these programs through training, pilot projects and developing a network of advocates.

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Sponsoring Organization: Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

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Location

Region: Statewide

Ecological Section: Statewide

County Name: Statewide

City / Township: statewide

_____ Funding Priorities	_____ Multiple Benefits	_____ Outcomes	_____ Knowledge Base
_____ Extent of Impact	_____ Innovation	_____ Scientific/Tech Basis	_____ Urgency
_____ Capacity Readiness	_____ Leverage	_____ Employment	_____ TOTAL _____%

MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: State-wide Adoption of School Garden Environmental Education

I. PROJECT STATEMENT: The goal of our project is to craft a systemic approach for teaching key ecological concepts through school food gardening. The ultimate outcome will be the widespread adoption of school garden-based ecology curricula in Minnesota's K-12 public schools, with particular focus on growing fresh healthy fruits and vegetables.

To achieve this goal, we will:

- 1) Conduct an inventory of existing K-12 school food garden programs throughout the state.
- 2) Identify key partners and decision makers who can inform and contribute to the development of a state-wide school gardening strategy.
- 3) Collaborate with these partners to develop a state-wide strategy to support and promote adoption of school gardening activities that meets state educational standards and other realities faced by today's schools.
- 4) Collaborate with key partners to implement this strategy through training, networking, demonstration pilots, dissemination of resource materials and curricula, communications support to highlight success stories, and sharing of best practices.

To date, the school gardening activities that exist in Minnesota have largely been spurred by small numbers of parents, teachers and other local stakeholders working in relative isolation and without a broader support system backing up their efforts. Scaling up this work will require a strategic effort to marshal existing -- but fragmented -- resources and build a support system that helps schools start and sustain garden programs that effectively teach ecological concepts. IATP is well-positioned to undertake this effort, which will leverage the strong network of relationships with K-12 schools we have crafted through our multi-year, state-wide Farm-to-School program.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Strategic Planning Budget: \$ 91,529.

Tasks: **1)** Conduct an inventory of existing school-based food garden programs (to establish baseline data on levels and types of activities) and survey K-12 stakeholders to identify barriers, success factors, aspirations, financial and staffing constraints, and curricular needs. **2)** Identify a diverse array of key stakeholders and initiate the state-wide planning process. Likely stakeholders include the Minnesota Science Teachers Association, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, after-school program managers, Parent Teacher Associations, school principals, 4-H club leaders, master gardener programs and agricultural extension programs, along with nonprofits and individual schools engaged in localized activities. **3)** Work with K-12 educators to identify available curricula and gaps in needed curricula that meet Minnesota's educational standards for science and other disciplines at various grade levels. **4)** Develop a strategic plan for state-wide implementation of school food garden-based ecology curricula, including specific strategies for addressing the barriers identified above and benchmarks for success. **5)** Work with the above stakeholders to support implementation of the strategic plan and evaluation of progress toward success benchmarks. **Outcomes Evaluation:** **1)** Support of key stakeholders for the strategic plan. **2)** Identification of school gardening curricula that effectively address ecological concepts while meeting state educational standards.

Outcomes:

1. Network of advocates for school gardening established and survey conducted. March 2012.

2. Strategic plan for state-wide implementation of school garden-based ecology curricula in Minnesota completed. September 2012.

Activity 2: Develop support system and resources for school garden implementation.

Budget: \$213,568

Tasks: **1)** Hold six regional school gardening training courses over two years for school staff and other stakeholders, training an estimated 100 to 125 participants. **2)** Pilot, document and evaluate school gardening programs in five Minnesota Public School Districts, and work with five garden advisors to provide ongoing coaching to local stakeholders. The selection of pilots would be designed to include a variety of rural, suburban and urban districts, districts with a large proportion of low-income and ethnically diverse children, and large and small schools. Likely locations would include St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Willmar, where IATP has on-going relationships with the Cherokee Heights and Harding (St. Paul) school gardening programs, the Kids Cook initiative in Minneapolis and the Willmar greenhouse/Farm to School program. **3)** Compile and make gardening resource materials appropriate to Minnesota's climate and school environments available in readily accessible forms (e.g. listserves, online resources at IATP's Website, etc.) **4)** Disseminate best practices in school garden programs, ongoing reports and assessments from pilot sites and other materials to teachers, principals, Master Gardeners, UM Extension and other key stakeholders throughout the state. **Outcomes Evaluation:** IATP will partner with the five pilot sites to evaluate strengths, weaknesses and outcomes of pilot efforts. Training workshops will be evaluated by participants. An on-line survey will be used to gather feedback on the quality and utility of curricula, network activities and other project components.

Outcomes:

1. Of those participants who complete the regional workshop, 30% initiate or expand food garden activities within a year of completing the training. June 2014.
2. There is a 25 % increase in school garden activities across the state (relative to the baseline determined under activity 1, task 1). June 2014.

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners: The project will be led by IATP's Local Foods Program Director JoAnne Berkenkamp. She will be responsible for overall project design and management, reporting and project evaluation. Local Food Senior Program Associate Lynn Mader will be responsible for project implementation. Other project partners will be recruited to participate as discussed above. Partners will not receive funding through this grant.

B. Timeline Requirements: This project involves a three year timeline for planning, implementation and evaluation.

C. Long-Term Strategy: LCCMR's support will enable IATP and our partners to build the state-wide infrastructure necessary to scale-up school food gardening programs. By developing stronger connections to state educational standards, training educators state-wide, and engaging a diverse network of supporters, we will catalyze the successful adoption of school garden activities rooted in ecological science.

2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget

IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET *[Insert # of years for project] years*

BUDGET ITEM <i>(See list of Eligible & Non-Eligible Costs, p. 13)</i>	AMOUNT
Personnel	\$ 260,352
J.Berkenkamp, project manager @ 25% FTE * 3 years, 72% salary/28% benefits= \$80,640	
L. Mader, project coordinator @ 75% FTE * 3 years, 72% salary/28% benefits= \$145,440	
B. Lilliston, project communications manager @ 10% FTE * 3 years , 72% salary/28% benefits= \$20,160	
K. Rojas-Jahn, project assistant @ 25% FTE * 3 years, 72% salary/28% benefits= \$30,240	
Contracts: School gardening coaches/advisors for pilot sites (5 @ \$5,000 ea)	25,000
Equipment/Tools/Supplies: Garden supplies for 5 pilot sites @ 2,500 each	12,500
Travel: State-wide travel - 5,600 mile * .55 = \$3,080; Local travel - 300 miles * .55=\$300; food and lodging at \$100 per day * 30 days= \$3,000.	6,245
Regional Workshops: \$2,505 ea = \$1,200 trainer; trainer mileage: \$55; \$250 meeting space; \$300 training materials and \$700 garden materials= \$2,505 * 6 workshops	15,030
Printing: 2 reports @ \$500 ea	1,000
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST	\$ 305,097

V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: \$25,000 Blue Cross Blue Shield funding allocation from five-year grant (2008-2013)	\$ 75,000	<i>Secured</i>
Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: <i>Indicate any additional state cash \$ (e.g. bonding, other grants) to be spent on the project during the funding period. For each individual sum, list out the source of the funds, the amount, and indicate whether the funds are secured or pending approval.</i>	n/a	<i>Indicate: Secured or Pending</i>
In-kind Services During Project Period: <i>Indicate any in-kind services to be provided during the funding period. List type of service(s) and estimated value. In-kind services listed must be specific to the project.</i>	n/a	
Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable): <i>Specify \$ and year of appropriation from any current ENRTF appropriation for any directly related project of the project manager or organization that remains unspent or not yet legally obligated at the time of proposal submission. Be as specific as possible. Describe the status of \$ in the right-most column.</i>	n/a	<i>Indicate: Unspent? Not Legally Obligated? Other?</i>
Funding History: <i>Indicate funding secured prior to July 1, 2011 for activities directly relevant to this specific funding request. State specific source(s) of funds.</i>	n/a	

Project Manager - JoAnne Berkenkamp

JoAnne Berkenkamp directs the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy's (IATP) Local Foods program. She is a nationally known expert on local food systems. Prior to joining IATP, JoAnne consulted with non-profits, foundations and businesses on local food issues for nearly 12 years. Through these experiences, she developed a particularly discerning eye for identifying strategies that can work, be sustained and be replicated. JoAnne currently serves on the Advisory Council for the National Good Food Network, the School Food FOCUS Leadership Integration Team. She is also the Minnesota lead in the National Farm to School Network and is affiliated with several projects and collaborations aimed at scaling up value chains and improving healthy food access. Previously, she worked for the World Wildlife Fund in Washington, DC, and with Catholic Relief Services at various locations in Asia, Africa and Latin America. She has a Master's in Public Policy degree from Harvard University and a bachelor's in finance from the University of Illinois.

Organizational Description

Founded in 1986, IATP is at the forefront of national and international agriculture issues that affect small and mid-size farmers, the environment, public health, trade and rural development. By promoting policies that hold sustainability and fairness as guiding principles, and undertaking projects that support farmers working on the ground, IATP has emerged as a worldwide leader in agriculture issues, both locally and internationally. We do this through six programs: Rural Communities, Food and Health, Trade and Global Governance, the Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy, Local Foods and the Food and Society Fellows Program. While IATP conducts a wide range of activities, its approach is always focused on building partnerships, understanding the systemic causes, and developing alternative policies and practices to address complex problems.

Over the past several years, IATP has established itself as a leader in the field of local foods. In particular, our innovative work to bring local foods into Minnesota public schools has helped make our state a national leader in the Farm to School movement. Farm to School activities in the state schools have more than doubled in the last fifteen months and 77 percent of the districts now engaged in Farm to School say they intend to expand their activities in the 2010-11 school year. To all of their work, local foods staff bring an unusual combination of in-depth knowledge of food systems and public health policy, practical skills conducting on-the-ground projects and a penchant for systems-based approaches designed to achieve broadly based change. We are adept at working through multiple channels simultaneously—from negotiating with state and city agencies on policy change, to capacity building with local non-profits, to business and community partnerships that support healthier eating for all members of our community.

