



NEW HAMPSHIRE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

WELLBORN ECOLOGY FUND INSTRUCTIONS FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Wellborn Ecology Fund (WEF) is dedicated to increasing environmental and ecological knowledge in the Upper Valley. WEF was established through a bequest by the late Marguerite Wellborn, a former Hanover resident and avid naturalist with an enduring passion for studying and protecting the natural world. She believed that teaching people to appreciate our natural systems and to understand their scientific underpinnings were crucial first steps toward developing the attitudes and skills necessary to protect and conserve those systems.

The mission of the Wellborn Ecology Fund is to support experientially-oriented, place-based, ecology-education programs that focus on the people and communities of the Upper Valley. These programs should provide Upper Valley residents with the knowledge, experience, skills, and understanding necessary to make informed decisions and take useful actions aimed at protecting and sustaining the natural systems of the region.

Wellborn Vision – *We imagine a region in which:*

- People of all ages, backgrounds and abilities can learn about the natural systems of the Upper Valley and the impact of human activity on those systems.
- All residents have ready access to nature—to learn about and enjoy our incredible landscape and natural systems.
- There is a growing network of individuals, organizations and communities working to promote and implement access to nature and ecology education.
- Upper Valley residents gain the ecological knowledge and skills they need to enable them to protect, restore and steward our natural systems.
- Ecological sustainability and environmental stewardship are core values.

Wellborn Region-wide Goals

- Reach underserved communities and constituencies in the Upper Valley.
- Promote partnerships and collaborations* between and among schools, colleges, environmental learning centers, nonprofit organizations, municipalities, community groups, and other institutions.
- Support existing environmental-education organizations in the region.
- Enhance leadership and expertise among individuals to better serve their organizations, communities and the region.
- Leverage resources to encourage more community and/or financial support for environmental and ecology education programs.

* [The Upper Valley Teaching Place Collaborative \(UVTPC\)](#) is an initiative of the Wellborn Ecology Fund. The UVTPC is network of education professional development providers and practitioners working together to advance high-quality place-based and ecological education in all Upper Valley Schools.

Key Objective – *All Upper Valley pre-K 12 schools have access to high-quality place-based ecology education, with particular emphasis on K-8 education in underserved New Hampshire school districts, including but not limited to: Claremont, Mascoma and Newport.*

Strategies to Meet the Key Objective

1. Starting or enhancing hands-on, place-based ecology-education programs in schools by supporting teachers, schools and the nonprofit organizations that work with them.
2. Supporting teachers to participate in professional-development opportunities that will enhance their skills in place-based ecology education.

3. Enhancing hands-on, nature-based, outdoor learning approaches that are tied to Common Core and Next Generation Science standards.
4. Improving, enhancing or creating access to natural areas within walking distance of schools, and helping to integrate learning opportunities in those natural areas with school curriculum.
5. Providing opportunities for youth to have nature-immersion experiences in school programs.

ELIGIBILITY - We accept grant applications from organizations recognized as public charities (tax exempt under Section 501c3 of the Internal Revenue Code) and from public agencies, such as schools. Organizations that do not have public-charity status may apply for grants if another public charity acts as a fiscal sponsor.

GRANT FOCUS - We accept proposals for specific, discrete, short-term projects that address the Key Objective by implementing one or more of the "Strategies to Meet the Key Objective", listed above. These may include program planning and design, start-up funding for new/expanded initiatives, equipment or supplies for new or existing programs, implementing successful practices, and so on. We will not make multi-year grants, but we can discuss potential future funding for multi-year work.

GRANT AMOUNT - We will accept applications for up to **\$5,000**. Matching funds are not required, but securing other resources—cash, other grants, in-kind services, volunteer effort, etc.—makes the application stronger.

HOW TO APPLY – All applications will be submitted through GrantSource, our online grant application system.

- **Online Profile** – Your organization will need a profile in GrantSource. Go to nhcf.smartsimple.com to login or register. If you are a school or government entity, new to GrantSource, or if you need assistance, please contact Wendy Cahill at wendy.cahill@nhcf.org or call 603-225-6641 ext. 21249.
- **Online Application (updated for 2021)** - The online application includes the following sections:
 1. **Executive Summary** (100 words) – *Please describe in detail the proposed project or program and the results you expect. For 2021 applicants: If possible, please include an update about what your school's COVID plans are for the Fall and how that may impact your project or program.*
 2. **Need** (200 words) – *Describe the need or opportunity for your work in the community. If possible, include the free & reduced lunch rate(s) for the school(s) you will be working with. If other organizations address a similar need, describe your organization's differences and plans for partnership.*
 3. **Project Description** (250 words) – *Describe the proposed project/program in greater detail, including major activities, key people involved and timetable.*
 4. **Wellborn Goals** (250 words) – *Is your project or program aware of the [Upper Valley Teaching Place Collaborative](#) (formerly the Wellborn Hub)? If so, please describe your connection to this Collaborative. How does your project or program advance one or more Wellborn "Strategies to Meet the Key Objective"?*
 5. **Results** (200 words) – *If the project/program is successful, what will be different as a result of your work? List three measurable outcomes you expect to occur.*
 6. **Sustainability** (150 words) – *If this work is on-going, how will you sustain it—both financially and programmatically—beyond this grant? If it is not on-going, how does it advance organizational goals and/or create lasting benefit for school or community?*
- **Project Budget** – The online application requires submission of a **one-page project budget** showing income and expenses for the proposed work – use template provided.
- **Optional Attachments** - You may upload up to two (2) letters of support from prospective partners, others who can address the effectiveness of your organization, those who would benefit from the project, etc.

WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER YOU APPLY – If we have questions about your application, we will contact you. We expect to have final grant decisions by late July.

QUESTIONS - If you have questions or need more information, please contact Wendy Cahill at wendy.cahill@nhcf.org or call 603-225-6641 ext. 21249.