

Federal Appropriations for NOAA Office of Environmental Education Programming
NOAA Bay Watershed Education & Training Program (B-WET)
NOAA Environmental Literacy Program (ELP)

Request to Renew B-WET & ELP Funding

We urge Congress to appropriate \$12 million for the NOAA Bay Watershed Education and Training program and \$8 million for the Environmental Literacy Program to meet the environmental and education needs of these programs. Appropriations for NOAA environmental education programs are made via the subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science.

FY 2026 appropriations support letter circulated by:

Rep. Kathy Castor (FL-14)

Sen. Ed Markey (MA)

Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Program

B-WET funds locally relevant, experiential environmental learning in K-12 grades, offering “meaningful watershed educational experiences.” This competitive peer-reviewed program promotes environmental literacy, helping individuals to understand, protect, and restore watersheds and related ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems. The program design recognizes that knowledge and commitment built from firsthand experience, especially in the context of one’s community and culture, is essential for achieving environmental stewardship. B-WET is national in scope with 7 regional programs: California, Chesapeake Bay, Great Lakes, Gulf of Mexico, Hawaii, New England, and the Pacific Northwest, impacting a total of 27 states and the District of Columbia.

Grants by State: www.noaa.gov/office-education/bwet/awards. Impacts:

www.noaa.gov/office-education/bwet/impacts

Environmental Literacy Program Grants (ELP)

The ELP program promotes use of environmental information to increase the ability of students, teachers, and communities to improve resilience to extreme weather and other natural hazards. It is a competitive, peer-reviewed, and evaluated program that funds a broad range of education projects on regional to national scales, including informal and formal education. The grants have included professional development for K-12 and informal educators, field-based education, service learning, and exhibits at aquariums, museums, and science centers. The program helps create informed environmental decision-making by citizens, ultimately leading to environmental stewardship and community resilience. ELP aligns with NOAA’s goal of promoting the integration of NOAA resources and data into education programs and supports the vision of resilient ecosystems, communities, and economies. Grants:

www.elp-awards.education.noaa.gov/index.php. Impacts: www.noaa.gov/office-education/elp/impacts.

More Information

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