


ECO Fund

Environmental Community Opportunity Fund

Four circular inset images are arranged on the left side of the page. The top circle shows a green tree and a brown frog on a lily pad. The middle circle shows a person riding a bicycle on a path next to a body of water. The bottom-left circle shows a lake with a picnic table and trees. The bottom-right circle shows a close-up of green plants and yellow flowers.

Great Plains Natural Gas Co. distributes natural gas and provides related services in 18 western Minnesota communities, serving approximately 22,400 customers. Great Plains is a division of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. Environmental stewardship is part of our mission and our daily lives as we produce and distribute these products and services for our customers.

We at Great Plains Natural Gas take seriously our commitments to the communities we serve. We live in your neighborhood and share your environment. As part of our continued environmental commitment, Great Plains Natural Gas – along with its three sister companies – has the ECO Fund to support projects that enhance environmental education and stewardship in communities we serve.

Environmental education projects may include grants for specific teacher training, books or equipment for classroom use, field trips, or special project support in the natural or physical sciences. Community environmental stewardship projects may include such things as nature trail development, wildlife area enhancement, recycling and community cleanup promotion, or the development of “living laboratories” for the use of students and the general public.

ECO Fund Eligibility Consideration: his fund will be available only to institutions, organizations and programs recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as qualified recipients of contributions. Generally, contributions are restricted to organizations qualified as tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Consideration is only given to charitable institutions,

organizations and programs within the geographic areas where Great Plains Natural Gas conducts business. Generally, no consideration will be given to private individuals, or to athletic, labor, fraternal, veterans, political, lobbying, social or religious organizations, or to regional or national organizations without local affiliation. Requests seeking endowment funds will receive low priority. Grants are limited to a maximum of \$2,500 for each successful applicant.

All grants are subject to annual review and Great Plains Natural Gas reserves the right to defer, alter, suspend or cancel a contribution at any time. If a funded project is canceled or not substantially completed, we may request return of grant monies.

How to Apply: Organizations seeking a grant can complete an application on the company website: www.gpng.com, and click In The Community tab. Requests should be submitted no later than Oct. 1 of the year prior to the year for which funding is being sought.

Award process:

Applications received by Oct. 1.

Review and select successful applicants by Nov. 30. Awards made by Jan. 15.