



2024 Constellation CLEAN Environment Awardees

Constellation is dedicated to leading the transition to a clean energy future and strives to achieve a cleaner, healthier environment for our communities. These CLEAN (Constellation Leading Environmental Accelerators Network) Environment Awards will recognize organizations' significant efforts and contributions to environmental stewardship. These awards will serve to support community-based projects that are focused on climate and environmental protection and innovation.

2024 CLEAN Environment Awardees Highlights

- \$1 Million philanthropic grant funding to support 25 nonprofit organizations
- CLEAN Environment grant awards range from \$1,000 - \$100,000
- Support focused in Constellation Clean Energy Center communities in IL, MD, NY, PA, and TX
- Projects range from local biodiversity, such as installing living shorelines and restoring native habitats, to environmental education, to an aquatic recovery center for reptiles and amphibians, and beyond

2024 CLEAN Environment Awardees

Illinois

Ecology Action Center

Clinton Community, Illinois

Project Title: Tree Corps and Sugar Creek Stewards

Description: The Tree Corps is an initiative by the Ecology Action Center with the goal to plant 10,000 trees annually in Bloomington-Normal and McLean County. These trees will help filter air pollution, sequester carbon emissions, cool urban temperatures, and provide critical pollinator habitat. The Sugar Creek Stewards is another volunteer-based initiative by the Ecology Action Center but with the objectives of improving riparian corridors and reducing water pollution. Sugar Creek Stewards volunteers remove invasive and exotic brush and weeds and replace it with native grasses, wildflowers and shrubs. These plants better stabilize eroding streambanks, filter out storm water pollution, and provide critical habitat for native pollinators.

Illini State Park Foundation

LaSalle Community, Illinois

Project Title: Invasive Vegetation Removal and Restoration of Trail Surface

Description: The Illini State Park Foundation project funding will provide support for invasive vegetation removal throughout Illini State Park along with material to improve trails for access. Additional project support will enable restoration of 2.5 miles of trail surface for Illini State Park.

Hoo Haven

LaSalle and Byron Community, Illinois

Project Title: Herptile Recovery & Education Center: Aquatic Recovery Center for Reptiles Amphibians

Description: Hoo Haven Wildlife Rehabilitation & Education Center will build a new "Herptile Recovery & Education Center" – a dedicated area for reptiles and amphibian species. This area will specifically provide a more natural environment for recovering frogs, turtles, tortoises, snakes, and lizards. The primary objective for this project is to create a recovery center that is specifically designed for the needs of reptiles and amphibians. Another objective is to create a space where the community can be educated about reptiles and amphibians, with examples of quality environment, diet, care, and enrichment.

The Conservation Foundation

MidWest Community, Illinois

Project Title: Restoration at Dayton Bluffs Preserve

Description: The Conservation Foundation owns the Dayton Bluffs Preserve, a 253-acre natural area along the Fox River, and is responsible for its restoration and long-term ecological management. Funds from Constellation would be used on invasive shrub and tree control on the acres of woodland, ravine, and Fox River shoreline.

Hog Capitol Rescue

Quad Cities Community, Illinois

Project Title: Refurbish and Construct Enclosures that House Wildlife

Description: Hog Capital enclosures all need new roofing to protect from the weather and a new enclosure with better screening needs to be built for smaller birds of prey.

Environmental Education Association of Illinois

Illinois Site Focus, Illinois

Project Title: Bringing Education Outdoors Sub Award & Professional Development –Will County

Description: EEAI plans to fund two programs in Will County. Project 1 is a sub award program to help schools build and improve outdoor learning spaces and project 2 is developing Climate Education Curriculum for use in Grundy County and on a statewide website.

Maryland

Chesapeake Bay Trust

Calvert Community, Maryland

Project Title: Constellation CLEAN Environmental Awards in Calvert County

Description: The Chesapeake Bay Trust and Constellation will partner together to invest in environmental outcomes in Calvert County, Maryland, primarily through providing resources to community organizations for natural resource protection, restoration, and engagement projects.

Chesapeake Bay Trust: American Chestnut Land

Calvert Community, Maryland

Project Title: Re-Envisioning Rural Lands: A Conservation Campaign for Southern Maryland

Description: The American Chestnut Land Trust (ACLT), on behalf of the Southern Maryland Conservation Alliance (SMCA), will propose the creation of a conservation campaign for Southern Maryland with the goal of curbing suburban sprawl and increasing land conservation efforts in the region. The conservation campaign will accomplish this goal by providing SMCA members with clear and effective outreach materials to communicate with landowners, community groups, local officials, and other target groups about the economic benefits of conserved land and Southern Maryland's potential for ecotourism.

Chesapeake Bay Trust: Ann's Circle, Inc.

Calvert Community, Maryland

Project Title: Community Planting at Annmarie Garden – The Story of the Understory

Description: Ann's Circle, Inc. will serve as a resource for educating the public about the benefits of regenerative gardening, the use of native plantings to support local ecology, and provide hands-on community service and educational workshops that model and replicate best management practices for home gardens and landscapes.

Chesapeake Bay Trust: Asbury Foundation

Calvert Community, Maryland

Project Title: Native Wildflower Meadow

Description: The Asbury Foundation will promote nature-based solutions in the community, to demonstrate

the practice of converting maintained lawns to native meadows in suburban communities. In addition, efforts will be used to make Asbury Solomons Continuing Care Retirement Community a model community in Southern Maryland in stormwater management and environmental stewardship.

Chesapeake Bay Trust: East John Youth Center, Inc.

Calvert Community, Maryland

Project Title: Youth Led Conservation Landscaping & Rainwater Harvesting at East John Youth Center

Description: The East – John Youth Center will focus on educating youth and the community about their roles in environmental stewardship. The youth center will serve as a space to hold workshops and outreach events that address environmental issues such as stormwater runoff and its impact on the Chesapeake Bay. The East John Youth Center will serve as a hub for community engagement, offering outreach events, workshops, and restoration projects. Key initiatives include installing rain barrels, creating a vegetated buffer, and reforesting areas to enhance biodiversity and reduce runoff. Efforts will culminate in a "Bay Day" will celebrate these efforts, showcasing achievements and promoting sustainable practices. The project aims to increase community knowledge, encourage sustainable behaviors, and improve local environmental quality.

Chesapeake Conservancy: Thomas Point Shoal Lookout

Regional Partner, Maryland

Project Title: Constellation CLEAN Environmental Awards

Description: Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse (TPSL) will be one of the first four sites in the proposed Chesapeake National Recreation Area (CNRA), a new unit of the National Park System. The CNRA aims to raise the visibility of the Chesapeake Bay, encourage protection efforts, create sustainable jobs, and improve public access and visitor experience. Legislation to create the CNRA has been introduced to the 118th Congress and has received strong support. Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse (TPSL) is still used as a navigational beacon and NOAA weather station and is maintained by the United States Lighthouse Society, which also runs public tours. Over 6,000 people have visited since 2007, making it a prominent and highly photographed landmark. The lighthouse has undergone various restoration projects, and this project support will further enhance repairs including installing new davits on the west side. The mission is to preserve the lighthouse's history and its connection with the people of the Chesapeake Bay.

Chesapeake Conservancy: American Chestnut Land Trust

Calvert Community, Maryland

Project Title: Constellation CLEAN Environmental Awards

Description: The American Land Trust project funding will serve as a catalyst to establish the Southern Maryland Woodlands National Wildlife Refuge. In partnership with the Southern Maryland Conservation Alliance and US Fish and Wildlife Service, a land protection plan has been identified leading to the first National Wildlife Refuge in Maryland since 1962. For the refuge to be considered "official" the USFWS

must acquire its first interest in land, therefore the funding will be applied toward land purchase and conservation of the first parcel in the refuge. Preserving the first piece of land will enable the coalition to officially establish the Southern Maryland Woodlands National Wildlife Refuge, thereby leading the way to future opportunities to recover federally threatened and endangered species and habitat in Southern Maryland.

Civic Works

Regional Partner, Maryland

Project Title: Civic Works: Energy Focused Community Engagement and Workforce Development Program

Description: Civic Works seeks to expand access for low to moderate income households for electrification, efficiency, and family sustaining careers in the green construction trades, including expanding energy equity and education for low to moderate income to access broader Maryland Energy Administration programs.

New York

Friends of Camp Hollis

Fitzpatrick Community, New York

Project Title: Camp Hollis Outdoor Education Signage

Description: Friends of Camp Hollis is seeking funds to support the enhancement of their natural trails. Enhancements include the display of education signage throughout their nature trails and the addition of native and pollinator-friendly plant species to existing gardens.

SUNY Oswego – Rice Creek Field Station

Nine Mile Point Community, New York

Project Title: Erie Canal Revitalization (Native Tree Establishment)

Description: SUNY Oswego is seeking funding to reestablish forested lands that were heavily impacted by the construction of the Erie Canal corridor in New York State. The funds will go towards the restoration of the White Oak and Eastern White Pine species.

Project Healing Waters

Upstate New York Community, New York

Project Title: Healing Veterans & Healing Habitats

Description: Healing Veterans Healing Habitats is an initiative to foster camaraderie and socialization for our veterans long with conservation of our rivers and streams. Program participants in Oswego, Syracuse, and surrounding areas will work together on projects to reduce the impact of human interference on our waterways conducting river cleanups, aquatic and riparian assessment, and macroinvertebrate surveys.

Pennsylvania

Partnership for the Delaware Estuary: Schuylkill Action Students

Limerick Community, Pennsylvania

Project Title: Clean Water, Healthy Habitats, and Community Engagement in the Schuylkill River and Delaware Estuary Watershed

Description: As a leader in the Schuylkill Action Network (SAN), PDE will coordinate, plan, and implement green infrastructure projects at one or more schools in the Schuylkill River Watershed through the

Schuylkill Action Students (SAS) program. SAS is a multi-partner initiative of SAN aimed at implementing school campus green infrastructure projects to address stormwater concerns and improve water quality, while also serving as living laboratories for students.

Partnership for the Delaware Estuary: Philadelphia Urban Living Shoreline Committee

Limerick Community, Pennsylvania

Project Title: Clean Water, Healthy Habitats, and Community Engagement in the Schuylkill River and Delaware Estuary Watershed

Description: PDE will establish a Philadelphia Urban Living Shoreline Committee to assist PDE and local partners with efforts to investigate, design, and install living shorelines in Philadelphia, with the potential to expand the focus area to the larger PA urban corridor.

Partnership for the Delaware Estuary: Freshwater Mussel Pond Grow Out Network

Limerick Community, Pennsylvania

Project Title: Clean Water, Healthy Habitats, and Community Engagement in the Schuylkill River and Delaware Estuary Watershed

Description: PDE currently collaborates with several local partners to grow juvenile mussels in ponds until the mussels are of suitable size to be transplanted to other locations for use in restoration projects or in educational efforts. The establishment of additional freshwater mussel grow out centers in Pennsylvania will support the increased quantity of mussels that PDE will be rearing at its production scale hatchery at Bartram's' Garden in Philadelphia.

Partnership for the Delaware Estuary: Clean Water Educational Lessons

Limerick Community, Pennsylvania

Project Title: Clean Water, Healthy Habitats, and Community Engagement in the Schuylkill River and Delaware Estuary Watershed

Description: PDE will create new lessons and activities to engage people of various ages in learning about clean water, freshwater mussels, and green infrastructure as they relate to the protection and improvement of the Delaware Estuary. Lessons will focus on issues impacting the Delaware River and Bay, and how schools and students and their families can help improve water quality in their everyday lives.

Schuylkill River Greenways

Limerick Community, Pennsylvania

Project Title: Douglassville Bridge Debris and Habitat Improvement

Description: Schuylkill River Greenways is a National Heritage Area and treasured local resource. The Schuylkill River Greenways is dedicated to connecting people and communities to the Schuylkill River through conservation, recreation, and education. The proposed project will support Douglassville Bridge debris removal including removing all the debris, both natural and human made litter, from the river course and from the river's edge, to restore the river's natural flow and improve habitat for aquatic and land species. Strategic partnerships are in place to ensure the project's long-term sustainability and reduce future remediation costs. The project will include volunteer cleanup days and public awareness programs. The project aims to benefit multiple communities by improving river health and safety.

Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy: Butterfly Learning Center

Limerick Community, Pennsylvania

Project Title: Native Plant Propagation and Butterfly Learning Center

Description: Perkiomen Watershed hopes to grow the Dragonfly Farm into a sustainable pollinator and butterfly oasis. The funds will help the farm to grow and maintain over 150 plant species native to Pennsylvania. The projects will include both expanding native plant propagation and add a new butterfly

learning center including educational and butterfly rearing at the Dragonfly Farm. The farm will serve as a focal point for education programs and will serve as a place to rear PA native butterflies.

Raven Ridge Wildlife Center: New Mew for Birds of Prey and Educational Programming

Peach Bottom, Pennsylvania

Project Title: Birds of Prey and New Program Van

Description: Project support will enable a new mew for birds of prey. Additionally, a new van for educational programs and animal transport will enhance educational programming and animal care.

Friends of White Clay Creek Preserve

Peach Bottom, Pennsylvania

Project Title: Tree Planting and Invasive Control Project

Description: Seeking funding for the ecological restoration of native forest and riparian zones in the White Clay Creek Preserve, the only state preserve in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The work will be primarily on the banks of the White Clay creek designated as a National Wild and Scenic River.

Elks Creek Watershed Association: Invasive Vegetation Removal

Peach Bottom, Pennsylvania

Project Title: Invasive Vegetation Removal and Water Quality Study

Description: Funding will support purchase of tools that will be used for invasive species removal projects, and also support water quality testing and sampling project.

Delaware Center for Horticulture

Peach Bottom, Pennsylvania

Project Title: Community Forestry

Description: DCH has the goal of preserving and enhancing the quality and variety of New Castle County's natural and environmental resources. DCH's community forestry projects aim to help improve the air quality of residents, many being in low-income areas.

Delta Peach Bottom Elementary PTA

Peach Bottom, Pennsylvania

Project Title: Nature Trail Update and Shelter

Description: Delta Peach Bottom Elementary PTA will deploy project funds to help clean up, update, and provide an educational area for students to learn about the environment, animal habitats, plant life cycles, and more.

Texas

Institute For Sustainable Communities and CEER

Houston, Texas

Project Title: Houston 5th Ward Solar Resiliency Hub

The Institute for Sustainable Communities will partner and support Coalition for Environment, Equity and Resilience (CEER) to establish the Carl Walker Jr Center as a community resilience hub. The project will evaluate opportunities to reduce the energy burden and enhance community resilience in the 5th Ward, and further the development of a solar-powered disaster shelter and resilience hub. This award will be vital in helping the community advance its vision for greater climate resilience.