

2015 Annual Report

What is the Carmel Green Teen Micro-Grant Program?

The Carmel Green Teen Micro-Grant Program awards grants of up to \$1000 each to young people to fund their environmental sustainability projects in Carmel, Indiana. This grant program is unique in that it is administered by a volunteer board comprised primarily of middle and high school students who inspire and mentor youth, ages 19 and under, to identify environmental needs within our community and to design, fund, implement, and evaluate appropriate projects to address those needs. Projects funded through our program must be youth-led and serve to reduce pollution, conserve natural resources, save energy, or reintroduce native species or habitats in Carmel, Indiana. This program is sponsored by the City of Carmel, Carmel Utilities, and the Carmel Clay Schools' Green Team. Since inception in 2009 forty-three youth-led environmental projects have received funding, engaging over 800 young people and saving Carmel citizens an estimated \$120,000 and over 250 tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually.

2015 Youth-led Projects Funded by the Carmel Green Teen Micro-Grant Program:



Recycling Cubs - \$383.56 – Orchard Park Elementary fifth graders chose to promote and facilitate event recycling at their school by purchasing five Clear Stream portable recycling collection containers as well as promotional items. They will use the containers at after school events such as Movie Night, Literacy Night, Ice Cream Social, and more. Students from the OPE Recycling Cubs attend the events and display posters and wear stickers that remind others to recycle.

2015 Earth Fair - \$550.00 – The Carmel High School Environmental Sustainability Club hosted an educational gathering at the CCS Plots to Plates Organic Community Garden on May 23, 2015. Various local groups such as the CCS Green Team, Earth Charter Indiana, Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, and others were invited to share information and teach visitors about what can be done on a local level to live healthier, more sustainable lifestyles. Over 125 people attended the 3 hour event, and the students are considering holding an Earth Fair next year.



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U Drink Water Bottle Station - \$979.00 – To promote reusable water bottle use, the students on the University High School Stewardship committee discovered that there needed to be easier ways for students to fill water bottles in their school. With their Carmel Green Teen grant, they purchased and installed a water bottle filling station and worked with the Athletic Department to purchase a second station. Initial estimates suggest that these stations have led to the reduction of at least 80 plastic disposable water bottles daily each.

NHS Recycling - \$900.00 – Members of the Carmel High School National Honor Society will be providing school event recycling. With their Carmel Green Teen Micro-Grant they purchased ten ClearStream recycling bins which they are using at select athletic, performing arts, and other after-school events. NHS members earn group hours while promoting recycling of plastics, aluminum, and paper. They are working with the school administration to streamline emptying the bins as well as ensuring that the recycling dumpsters can accommodate the extra recycling.















Blazers' Butterfly Garden - \$491.29 – The University High School EcoBlazers built a perennial flower garden specifically designed to attract and support Monarch butterflies. While the garden's focus is providing for the Monarch butterfly, the plant selection attracts a wide variety of butterflies, moths and pollinators. The Blazer Butterfly Garden meets official criteria set by monarchwatch.org that allows it to be registered as an official Monarch Waystation.

Goodbye Plastics – Get Your Own Water Bottle - \$870.00 – Clay Middle School students noticed that many of their fellow students were throwing their plastic bottles in the trash instead of the recycling bin, so they decided to take action. They first educated students about how to save money and the environment by using reusable water bottles through posters and a website. The youth leader of the project created an educational website where she asked students to pledge to use reusable water bottles instead of disposable ones. She offered 120 new, reusable water bottles as incentives to students who agreed to the pledge. Students also worked with administration to install a water bottle refilling station near the school cafeteria to discourage disposable water bottle use.



Carmel Green Teen Micro-Grant Program

Carmel Green Teen Micro-Grant Program 2014-2015 Board Members:

<p><i>Aaron V.</i></p> 	<p><i>Eden S.</i></p> 	<p><i>Ilsa S.</i></p> 
<p><i>Lauren M.</i></p> 	<p><i>Marisa A.</i></p> 	<p><i>Natalie C.</i></p> 
<p><i>Shiva V.</i></p> 	<p><i>Sitha V.</i></p> 	<p><i>Claire Lane</i></p> 
<p><i>Josh Lane</i></p> 	<p><i>Margot Gibson</i></p> 	<p><i>Sue Maki</i></p> 



Carmel Green Teen Micro-Grant Program

Carmel Green Teen 2015 Service Project

**Citywide Recycling and Used Book Collection Drive
Spring 2015**

In addition to running the Carmel Green Teen Micro-Grant Program to empower other students through service, our board members also contribute to the community and help our environment through a service project of our own. Since 2010, members of the Carmel Green Teen Micro-Grant Program have helped to organize and promote an ever-evolving twice-yearly citywide recycling drive at the Carmel High School stadium parking lot or at Clay Middle School.



This year the Carmel Green Teens participated in the spring event held on Saturday, April 25, 2015, partnering with Carmel Utilities, Carmel Police Department, Crime Stoppers of Central Indiana, Technology Recyclers, AARP, and Wish-TV.

At this event, over 20 tons of electronics were collected for recycling, over 10 tons of documents were shredded and recycled, and approximately 2100 used books were collected and donated to the Indy Reads Books to support their adult literacy programs.



Carmel Green Teen Micro-Grant Program Numbers

Grant Period	Grants Awarded	Funds Distributed	Youth Participants	Total Beneficiaries
2014-2015	6	\$4,173.85	210	9,300
2009-2014	37	\$19,583.13	631	111,001
Total	43	\$23,756.98	831	231,302 (entire community)



Carmel Green Teen Micro-Grant Program

Carmel Green Teen Micro-Grant Program Awards and Recognition - 2015



United States Environmental Protection Agency

Presidential Certificates - The President's Environmental Youth Award (PEYA) recognizes outstanding environmental projects by K-12 youth. The PEYA program promotes awareness of our nation's natural resources and encourages positive community involvement. Since 1971, the President of the United States has joined with EPA to recognize young people for protecting our nation's air, water, land, and ecology. It is one of the most important ways EPA and the Administration

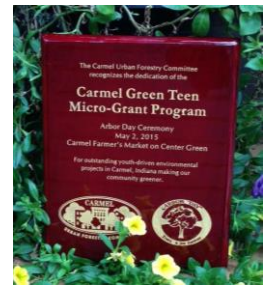
demonstrate commitment to environmental stewardship efforts created and conducted by our nation's youth. Youth board members of the Carmel Green Teen Micro-Grant Program were awarded Presidential certificates of recognition for their work helping make Carmel greener, one youth project at a time.



Carmel Urban Forestry Recognition

During the 2015 Arbor Day Ceremony, the Carmel Green Teen Micro-Grant Program received recognition for promoting and facilitating outstanding youth-driven environmental projects in Carmel. Lauren Gibson, the

youth founder of the program, was awarded the Donna Manlove Award, in honor of a beloved Carmel High School environmental science teacher who was instrumental in getting students out into nature. Over the past six years, students taking part in Carmel Green Teen funded projects have planted over 100 trees and have distributed 2000 tree seedlings in Carmel.



For more details about The Carmel Green Teen Micro-Grant Program visit carmelgreenteen.org
To create a Green Teen Micro-Grant Program in your community visit yourgreenteen.weebly.com

