

DUTCHESS COUNTY

soil & water
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Since 1945

2026 Conservation in the Classroom – Request for Proposals

The Dutchess County Soil & Water Conservation District is excited to offer a grant project intended to expand environmental conservation and/or agricultural education in Dutchess County Schools and communities. We are now expanding the conservation in the classroom grant to non-profit organizations. This grant provides funding for programs aimed at increasing awareness of environmental conservation and/or agriculture in Dutchess County that enlightens students/community members on the importance of conserving natural resources.

Provide a plan that demonstrates how the proposed project will provide educational opportunities for the students/community members and the desired impacts. Your proposal shall address the following questions/topics:

1. Who will be responsible for the program's administration;
2. What is the educational goal;
3. How will students/community members be involved in the project;
4. What type of equipment will be requested and for what purpose;
5. If your project includes food production, what will you do with the food that will be grown;
6. What is the life expectancy of the project?
7. How will you measure knowledge gained; and
8. Do you currently have any environmental conservation and/or agricultural education programs or related clubs/activities?

Proposals will be accepted from schools, municipalities and non-profit organizations in Dutchess County and reviewed on a rolling basis.

Awards range from \$500 - \$5,000. Awards will be made to qualifying applicants. Please limit proposal to three pages.

Provide a projected itemized budget that lists all project costs, including equipment, supplies, etc. This grant does not provide funding for labor.

- All funds provided through this grant should be expended by December 15, 2026.
- Proposals must be received by April 10, 2026.

Projects that receive matching support (either cash or in-kind contributions) will score higher than proposals without match. Labor may be counted as matched support.

Demonstrate project support from stakeholders such as teachers, administrators, parents, and volunteers. Letters of support are encouraged and will not count toward the three-page limit.

Please submit proposals to admin@dutchessswcd.org.