

2026 CLEAN Environment Awards

Third Year | 64 Projects Across Eight States

The Constellation Leading Environmental Accelerators Network (CLEAN) Environment Awards recognize community-based projects advancing environmental stewardship, protection, education, and innovation near Constellation Clean Energy Centers and other generating stations.

2026 CLEAN Environment Awards Highlights:

- \$2.1 million philanthropic grant funding to support 54 nonprofit organizations, \$4.2 million over three years
 - CLEAN Environment grant awards range from \$5,000 - \$125,000
 - Support focused in Constellation local communities in CA, IL, MD, NY, PA, and TX, where we live, work, and serve
 - Projects range from restoring native habitats and protecting clean water, to rehabilitating wildlife, planting trees and pollinator gardens, expanding environmental education, and strengthening community resilience
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Alabama

Restock Alabama

Hillabee Community, Alabama

Project Title: Restock Alabama Tallapoosa River

Description: This project will release up to 50,000 largemouth bass fingerlings into Lake Martin and the Tallapoosa River system, helping strengthen the fishery, support aquatic ecosystem health, and preserve recreational opportunities and an important natural resource for surrounding communities.

California

Clear Lake Environmental Research Center

Geysers Community, California

Project Title: The CLERC Water Lab

Description: This project supports scientific testing and environmental monitoring services that benefit Lake County and Northern California communities, local governments, water agencies, regulators, watershed groups, agricultural producers, and private landowners.

Conservation Works

Geysers Community, California

Project Title: Community Pollinator Habitat and Climate Resilience Initiative

Description: This project will expand pollinator habitat and climate-resilient landscapes on Tribal lands, working lands, parks, schools, and other public spaces throughout the Russian River watershed, the Geysers region, and

neighboring Lake County communities. California Climate Action Corps Fellows, local students, and community volunteers will help restore habitat, support biodiversity, and strengthen resilience to drought, wildfire, and climate change.

Friends of Boggs Mountain

Geysers Community, California

Project Title: Trail Reconstruction and Maintenance

Description: This project will complete reconstruction of the final six miles of a 23-mile network of multi-use trails in Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest, restoring recreation, education, and economic benefits for Lake County and surrounding communities.

Middletown Senior Center

Geysers Community, California

Project Title: Middletown Community Garden Project

Description: This project funds removal of a fire-damaged tree stump and related cleanup, plant purchases, water, soil, insurance, and general maintenance for the Middletown Community Garden, including a volunteer-supported plot harvested for the senior nutrition program.

Seigler Springs Community Redevelopment Association

Geysers Community, California

Project Title: Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Description: This project will identify and address wildfire risks specific to Cobb Mountain's topography, vegetation, and settlement patterns, including an action plan focused on priority evacuation routes, fuel-heavy parcels, and critical community infrastructure.

Illinois

Campton Township Open Space Foundation

Byron Community, Illinois

Project Title: Campton Township Open Space

Description: Projects include wetland restoration at Headwaters Conservation Area and interseeding to increase native plant diversity at Gray Willows Farm and Corron Farm.

Ecology Action Center

Clinton Community, Illinois

Project Title: Tree Corps: Tree Planting Initiative in Central Illinois

Description: This project supports Tree Corps in reaching its goal of planting 6,000 trees annually in Bloomington-Normal and McLean County. The trees filter air pollution, sequester carbon, cool urban areas, and provide pollinator habitat.

Forest Preserve Friends Foundation

Clinton Community, Illinois

Project Title: Nature Center Exhibit Gallery at Homer Lake Forest Preserve

Description: This project supports development of the central exhibit gallery in the new Nature Center at Homer Lake Forest Preserve. Featuring live animals and interactive chapters on prairie, forest, aquatic ecosystems, and

stewardship, the gallery will connect the natural and cultural history of east-central Illinois with actions visitors can take to support conservation.

Friends of Des Plaines State Fish and Wildlife Area

Dresden Community, Illinois

Project Title: Invasive Species Removal

Description: Projects include advancing the second year of a three-year effort to control invasive plants across approximately 317 acres of grassland and woodland and mowing and treating 87 acres of Central Hardwoods forest where invasive vegetation is preventing the natural regeneration of oak, hickory, and walnut. Volunteers may assist with follow-up removal after initial treatment.

Hog Capitol Wildlife Rescue & Rehab Inc.

Quad Cities Community, Illinois

Project Title: Enclosure Expansion

Description: This project will add two smaller enclosures to the perimeter of a larger enclosure and improve existing enclosures used to rehabilitate injured eagles, owls, and other raptors.

Hoo Haven Inc.

LaSalle Community, Illinois

Project Title: Hoo Haven – Reptile Phase III

Description: This project will complete Phase III of the Herptile Recovery & Education Center, including interior trim, terrarium shelving, plumbing and electrical work, hot-water and pump systems, audiovisual and classroom equipment, and exterior pens. The completed facility will support reptile rehabilitation, animal care, and public education.

Illini State Park Foundation

LaSalle Community, Illinois

Project Title: Woodland Restoration Project

Description: Projects include continued woodland restoration through retreatment and removal of invasive plants, trail restoration using a small-gravel finish, and additional planting at the Native Illinois Pollinator Garden.

Illinois Conservation Foundation

Braidwood Community, Illinois

Project Title: Kankakee River State Park

Description: This project supports habitat restoration and environmental education at Kankakee River State Park through the purchase of native seed, repair of equipment used for prairie and riparian restoration, and removal of invasive species. Funding may also enhance the visitor center through native-wildlife displays and educational programming.

Quad Cities Community, Illinois

Project Title: Genetic Mapping for Lake Sturgeon

Description: This project supports recovery of endangered lake sturgeon through rearing, tagging, genetic sampling, and release into the Illinois River. Researchers will use PIT tags and genetic analysis to monitor survival, movement, and long-term restoration success while building on innovative hatchery practices that improve juvenile sturgeon survival.

Land Conservation Foundation

Clinton Community, Illinois

Project Title: Enhance the Ecological Health and Engagement Experience of Mettler Woods

Description: This project includes invasive woody vegetation removal, improved trail signage, trail cameras to deter illegal poaching, and fencing and native plantings at Mettler Woods, an Illinois Nature Preserve that hosts more than 10 community events annually.

Nature Foundation of Will County

Braidwood Community, Illinois

Project Title: Improve Biodiversity and Remove Invasive Species

Description: This project will enhance wetland, prairie, and savanna communities in the Constellation right-of-way adjacent to the Braidwood Dunes and Savanna Nature Preserve, expanding habitat for wildlife including king rail and Blanding's turtle.

Raptor Roost Research Inc.

LaSalle / Braidwood Community, Illinois; Peach Bottom Community, Pennsylvania; and Calvert Cliffs Community, Maryland

Project Title: Project SkyNest

Description: This multi-state habitat project will design, manufacture, and install custom nesting boxes optimized for kestrels and screech owls in secure, ecologically beneficial locations where raptors can safely hunt and breed.

Rock Island County Extension and 4-H Education Foundation

Quad Cities Community, Illinois

Project Title: Tree Program 2026

Description: This project will organize tree distribution, community planting events, and educational sessions in neighborhoods prioritized for canopy development using Tree Equity Score data. Participants will receive guidance on selecting site-appropriate trees, planting and maintenance, and utility-friendly placement, helping improve tree survival and expand the benefits of urban green infrastructure.

Severson Dells Educational Foundation

Byron Community, Illinois

Project Title: Golf Course to Greenway: Rewilding a Shuttered Golf Course into an Urban Nature Preserve

Description: The Elliot Golf Course Habitat Restoration Project is transforming a former 168-acre golf course into Prairie's Edge, a large-scale ecological restoration initiative that will restore native prairie, oak savanna, wetland, and riparian habitat. Projects include planting more than 130 native prairie species and thousands of native trees and shrubs while creating trails, outdoor classrooms, volunteer opportunities, and research partnerships that support environmental education, recreation, and climate resilience.

Spring Valley Park Board Foundation

LaSalle Community, Illinois

Project Title: Coal Miner's Park Revitalization Project

Description: This project supports transformation of Coal Miner's Park into a more inclusive educational and recreation destination through eco-friendly lighting, ADA-compliant facilities, improved access around the pond, educational wildlife signage, algae reduction efforts, and fish habitat enhancements. The improvements will increase opportunities for outdoor recreation while fostering appreciation for local natural resources and wildlife.

University of Illinois Foundation

Clinton Community, Illinois

Project Title: The Traveling Science Center

Description: The Traveling Science Center is a mobile classroom that brings Illinois-focused environmental education directly to schools and communities across the state. Through interactive exhibits, hands-on learning materials, and activities focused on topics such as climate change, PFAS, microplastics, invasive species, habitats, and biodiversity, the program helps audiences understand environmental challenges and explore practical solutions.

Weldon Springs Foundation

Clinton Community, Illinois

Project Title: Park Cleanup, Tree Planting, Invasive Removal, Trail Cleanup, and Shoreline Cleanup

Description: This project will restore areas of Weldon Springs affected by storm damage by planting replacement trees and removing invasive vegetation, with complementary park, trail, and shoreline cleanup activities reflected in the project plan.

Maryland

Annmarie Garden

Calvert Cliffs Community, Maryland

Project Title: Restoring the Understory: Ensuring the Ecological Balance for Our Garden for Future Generations

Description: Phase 1 of this multi-year project will restore the understory across Annmarie Garden's 30-acre property by removing invasive plants, thinning the canopy, suppressing regrowth, improving soil, and supporting native habitat. A rainwater-capture system at the Arts Building and volunteer workdays will demonstrate practical conservation techniques that community members can apply at home.

Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center

Conowingo / Muddy Run / Perryman / Fort Smallwood / Calvert Cliffs Communities, Maryland

Project Title: Pond Habitat Restoration and Enhancement

Description: This project will restore two connected ponds at Arlington Echo by replacing failing liners, removing accumulated sediment, introducing native aquatic plants, creating turtle basking and shelter structures, and planting native grasses and shrubs to filter runoff. The restored habitat will serve as an outdoor classroom for fourth-grade aquatic studies and long-term water-quality and wildlife monitoring by high school interns and apprentices.

Calvert Environmental Trust for Youth

Calvert Cliffs Community, Maryland

Project Title: Calvert Environmental Trust for Youth

Description: This project supports the Calvert County Envirothon, providing students with hands-on training in aquatic ecology, forestry, soil conservation, wildlife management, and current environmental issues. Through field experiences, mentorship, and competition-based learning, participants gain practical STEM skills and exposure to environmental careers while building the next generation of conservation leaders.

Calvert Marine Museum Society Inc.

Calvert Cliffs Community, Maryland

Project Title: Coastal Monitoring at Calvert Cliffs

Description: This project seeks to establish five monitoring stations along Calvert Cliffs that will pair time-lapse photography with rainfall, wind, temperature, humidity, barometric pressure, and solar-radiation data. The resulting long-term record will support research on erosion, sediment movement, shoreline change, and fossil exposure while providing imagery and data for exhibits, outreach, and online education.

Chesapeake Bay Trust

Calvert Cliffs Community, Maryland

Project Title: Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps

Description: This project will place a young adult, ages 18 to 25, with a nonprofit or government host organization in Calvert County for a stipend-supported year of environmental service. The Corps member will receive hands-on leadership experience, training, and professional support while contributing to community engagement, volunteer management, environmental education, energy efficiency, climate adaptation, forestry, sustainable agriculture, or restoration.

Friends of Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum Inc.

Calvert Cliffs Community, Maryland

Project Title: Improving Visitor Trail Signage at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum

Description: This project will install maps, directional arrows, and other trail markers along pedestrian paths at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, a 570-acre site with 2.5 miles of shoreline and more than three miles of trails. The new wayfinding system, using recycled-plastic posts where feasible, will help visitors navigate the site safely and confidently.

Morgan State University Foundation

Calvert Cliffs Community, Maryland

Project Title: The Blue Crab Survey: Training the Next Generation of Marine Biologists at Calvert Cliffs

Description: This project supports the Patuxent Environmental and Aquatic Research Laboratory's Blue Crab Survey, a six-decade monitoring program that tracks blue crab size and abundance and informs understanding of Chesapeake Bay ecosystem health. Paid undergraduate interns will conduct field sampling, manage and analyze environmental data, and communicate scientific findings while gaining experience for careers and graduate study in environmental fields.

Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust

Calvert Cliffs Community, Maryland

Project Title: Conservation Easements in the Huntersville Rural Legacy Area; Weed Warrior Program; Green the Neighborhood Initiative

Description: This project advances three Southern Maryland conservation initiatives: protecting approximately 205 additional acres through conservation easements in the Huntersville Rural Legacy Area; training volunteers to remove invasive plants and restore 8 to 12 acres through the Weed Warrior Program; and restoring 5 to 8 acres of neighborhood common space through native planting, resident education, and long-term stewardship planning.

Massachusetts

Medway Community Farm

West Medway Community, Massachusetts

Project Title: Chicken Brook Watershed Protection and Rain Garden Project

Description: This project will design and install a bioretention rain garden that captures roadway runoff before it enters Chicken Brook, a state-listed impaired waterbody and tributary of the Charles River. The project will filter sediment, phosphorus, nutrients, and other pollutants; replace invasive vegetation with native habitat; improve infiltration; and serve as a living outdoor classroom for farm programs, volunteers, students, and community partners.

New York

Carbon Forestry Trust Inc.

Ginna Community, New York

Project Title: Procurement, Planting, and Long-Term Maintenance of 5,000 Trees

Description: This project will prepare a Southern Tier site and procure, plant, irrigate, and maintain 5,000 trees under a forest management plan. Over the forest's lifetime, the planting is forecasted to sequester more than 40 metric tons of carbon dioxide while establishing lasting forest habitat.

Friends of Emerson Park Inc.

FitzPatrick Community, New York

Project Title: Emerson Park Trail Extension Project & Interpretive Signage

Description: Projects include expanding a trail system through a 30-acre wooded area along the Owasco Outlet, creating a safe connection between Emerson Park and Auburn High School while improving access to more than 100 acres of parkland along Owasco Lake along with wetland restoration, debris removal, protection of wildlife habitat, and installation of interpretive signage that helps visitors understand local ecosystems and environmental stewardship.

Friends of the Sterling Nature Center

FitzPatrick Community, New York

Project Title: Get Lost in Nature Summer Youth Program

Description: This project supports program staff, educational supplies, scholarships, and outreach for a summer youth program featuring hands-on activities, guided hikes, games, creative projects, and outdoor exploration across forests, wetlands, meadows, and the Lake Ontario shoreline.

Genesee Valley Audubon Society Inc.

Ginna Community, New York

Project Title: Restoration of Aquatic Habitat in the Braddock Bay Watershed by Controlling European Water Chestnut

Description: This project will combine volunteer hand-pulling and targeted drone herbicide application to control invasive European water chestnut in Braddock Bay, Long Pond, Buck Pond, Salmon Creek, and West Creek. The work will protect native underwater plants, fish and bird habitat, water quality, and recreational access across the Braddock Bay watershed.

Oswego College Foundation Inc.

FitzPatrick / Nine Mile Point Community, New York

Project Title: SUNY Oswego – HYDROS and Liminal Blue

Description: This free public art-and-science program will feature the HYDROS: A World Held by Water exhibition and Liminal Blue, a large-scale water-screen projection on the Lake Ontario shoreline. Through installations informed by fish-passage technology and lake data, artist lectures, workshops, school programming, and satellite

screenings, the project will engage communities in the ecological and cultural challenges facing Lake Ontario and the Great Lakes watershed.

Research Foundation for the State University of New York

FitzPatrick / Nine Mile Point Community, New York

Project Title: Installation of a Butterfly Classroom

Description: This project will create a visible, experiential butterfly classroom on SUNY Oswego's campus using plantings that attract butterflies and support their reproductive cycle. The space will be used for college courses and programming for K-12 students, Scouts, and community groups, with curriculum and signage addressing pollinators, plant species, habitat protection, biodiversity, sustainability, and climate change.

Save Our Sodus

Ginna Community, New York

Project Title: Save Our Sodus Program

Description: This project will establish a six-week series of place-based summer camps for youth ages 8 to 13 focused on the Sodus Bay ecosystem and Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary. Campers will participate in hands-on science, Indigenous conservation knowledge, habitat and plastics-pollution studies, boat-based learning aboard the restored Rose Lummis, and activities at Sodus Point Beach, with scholarships and transportation support available for underserved youth.

Seneca Park Zoo Society

Ginna Community, New York

Project Title: Seneca Park Zoo Conservation Awareness Days

Description: Conservation Awareness Days provide interactive experiences that connect zoo guests with conservation issues affecting species and habitats around the world and in their own communities. Through hands-on activities, presentations, conservation-partner exhibits, and themed educational programming, visitors learn practical actions they can take to support wildlife and environmental stewardship.

Whispering Woods Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Inc.

Nine Mile Point Community, New York

Project Title: Black Bear Cub Rehabilitation Center

Description: This project funds construction of New York's next licensed black bear cub rehabilitation facility in Oswego, creating specialized capacity for orphaned cubs near the region where black bears are most prevalent. The facility will provide species-appropriate rehabilitation and help meet growing demand for black bear care while reducing reliance on the state's single existing rehabilitation center.

Wild by Nurture Inc.

Ginna Community, New York

Project Title: Completing Our Wild by Nurture Wildlife Center

Description: Projects include completing a purpose-built wildlife rehabilitation center with medical treatment and recovery areas, an orphaned-wildlife nursery, species-appropriate rehabilitation spaces, and permanent housing for educational ambassador animals in addition to supporting outdoor rehabilitation enclosures in the Rochester area, expanding capacity to care for approximately 1,000 injured and orphaned wild animals each year and prepare them for release near the communities where they were found.

Pennsylvania

Acorn Acres Wildlife Rehabilitation

Muddy Run Community, Pennsylvania

Project Title: Wildlife Recovery Campus Expansion: Groundhog Recovery & Release Pavilion

Description: This project will complete a secure, predator-resistant outdoor pavilion with specialized interior caging for groundhogs recovering before release. The facility will allow animals to rebuild strength and stamina, acclimate to natural weather conditions, and demonstrate survival behaviors in a controlled, species-appropriate environment, creating a permanent rehabilitation resource for future patients.

Chester Housing Initiatives Inc.

Chester / Eddystone Community, Pennsylvania

Project Title: Climate Resilient Agriculture Year 2 at Ruth Bennett Community Farm

Description: This project supports Ruth Bennett Community Farm in addressing food insecurity through production and distribution of fresh produce and plants, while serving as an education center for local sustainable agriculture.

Friends of White Clay Creek Preserve

Peach Bottom Community, Pennsylvania

Project Title: White Clay Creek Preserve Riparian Buffer Planting and Maintenance

Description: This project supports native tree planting, native understory shrub restoration, and environmental education on a six-acre tract along Sharpless Road bordering White Clay Creek.

Heritage Conservancy

Croydon Community, Pennsylvania

Project Title: Rare Plant Reintroduction and Reforestation at Croydon Woods

Description: This project will reestablish native tree canopy within Croydon Woods, one of Pennsylvania's rarest Atlantic coastal plain forest ecosystems, while increasing climate resilience in Bristol Township. Reforestation will improve wetland function, water quality, wildlife habitat, carbon storage, and long-term protection of rare native species within the Delaware River watershed.

Lancaster County Conservancy

Crane / Peach Bottom Community, Pennsylvania

Project Title: Improvements to Climbers Run Nature Center (Stormwater BMPs)

Description: This project supports stormwater improvements at the 113-acre Climbers Run Nature Center, including a subsurface infiltration bed, bioretention and rain gardens, infiltration and detention basins, and drainage upgrades. These improvements will reduce erosive runoff, protect the site's spring-fed pond and cold-water stream, and help sustain its naturally reproducing brook trout population while making nature-based water solutions accessible for conservation education.

Partnership for the Delaware Estuary Inc.

Croydon / Limerick Community, Pennsylvania

Project Title: Delaware Estuary Clean Water, Healthy Habitats, and Strong Communities Projects

Description: This award supports three Delaware Estuary initiatives: installing a living shoreline at the Croydon Generating Station using habitat-enhancing concrete designed to support fish and freshwater mussels; expanding school-campus green infrastructure and clean-water education through Schuylkill Action Students; and completing a

community-informed clean-water art initiative serving communities in Camden, Chester, Philadelphia, and Wilmington.

Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy

Limerick Community, Pennsylvania

Project Title: Growing Resilience through Source Water Protection

Description: This integrated program will propagate locally adapted Pennsylvania native plants and use them in riparian buffers, wetlands, floodplains, rain gardens, reforestation sites, and community demonstration gardens. Through volunteer-supported planting and restoration, the project will stabilize streambanks, filter sediment and nutrients, improve wildlife habitat and connectivity, and strengthen the Perkiomen Creek watershed's resilience to flooding, extreme precipitation, and rising temperatures.

Raven Ridge Wildlife Center Inc.

Crane Community, Pennsylvania

Project Title: Flight Cage, Tools, and Facility Updates

Description: This project will construct a predator- and weather-resistant flight cage where small raptors can rebuild muscle and practice sustained flight before release. Funding will also provide tools and storage for timely enclosure repairs and complete HVAC and electrical upgrades that support safe, efficient wildlife care.

Schuylkill River Greenway Association

Limerick Community, Pennsylvania

Project Title: Schuylkill River Trail – Drainage Improvements

Description: This project will fund engineering design and early implementation of drainage improvements along the 1.8-mile Gibraltar section of the Schuylkill River Trail. The work will establish positive stormwater flow, stabilize vulnerable areas, support restoration of historic trail bridges, prevent washouts and surface damage, and guide development of a resilient drainage system capable of handling modern storm events.

White Clay Watershed Association

Peach Bottom Community, Pennsylvania

Project Title: Catch the Rain: Watershed-Wide Stream Restoration & Green Infrastructure Initiative

Description: This project will expand the Catch the Rain program through a pilot restoration of approximately 800 to 1,000 linear feet of agricultural stream corridor, including livestock-exclusion fencing, a sensitive stream crossing and watering system if needed, a native riparian buffer, and three years of water-quality monitoring. It will also support at least 15 additional site visits and six nature-based stormwater projects across the watershed.

Texas

Hesed House of Wharton

Colorado Bend II Community, Texas

Project Title: Native Pollinator Garden and Nature Education Space

Description: This project will create an accessible native pollinator garden and outdoor education space along the Colorado River, helping replace habitat lost during flood-mitigation construction. The site will incorporate permeable surfaces, rainwater capture, reclaimed materials, and primarily native plants while serving as a learning location for the Junior Master Naturalist Program and other children, adults, and community members.

Native Plant Society of Texas

Handley Station / Wolf Hollow II Community, Texas

Project Title: Living Landscapes: Native Plant Demonstration and Ecological Renewal

Description: This project will support 12 existing native-plant demonstration gardens, expand pollinator gardens through the Bring Back the Monarch to Texas Grant Program, and restore habitat at sites including Tandy Hills Natural Area, Stella Rowan Prairie, and Sheri Capehart Nature Preserve. Workshops, volunteer workdays, and interpretive signage will help residents and students identify invasive species and participate in long-term native-habitat restoration.

River Legacy Foundation

Handley Station Community, Texas

Project Title: Environmental Restoration, Education, and Community Stewardship Initiative

Description: This project will restore post oak forest, wetlands, prairie, and riparian habitat along Snider Creek through native landscaping, invasive-species removal, trail improvements, and ecological management. Outdoor classrooms, demonstration gardens, educational signage, and volunteer activities will give youth and adults hands-on opportunities to learn about biodiversity, conservation, and sustainable stewardship.