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## Organizations receive funding for innovative projects

The Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network awarded six regional organizations more than \$113,000 in grants for projects that promote sustainable living.

"All of them have economical, environmental and community components; those are the projects we like to fund," said Michael Kelly of the Conservation Fund. "Projects that promote sustainability through relations of economic, environment and community objectives."

Projects are submitted from the 22 counties that surround the Saginaw Bay watershed, Kelly said.

Hampton Elementary School, in the Bay City Public Schools district, received \$21,655 for its rain garden project.

The garden will be located on low-lying property at the school and runoff that is collected will be used to water the garden.

Birch Run Area Schools was awarded \$10,000 for its biodiesel manufacturing project.

The project is designed to produce more than 100 gallons of biodiesel per week by converting used vegetable oil from the district and from area restaurants into fuel for the district's bus fleet.

Additional grants awarded include:

\* Thumbs Up Restoration Project was granted \$35,000 for the removal of invasive plant species and to develop a long-term management plan for the area. The project is part of the Saginaw Wetlands Nature Sanctuary located along Saginaw Bay in Huron County.

\* Genesee County Land Bank Clean and Green Program received \$30,000 for the removal of deteriorating structures and redeveloping abandoned properties.

\* The Metamora Horse Country Project, located in Lapeer and Oakland counties, received \$10,000 for its land conservation project.

\* Michigan State University Extension received \$6,518 for its project to improve sugar beet field productivity through an innovative slurry system.

Six of the 11 foundations that help support WIN are based in Midland.

Those organizations are the Charles J. Strosacker Foundation, Harry A. and Margaret D. Towsley Foundation, Midland Area Community Foundation, Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation, The Dow Chemical Company Foundation and The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation.

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