



Short-Term Projects 2025-2026 Grant Cycle Project Idea Worksheet

Please complete this worksheet and the questions found at the bottom of this page and send to Sam Kilpack at samantha@cw.utah.gov no later than **February 9, 2025**.

For project criteria, visit cw.utah.gov.

Name of the project:	Environmental Sustainability Education
Location of the project:	Summit County, Utah
Are you applying as an individual, or an organization? (Please list the name of the organization, if applicable)	Organization
Project contact person:	Helen Nadel
Project contact email address:	helen@summitcommunitygardens.org
Project category (select all that apply) *Please note your project is not required to encompass more than one category and will not be evaluated based on number of boxes checked	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation and transit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental protection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreation stewardship <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic sustainability
What is the project's expected start date?	July 1, 2025
What is the project's expected completion date?	June 30, 2026
What is the estimated total cost of the project?	\$182,000 Budget for Education Programming
How much are you requesting from the CWC?	\$15,000
Please list your (non-funding) community partners for this project, if any.	Summit County School Districts Artes de México en Utah Recycle Utah Park City Community Foundation Youth United PC Tots Preschool Holy Cross Ministries Preschool Momentum Recycling and Spoil to Soil
Please list your funding partners for this project, if any, including the amount of funding requested from each.	Park City Community Foundation Women's Giving Fund: \$50,000, committed Park City Community Foundation: \$15,000, committed Bruce & Cecelia Peterson Foundation: \$10,000 committed Sprouts Foundation: \$5,000, committed Sorenson Legacy Fund, \$5,000, committed Robert Orr Foundation, \$5,000, committed KJS Foundation, \$5,000, committed Byrne Family Foundation: \$35,000, pending Central Wasatch: \$15,000, pending

	Private individual donations: \$37,000, pending/committed
If your project takes place on Forest Service land, have you cleared your project with the Salt Lake Ranger District? If so, who did you speak to?	n/a
If your project has potential impacts on the watershed, have you cleared your project with Salt Lake City Public Utilities? If so, who did you speak to?	n/a
Does your project require a NEPA?	n/a
IF YES: Has the NEPA been completed already, or can the NEPA and the project both be completed by June 2026?	n/a

Please attach your answers to the following questions:

1. Briefly describe your idea. How will it implement transportation and transit solutions, protect the ecosystems that originate in the Central Wasatch, steward recreational access, or sustain the economic viability of the project area?

Summit Community Gardens and EATS (SCG-E) is dedicated to creating a stronger, more connected community by empowering youth through garden, environmental, and nutrition education. SCG-E engages students in the Wasatch Back with hands-on lessons that cover important topics like health sciences, ecosystems, horticulture, and the food system. Through the Edible Education program, SCG-E partners with local schools, cultural organizations, and nonprofits to provide age-appropriate lessons for children from preschool through 9th grade. These lessons seamlessly integrate into the curriculum, enriching students' understanding of their world and its resources.

The *Environmental Sustainability Education* project takes the next step by enhancing the Edible Education program. SCG-E will continue to develop and implement a plan that infuses sustainability principles throughout lessons, focusing specifically on land stewardship, sustainable growing practices, composting, food rescue, local/seasonal eating, and cultural heritage. By expanding community reach to 2,000 students—across school-based lessons, after-school classes, and summer camps—the organization will inspire young minds to take responsibility for their environment and cultivate a culture of sustainability in their schools and communities. This initiative includes the necessary time, resources, and materials to achieve our impact.

Through the *Environmental Sustainability Education* project, SCG-E will contribute meaningfully to three of the four grant objectives:

Protecting Local Ecosystems: Through engaging, interactive lessons, students will learn how to protect the ecosystems of the Central Wasatch. They will gain practical knowledge in areas like waste reduction, water conservation, responsible land management, and sustainable food systems. Over 32 weeks of after school classes, 16 weeks of garden lessons, 16 summer camp weeks, and educational tours for school and camp groups, SCG-E will deepen students' environmental awareness and enhance their sustainability

skills. In the past three years, the Edible Education program has reached over 3,000 students, helping them divert more than 60,000 pounds of food waste from landfills. This initiative empowers K-9th grade students to engage in climate action and shows them the power of collective impact.

_ *Stewardship of Recreational Access:* The 1.5-acre community Garden serves as a central learning space, where students can connect with nature through gardening, outdoor play, and exploration of the land's history. The garden is open to all community members, providing a rich, hands-on experience for youth and their families. Features include bee hives, a rainbow garden, an ADA-compliant patio, and native plants that stimulate the senses. To further increase inclusion, there is bilingual (English and Spanish) educational signage throughout the garden, welcoming all community members.

_ *Sustaining the Local Economy:* SCG-E educates youth about the potential for growing food in the region, fostering a deeper understanding of food sustainability. This knowledge reduces reliance on imported goods, promotes food security, and supports local farmers. By teaching children about the long-term health of the planet, the program curriculum helps to build awareness of their connection to local resources and the importance of supporting a sustainable economy.

Through these intentional, combined efforts, SCG-E is not just educating students, but empowering them to lead in the creation of a healthier, more sustainable community for the future.

2. Does this idea result in other benefits to the Central Wasatch and its users?

Benefit #1 – Shaping and Influencing Behaviors: Teaching the next generation to become responsible land stewards, developing lasting habits for sustainable food waste disposal, and fostering more environmentally conscious consumers.

When youth have experiential learning opportunities, guided by hands-on lessons, and provided opportunities to connect to the local environment, healthy habits and behaviors form. Participating in local climate solutions, such as Zero Waste initiatives, is a powerful way for youth to feel they are safeguarding their future. Across all programs, whether in schools or the Garden, 2,000 children annually connect to nature and how food grows, learn about healthy soil and composting, and understand the benefit - and deliciousness, of eating seasonally and locally.

Benefit #2 – Reducing Food Waste on Local Scale: Contributing to the decrease of waste in landfills, lowering carbon emissions to impact cleaner air, and supporting food rescue and redistribution efforts.

The sustainability initiatives led by SCG-E within local schools have successfully reduced waste over time. Four years ago, in the face of limited funding and resources, SCG-E took a bold step by launching a lunchroom composting program in several schools. Through these efforts, students participated in waste diversion and continue to incorporate these practices into their education. Students were also educated on the practice of food rescue by collecting unopened packages of food, or untouched fruit, to a community share table, with the food items provided to children participating in free/reduced lunch plans.

By the end of the 2024 school year, the success of the composting initiative was undeniable. In response, the Park City School Board committed to implementing a composting program at every school, and the Park City Community Foundation's Climate Fund pledged the necessary resources to bring it to life.

SCG-E remains actively involved, continuing to support volunteer efforts and hosting a pumpkin diversion drop-off site to further both organization and community sustainability goals.

Benefit #3 – *Strengthening Systems, Families, and Community Connections:* Inspiring schools, organizations, and families to integrate conservation into their core values, practices, and daily routines.

Through dedicated partnerships, schools have successfully institutionalized SCE-E programs like composting and food diversion, while fostering a culture of collaboration that supports long-term ecological and operational efficiencies. The Garden community, including 132 garden plot renters and volunteers, benefits from a space that encourages engagement through hands-on activities such as planting, harvesting, and educational programs. By adopting sustainable practices such as drip irrigation, composting, and recycling, families and volunteers help reduce ecological footprints, build social bonds, and create a sense of belonging, enhancing overall health, wellness, and community cohesion.

Benefit #4 - *Strengthening the Ecosystem:* Stewarding Summit County's only public community garden space as part of a 10-acre conservation easement.

SCG-E is proud to steward 1.5 acres of a larger 10-acre property dedicated to sustainable agriculture. The garden showcases native, drought-tolerant, and waterwise perennials, while also producing over 2,000 pounds of fresh vegetables, fruits, and herbs each year to support families in the Wasatch Back facing food insecurity. Through composting and soil-amending initiatives like cover cropping, SCE-E is nurturing the health of the land, returning vital microorganisms and organic material to the soil. By utilizing efficient drip irrigation systems and promoting water conservation practices, we strive to make a lasting impact. This invaluable community resource directly touches the lives of more than 4,000 people annually, fostering resilience and self-sufficiency for those in need.