



Short-Term Projects 2026-2027 Grant Cycle Project Idea Worksheet

Please **thoroughly** review the project criteria at cwc.utah.gov before submitting your application. Then complete this worksheet and the questions found at the bottom of this page (and letter of support, if applicable) and send to Sam Kilpack at samantha@cwc.utah.gov no later than **February 10, 2026**.

Name of the project:	Environmental Sustainability Education Program
Location of the project:	Across Summit County
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 (check all that apply) <i>*Please note your project is not required to encompass more than one category and will not be evaluated based on number of boxes checked</i>	<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, 2026
What is the project's expected completion date?	June 30, 2027
What is the estimated total cost of the project?	\$183,500, total budget for Education Programming
How much are you requesting from the CWC?	\$15,000
Have you reviewed your project with the appropriate authorities as outlined in the eligibility requirements , and received their support or approval? If so, please list the name, agency, and position of each person you have spoken to.	n/a
Does your project require any permits, and do you have those permits in-hand?	No permits are required for the project.
Do you have the above-mentioned permits in-hand?	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
I have carefully reviewed this application for accuracy and completeness. I understand that late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes

Please use the space below to respond 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, and/or sustain the economic viability of the project area?

Summit Community Gardens and EATS (SCG-E) fosters a strong, connected community by empowering youth through garden, environmental, and nutrition education. Through the cornerstone Edible Education program, SCG-E partners with schools, cultural organizations, and nonprofits to provide age-appropriate lessons for children from preschool through 9th grade that increase their understanding of the natural world and resources. SCG-E engages students from the



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Wasatch Back with hands-on lessons that cover topics including health sciences, ecosystems, horticulture, and the food system.

The *Environmental Sustainability Education* project enhances the core components of the Edible Education program by focusing on education around sustainability and stewardship principles. Specifically, the project will focus on land stewardship, sustainable growing practices, composting, food rescue, local/seasonal eating, and cultural heritage. This work will reach 2,000 students, across school-based lessons, after-school classes, and summer camps. The organization will inspire young people to take responsibility for their environment and cultivate a culture of sustainability in their schools and communities.

Through the 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. This initiative empowers students, and demonstrates the power of collective action.

_ *Stewardship of Recreational Access*: The 1.5-acre community garden is a central learning space, where students connect with nature through gardening, outdoor play, and guided 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 snacking garden for hands-on interaction and tasting, native and pollinator plants, raised and in-ground demonstration beds for education programming, the La Milpa bed educating on indigenous growing practices, and a small orchard with fruit trees.

All of these unique assets are stewarded by the team at SCG-E and dedicated volunteers. This stewardship ensures that the entire community is able to benefit from the offerings of this recreational space. Just beyond the garden's perimeter is a stream and a trail system that encourage further exploration of the area. 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. SCG also takes youth to visit local farms, a farm stand, and a local market to help expand their understanding of the local food system and how it contributes to the local economy.

Through these intentional, combined efforts, SCG-E is providing education and empowering youth to contribute to 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 beyond what you have described above?

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



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Healthy life-long habits form when youth have hands-on experiential learning opportunities, and connect to the local environment. Participating in local climate solutions, such as Summit County's Zero Waste initiative and garden-based composting, is a powerful way for youth to impact their futures. The program educates 2,000 children annually, building knowledge of food production, soil health, and composting, while inspiring an appreciation for seasonal, locally grown food.

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 the schools have reduced waste over time. Five years ago, SCG-E launched a lunchroom composting program. Students participated in waste diversion, and continue to incorporate these practices into their education. As part of this, students collected unopened packages of food, or untouched fruit, and shared at a community table with children participating in free/reduced lunch plans.

By the end of the 2024 school year, the success of the composting initiative was recognized by the district. The Park City School Board implemented 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 through continuing to support volunteer efforts and furthering community sustainability goals such as Summit County's Zero Waste initiative.

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

Schools have institutionalized SCE-E programs like composting and food diversion, helping to foster a culture of collaboration and collective impact. The garden community, including 132 garden plot renters and over 500 volunteers, benefit from a space that encourages engagement through hands-on activities such as planting, harvesting, tending 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 stewards 1.5 acres of a larger 10-acre property dedicated to sustainable agriculture and open space. 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, soil-amending initiatives like cover cropping, and noxious weed mitigation, SCE-E is nurturing the health of the land, returning vital microorganisms and organic material to the soil. This invaluable community resource directly touches the lives of more than 4,000 people annually, fostering resilience and self-sufficiency for those in need.