**Carmel Green Teen Micro-Grant Program**

*Talking Points – Includes notes*

1. Who are we? What do we do? (VERY BRIEF)

* We are a non-profit group of youth and adults who are working together to empower young people to take action by funding **youth-driven projects** that **reduce pollution, conserve natural resources, and/or save energy.**
* The goal of the Carmel Green Teen Micro-Grant Program is to challenge area youth to use their skills, creativity and energy to help make Carmel / Clay Township in Indiana a greener, more sustainable community.
* Carmel Green Teen Micro-Grants are proudly sponsored through a partnership with **Carmel Utilities and the City of Carmel**.

2. Grant Criteria – Here are some questions to ask yourselves as you come up with project ideas:

##### Is your project led by youth?

##### Will it do one of the following?

##### Improve local air, land, or water quality

* + conserve natural resources
  + save energy or encourage use of renewable resources
  + directly promote local, native species reintroduction or conservation

##### Do you have a complete and realistic budget?

##### Do you have a nonprofit sponsor?

##### Applicants MUST attend the Grant Review Session – This year, the session will be held on **March 9th, 2014** (We will send you the exact time and place for your group’s interview after we receive your application), so be sure to clear your calendars if you’re applying. At your interview, which should only take around 15 minutes, we would just like to hear you briefly present your project, and then we may ask you a few questions about your application or project. You may bring any visual aid items you wish.

CARMEL CLAY SCHOOL GROUPS: There is an additional form on your application titled the **Administrative Approval Form** that you MUST complete and send to us no later than Feb. 18th if you plan on doing a project on CCS property

Be sure to emphasize that projects are due on **FEBRUARY 28th, 2014**!

You may want to bring along a copy of the Grant Criteria as found on the carmelgreenteen.org website to cover any additional questions about projects, especially for advanced groups.

3. Project Ideas (If groups do not already have some)

* Plant trees or native wildlife
* Teach Others: Create an Educational Program to Promote a Sustainable Lifestyle
* Create an Organic Community or School Garden
* Build Bat Boxes to Protect Native Bat Species
* Promote Alternatives to Disposable Plastic Bottles at your School or Sports Club
* Organize a “Trashion Show” or Art Display in a Campaign to Discourage Waste
* Host a Rain Barrel or Compost Bin-Making Workshop – Don’t just make one, teach others
* Promote Proper Disposal of Hazardous Waste

#### Host a Clean-up Event to Remove Trash alongside the Monon Trail

#### **Promote use of CFL light bulbs, Wind Energy, or Solar Energy**

#### **Promote Reducing, Reusing, or Recycling at your School, Church, or Sports Club**

#### Ask your School, Church or Sports Club to adopt a “No Idle” Policy for the Carpool Line

#### Create your own idea – Think Green!  Brainstorm as a group to develop a project that can have an impact on the environment and help change behaviors to make Carmel a sustainably greener community.

#### [World Water Day](http://www.unwater.org/watercooperation2013.html) is in March, [Global Youth Service Days](http://gysd.org/), Earth Day and Arbor Day are in April. Applications are due February 28 of each year, and approved projects receive their funding money by March 31.

4. Any Questions?

* Can go over application/budget if necessary
* It is a good idea to go over any project ideas they may have (verify that they follow official grant criteria). While brainstorming, you may encourage groups to come up with several ideas to start with, so that they have a “backup” if one does not meet criteria.
* You may want to ask/discuss donations, discounts, etc. with the group.

5. Reiterate contact information for CGTB

* Email: [info@carmelgreenteen.org](mailto:info@carmelgreenteen.org) or  [admin@carmelgreenteen.org](mailto:admin@carmelgreenteen.org)
* Website: carmelgreenteen.org

### Mail: ****Carmel Green Teen Micro-Grant Program****

### ****13810 Laredo Drive****

### ****Carmel, IN  46032****

* Any of your CGTB Representatives!