



GFOA is happy to share with you a **free** opportunity through the Thriving Earth Exchange, a program of the American Geophysical Union (AGU) that connects communities with volunteer scientists and other technical experts who can help you explore priorities related to resilience, sustainability, water and air quality, and much more.

Is your community in need of:

- Scientific Support for Existing Projects
- Scientific Evidence and Data to Obtain a Grant
- Resilience Study
- Flood Mitigation
- Climate Impact Study & Mitigation Advisory Support
- Water Quality Audit
- Air Quality Study
- Implementation & Impact Recommendations
- Other

Thriving Earth Exchange's community science projects:

- Provide completely **free**, volunteer-based scientific support to local governments
- Provide a dedicated volunteer project manager to take you through the process
- Launch quarterly as cohorts
- Lasts 12 to 24 months

Project teams have three main components:

1. **Local Government Lead:** Project design starts with communities! Thriving Earth works with local or regional governments, tribal governments, community-based organizations, grassroots organizations, or other advocacy or non-profit groups to bring scientific support to communities.
2. **Scientists:** Volunteer scientists work together with communities to address a local priority. They bring their scientific knowledge, networks, and skills to the table to help refine the project and ensure it succeeds.
3. **Community Science Fellows:** Each project will have a volunteer project manager dedicated to coordinating and facilitating the team through the Thriving Earth Exchange process.

Application, 15 minutes



Community Project Application Form

Any US-based community interested in launching a Community Science project with Thriving Earth Exchange is invited to complete this form. Please note the application deadlines indicated.

Any information you can provide regarding the questions below is helpful. Project ideas do not need to be complete - we will develop the project together.

Intake call, 30-45 minutes



Community Lead Orientation



*Photos courtesy of Thriving Earth Exchange



Why would I get involved?

Budgeting:

Save money for your community on issues you haven't been able to fund in the past, such as:

- flood walls
- pipes
- brownfield reclamation
- air quality monitors
- wildfire management
- tree canopy

Transparency:

Share progress updates with your community and council members along the way.

Professional Development:

Take initiative and be a leader for your team and community!

Ethics:

You understand that there are systemic issues in your community that require a multidisciplinary team.

Who can get involved?

- Finance Officers
- Members of the Finance Team
- City/Town Manager
- City Engineers/Public Works
- Interns
- Community groups

Past public sector and utility projects:

- In Berlin, Maryland, the town manager wanted to turn a former poultry plant into a recreational park. Was remediation of the ponds there necessary? The community science project found that there were no microbiological hazards saving the town a projected \$7 million in remediation costs.
- In Evanston, Illinois, the sustainability coordinator wanted to better understand the impacts of a waste transfer station on community air quality, water quality, infrastructure, natural environment, and health. The project identified several pollutants associated with waste transfer stations resulting in a sampling plan and equipment recommendations that the City approved valuing nearly \$200k.
- The community of Natchitoches, Louisiana, sought to analyze the hydrology and hydraulics of the project area and to develop a plan to address the frequent flooding of homes and businesses in the area. This project helped to develop a hydraulic and hydrological model for the parish. This project is one step towards a longer-term project to develop and implement a flood management plan to improve quality of life and economic benefits for residents and businesses in the community.

Read about more projects at: ThrivingEarthExchange.org/projects.

Upcoming cohorts:

June 2023: Deadline early May 2023

October 2023: Deadline early September 2023

Questions? Reach out to:

Blake McGhghy, Program Manager for Community

Leader Engagement. bmcghghy@agu.org or (202) 777-7309

Apply today!

