



## **Keep Maryland Beautiful Program Guidelines**

As described in Natural Resources Article Section 3-210 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the functions of the Governor's Committee to Keep Maryland Beautiful (KMB) were transferred to the Maryland Environmental Trust (MET).

MET's Bylaws state that MET will participate in the KMB Program to the extent that funding from the Maryland Department of Transportation allows. The MET Board may also establish a Keep Maryland Beautiful Committee, as deemed appropriate.

An annual Memorandum of Understanding between State Highway Administration (SHA) and MET establishes the level of funding support and scope of work on a fiscal year basis. The MOU states that MET shall include SHA's participation in the grant application review process for the KMB Program.

KMB Program awards funding to community, volunteer, youth or environmental groups: the Margaret Rosch Jones Award and Bill James Grants.

The goals of MET's conservation easement program also complement those of the KMP program. Each conservation easement negotiated with a private landowner restricts placing of billboards, advertising materials and prohibits dumping of trash. Considerable road frontage is protected by these restrictions, ensuring uncluttered scenic vistas for public benefit.

### **Applications**

Application form available setting out criteria and eligibility requirements, available online at MET's website and distributed by brochure. Applicants are encouraged to provide photographs and supporting documentation.

Applicants are requested to provide a list of details Officers or Board members.

Applicants are asked to describe how any long term maintenance or sustainability needs of the project will be met to avoid creation of environmental problems from actions supported by the grants.

There is no requirement for matching funding.

### **Timing**

Application deadline is March 31 and award/grants are made once annually.

### **Funding**

Award/grants are funded from State Highway Administration and MET private fund.

### KMB Committee

Appointed by MET Board, consisting of MET Staff and MET Board members. A representative of the SHA is also appointed to the KMB Committee to fulfill requirements of the MOU.

### Assessment

KMB Committee members rank the applicants according to satisfaction of the criteria. The best application is ranked 1, the second best 2 and so on. Rankings also included a proposed level of grant. Scores are recorded from each KMB Committee member.

### Grant of Award

KMB Committee funding recommendations presented to MET Board of Trustees. MET Board of Trustees vote on recommendations.

### Announcement

On approval of MET Board of Trustees, KMB Award and Grants announced. Checks shall be distributed by the end of the fiscal year (June 30<sup>th</sup>). Organizations are asked to confirm receipt in writing (standard form sent from MET).

### Reporting

The MOU between SHA and MET requires a written report detailing the expenditures of the SHA funding.

### References

MOU between State Highway Administration and MET, annual duration

MET Bylaws

Annotated Code of Maryland Natural Resources Article § 3-210. Functions and activities of Governor's Committee to Keep Maryland Beautiful transferred to Trust.

## **Margaret Rosch Jones Award**

The Margaret Rosch Jones Award is for non-profit groups or communities that show continuing plans for a project that has already demonstrated a basic understanding and resolution of an environmental issue.

### **Purpose**

To recognize volunteer non-profit groups or communities for demonstrated environmental education or environmental problem reduction efforts.

### **Objectives**

- Groups that have been active in educating people in their community about at least one of these concerns: litter prevention, community beautification, and local or statewide environmental issue(s).
- Groups that have been successful in eliminating or reducing the causes of a local environmental problem rather than addressing the symptoms.

### **Restrictions**

Not for acquisition or development. Applicant must show accomplishments.

## **Bill James Grant**

The Bill James Environmental Grant is for proposed environmental education projects by school groups, science and ecology clubs, and other non-profit youth groups.

### **Purpose**

To encourage groups to initiate projects to stimulate understanding of or reduce environmental problems and to encourage a sense of stewardship for the environment.

### **Objectives**

- To encourage a sense of stewardship and personal responsibility for the environment.
- To stimulate a better understanding of environmental issues and to aid in the elimination or reduction of a local environmental problem.
- To encourage education about growth management – protection of rural areas and sensitive resources and discouragement of sprawling development patterns.

### **Restrictions**

Not for acquisition or development. For new projects.