



Tampa Bay Estuary Program

A Partnership for a Healthy Bay

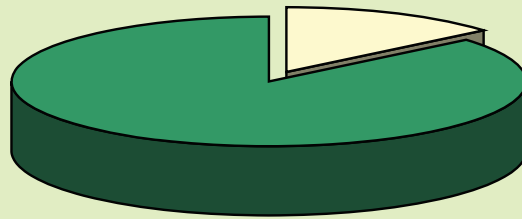


TBEP is a good investment for the District

For your annual investment of \$138,335 (plus \$4,800 to support the Nitrogen Management Consortium) over the past 3 years, the SWFWMD has received more than **\$2.6 million** in projects that support bay restoration and education.

Return
\$2,627,745
(84%)

3-Year Investment
\$419,805
(16%)



Grant Funding:

TBEP has been extremely successful at leveraging its local and federal funds. Over the past three years, TBEP was awarded **\$2.3 million** in competitive grant funds. Projects include restoring wetlands and seagrass, improving water quality, determining effects of sea level rise and fertilizer education.

TBEP returns \$6 for every \$1 invested by the SWFWMD!

“We’ve not found any other government program with a leveraging ratio that high.”
Darrell Brown, National Estuary Program Director, US Environmental Protection Agency

TBEP Highlights and Accomplishments for 2009

Seagrass Acreage at Record High in Tampa Bay:

The amount of seagrass in Tampa Bay is the highest recorded since the 1950s at **29,647 acres**, according to estimates from the Southwest Florida Water Management District. This is an increase of 1,348 acres from the 2006 estimates. Most of the increases occurred in Hillsborough Bay, where seagrass acreage nearly doubled, as well as in Middle and Old Tampa Bay.



Tampa Bay Nitrogen Management Consortium:

The TBEP-led Tampa Bay Nitrogen Management Consortium proactively developed an equitable process to allocate nitrogen loads among all sources discharging to the bay. The proposed allocations to 189 point and non-point sources within Tampa Bay watershed were endorsed by more than 40 area government and private industry representatives.

Tampa Bay
NMC

Residential Fertilizer Ordinance:

Using input from scientists, citizens and lawn care professional at community workshops, TBEP drafted a model fertilizer use ordinance that recommends banning sales and application of lawn and landscape fertilizer containing nitrogen or phosphorous during the summer rainy season. Scientists estimate nitrogen loading to the bay could decrease by 84 tons/year if implemented bay-wide. TBEP is coordinating a regional education campaign associated with this ordinance.



TBEP Highlights and Accomplishments for 2009

“Pooches for the Planet” Pet Waste Campaign:

To help combat non-point nitrogen and bacterial pollution from our furry friends, TBEP has spearheaded efforts to educate pet owners about the importance of properly disposing of pet waste. TBEP has conducted special awareness campaigns at animal shelters in Manatee and Pinellas counties and engaged several neighborhoods in intensive education programs.



Bay Area Scientific Information Symposium 5:

TBEP and the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council co-hosted a 4-day conference on Tampa Bay that drew more than 160 participants. Presentations from 74 scientists and managers highlighted topics such as seagrass management, tidal tributaries, environmental regulations and climate change.



Bay Mini-Grants:

TBEP has awarded \$384,189 in community grants for bay restoration and education within the Tampa Bay watershed over the past three years. Recipients include schools, neighborhood associations, non-profits, preserves, aquariums and conservation groups. Since 2001, TBEP has awarded more than **\$1.1 million** in Mini-Grants from sales of its specialty license tag, the “Tarpon Tag.”



“Give a Day for the Bay” Workdays:

During the past three years, TBEP coordinated 18 “Give a Day for the Bay” workdays at bay area parks and preserves. More than 700 volunteers donated 2,800+ man-hours in hands-on habitat restoration. Workday activities include clean-ups, removal of non-native species, planting of native species and “critter counts.”



8th Annual Estuary Academy:

100 citizens attended this citizens’ science day and heard exciting lectures about current research in Tampa Bay. Citizens then participated in hands-on workshops such as collecting fish in the bay, identifying plankton using microscopes, building and operating miniature robotic submersibles, assembling a manatee skeleton and piecing together fragments of a “shipwreck” found on the bay bottom.



*Thanks for your continued support of the
Tampa Bay Estuary Program*



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