

EJ Showcase

A Project Update Newsletter from
U.S. EPA Region 4



Quarterly, 1st Edition May 2011

Robert F. Kennedy Center selected as site location for Green Infrastructure Demonstration Project

The Robert F. Kennedy Center was selected as a green infrastructure demonstration site after receiving community feedback on five potential site locations. In addition to the community feedback that was received regarding site preferences, selection criteria also included the opportunities that exist for project visibility, the number of residents that utilize the site's services, the costs associated with implementation of the project and the timeframe required for completion. The goal was to select a location that will best suit the needs of the community and provide the most beneficial impact in reducing pollutants associated with stormwater runoff contributing to the degraded water quality in creeks, streams, rivers and coastal waters.



Robert F. Kennedy Center

Eastside Environmental Council awarded \$15,000 EPA Environmental Justice Small Grant

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has awarded the Eastside Environmental Council, \$15,000 as part of the EPA Environmental Justice Small Grants Program for supporting and expanding community gardens throughout Health Zone 1, and to further explore activities for improving the access to healthcare.

The EPA Environmental Justice Small Grants Program awards community-based organizations with funding for projects in low-income communities on environmental and public health issues such as exposure to toxins, farm worker pesticide protection, fish consumption, indoor air quality, drinking water contamination, and pollution from shipping ports. Nationally, financial assistance under the

Environmental Justice Small Grants Program is available to all non-profit organizations designated by the IRS or recognized by the state, territory, commonwealth or tribe in which it is located. The funding is to help affected communities develop strategic solutions to their environmental justice issues and to achieve community health and sustainability.

U.S. EPA Announces Green Infrastructure Partnership to Improve Water Quality throughout Jacksonville

At a ceremony held during the Earth Day and Ecology Fair at the Jacksonville Landing, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the City of Jacksonville announced that they will partner on several green infrastructure projects to improve water quality throughout the city.

Green infrastructure manages stormwater or rain by treating it like the great resource it is and working with nature, rather than against it,” said Nancy Stoner, Acting Assistant Administrator for Water. “In city after city and beginning now in Jacksonville green infrastructure approaches are revitalizing neighborhoods, creating jobs, expanding green space and increasing property values and economic activity

The City of Jacksonville was selected as one of EPA’s first 10 key Green Infrastructure Partner Communities based in part on interest and work that began through the Environmental Justice Showcase Community Pilot project in 2010. Residents have expressed concern about pollution from nitrogen, phosphorus and metals in the St. John’s River, as well as consumption of fish and shellfish caught in the river and local streams. The green infrastructure projects planned as part of this new partnership include the use of permeable pavement, rain gardens and rain harvesting. EPA will also provide assistance with rain barrel building and composting demonstrations. Together, these projects are expected to help beautify neighborhoods, address stormwater pollution and provide fresh food.

The City of Jacksonville plans to incorporate lessons learned from these green infrastructure demonstration projects in a low impact development manual. The City’s goal is to make green infrastructure a part of the vocabulary for all city departments, and incorporate these practices in its future work to address stormwater pollution throughout the city.



Nancy Stoner, EPA Acting Assistant Administrator for Water, announces Green Infrastructure Partnership with the City of Jacksonville

U.S. Postal Service Unveils New Go Green Stamps

The U.S. Postal Service (USPS), a recognized sustainability leader and innovator, continued a 50-year tradition during the Earth Day and Ecology Fair at the Jacksonville Landing by dedicating its latest social awareness stamps: Go Green. The sheet of Forever stamps features 16 actions anyone can take to make a positive impact on the environment. They will also encourage conservation.

“The Postal Service has been recognized for its strong “green” commitment,” said Jacksonville Postmaster David Dillman. “In the past 16 years, we have received more than 75 major environmental awards, including 40 White House Closing the Circle awards and 10 consecutive WasteWise Partner of the Year awards.”

The Postal Service is a nationally recognized sustainability leader and innovator. USPS is the only mailing and shipping company in the world whose stamp products and shipping supplies have earned Cradle to Cradle Certification, meaning they meet established standards for human and environmental health and recyclability.



U.S. EPA, U.S. Postal Service, and City of Jacksonville officials unveil new "Go Green" stamp

EPA's Ocean Survey Vessel (OSV) scheduled to dock in Jacksonville

An exciting effort planned in observance of Children's Health month (October 2011), and for sharing and communicating results and accomplishments of the Environmental Justice Showcase activities is a two day open house tour aboard EPA's OSV BOLD on October 7 - 8, 2011.

The BOLD is a converted U.S. Navy 224-foot ocean surveillance ship that is specifically designed to help EPA conduct water sampling and perform data analysis. The ship is used to monitor and assess the impacts of pollution and the health of our coastal and ocean waters, and is outfitted with state-of-the art equipment used to collect samples including water and sediments and has onboard laboratories. The public will be invited to take advantage of this unique opportunity to take a glimpse into the world of ocean monitoring and environmental sampling and analysis, and to participate in awareness and educational activities to help eliminate and mitigate public health and environmental factors adversely impacting children.



OSV BOLD

Upcoming Activities

Neighborhood Industry Forums

Eastside: **Saturday, June 11** – Robert F. Kennedy Community Center (10:00 am – 12 p.m.)

New Town Success Zone: **Thursday, June 23** – Milne Auditorium, Edward Waters College (6:00 – 8:00 p.m.)

Northwest Jacksonville: **Tuesday, June 28** – Legends Center (6:00 – 8:00 p.m.)

Community Resources

\$100 million in Affordable Care Act grants to help create healthier U.S. communities

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced today the availability of over \$100 million in funding for up to 75 Community Transformation Grants. Created by the Affordable Care Act, these grants are aimed at helping communities implement projects proven to reduce chronic diseases – such as diabetes and heart disease. By promoting healthy lifestyles and communities, especially among population groups experiencing the greatest burden of chronic disease, these grants will help improve health, reduce health disparities, and lower health care costs.

“Community Transformation Grants will empower local communities with resources, information, and flexibility to help make their residents healthier,” said HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. “By helping to transform communities at the ground level, these efforts can have a major impact on the health of Americans.”

“It is critical that we sustain our work to develop and spread effective programs that address leading killers like heart disease, cancer, and stroke,” said Dr. Thomas Frieden, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which oversees the Community Transformation Grants program. “These funds will allow us to build on successful programs that have helped people lead healthier lifestyles and help us save millions in health care costs in the future.”

Chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes are taking a devastating toll on our nation’s health. Seven of every 10 deaths are from a chronic disease – mostly caused by tobacco use, obesity, poor diet, and too little physical activity. Treatment for people with chronic conditions accounts for more than 75-percent of the more than \$2 trillion spent on annual U.S. medical care costs. Obesity is a significant health care cost driver; in 2008, about \$147 billion of medical bills were weight-related.

Consistent with the law, these grants will focus on five priority areas: 1) tobacco-free living; 2) active living and healthy eating; 3) evidence-based quality clinical and other preventive services, specifically prevention and control of high blood pressure and high cholesterol; 4) social and emotional wellness, such as facilitating early identification of mental health needs and access to quality services, especially for people with chronic conditions; and 5) healthy and safe physical environments.

Successful applicants must use evidence-based strategies and ensure that their activities not only have broad population impact, but also help address health disparities. Examples of projects that could qualify for grants include eliminating food deserts and increasing access to healthy food options, including efforts to improve school nutrition or bring healthier food to corner markets in urban areas. Other examples include promoting blood pressure and cholesterol screenings.

Communities may also address additional areas of disease prevention and health promotion that will contribute to the overall goal of reducing chronic disease rates. These areas include adolescent health; arthritis and osteoporosis; cancer; diabetes; disabilities and secondary conditions; educational and community-based services; environmental health; HIV; injury and violence prevention; maternal, infant, and child health; mental health and mental disorders; health of older adults; oral health; and sexually transmitted diseases.

State and local government agencies, tribes and territories, and state and local non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for Community Transformation Grants. At least 20-percent of grant funds will be directed to rural and frontier areas. Applications are due to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in July 2011, with awards expected to be announced near the end of summer. The grants are expected to run for five years, with projects expanding their scope and reach over time as resources permit.

The Community Transformation Grants are one piece of a broader effort by the Obama Administration to address the health and well-being of our communities through initiatives such as the President's Childhood Obesity Task Force, the First Lady's Let's Move! campaign, the National Prevention Strategy, the National Quality Strategy, and HHS' Communities Putting Prevention to Work program. The Prevention and Public Health Fund, as part of the Affordable Care Act, is supporting this and other initiatives designed to expand and sustain the necessary capacity to prevent disease, detect it early, manage conditions before they become severe, and provide states and communities the resources they need to promote healthy living. For more information about how the Fund is helping promote prevention in every state, visit www.HealthCare.gov/news/factsheets/prevention02092011a.html.

The official funding opportunity announcement for the Community Transformation Grants can be found at www.Grants.gov by searching for CDFA 93.544. For more information about the grants, visit www.healthcare.gov/news/factsheets/grants05132011a.html or www.cdc.gov/communitytransformation.

EPA Environmental Justice Community Outreach Call

Administrator Lisa P. Jackson has made Expanding the Conversation on Environmentalism and Working for Environmental Justice one of EPA's top priorities. In support of this priority, we invite environmental justice advocates to participate on our next Quarterly Environmental Justice Community Outreach Call, which will take place on May 19, 2011 at 4 p.m. ET.

The purpose of these calls is to provide information to participants about the Agency's EJ activities and maintain an open dialogue with EJ advocates. As EPA continues to advance Plan EJ 2014, the Agency hopes that these calls will better inform the public about EPA's EJ work and enhance opportunities to take advantage of federal activities. Listen to, or read about, previous calls at <http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/events/ej-outreach-calls.html>.

EPA is soliciting suggestions on agenda topics for the upcoming call. After receiving your suggestions, we will select the topic(s) that are of general concern to communities. Please keep in mind that the call will only last one hour, so the number of topics discussed will be limited. Submit a topic at <http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/events/ej-outreach-calls.html>.

For more information about the Administrator's priorities:
<http://blog.epa.gov/administrator/2010/01/12/seven-priorities-for-epas-future/>

For more information about Plan EJ 2014: <http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/plan-ej/index.html>

EJView

EJView, formerly known as the Environmental Justice Geographic Assessment Tool, is a mapping tool that allows users to create maps and generate detailed reports based on the geographic areas and data sets

they choose. EJView includes data from multiple factors that may affect human and environmental health within a community or region, including: demographic, health, environmental and facility-level data.

<http://epamap14.epa.gov/ejmap/entry.html>

Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO)

ECHO allows users to search for facilities in your community to see if an agency has conducted air, water or hazardous waste compliance inspections, if violations were found, or if enforcement actions were taken. <http://www.epa-echo.gov/echo/index.html>

Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

This program provides financial assistance to eligible organization to build collaborative partnerships, to identify the local environmental and/or public health issues, and to envision solutions and empower the community through education, training and outreach.

<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/ej/grants/ej-smgrants.html>

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreements Program

This program provide financial assistance to eligible organizations working on or planning to work on projects to address local environmental and/or public health issues in their communities, using EPA's "Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Model."

<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/ej/grants/ej-cps-grants.html>

More Information

For more information on this project visit
<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/ej/grants/ej-showcase.html>

If you have questions or comments or would like to be added to the mailing list, or to find out how to get involved in the project activities, contact EPA Region 4's Jacksonville EJ Showcase Community Coordinator, Reginald Barrino at 404-562-9635 or barrino.reginald@epa.gov.