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US Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA)

Environmental Justice Small Grants FY2013 Summaries By Region

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EJSG FY2013 CANDIDATES BY REGION

REGION 1

Health Resources in Action, Boston, Massachusetts

The project seeks to educate child care professionals on best practices for controlling lead poisoning and asthma triggers in home-based childcare facilities. The Boston Healthy Homes and Schools Collaborative (BHHSC) will build on existing partnerships to engage the community in education, training, and policy initiatives targeting area home-based child care facilities. By encouraging behavior changes and conducting trainings focused on healthy homes initiatives, the project will also address the disproportionate rates of asthma and lead poisoning among children in Boston's low-income neighborhoods.

New Haven Ecology Project, New Haven, Connecticut

Through its Green Jobs Corps, New Haven Ecology Project seeks to engage area high school students in learning how to improve air quality, water quality, and access to other critical ecosystem services in low-income communities of color in New Haven Connecticut. They will learn how to contribute to environmental health solutions by improving green spaces, identifying sources of water pollution, and implementing strategies to address sources of pollution.

Alternatives for Community and Environment (ACE), Boston, Massachusetts

ACE will educate area residents and decision makers about potential environmental hazards in New Bedford, Massachusetts communities and provide support and guidance to local community organizations about productively working in collaboration with state and federal agencies. Information will be used to create factsheets and other materials to be distributed via community listening sessions designed to educate residents and area workers about public health threats that exist near homes and work sites. ACE will investigate the impacts of dredged sediments on local air quality and public health in communities where residents suffer from disproportionately higher rates of cancer, asthma and cardiovascular disease. ACE and its partners will investigate and document contaminated sites and the cumulative impacts of those sites.

Solar Youth, Inc., Hartford, Connecticut

The project will educate and teach residents, in the public housing development adjacent to the Pond Lily Nature Reserve, to lead cleanup efforts and anti-litter campaigns that will help create a safe and sustainable green space for the community. Solar Youth will work to minimize the negative health effects of exposure to harmful solid waste in the Pond Lily Nature Reserve.

REGION 2

St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, Akwesasne, New York

The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Air Quality Program plans to implement a clean air intervention project that will educate the Akwesasne tribal community to reduce exposure to indoor environmental asthma triggers. An indoor air quality expert will conduct an air quality audit of each home and help participants select mitigation strategies tailored to reduce exposures to toxins including radon, mold, household chemicals and smoke. Participants will receive continued real-time monitoring to evaluate the impact of these strategies as well as follow-up visits to assess the program's success, answer questions, and provide support in making life changes that promote healthy indoor air.

Ironbound Community Corp., Newark, New Jersey

This project will educate residents about strategies used in reducing toxic substances in soils while teaching them innovative approaches for soil restoration to help foster sustainable urban gardening and green infrastructure. Ironbound Community Corp. seeks to transform two vacant, under-utilized lots into community green spaces that will serve to educate, improve air quality and enhance the quality of life for residents of the Ironbound neighborhood in Newark, New Jersey. Participants will have the opportunity to contribute to greening their community by learning to build raised beds, plant and maintain trees, and construct and operate composting bins.

The Vieques Conservator, Vieques, Puerto Rico

The Vieques Septic System Project will focus on surveying the status of old decaying septic systems that discharge into the ocean near five waterfront neighborhoods on the north coast of Puerto Rico. The goal of the project is to educate the citizens of Vieques, through community outreach efforts, about the pollution and public health risks posed by these deteriorating septic tanks. The project will also provide for the collection of data and surveys aimed at increasing public awareness of the threat of untreated runoff into nearby coastal waters. A comprehensive report containing recommendations for improvement will be sent to local government officials to encourage safer and efficient waste water management.

Green Guerillas, Brooklyn, New York

Through its Youth Tillers Program, Green Guerillas seeks to recruit and train a team of area youth to work on composting, rainwater harvesting and the reduction of pesticide use through organic gardening. Along with the Green Guerillas staff, Youth Tillers will work with 15 Bedford-Stuyvesant community gardens to expand current compost systems or install new systems to reduce solid plant waste and food scraps. Participants will also improve upon or install rainwater systems to help harvest hundreds of gallons of water to reduce runoff and sewer overflow. In turn, youth

participants will educate area residents using hands-on demonstration techniques, educational materials and by conducting healthy gardening and cooking classes.

REGION 3

Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning, Baltimore, MD

The Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning seeks to increase public awareness of the risks associated with lead paint poisoning in accordance with the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) new recommendation to lower the reference level for blood lead levels in children. The goal of this project is to increase community knowledge of available services, and educate health care practitioners on how to handle the new regulations and an expected influx of new cases in light of the CDC recommendation. The organization will distribute updated educational materials to area health care facilities, child care facilities and area residents. The campaign will target the entirety of the City of Baltimore with emphasis on neighborhoods that have high concentrations of elevated blood lead levels in children and high minority populations.

Clean Air Council, Philadelphia, PA

The Clean Air Council will identify and address public health concerns in Philadelphia's Port Richmond neighborhood where residents are disproportionately impacted by high levels of air pollution. Residents will participate in workshops and coalition building to develop policy solutions that will reduce harmful exposure to pollution from area factories, chemical processing facilities, ocean-going vessels, and heavy traffic from nearby Interstate 95. The workshops will also help residents understand the current policies available to reduce air pollution exposure in overburdened neighborhoods and provide an advocacy model for other waterfront communities facing similar issues.

Concilio de Organizaciones Hispanas de Filadelfia, Inc., Philadelphia, PA

The organization seeks to reduce childrens' exposure to lead poisoning for Philadelphia families living in old, deteriorating homes. Through the use of culturally appropriate education materials, residents will receive education about preventing lead and carbon monoxide poisoning and fire safety planning.

JASTECH Development Services, Inc., Philadelphia, PA

This project will develop a community-based campaign and community advisory board to address the presence of toxic substances in local waterways in the Overbrook community in Philadelphia. The organization plans to minimize residents' exposure to poor water quality through a series of outreach initiatives and community cleanup efforts. Through a series of workshops, residents will learn to properly dispose of household chemicals and other toxic substances, recycling techniques and how to effectively engage community leaders in an effort to participate in policy and decision making processes.

REGION 4

Community Development Corporation of Greater Memphis, Memphis, TN

"Livable Memphis' REAL Places" plans to address the negative effects of urban sprawl and automobile dependence in inner-city neighborhoods in Memphis, Tennessee. Through a series of workshops, area residents will research their neighborhood's development patterns and learn how air pollution has resulted in disproportionate rates of asthma and economic disparity. Workshop participants will apply their knowledge through an environmental assets and liabilities survey of their neighborhood. Accordingly, residents will analyze their survey results and learn skills to advocate for change by organizing neighborhood campaigns to convert current liabilities into assets.

Athens Lands Trust, Athens, GA

The West Broad Market Garden Project will use educational programs to help residents of Hancock Corridor reduce their consumption of foods grown with pesticides and decrease the amount of food waste going into landfills. Athens Lands Trust seeks also to educate area low-income gardeners about how to grow food, conserve water, and manage pests in ways that are affordable and healthy for the environment. The neighborhood will benefit from organic food production, community gardening and composting, youth development, and community empowerment. Through the creation of the West Broad Market Garden, an educational hub where organic food is grown and distributed, neighborhood residents will learn about the benefits of pesticide-free foods and gain access to affordable, healthy produce.

Caffee, Caffee & Associates Public Health, Hattiesburg, MS

The Mississippi Environmental Justice Advocates (MEJA) Project seeks to reduce asthma rates attributable to secondhand smoke by educating communities about the damaging health effects of secondhand smoke as an in-door pollutant and encourage residents to eliminate secondhand smoke from their homes and cars. Through a series of outreach activities including partnerships with area faith-based organizations, residents will be empowered to make behavioral changes that will help to eliminate pollution, decrease incidences of asthma, improve living conditions and increase environmental stewardship.

Clean Energy Durham, Durham, NC

Clean Energy Durham will launch a volunteer driven, neighbor-to-neighbor energy education program for low-income residents of Lee County, North Carolina. Residents will learn the benefits of reducing electricity and how this reduction can lead to a decrease in pollution produced by area power plants. The project aims to

educate disproportionately impacted communities by encouraging environmental stewardship, increasing residents' leadership skills, and building capacity to create sustainable and healthy environmental change. The program will train volunteers throughout the community who commit to teaching their neighbors about saving energy.

REGION 5

Safer Pest Control Project, Chicago, IL

The goal of the Safer Pest Control Project is to empower Illinois state childcare providers to reduce or eliminate the need for pesticide use in childcare facilities and thereby lessen the exposure of young children to harmful pesticides. Through a combination of community education, needs assessment surveys, interviews and technical assistance, the organization seeks to increase compliance with state regulations and help implement Integrated Pest Management by establishing a Pesticide-Free Childcares Coalition. The organization will provide in-person, on site trainings as well as an online training module available in both English and Spanish.

Asian Health Coalition, Chicago, IL

The Chinatown Environmental Empowerment Project aims to reduce asthma rates attributable to secondhand smoke in Chicago's underserved and economically disadvantaged Chinatown community. By creating community based partnerships, the organization will develop culturally sensitive, bilingual education materials and workshops designed to address asthma rates and promote healthy indoor air quality.

Environmental Health Watch, Cleveland, OH

This project seeks to decrease health disparities, increase food access, improve water quality, and implement storm water management solutions in Cuyahoga County. Environmental Health Watch will implement an eight week hands-on summer program for youth ages 11 to 14 helping participants to understand the importance of water quality and learn storm water management solutions in an urban farm setting. The training program will concentrate on urban organic gardening basics including vermiculture, composting, and data collection. Trainees will also learn to facilitate community meetings and meet with local leaders and policy makers to advocate for food justice and equity on behalf of themselves and their community.

Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Baraga MI

The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Natural Resource Department will conduct a survey to determine fish consumption rates and practices by members of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community who rely heavily on the consumption of fish for subsistence, economic and cultural needs. The research will focus on the most vulnerable members of the Keweenaw community including children, pregnant women, women of child bearing age and tribal elders. The survey results will be

used to refine efforts to educate the community on how to reduce exposure to contaminated fish and help community leaders make informed, risk-based regulatory decisions to eliminate toxins in local waterways.

REGION 6

Zuni Youth Enrichment Project, Zuni, NM

The Zuni Youth Enrichment Project will sponsor a youth development program designed to educate Zuni youth about the importance of environmental stewardship from a Native American perspective. Youth participants will become “Ambassadors for Change” by initiating recycling efforts within their households and continuing this effort by reaching out to their community at large. Youth participants will host a series of discussions on topics such as waste disposal, recycling, and reduction of solid wastes on the local Tribal radio station. Students will also learn about efforts to protect native lands, air and water through hands on interactive sessions with the Zuni Department of Natural Resources including training in water testing and excursions to ecologically important points on the Reservation.

Groundwork New Orleans, New Orleans, LA

The Green Slice Water Catchment Project seeks to eliminate water pollution and improve urban water quality in the Lower Ninth Ward neighborhoods throughout New Orleans. Groundwork New Orleans plans to address the city’s aging and insufficient water management infrastructure by introducing a water catchment system that will filter contaminants and reduce flow into the municipal storm water system. Projected environmental/public health results include reduced reliance on city drainage and pumping systems, reduced carbon footprint and decreased risk of minor flooding.

Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Indians, Red Rock, OK

This project will develop a training program to address drinking water and air quality issues that compromise the health and welfare of members within the Otoe-Missouria Tribal Community. The tools and resources provided during training will enable citizens to better understand environmental regulations, empower them to make informed decisions and have greater impact with regulatory and enforcement agencies when reporting violations.

Acadiana Resource Conservation and Development, Inc., Lafayette, LA

Acadiana Resource Conservation and Development, Inc. seeks to encourage public awareness and participation to help protect and maintain the Bayou Teche Watershed. The organization has planned a series of educational sessions and hands-on activities designed to address the causes, effects, prevention and elimination of water pollution. The focus of this community education effort will involve area high school students who will learn to protect the beneficial plants, fish and animal species that rely on the watershed by working with scientific partners to

analyze water samples, identify pollutants and sources of pollution and participate in ongoing efforts to monitor water quality.

REGION 7

Black Health Care Coalition, Kansas City, MO

Through a series of community based workshops, project partners will be utilized to teach parents how to identify and mitigate household asthma triggers and to effectively communicate with area healthcare providers. The Black Health Care Coalition proposes to reduce environmental factors that contribute to childhood asthma triggers in the urban core of Kansas City, Kansas and Kansas City, Missouri. The Coalition will partner with local schools, community centers and faith based institutions to conduct community outreach efforts aimed at educating families of children diagnosed with asthma.

Trailnet, Inc., St. Louis, MO

Trailnet will teach residents in three St. Louis neighborhoods how to prevent and reduce pollution, help with watershed management, and reduce rates of obesity and asthma by advocating for a safe and inviting space for walking and biking. Trailnet seeks to create neighborhoods where walking, biking, and taking public transit is a way of life.

Sunflower Community Action, Inc., Wichita, KS

Sunflower Community Action, Inc. seeks to educate more than 1,500 community members about the importance of energy efficiency as it relates to air quality. Through a comprehensive training program, participants will learn how reducing their energy consumption and encouraging the use of clean technologies will reduce the amount of soot and smog, improve community health, and reduce health care costs.

REGION 8

Comunidades Unidas, West Salt Lake City, Utah

Comunidades Unidas will educate and empower members of the immigrant communities located on the west side of Salt Lake City. Residents will learn to effectively address environmental issues affecting area children and families including reducing hazardous wastes and toxic substances found in homes and community spaces. The goals of the project are to educate and train residents about the appropriate uses and disposal of household chemicals, the elimination of contamination and sanitation in community spaces, and how to utilize peer-based support to provide assistance to high risk families.

Four Corners Office for Resource Efficiency (4CORE), La Plata County, CO

“4CORE” will provide education and outreach to the low-income residents of La Plata County, Colorado to address environmental and public health issues associated with poor indoor air quality and home-based health hazards. Area families will benefit from training on how to identify toxins and sources of pollutions, proper use and disposal of household chemicals and pesticides and how to prevent or reduce health risks through low or no cost methods.

Cloud City Conservation Center (C4), Leadville, CO

Cloud City Conservation Center seeks to address the disproportionate burden of energy consumption among Hispanic, low-income residents of Lake County, Colorado. Through home energy audits, multi-family building evaluations and a culturally sensitive outreach plan, participants will achieve substantial energy savings in their homes and community and will be empowered to find solutions to environmental challenges posed by old and inadequate housing stock and a severely cold climate.

Crow Tribe of Indians, Crow Reservation, MT

The Tribe’s proposed Water Quality Education Program will establish a sustainable approach for addressing the adverse health effects associated with water pollution and educate the community on preventative measures to mitigate the effects of contamination. The Crow Tribe of Indians seeks to address fecal contamination issues at a sacred, medicinal spring located on the Crow Reservation. Although the spring is culturally significant to the Crow Tribe and is used for recreational and ceremonial practices, it poses a significant threat to the health and safety of tribal members.

REGION 9

Asian Health Services, San Francisco, CA

Asian Health Services seeks to develop and pilot a model of effective community engagement and outreach within California’s nail salon community. The project will empower Vietnamese salon workers to address the unique environmental and health challenges that result from chronic and cumulative exposures to chemicals known or suspected to be carcinogenic and reproductively harmful. The organization’s goals are to: increase the community’s knowledge of healthy/green nail salon concepts and practices; build capacity of the nail salon community to adopt best practices for workplace health and safety; and train and support nail salon community members to become leaders who promote and educate their peers about healthy/green nail salon concepts and practices.

The Watershed Project, El Cerrito, CA

The Watershed Project seeks to transform Fairmont Elementary into a zero-waste environment by training students in the 4Rs and engaging them in their day to day

routines. The project features training in source reduction, trash separation, recycling, composting, and implementation of a sustainable program of these practices. As part of the program, students will take these practices to their families and initiate zero-waste in their homes.

Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice, Jurupa Valley, CA

The organization will implement an asthma prevention and education program providing outreach, training and healthcare referral services to low-income, Hispanic residents in the cities of San Bernardino and Jurupa Valley, California. Training will consist of a series of workshops where residents will learn about asthma symptoms and triggers. Other benefits include in-home medical visits by healthcare professionals from area clinics.

Environmental Health Coalition, San Diego, CA

The “Changing Land Use Policies, Changing Lives” project will support communities in developing the skills and competencies needed for meaningful participation in decision-making about land use policies that affect communities. Through a series of training workshops and community outreach, the project will address equitable community planning practices and land uses in underserved neighborhoods. Community members will be able to use training resources to learn how to engage government officials and contribute to policy and regulatory efforts that result in the reduction of exposure to toxic chemicals and promote improved air quality.

REGION 10

Spokane Tribe of Indians, Wellpinit, WA

The Spokane Tribe of Indians will identify and investigate air and water pollution sources associated with elevated uranium and radionuclide levels found in drinking water inside homes, schools and offices on the Spokane Indian Reservation. The project will investigate the negative impacts these toxins have on human health and the environment and then identify options for addressing and mitigating these concerns. Data collection from the project will be used to inform federal agencies and educate members of the Tribe about the overall risk to the Reservation’s population as well as produce recommendations for sustainable remediation alternatives.

Environmental Coalition of South Seattle (ECOSS), Seattle, WA

ECOSS will implement a community-based, multi-cultural outreach strategy aimed at reducing exposure to indoor air pollution and thereby decreasing asthma rates for children in the Seattle metropolitan area. The organization’s outreach efforts will address the existing language barriers and cultural misconceptions that lead to the misuse of household chemicals, improper disposal of wastes, poor nutrition and lack of environmental information in the Seattle/Tacoma (SeaTac) area and Tukwila, focusing on areas with high rates of foreign born residents, poverty and refugees.

Seldovia Village Tribe, Seldovia, AK

The Seldovia Village Tribe Safe Drinking Water Project will address the need to test residential wells and local waterways for contaminants including arsenic, iron and lead to determine if levels surpass EPA standards and present a health risk to community members. These test results will be used by the tribe's Environmental Office to evaluate the extent of health risks posed to the community through unsafe drinking water and to strategize cost efficient ways to minimize toxic exposure to community members.

Kuskokwim River Watershed Council, Bethel, AK

The Kuskokwim River Watershed Council will examine water quality standards and investigate sources of pollution by installing a fixed water quality monitoring station on the Kuskokwim River. The Council will use its findings to develop communications tools and a water quality training plan that enables standards, techniques and quality assurance plans to be disseminated to EPA Tribal environmental workers and Tribes across the Watershed.