

**NEW ENGLAND GRASSROOTS
ENVIRONMENT FUND**

BGI GRANT REPORT FORM

Recipients of a Boston Grants Initiative grant are asked to complete a final Grant Report **no later than one year** after the grant application deadline. We rely on your **candid** responses to help us assess the effectiveness of our grantmaking program. Completing this report as a group at a regular meeting would help gather a broad perspective from your organization.

Date: 6/15/2011

Contact Person: Loie Hayes

Name of Organization: Boston Climate Action Network

Address: 4 Bucknam St., #2, Boston, MA 02120

Phone: 857-544-6846

Email Address: bostonclimateaction@gmail.com

Date of Award: 12/10/2010

Grant Amount: \$6,000

Purpose of Grant: Green Block organizing in Jamaica Plain

FINAL REPORT SECTION 1: UPDATING GRANTEE PROFILE

Please update the 20-question **Grantee Profile** that you submitted with your original Grant Application. You can either note changes on the original form, or fill in the changes on the attached blank Grantee Profile.

FINAL REPORT SECTION 2: GRANT OUTCOMES

Please answer the following questions about your group and the work it is doing.

A. CHANGE OR ADVANCEMENT OF GROUP'S FOCUS/GOALS

1. How is your project progressing? Briefly describe its evolution.

The Sheridan Street Green Block has engaged more than a quarter of the roughly 200 households in the 3-street area; activists on the block are having regular meetings every month or two, setting up a leadership committee, set up a listserv to enhance communication, and developed a book group.

The Gayhead Green Block has engaged about half the 50 households on the street. Active members are meeting monthly and planning a big gardening and communal food prep campaign. BostonCAN is assisting them in submitting a funding proposal to NEGEF for this purpose.

The Paul Gore Green Block has hosted a Smart Energy Party and has begun a Low Carbon Living group. Active members have convinced the City of Boston to grant them usage of a raised bed near the foot of the street, which they are converting from ornamental plantings to a combination of ornamental and edible plantings. This “Festival Garden” is planned to be communally harvested, rather than individual plots.

2. What factors have helped move your project forward?

Dynamic block leaders who already know many neighbors and have the skills to engage more people.

3. What obstacles still stand between your group and achieving “success?”

Block leaders need more leadership development. Staff support is particularly important for communications, publicity, and bringing in new resources (financial, intellectual, political).

B. LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

1. Have members of your group become more active in other community activities or organizations since you began your project? If so, in what ways?

Among other overlapping networks, Judy from Sheridan Street is taking an organizing course through a local CDC. Carolyn from Gayhead is coming regularly to Green Justice Coalition meetings. Jenny from Paul Gore is engaging with JP New Economy Transition.

2. Did the experience with this group make you and/or other group members more politically active at any level? If so, at what level: local, state, regional?

In addition to the Green Justice’s statewide campaign, Green Block members have been active in Jamaica Plain meetings related to the replacement of a grocer that served primarily lower-income Latin American immigrants with one that is likely to serve a wealthier and less racially oppressed customers. Green Block members have also attended the neighborhood-based sustainably networking meetings that BostonCAN has convened.

C. COMMUNITY CHANGES

1. In your opinion, have you and/or group members significantly increased their knowledge of any of the following: environmental justice, environmental health, greenspace issues, how your community works or how to solve problems locally?

Environmental justice has been a big part of our learning this year, especially through the Green Justice Coalition work. Members testified at hearings, attended rallies and strategy sessions and incorporated this perspective in our energy efficiency work. We also learned more about how the utilities and state regulators interact to shape energy efficiency policy.

2. Since the group’s formation, have other local environmental issues received community attention and sparked other community activism? If so, what issues?

Peak oil is beginning to be discussed more widely. And the Transition Town model.

D. NEGEF'S IMPACT ON GROUP'S WORK

1. Although it's hard to quantify, please tell us if and how NEGEF's grant and support made a difference to your group and its work. If you had not received the grant from NEGEF, what difference, if any, would it have made to your project?

NEGEF funding gave us a foundation for being able to start to explore networking more actively with other sustainability-related neighborhood groups in the metro area. It also made a huge difference to the amount of support we could give to our Green Block volunteers.

2. What additional skills, information, trainings would help advance your project?

Communications – how to more efficiently home a message and re-purpose it in the multitude of messaging platforms, traditional and virtual.

FINAL REPORT SECTION 3: FINANCIAL REPORT

1. Please attach an itemized expense sheet that shows how you spent the NEGEF grant money.
2. Was the NEGEF grant your only source of funds? If not, what additional funds did your raise? From what sources?

We received Stimulus Act funds via both the City of Boston and the Commonwealth, to encourage people to take advantage of Mass Save and Renew Boston; \$24,000 in total. We also rec'd \$10,000 from New World Foundation, and \$5000 from ACE for TA on an EPA carbon reduction grant.

FINAL REPORT SECTION 4: NEGEF PROGRAM EVALUATION

1. Please comment about our program and how you think we can improve it to meet the needs of the grassroots environmental community in New England.
2. Do you know of other community groups that might benefit from our program? Please include names and addresses and we will contact them.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND IDEAS. YOUR INPUT WILL HELP US IMPROVE OUR PROGRAM.

12/10/10 - NEGEF Grant	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
12/10/10 - Fiscal Sponsor Fee	(\$300.00)	\$5,700.00
4/12/11 - BCAN sponsorship of TAC conference	(\$50.00)	\$5,650.00
4/30/11 - expenses	(\$361.97)	\$5,288.03
5/3/11 - Organizer March 2011	(\$420.00)	\$4,868.03
5/3/2011 - Coordinator March	(\$1,250.00)	\$3,618.03
5/27/11 - Organizer April	(\$1,530.00)	\$2,088.03
6/14/11 - Coordinator April	(\$1,100.00)	\$988.03
6/14/11 - Coordinator May	(\$988.00)	\$0.03

details on 4/30 expenses

11/18/10	home printing	\$9.09	
12/12/10	Constant Contact	\$7.87	
1/8/11	Yumont Hardware	\$60.53	saw blades for Betty's I
1/12/11	Constant Contact	\$31.88	
2/12/11	Constant Contact	\$31.88	
3/9/11	home printing	\$18.91	
3/14/11	Constant Contact	\$31.88	
3/24/11	Stop and Shop	\$26.25	food for event
3/31/11	home printing	\$16.84	
4/9/11	Non-profit center	\$24.00	training on collaborati
4/9/11	display table, chair, clips	\$83.16	from REI
4/18/11	paint and poster board f	\$19.68	
	total	\$361.97	

barnraising

on