

**NEW ENGLAND GRASSROOTS
ENVIRONMENT FUND**

GRANT REPORT FORM

Recipients of a New England Grassroots Environment Fund 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: February 14, 2011

Contact Person: Thom Pecoraro

Name of Organization: Wyomanock Center/WestSide Farm Project

Address: 68 Wyomanock Road, Stephentown, NY 12168

Phone: 413-329-1400

Email Address: thom@designwithearth.com

Date of Award: May 6, 2010

Grant Amount: \$1000

Purpose of Grant: To provide an environmental educator for planning and care of all association garden space and to facilitate/augment two programs: 1) Recipe for Success, a weekly after-school teen cooking program and 2) a weekly kids program at the first garden site.

FINAL REPORT SECTION 1: UPDATING GRANTEE PROFILE

Please update the 17-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.

WestSide Farm Project grew exponentially between 2009 and 2010. In 2010, WestSide Farm Project expanded its cultivated space to three plots in the neighborhood - totaling over 9,000 square feet. To keep up with the growth, WestSide Farm Project brought a contract farmer on board to manage the gardens. Over 3,000 pounds of vegetables, over six times the previous year's production, were grown in the three gardens.

2. What factors have helped move your project forward? **The acquisition of revenue has had a significant impact on moving the project forward. The project was able to pay a contract farmer to execute the daily duties of farming and community-based education. The creation of a formal corporate management structure, organized for nonprofit purposes and pending 501(c)3 tax exempt status, also helped solidify the organization's sustainability.**
3. What obstacles still stand between your group and achieving “success?” **Inspired by our success, a very large, multi-million dollar organization has attempted to take over WestSide Farm Project. As a result, WestSide Farm Project lost two of its three lots. The two lots that have been given over to our competitor are city-owned and the one lot that we will operate on this year is privately owned. Since land is the most valuable asset to the project, the biggest obstacle will be acquiring additional lots so that production remains at least the same as in 2010.**

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? **Thom Pecoraro, Founding Director of WestSide Farm Project, has become more active in Berkshire Co-Act since beginning the project. He became Treasurer of Co-Act in December 2010. Co-Act manages FoodNet which is WestSide Farm Project's main recipient of our produce.**
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? **Yes. Local.**

C. COMMUNITY CHANGES

1. In your opinion, have you and/or group members significantly increased knowledge of how your community works, its environmental issues and how to solve problems locally? **Yes.**
2. Since the group's formation, have other local environmental issues received community attention and sparked other community activism? If so, what issues? **Not that we are aware of.**

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's grant was one of the first sources of grant funding to WestSide Farm Project. Being the recipient of grant funds demonstrated to subsequent grantgivers that other organizations found value in our project. A reasonable inference can be drawn between the initial grants and later grants. WestSide Farm Project could not exist without grants from NEGEF and others.**

2. What additional skills, information, trainings would help advance your project? **WestSide Farm Project needs either participants with fundraising skills or trainings for current participants to gain additional fundraising skills. Information on where and what kind of funds can be acquired would also help advance the project.**

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? **No. Please see attached financial statement.**

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. **None that we know of.**

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