

#32

NEW ENGLAND GRASSROOTS ENVIRONMENT FUND

Application Review Sheet

Round: 08-2

Organization: Citizens for a Better Brockton

Amount Requested: \$2,500

Times Applied: 2

Times Funded: 1

Tax Status: Ad Hoc

Use of Funds: Institutional Support

Issue: Toxics/Hazardous Waste

Sub Issue: Industrial Sites

Use of Funds: Institutional Support

of Core Members: 7

Website: www.stopthepower.org

Rec Fund

Project Description: To further fund printings, mailings, public meetings, phone messaging service, and website support regarding the siting of a power plant.

Notes/Questions:

- ✓ Intend Attorney thro ACE Gene Section
- Gas + oil fired power plant (350 mgw) (Also proposal from Billerica - near local similar plant, site)
- ✓ Discuss other env. stresses in community
- ✓ Do other plants use sewer treated water for cooling?
- ✓ Describe community closest to the plant -
- Are many of these community members involved? aware of proposed plant?
- Are all 4 schools within a mile of the plant as noted in grant?
- Who is group collaborating with? other orgs?
- ✓ How to engage diverse community? what did the translated letter say + ask community members to do?
- ✓ Discuss community intgs to date + planned for future
- ✓ Any planned fund raise yet? → ahead of others coming in - did last time

(Funded \$25,000 in 2000)

APPLICATION FORM

COVER SHEET

DATE: April 30, 2008

NAME OF APPLICANT ORGANIZATION: CITIZENS FOR A BETTER BROCKTON

CONTACT PERSON: Virginia Jeppson, President / James Bosco, Treasurer

ADDRESS: 578 Plain Street, Brockton, MA. 02302/719 East Street, Brockton MA. 02302 respectively

DAY PHONE: (Jeppson) 508-587-6615 and (Bosco) 508-587-4527 **EVENING PHONE:** same

EMAIL: gini-bob@juno.com / boscojcec@comcast.net

FAX:

WEBSITE: stopthepower.org (partnership) Citizens for a Better Brockton **Phone:** 508-631-0329

AMOUNT OF THIS REQUEST: \$5000.00 **TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET:** \$5000.00 up to \$10000.00 depending on appeal litigation.

TOTAL CURRENT ORGANIZATIONAL BUDGET (If different from Project Budget): \$847.00

TOTAL AMOUNT YOUR ORGANIZATION SPENT LAST YEAR: \$300.00

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES, FULL AND/OR PART-TIME: ALL VOLUNTEER

PROJECT PROPOSAL SUMMARY (No more than 3 sentences): 1) Dual fossil fueled power plant (350mgw) is trying to locate in our very heavily populated residential area. 2) Will use sewer treated water as a coolant. 3) Will be trucking in dangerous chemicals and oil through our neighborhood streets and they have no evacuation plan in place in the event of Pan accident either at the plant or during the bringing of these chemicals to the plant.

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT NEGEF? Through Toxic Action Center in Boston, MA.

CHECK ANY OF THE FOLLOWING THAT APPLY TO YOUR ORGANIZATION:

☒ Ad Hoc group

☒ Checking or Savings account in group's name

☐ Fiscal Agent _____ EIN _____

☐ Incorporated as a nonprofit in the state

☐ 501(c)(3) status with the IRS EIN _____

APPLICATION FORM

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Give a brief description of your proposed project. Be sure to include background of the issue.

To further fund printings, mailings, public meetings, phone messaging service, and website support. Also funding for consultants with information to assist residents at the State Siting Board hearings on the approval of a 350 mgw gas and oil fired power plant that will use sewer treat effluent for the cooling towers process.

The issues of concern to us are the air toxins that would come from the power plant emissions, combining with a community already suffering from environmental overload. The use of 2.5 MGD sewer treat effluent water with 1.5 MGD to be released into the neighborhood as a vapor. Use of this sewer treated water for the cooling towers and the concern of Legionnaire's Disease associated with cooling towers and an increase in the asthma rate among our children are also a large concern for us. We also have concerns regarding material spill of elements such as oil, ammonia, chlorine, sulfuric acid going into the Salisbury Plain River Subbasin connected to the Taunton River Basin, at the plant, or enroute to the plant.

Depending of fund our plans would include local radio spots and local newspaper advertisements, stop the power plant lawn sign. One thousand signs were donated and nine hundred ninety have already been placed.

**If your project is successful, what changes will occur in your community and its environment?
Please include a timeline/steps for its completion.**

Eliminate such environmental and health hazards to the surrounding area that includes four elementary schools, one junior high school, two ten-story elderly hi-rises with several totally disabled people who live there, businesses, churches, hundreds of residential homes, three over 55 communities and three licensed day care centers all located within a mile or much less of the anticipated power plant location.

We have passed our second commentary period with MEPA and it now goes before the State Siting Board. We had a form letter translated into four different languages in an effort to reach our non-English speaking residents, all done by volunteers. The letters were distributed to locations where these ethnic groups congregate such as the CapeVerdean Center, the Multi Cultural Center in Brockton, Churches, etc.... We plan to have more public meetings to provide additional information to these groups. We also contacted a local Bishop who works with many of these groups and is assisting us in our efforts.

We sent between five and six hundred commentary letters to Environmental Secretary Ian Bowles, with copies of same being sent to Governor Deval Patrick.

"Now our pro bono lawyer has entered our witness statements which will be used at a Siting Board hearing. We do not have a definite date but our lawyer feels it will be sometime in mid-May. Four of us will be testifying on behalf of our group as well as our environmental experts. In the meantime, we were legally required to file our Notice of Intent to Sue and when that is brought forward, we must pay the court fees up front. Our lawyer estimates it will cost approximately \$5,000. for these fees." We will continue to plan fundraisers to cover as much of this expense as we possibly can, but any assistance your organization can give to us will be most greatly appreciated."

NEGEF APPLICATION NARRATIVE – PAGE TWO

PROJECT BUDGET

1) Itemize anticipated expenses and income for this Project Proposal. Also note in-kind services (donated materials and/or labor) you may receive for this proposal. *Please specify what expenses will be covered with NEGEF's funds.*

<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>In-kind Services</u>
Environmental Consultant / pro bono	Donations	All Volunteer
Meetings \$ 400.00		
Mailings 2 @ \$410.00 each		
Lawn signs \$ 300.00		
Posters \$ 150.00		
Phone & messaging \$200.00		
Website \$200.00		
Paper and copies (flyers) \$ 400.00		
Local radio ads \$800.00		
Litigation \$5000.00		

2) Principal sources of support (E.g. Membership dues, individual donations, grants, special events, etc.) Please list any grants that your group has received.
Mostly individual donations

We did receive gift certificates from local businesses for the winners of our "Home of the Week" from May to October 1999. This amounted to 21 certificates at \$25.00 each for a total of \$525.00, all of which was distributed to the winners.

We received a \$1000 grant through NEGEF in June 2000, almost all of which was used to fight against the power plant the first time around. We also received approximately \$800 which was left over from the Citizens Against the Smell group which fought the Thatcher Street Landfill. They were granted permission to give the remainder of their grant funds to us to use in fighting further landfill problems in the future and the expected return of the power plant. Several local businesses have already stepped up on their own over the last year for local newspaper advertisements and radio ads. The local business contributions are at a peak and we plan on having a public fundraiser in the near future as well as applying for grant money to keep these efforts on going.

APPLICANT PROFILE

1. What is the mission or the goals of your group?

The mission of Citizens for a Better Brockton shall be to unite the concerned people of this great city for the purpose of insuring the social, environmental, employment, economic and safety issues that together create an environment which will be instrumental in the successful return to a desirable city for business to thrive and families to live, work, and play.

2. How long has your group been in existence? Since November 1996

3. What issue/issues got your group going? Fighting a trash transfer station from coming into our neighborhood.

4. How many people started the group? Thirteen

5. Is this the first time that the group's "founders" had been "activated"? Yes

If not the first time, with what other issues had they been involved? Seven

6. How many people are currently involved as the core group of leaders/workers?

7. Is this a membership organization? If so, how many members do you have?

It varies from time to time depending on what the issue is and where it is located.

8. Do you have any paid staff? NO

If yes, how many full-time equivalents?

9. Approximately how many people in your community can be "activated" to support your issue – i.e., go to a meeting, sign a petition, call a selectperson, etc.?

At our last commentary letter writing meeting, we had at least 175 people who attended. Our core group is in constant touch with our city officials.

10. Has the focus of your group broadened or changed at all since it first started? YES

If so, in what ways?

After driving out the transfer station, we fought the power company the first time around, then fought a landfill in our neighborhood and now the power plant has come back again with much stronger support from the power industry behind them. We also have done community things as listed further down in this report.

11. Have any members of your group run for or been appointed to public office since they started working on your issue/issues? NO

If so, for what office?

Elected or appointed?

NEGEF APPLICANT PROFILE – PAGE TWO

12. Describe the size and make-up of your community.

We are a city of approximately 95,000 people consisting of a large segment of low-income families, many different ethnic groups (many of whom do not speak or understand English). We also have a large African-American population (approximately one-third or more) and thousands of average income families. Our city is approximately five square miles in area.

13. Have you networked or shared information/resources with other groups? YES

If so, with whom and how did you find out about them?

The RATTs group that was fighting a different trash transfer station in another part of the city. They called and asked for our help which we gladly gave to them. We also helped the landfill group called Citizens Against the Smell when they asked.

14. How have you gained knowledge about your issue?

Through reading, research, studying weather conditions and how they work, learning about different chemicals, et al, as well as by visiting a power plant.

15. If your organization is more than a year old, can you quantify any of your “successes”?

Examples might be number of acres preserved, miles of trails, increase in recycling rates in town, toxic sites cleaned up, greenspaces/community gardens created, amount of money raised, legislation passed, etc.

Success in driving out a trash transfer station, thus avoiding a caravan of 225 truck trips a day going through our neighborhood; raised money to use in awarding people for keeping up the appearance of their property, have had legislature passed through our City Council regarding water issues which may prove very beneficial in our fight against the power plant, had commentary letters transcribed into four different languages to reach out to our Non-English population.

16. What are the biggest challenges your community faces?

Good paying jobs for our people and CLEAN industry to make Brockton a more appealing place to live and raise a family. We face budget cuts for services but bringing in dirty industry is not the answer because any monetary benefit the city may (or in most cases do not receive) would only be offset by the devaluation of our properties all over the city. The plant is also affecting our relationships with neighboring towns in a negative manner.

17. What skills do you feel you and/or members of your group could use to help move your issue forward (e.g., community organizing, fundraising, media and message development, board development, etc.)?

We have used and continue to use all the things mentioned above. We are most willing to try any further suggestions that we may not have thought of as we continue this fight and are most grateful for all the assistance you have given to us in the past.

CITIZENS FOR A BETTER BROCKTON BANK ACCOUNT

Our bank account number is #563012168 at the Community Bank located at 1090 Main Street, Brockton, MA 02301. Our present balance is \$847.00.

MEDIA CONTACTS: The Enterprise Newspaper reports who cover the power plant issues are Maria Papadopoulos and/or Kyle Alspach. They may be reached at 508-586-6200 and press # 3 for the Newsroom.

newsroom Enterprise news .com

WXBR Radio Station – Kevin Tocchi 508-587-2458 or 508-813-5135(cell phone)

**Station Number – 508-587-2400
(general station number)**