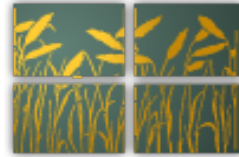


ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



New England
Grassroots
Environment Fund

2018 Grassroots Trend Report

Working Draft

BACKGROUND OF RESPONDENTS

- Survey Response: 19 groups; 9 in 2018 & 10 2017; 3 interviews
- Size: Equal proportions of small (6-10) as large (101+) groups; median size 31-50.
- Top services provided: Education (88.9%), Networking (77.8%), and Advocacy (66.7%)

| Gaps:

- 0% survey respondents were from Rhode Island or Maine; limited applicants from Rhode Island

JUST TRANSITION: shifting from an extractive to an equitable economy

| What we're seeing:

- Project Priorities: Clean Drinking Water; Aquifer Protection; Laws and Regulations governing air and water; Clean Energy; Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
- Organization: Multilevel Level Approach including; local initiatives/advocation and state regulation

| Barriers:

- Lack of community lead production stewardship initiatives
- Lack of strong EPA regulation/enforcement of toxins (i.e. PFAS)

| Gaps:

- Increase: Production Stewardship Laws
- Awareness: Investment in Green Energy Benefits
- Public Policy: Hearings in Low Income Areas
- State Research and Regulation: Plastics and Toxins in the Environment

SHIFTING POWER: empowering people and creating networks that value a diversity of lived experiences.

| What we're seeing:

- Leadership: 80% groups' decisions are made by either a Leadership Broad or Sociocracy-Consensus
- Composition: 70% of groups prioritize leadership reflecting communities served
- Feedback: Majority of groups rely on open forums to determine community needs; 0% use surveys

Barriers:

- Volunteer burnout: Limited time/people power
- Limited Funding

Gaps:

- Group Boards often do not reflect the community served
- Lack of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion training

LOWERING BARRIERS: addressing systemic challenges through community outreach

What we're seeing:

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- Feedback: Majority of groups rely on open forums to determine community needs; 0% use surveys

Barriers:

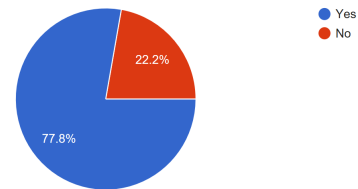
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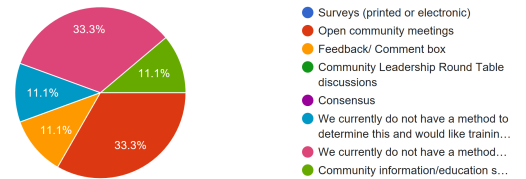
Is your organization taking any active actions to garner increased participation from marginalized groups?

9 responses



How does your organization determine whether or not you are demographically representative and meeting the desired needs of the community you serve?

9 responses



COMMUNITY BASED RESOURCING: addressing funding barriers in creative, collaborative ways

What we're seeing:

- Collaborations: 80% of groups partner with other organizations

www.grassrootsfund.org

- Fee for Service: Charging participants minimum fee / CSA fee
- Stipends for staff/volunteers to encourage retention

| Barriers:

- Lack of funding
- Limited staff/time to apply for grants
- Project specific funding lacks flexibility

| Gaps:

- Limited: Paid staff positions
- Multiple year grant

RISK TAKING & INNOVATION: implementing creative practices founded in an understanding of existing community context and structured in ways that provide learning opportunities

| What we're seeing:

- Co-benefits: Over 77% groups' projects actively address multiple issues simultaneously
- Types of Co-benefits: Land and Water; Climate and Energy; Social and Community; Environmental Justice
- Money: Offering alternative Non-traded Pooled Investments (DDP)
- Waste Reduction: Recreate/Re-purpose Design Workshops and Swap & Repair Workshops

| Barriers:

- Fossil Fuel Economy
- Monoculture Agriculture
- Lack of collaboration with professions in the field/ research

| Gaps/Opportunities:

- Education: Radio Frequencies, Electromagnetic Fields, and wifi dangers
- Activism: Citizen Action / Political Engagement; Public Ownership of the Environment Campaigns
- Promotion of Organic Lawn Care

CHANGE VS. CHARITY: addressing root causes & co-creating solutions

| What we're seeing:

- 60% of groups' identified their leadership as representative across community demographics
- Identified Root Causes: Consumerism- Profit driven Food System & Cheap-Toxic Goods; Government - Money in Politics/Government
- Systematic: Disenfranchisement of socioeconomically deprived communities- based on institutional racism and classism

| Barriers:

- Lack of Regulatory and Sustainability based Policies
- Limited Networks: Minority groups/ organizations prioritize other chronic issues; building relationships requires time

| Gaps:

- Diversity of Leadership: 0% of Groups Identified "increasing diversity among leadership" as a strategy

PROCESS IS THE PRODUCT: attempting to address traditional funding barriers in creative, collaborative ways

| What we're seeing:

- Community based values are extended throughout networks. "Not in my backyard" also means not in anyone else backyard.
 - Groups encourage sharing volunteer responsibilities to help build local and regional connectivity, shared goals and long term sustainability.
-

RECOMMENDATIONS:

| For organizers:

- Conduct surveys to determine: 1) Do you represent the community you serve? 2) What are needs of my community? 3) How can we improve meeting the community needs?
- Diversify Groups Leadership to encourage: 1) Honest Dialogue 2) Gain the wisdom of different lived experiences 3) Build new collaborations
- Change vs Charity: Encourage recipients of services to volunteer time in the growth of the organization
- Apply for More Funding!

| Check out these groups:

- Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT), Inc. www.thebeatnews.org/BeatTeam
 - No LNG in PVD www.facebook.com/NoLNGPVD/
 - Don't Take That Receipt! <https://www.bpa-free.me/>
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