



New England Grassroots Environment Fund

*** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ***

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NEW ENGLAND GRASSROOTS ENVIRONMENT FUND HIRES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The New England Grassroots Environment Fund Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Julia Dundorf as Executive Director effective October 14th, 2014. The selection was made after a national search and an extensive selection process. Dundorf is the second Executive Director in NEGEF's 18 year history and follows founding director Cheryl King Fischer. King Fischer is stepping down to pursue special interest projects related to grassroots organizing.

Dundorf was hired over two years ago by New England Grassroots Environment Fund as a Program Director to develop the energy & climate change program. In that position she facilitates the New England Local Energy Network, a burgeoning collaboration of over thirty organizations and groups across New England working with local energy committees. Dundorf also co-chairs the New Hampshire Local Energy Working Group, an ad hoc, active committee representing over twenty nonprofits, federal and state agencies, local governments, energy companies, planning commissions and active local energy committee volunteers that seeks to catalyze, support and reduce the barriers to local level action on energy and climate change issues in New Hampshire.

In 2010 Dundorf received the prestigious EPA Region Environmental Merit Award for her efforts to co-develop a residential climate change action campaign. In 2013, she received a commendation from New Hampshire's Governor Maggie Hassan for her work in statewide energy and climate change community organizing.

Before joining the Grassroots Fund Dundorf was employed as Manager of Community Relations at Clean-Air - Cool-Planet, where she oversaw the development of trainings, convenings and resources to support municipal and grassroots energy and climate change solutions. In that position she coordinated the Local Energy Solutions Conference (now in its seventh year), New Hampshire's premier energy solutions conference supporting community-based energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions. Dundorf is known throughout the region as a connector for local energy and climate action and for identifying opportunities to support grassroots and network innovation. Complementing her experience in energy and climate change solutions, she has an extensive background in nonprofit development, management and board participation in the broader fields of environmental sustainability, low-income housing solutions, domestic violence and business environmental sustainability.

Board President, Jesús Gerena states, "The Board is excited to have Julia Dundorf as the head of the Grassroots Fund team. Her leadership, commitment and experience are vital to the organization as we work to energize and nurture long-term civic engagement in local initiatives that create and maintain healthy, just, safe and environmentally sustainable communities."



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Dundorf's extensive work with nonprofits, in the past decade, at all levels of programming, fundraising, and leadership will now be applied to the Grassroots Fund as it continues to pursue important community issues in the areas of energy efficiency, renewable energy, climate change mitigation and resiliency, sustainable food systems, environmental health, local economies and the many other foci that help to build strong, healthy and just communities.

Dundorf says of her new position: "I am honored to be following Cheryl King Fischer as the Grassroots Fund's next Executive Director and leading the organization into its third decade. Although our communities face many challenges in addressing environmental health and equity, I am driven and inspired by the vision and commitment of local leaders across New England - our neighbors and friends digging in to make real and lasting change right in their communities."

The New England Grassroots Environment Fund is a 501(c)3 Public Charity that operates at the intersection of Environment and People and provides Dollars, Stories & Tools to inspire, connect and support community volunteer projects focused on local environmental sustainability and resilience. For more information: www.grassrootsfund.org