

New England
Grassroots
Environment
Fund



*Protecting
the environment
and practicing
democracy*

2002 ANNUAL REPORT

New England Grassroots Environment Fund

The New England Grassroots Environment Fund is a unique funder/activist collaborative that provides seed grants for voices at the local level that traditional philanthropy does not reach. A mix of grassroots activists and representatives of the funding community make up the Board of Directors and the Grantmaking Committee. While members of the Board and Grantmaking Committee serve as individuals, their collective backgrounds guide NEGEF with a creative blend of worldviews.

2002 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Theodore M. Smith – Henry P. Kendall Foundation – President (*Funder*)

Stephen M. Miller – Islesboro Islands Trust – Vice President (*Activist*)

Richard H. Davison – Sudbury Foundation – Secretary/Treasurer (*Funder*)

Paul Bruhn – Preservation Trust of Vermont (*Activist*)

Bernadette Del Chiaro – Toxics Action Center (*Activist*)

Dini Merz – Tremaine Foundation (*Funder*)

Gioia Perugini – Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust (*Funder*)

William Shutkin – New Ecology (*Activist*)

2002 GRANTMAKING COMMITTEE

Matthew Donahue – Donahue Charitable Foundation (*Funder*)

Valentine Doyle – Lawson Valentine Foundation (*Funder*)

Karen Feldman – Youth in Action, Rhode Island (*Activist*)

Benno Friedman – Cloud Mountain Foundation (*Funder*)

Brian Hart – Three Rivers Coalition, New Hampshire (*Activist*)

Michael Herz – Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association, Maine (*Activist*)

Lisa Goldman Huertas – Greater Boston Environmental Justice Network, Massachusetts (*Activist*)

Fred Kosnitsky – Vermont Earth Institute, Vermont (*Activist*)

Sam McClure – Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice, Connecticut (*Activist*)

Mariella Tan Puerto – Barr Foundation (*Funder*)

STAFF:

Cheryl King Fischer, *Executive Director*

Linn Perkins Syz, *Program Administrator*

Ginny Callan, *Program Officer*

Andy Robinson, *Training & Outreach Director*

Welcome to the best environmental perch in New England. Grantmaking at the New England Grassroots Environment Fund is where local activists connect. It's a place where everyday folks receive not only financial and moral support, but also validation that their voices count. NEGEF is where we protect the environment and practice democracy, where we applaud organizing up for policies and down for power, where citizen engagement brings real change – town by town, neighborhood by neighborhood – and where most of the time NIMBY means Neighbors in Many Backyards. In a nutshell, NEGEF supports environmental and social change through local action. We firmly believe that our grantees are making a genuine difference.

In early 1995, the Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust, the Island Foundation, the Henry P. Kendall Foundation and the John Merck Fund asked the New England environmental community about the state of the environmental movement in the region. The responses clarified and reinforced the need for greater attention to community-based environmental activism. They reaffirmed that grassroots groups are marginally integrated into the mainstream environmental movement and their size often makes them invisible to the environmental grantmaking community. Yet fueled by energy, creativity and commitment, grassroots activists are key to an environmentally responsible democracy.

Joined by the Sudbury Foundation, the Davis Conservation Foundation, the Massachusetts Environmental Trust and the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation (NHCF), these forward thinking philanthropic entities launched NEGEF in 1996, first as a donor advised fund housed at NHCF. We incorporated as a public charity in 2000. Two dozen private and community foundations are part of this funder/activist collaborative that is governed by individuals skilled in philanthropy and others seasoned by years of community activism.

Today, 1126 applications and 625 grants of over \$1 million later, we do have a unique perspective of how environmental issues are playing out across the region. Sprinkled throughout this report are grantee stories, lessons learned and questions to which we still seek answers. Now more than ever, citizens need to get off their couches and become engaged in local affairs. Democracy is only as strong as its base. NEGEF is proud to be part of its foundation.



Theodore M. Smith, *President, 2000-2002*



Rich Davison, *President, 2005*



Cheryl King Fischer, *Executive Director*

NEGEF MISSION

The **New England Grassroots Environment Fund** is designed to foster and give voice to community-based environmental initiatives in New England. The furthering of an environmental ethic based on stewardship and citizen involvement is dependent upon the support and maintenance of a vibrant and diverse grassroots network. By investing in grassroots efforts, this Fund will enhance community participation in local and regional environmental issues.

NEGEF PURPOSE

The Fund's mission and goals focus on three elements or lenses that define its niche and distinguish the Fund from other programs. Our grantmaking decisions look to the following three criteria, although not all grants meet all three tests equally. Projects must:

- ~ **Be Grassroots-Based** (have local focus, be mostly volunteer driven, and be below the radar of traditional funders);
- ~ **Promote Civic Activism** (nurture democracy, foster community organizing, identify, encourage and support emerging leaders, encourage public engagement in local affairs); and
- ~ **Solve Environmental Problems** (implement laws, hold public officials, business and individuals accountable, change public behaviors, and build healthy and sustainable communities).

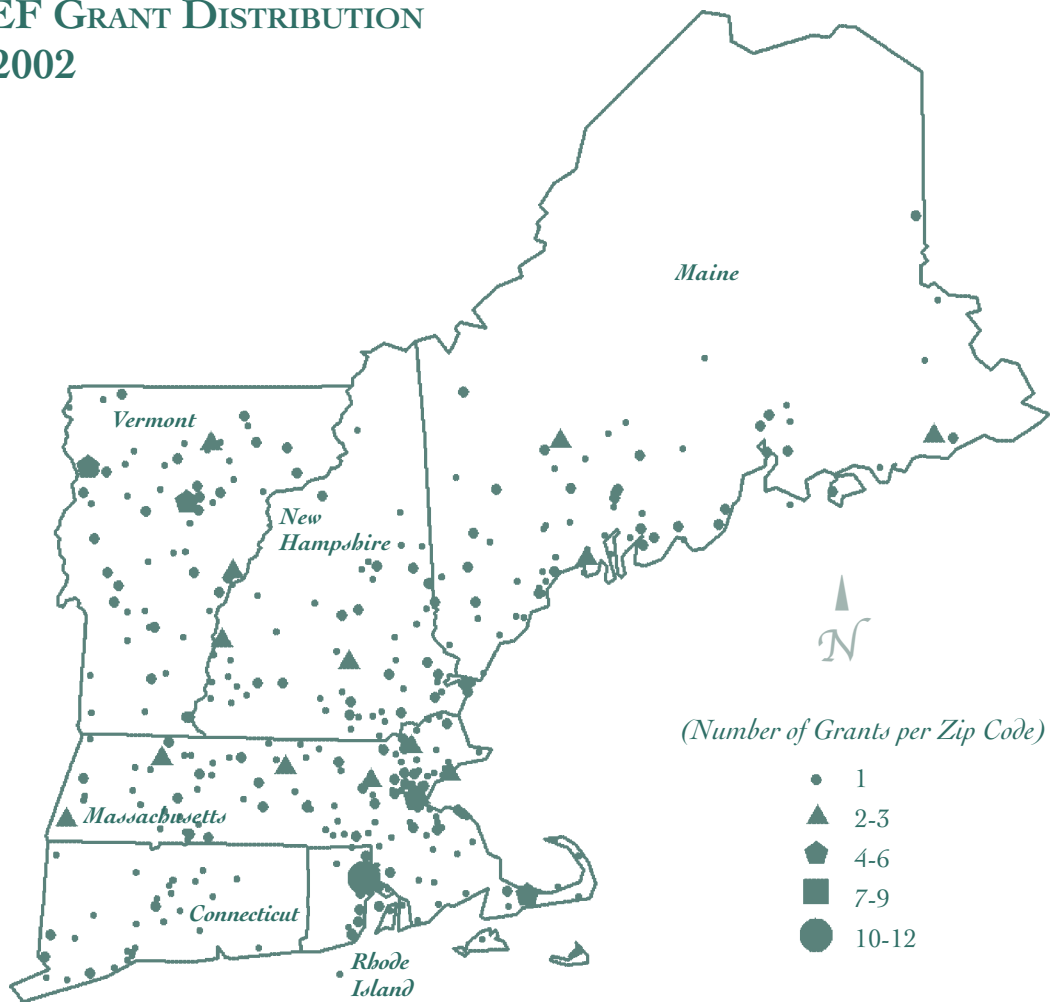


Shawsheen River Watershed Association (Tewksbury, MA) members collect tires during their annual river clean-up.



Nuestras Raíces (Holyoke, MA) gardeners tending their community gardens.

NEGEF GRANT DISTRIBUTION 1996-2002



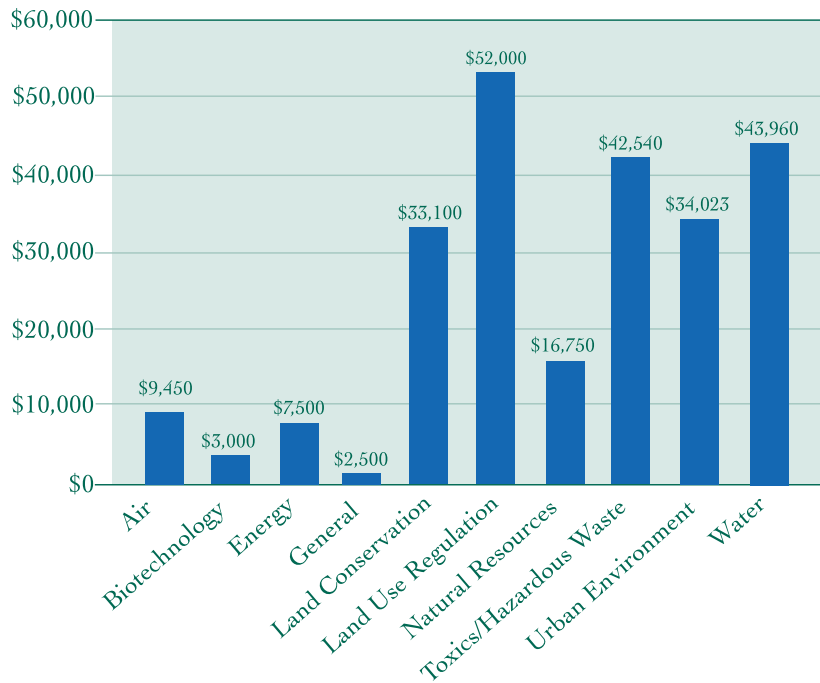
(Number of Grants per Zip Code)

- 1
- ▲ 2-3
- ⬠ 4-6
- 7-9
- 10-12

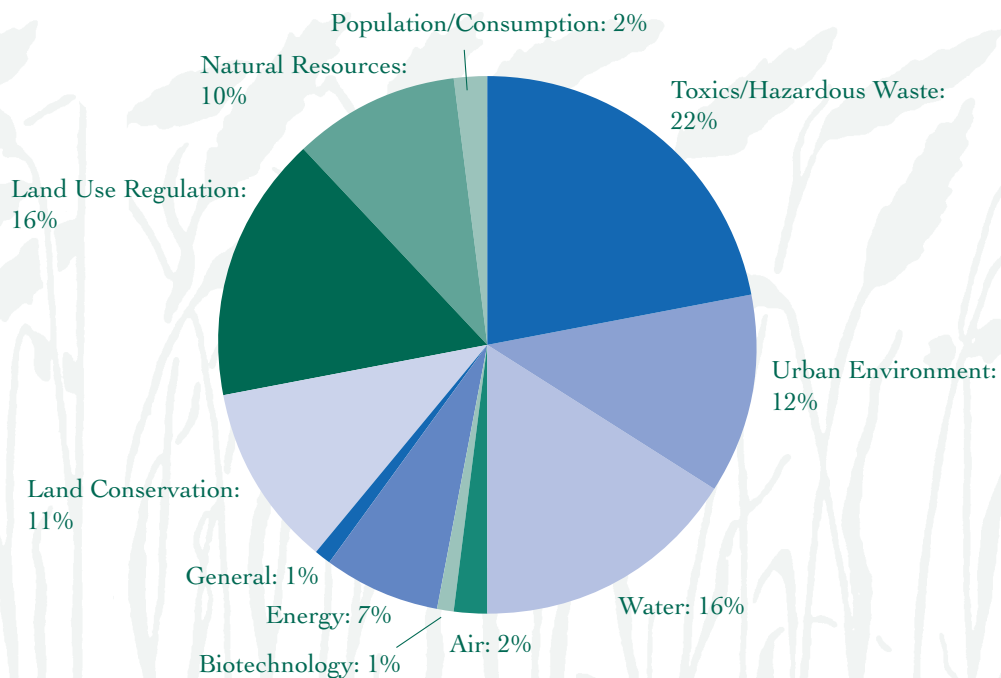
	2002	1996-2002
Total Number of Grants*	133	625
Massachusetts	38	210
Maine	26	119
Vermont	20	119
New Hampshire	17	89
Rhode Island	16	50
Connecticut	16	38
Total Dollars Distributed*	\$ 244,823	\$ 1,149,966
Massachusetts	\$ 69,910	\$ 395,506
Maine	\$ 49,500	\$ 220,303
Vermont	\$ 41,273	\$ 209,993
New Hampshire	\$ 26,250	\$ 150,070
Rhode Island	\$ 27,390	\$ 97,914
Connecticut	\$ 30,500	\$ 76,180

*Grantmaking extended to Rhode Island in 1999, Connecticut in 2000.

2002 GRANTS: AMOUNTS AWARDED BY ISSUE



1996-2002 GRANTS: PERCENTAGES OF GRANTS BY ISSUE



NEW ENGLAND GRASSROOTS ENVIRONMENT FUND

2002 GRANTS

CONNECTICUT

Advocates for a Maromas Plan – Middletown \$2,500

To create and promote a plan for the sustainable development and environmental protection of the Maromas lands.

Canary Committee – Newtown \$2,000

To promote practices and resources that protect children and school personnel from harmful substances found in schools.

Citizens for Responsible Growth – Storrs \$2,000

To develop a membership base of 100 local citizens who will become educated about issues around University of Connecticut construction projects and their impacts on the environment and the quality of life for local citizens.

Citizens Power Alert! – New Britain \$2,000

To stop a proposed power plant that is sited in the middle of a residential neighborhood.

CT Chapter of Citizens Awareness Network – Haddam \$1,000

To support CT CAN's intervening with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Board against Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Company with regard to its License Termination Plan.

Downing Street Block Watch #855 – New Haven \$1,000

To oppose the construction of a trash transfer station less than a 1/2 mile from the neighborhood which includes a public housing project, a number of day-care facilities, an elementary school and senior housing.

Ecological Health Organization – Berlin \$1,000

To support "Project Ladybug", a program designed to educate licensed day care operators about the dangers and use of pesticides and the benefits of using Integrated Pest Management.

Interreligious Eco-Justice Network – Hartford \$1,000

To begin a Youth Initiative within the religious communities to educate and activate the youth of Connecticut through outreach to youth groups.

"NEGEF has been one of the biggest supporters of the New Haven Environmental Justice Network. We have moved to the forefront of environmental decision-making in the city. The mayor regularly contacts the Network, and we have strong support from the Board of Aldermen."

— Dr. Mark Mitchell, N.H.E.J.N.

Manchester Area Residents Concerned About Health – Manchester \$2,000

To stop the construction of a concrete plant and shut down the existing asphalt operation.

Mattabeset River Watershed Association – Kensington \$2,500

To conduct outreach to streamside property owners, educating them about and promoting the establishment and maintenance of riparian buffers.

Neighbors Opposed to Residential Atomic Dumps – Haddam Neck \$2,500

To build community support for a safe, secure and environmentally responsible solution for storage of high-level radioactive waste generated during the 28 years of operation of the Connecticut Yankee nuclear power plant in Haddam, CT.

New Haven Environmental Justice Network – New Haven \$2,500

To help fund a campaign to educate residents of New Haven about the epidemic asthma rates facing the city, links to the environment, and steps people can take to protect their health.

Newhall Coalition – Hamden \$1,750

To help fund a study to assess the health of residents in a neighborhood built over a landfill that had received both household waste and industrial waste from the Winchester Repeating Arms Company.

Bangor Area Citizens Organized for Responsible Community Development (BACORD), Bangor, Maine

Thirty citizens organized BACORD in September 2000 after hearing about a proposed WalMart Superstore, a 5-acre building with a 13.5-acre parking lot in an upland field abutting wetlands of the Penjajawoc Marsh. By the time the Bangor Planning Board met in April 2001 to consider the application, BACORD had educated the community about the valuable ecosystem of the Penjajawoc Marsh, the state's richest freshwater wetland habitat. The Planning Board rejected the application, and the developer sued the city of Bangor. After the Superior Court found in favor of the developer, BACORD and Maine Audubon appealed the decision to the Maine Supreme Court. The potential impact on a wetland of statewide significance and the high level of public concern moved the case to the ten-member citizen Board of Environmental Protection (BEP). Both BACORD and Audubon gained legal status.



The BEP held an unprecedented six days of hearings in August and September 2002. BACORD members testified, and also presented a petition to the Bangor City Council with 2,100 signatures from citizens across the state who wanted the Penjajawoc Marsh protected from "inappropriate and destructive commercial large scale development".

On March 20, 2003 The Maine BEP voted 5-3 to deny the site permit based on lack of fit into the natural environment and inadequate compensation for loss of critical grassland habitat.

Although pleased with their "victory" over inappropriate development next to the fragile marsh, BACORD members continue to work with the city of Bangor on its comprehensive plan and on further marsh protection.

Northeast Organic Farmers Association/ Connecticut – Stevenson

\$2,500

To reach more of the public with information about the importance of and techniques for organic land care in response to rampant pesticide and synthetic fertilizer use.

Quinnipiac River Watershed Partnership & Q.R.W. Association– New Haven

\$2,500

To hire a professional trainer to help the two organizations in collaborative capacity building.

Solar Youth – New Haven

\$1,750

To support program costs of the Neighborhood Stewards Teams, after-school programs for youth from low-income communities who learn about their local environment and address problems through community service action projects.

MAINE

Androscoggin Lake Improvement Corp. – Wayne

\$1,500

To support the activities of the group, including the newsletter, fundraising and resource center in the office, that will support its campaign to protect Androscoggin Lake from polluted Androscoggin River water.

Aziscohos Lake Preservation Committee – Wilsons Mills

\$1,500

To conserve and protect Maine's outdoor heritage and natural resource assets by enforcing existing provisions of Aziscohos Hydroelectric Project's license and permits.

Bangor Area Citizens Organized for Responsible Development – Bangor

\$2,000

To protect the Penjajawoc Marsh from inappropriate big-box development on its upland borders.

Branch Pond Association – Winslow

\$1,000

To develop a GIS map of the lakeshed that incorporates existing land use and cover type information developed by Sheepscot Valley Conservation Assn., and add a layer that includes land ownership and boundary information in order to better protect the area from future development that could alter the water quality and scenic value.

Concerned Citizens of Whitefield – Whitefield

\$2,000

To stop the spreading of Class A Biosolid Sludge on land in Whitefield.

Concerned Pittston Citizens – Pittston

\$2,500

To publish four Pittston newsletters to educate the community about the consequences of sewage land dumping by a profit-making septic tank pumping company.

East Penobscot Bay Environmental Alliance – Deer Isle

\$2,500

To resist the siting of fish farms in the Penobscot Bay and to promote environmentally appropriate uses of East Penobscot Bay.

Eastern Trail Alliance – Saco

\$1,000

To support the organization's campaign for matching federal transportation funds to begin the Eastern Trail construction.

Farmington Area Local Foods – Chesterville

\$2,500

To rebuild a local agricultural economy through a grassroots local food awareness-building campaign through a directory, marketing workshops and newspaper supplements.

Friends of Bald Mountain Pond – Cornville

\$2,000

To increase public awareness concerning the possible development and loss of public access to Bald Mountain Pond and its surroundings.

Friends of Cox Pinnacle – Brunswick

\$2,500

To continue with the fundraising campaign to reach its goal of \$125,000 as matching funds for the purchase of a 105-acre parcel of land in Brunswick.

Friends of Midcoast Maine – Bath

\$2,500

To produce a communications package and conduct forums to create a greater awareness of the cost and consequences of the current patterns of growth/sprawl in midcoast Maine.

Friends of the Royal River – Pownal

\$1,500

To produce a brochure that will be used to educate people in the region about the organization and its newly expanded role in land conservation and to increase membership.

Herbicide Project – Farmington

\$2,500

To educate Maine residents about the extent and impact of use of herbicides in forestry, along roadsides, and on utility rights-of-way, and to assist them with reduction of herbicide applications in their communities.

Leeds and Livermore Falls Citizens Against Toxic Sludge – Livermore Falls

\$2,000

To support the petition filed with the Board of Environmental Protection to appeal the sludge license granted by the state and prevent future dumping in the community.

Lincoln County Trailblazers – Damariscotta

\$1,500

To fund a new program based on Maine Conservation Corps where youth and community members will volunteer and collaborate with local land trusts on conservation projects.

Loon Echo Land Trust – Bridgton

\$2,500

To help fund membership development and community outreach to increase the visibility of the organization and educate the community about programs and events being offered, and to better manage the increasing numbers of members.

Maine Environmental Policy Institute – Hallowell

\$2,500

To help fund the Low Impact Forestry Training Project.

Maine NoSnare Task Force – Holden

\$1,000

To support its campaign to eliminate the neck snare from the Maine woods in 2005.

Maine Rivers – Augusta

\$2,500

To organize and conduct three regional meetings of local river advocates to get input on river classification and to help them understand the policy process so they can better protect their local rivers.

Organization for Watershed Living – Houlton

\$2,500

To help establish the only publicly-accessible Geographic Information System and related mapping ability in the Meduxnekeag River Watershed and southern Aroostook County.

"You are a nurturing presence and source of support and we very much appreciate that. Without you and Natural Resources Council of Maine and Toxics Action Center we would have no idea how to find our power and make a difference in protecting the environment.

*— Molly Saunders,
Androscoggin Lake Improvement Corp*

Penobscot Alliance for Mercury Elimination – Verona

\$1,500

To ensure that citizens' voices are heard during the 45-day comment period on proposed clean-up standards for the HoltraChem plant that polluted the Penobscot River over thirty years with mercury, pesticides and other chemicals.

Portland Pesticide Watch – Portland

\$2,000

To launch a campaign to stop the spraying of the pesticide Roundup on the city's sidewalks and streets.

Saco Bay Trails – Ocean Park

\$1,000

To replace the bog bridges at the beginning of the White Dot trail and build a raised walkway as the trail nears the marsh.

Three Rivers Land Trust – Acton

\$1,000

To establish a framework, methodology and implementation plan for regional open space preservation/prioritization within the five-town Three River Land Trust region.

Woodie Wheaton Land Trust – Forest City

\$2,000

To build membership and broaden support in the Chiputneticook Lakes region to garner the financial strength to support the Spednic Lake/St. Croix River Project.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston Global Action Network – Boston

\$1,000

To carry out a campaign called "Shoppers Unite for Safe Food and Workers' Rights" advocating for genetically engineered-free food and union representation at local supermarkets.

Boston Urban Asthma Coalition – Dorchester

\$1,000

To host community meetings with parents of children with asthma to address the issues of healthy homes and school diesel buses.

Brookline GreenSpace Alliance – Brookline

\$1,500

To help the Alliance increase and expand its organizational capacity so it can better serve the Brookline community in protecting and caring for its many parks and open spaces.

Campaign to Protect Chinatown – Boston

\$2,500

To provide residents of Chinatown with the technical assistance needed to combat the luxury skyscrapers that are being built and proposed.

Cape Clean Air – Sandwich

\$1,750

To support Cape Clean Air's efforts to reach its ultimate goal of improved air quality for Cape Cod and the New England region.

Cell No! Committee of Jones Hill – Dorchester

\$2,000

To help fund the group's campaign to keep a cell tower out of Jones Hill.

Chestnut Hill Reservoir Coalition – Brighton

\$2,500

To insure and promote the preservation, public ownership and community access to the Chestnut Hill Reservoir.

Citizens for the Preservation of Upton – Upton

\$2,500

To help fund the campaign to educate the public about a proposed biomedical hazardous medical waste treatment facility.

Citizens for the Preservation of Wellfleet – Wellfleet

\$1,000

To stop a regional industrial garbage processing and "compost" manufacturing plant from processing solid waste, commercial solid waste and treated sewage sludge into Type I compost to be sold.

Citizens Research & Environmental Watch – Concord

\$2,500

To fund community outreach expenses to provide citizens with information about CREW and the ongoing cleanup at Starmet Corporation, a Superfund site.

Coalition for the Health of Aggregate Industries Neighbors – Swampscott

\$2,500

To obtain independently certified test lab data to determine the effects of discharges into Fosters Pond from various industrial operations underway at the local quarry.

Concerned Citizens Network – Wilmington

\$1,000

To help fund a public forum to update the community on the group's campaigns to clean up toxic sites in the area and on a study of childhood cancers that are above the average rate.

Concerned Citizens of Stoughton – Stoughton

\$1,250

To support the Citizens as they lead a proactive response opposing the proposed development of the Goddard Woods.

**Egleston Square Neighborhood Association –
Jamaica Plain**

\$2,500

To continue its organizing efforts for the Peace Garden.

Hampden Land Project – Hampden

\$1,300

To help fund the campaign to preserve a 166-acre parcel of land for sale as Phase II of the “Save Minnechaug Mountain” campaign.

**Hoosic River Watershed Association –
Williamstown**

\$2,000

To fund a computer-based slide show and text about the proposed reconfiguration of the flood control chutes in Adams that will restore trout habitat.

Island Futures Group – Newburyport

\$2,500

To help fund “Project Waterweb”, a multi-year project to protect and restore the Merrimack River estuary.

Loyal Citizens of Plainville Association – Plainville

\$2,500

To launch a campaign to educate citizens of Plainville about where their water comes from and about the risk of contamination of their public water source from two hazardous waste sites in Plainville, and implement zoning and planning by-laws to protect all the water resources in Plainville.

Mashpee Environmental Coalition – Mashpee

\$1,000

To conduct outreach activities designed to foster local interest and environmental activism via a broader community understanding of existing and potential ecological threats.

**Massachusetts Climate Action Network –
Arlington**

\$2,500

To assist municipal-level climate action groups throughout Massachusetts to develop their organizations, increase their influence on local governments, and achieve concrete reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from the local areas.

Mendon Clean Water Action Committee – Mendon

\$1,750

To test the soil being used for fill at a site near thirty homes that have shown high levels of lead in their well water.

**Neighborhood Pesticide Action Committee –
Jamaica Plain**

\$2,500

To encourage a healthier, pesticide-free community to assure the safest possible open space and natural environments.

The long term impact is not yet determined. However, we can state that there is clearly a growing concern and support for environmental issues which did not exist in Ayer prior to PACE's activities ... NEGEF's support for 'out of pocket' expenses offered encouragement when those fighting these battles have already given so much in sweat equity."

— Laurie Nebring, PACE

**Neighbors Opposed to a Polluted Environment –
Lexington**

\$1,000

To help sustain and supplement the organization's Woburn wetland appeal to prevent the development of Winning Farm.

Orenda Wildlife Land Trust – West Barnstable

\$1,200

To help pay for a professional consultant to lead the Trust's board and staff in the process of a self-reflective organizational assessment as a basis for an organizational development plan.

Palmer River Watershed Alliance – Rehoboth

\$2,010

To continue a comprehensive water quality monitoring program to protect and enhance the health and beauty of the Palmer River and its tributaries.

People for the Environment – North Andover

\$2,500

To support the organization's threefold mission to end the siting of more corporate polluters in the Merrimack Valley, establish standards to attract clean businesses, and negate the need for expanding existing incinerators and landfills by increasing the recycling rate in the community.

**People of Ayer Concerned about the Environment
(PACE) – Ayer**

\$2,000

To prevent the construction of an auto-unloading facility that will place 1.5 million square feet of asphalt directly above the primary aquifer adjacent to Spectacle Pond, one of Ayer's two sources of water.

Roxbury Airplane Pollution Committee – Roxbury

\$2,500

To educate residents about increased nuisance levels associated with Logan Airport's runway 27 departure flight path redesign and about ways to fight back.

**Shawsheen River Watershed Association –
Tewksbury**

\$2,500

To support the ongoing tire removal program to improve navigation, assist the channel in returning to its natural state and add to the beauty of the river.

Stoneham Environmental Action – Stoneham

\$1,800

To conduct an outreach campaign about the harmful effects and potential health risks associated with pesticides.

**Urban Garden Resources of Worcester –
Worcester**

\$1,500

To help fund the coordinator who will provide technical support, organize public events, coordinate garden stewards and grow and distribute organic seedlings for new and existing gardens.

Washington Street Corridor Coalition – Roxbury

\$2,000

To support its campaign to advocate for a new transit service that will be an equitable replacement for the Orange Line in Boston.

**Watchdogs for an Environmentally Safe Town –
Westminster**

\$1,250

To continue its work to oppose the expansion of a ski resort on Mt. Wachusett State Reservation and its watch dogging of environmental hazards in central Massachusetts.

**Watertown Citizens for Environmental Safety –
Watertown**

\$1,000

To build a portable, attention-commanding exhibit for educating Watertown residents about the health and environmental risks of pesticides.

Wenham Lake Watershed Association – Beverly

\$2,500

To hire a summer intern to work on a variety of projects, including the three original contaminated sites near Wenham Lake, industrial pollution at the former Varian Corp. site in North Beverly which is a potential threat to Wenham Lake, and areas around the water treatment plant in Beverly.

**Westborough Community Land Trust –
Westborough**

\$1,600

To support hiring a professional facilitator to conduct a strategic planning retreat which is intended to produce board consensus on land to acquire, a budget for acquisition and a commitment to raise the funds.

White Oak Land Conservation Society – Jefferson

\$500

To conduct a direct mail campaign to over 8000 households in two towns to increase membership and get the word out about local land conservation efforts.

Woburn Neighborhood Association – Woburn

\$2,500

To stop the Woburn Landfill capping operation until the fill can be tested and deemed environmentally safe.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Bear-Paw Regional Greenways – Deerfield

\$2,000

To support its annual meeting, as well as build on past projects already supported by NEGEF.

Chocorua Lake Association – Chocorua

\$2,500

To help fund an AmeriCorps volunteer for a second year to help with efforts to maintain water quality, preserve open land and inform the public of the need to protect the important resources in the Ossipee watershed.

Committee to Preserve Windham – Windham

\$2,500

To help fund an appeal of a multi-service traffic-intensive complex proposal to the New Hampshire Supreme Court.

Concerned Cheshire Citizens – Gilsum

\$1,500

To fund the legal action of writing an Amicus Brief in support of CLF's case against the NHDOT's traffic design that will impact 50 acres of wetlands.

Exeter – A Special Place – Exeter

\$750

To implement an extensive communication program to educate citizens about the importance of the initiative to permanently protect some of the remaining developable land that is of significant value to the community.

Friends of Fort Constitution – New Castle

\$1,250

To insure that UNH plans to build a pier and building adjacent to a small historic residential community are reviewed and implemented for the benefit of all the site stakeholders.

Friends of Trout Pond – Freedom

\$1,250

To protect a 2000-acre parcel that abuts conservation land from being sold to a developer.

Hampstead Preservation Committee – Hampstead
\$1,000

To continue to follow development proposals in town to ensure that town and state procedures are complied with and that the town planning board considers the resulting impact on the surrounding residential area.

Mount Washington Valley CSA – Center Conway
\$1,500

To formulate a clear and concise three-year plan for the direction of the CSA.

Ossipee Lake Alliance – Freedom
\$1,250

To expand and solidify its membership to continue its community outreach efforts and become the first permanent organization dedicated to protecting the natural environment of the bays and connecting waters of Ossipee Lake.

Piscataquog Watershed Association – New Boston
\$1,500

To support the programs of the Piscataquog Watershed Association, including water quality monitoring, purple loosestrife awareness and streambank restoration.

Rye Open Space Committee – Rye
\$750

To help fund a comprehensive outreach program for land protection initiatives.

Save Our Groundwater – Barrington
\$2,500

To safeguard the health and environmental integrity of the community by actively involving citizens and motivating them to take appropriate action to defeat a proposed water-bottling plant that will withdraw water from a fractured bedrock aquifer.

Save Our Neighborhoods Committee – Derry
\$1,000

To raise funds to purchase a conservation easement on 85 acres of farmland.

Save Our Town – Bedford
\$2,500

To stop the development of a proposed 264,000 square foot shopping development, stop sprawl and preserve the historic value of the community.

Seacoast Anti-Pollution League – Portsmouth
\$1,500

To organize a public forum to address the question, "What emergency responses are set up to protect the public along the Seacoast in the case of a nuclear incident?"

Save Our Groundwater Barrington, New Hampshire

Save Our Groundwater (SOG) formed in August 2001 in response to a water bottling company's proposal to withdraw 439,000 gallons of water a day from the fractured bedrock aquifer beneath their town. Less than two years old, 50-75 local residents attend SOG's monthly meetings and over 1000 citizens can be mobilized to voice their concerns.

SOG's volunteers are creative, energetic, clever and committed.

SOG gathered the scientific evidence, found other communities facing similar challenges, linked, shared technical information and built their case. SOG also found that current New Hampshire surface and groundwater rules do not adequately protect the public's interest in these resources.

Tenaciously, SOG has increased public awareness throughout New Hampshire about water as a public trust. A model of citizen activism, the group is everywhere - leafleting, organizing public workshops, maintaining a web site (www.saveourgroundwater.org), tabling at numerous fairs, making presentations to a range of community groups, issuing press releases, holding press conferences and picketing in front of the proposed bottling plant.

Environmental problem solved? Not yet, but SOG has brought the unfolding debate around "Blue Gold" home to Nottingham and Barrington. State legislators introduced legislation to better govern commercial water withdrawals from groundwater resources. Save our Groundwater is a group of tireless citizens bringing water resource protection to a boil in New Hampshire.



“Receiving the NEGEF grant affirmed our organization’s goals and encouraged us to make them a reality. Writing the grant helped us to outline outreach goals and receiving it helped us to achieve them. The grant has made all the difference in the success of our organization.

*—Denise Hart,
Save Our Groundwater*

Stratham Our Town – Stratham

\$1,000

To fund newsletter printing and mailing to educate citizens about the economic and tax advantages of open space.

RHODE ISLAND

Allin's Cove Neighborhood Coalition – Barrington

\$1,250

To gather information on storm water outlets and outfalls emptying into Allin's Cove and prioritize sites for remediation with prime concern for adequate construction space.

Burnett Community Garden – Providence

\$2,500

To install a water source and replace and extend the front fence in the garden.

Concerned Communities Coalition – North Kingstown

\$2,500

To continue educating the public at large, including elected officials, about the environmental, economic and quality of life implications of a proposed container port at Quonset Point.

Cumberland Concerned Citizens – Cumberland

\$2,500

To oppose the development of a golf course plus 288 condominiums and apartments on a 228-acre parcel that has been identified in the town plan as land to be protected.

Defenders of Greenwich Bay – Warwick

\$2,500

To appeal the ruling of the Coastal Resources Management Committee to permit an expansion of the Greenwich Bay Marina.

Friends of Donigian Park – Providence

\$1,500

To continue various programs and activities to help maintain a safe, clean park space and improve the quality of life for neighborhood residents.

Friends of India Point Park – Providence

\$2,500

To expand India Point Park by raising public awareness of the park through newsletters, public meetings and a more visual presence in the community.

Friends of Manton Miracle – Providence

\$1,500

To organize events during the year to bring positive programming to the park site and to mobilize the community to take responsibility for its upkeep and safety throughout the year.

Laurel Park Improvement Association – Warren

\$2,000

To implement a marsh restoration program that will eradicate invasive, non-native plant species in the Kickemuit River marshland.

Mill Cove Neighbors Association – Warwick

\$1,500

To help fund legal assistance to stop the development of environmentally sensitive lots on Mill Cove.

**Northeast Organic Farming Association/
Rhode Island – Providence**

\$1,000

To reenergize the organization through a membership drive, board development training and an annual winter conference.

Pesticide Action Team – Providence

\$2,000

To fund training sessions and printed materials about alternatives to toxic pesticides for all Southside Land Trust community gardeners in anticipation of a spring 2005 ban on non-organic pesticides.

“The park has become cleaner and safer. Residents have gotten to know one another and work together solving problems...The grant has definitely made a difference in the quality of life for many neighbors, instilling a sense of empowerment over their lives.”

*—Chris Della Ventura,
Friends of Donigian Park*

Project Outreach at Washington Park – Providence
\$1,250

To continue Project Outreach's community garden that encourages efficient, self-reliant and sustainable food sources and to build raised beds so that the elderly and handicapped can participate.

Rhode Island Assn. of Conservation Commissions – Cranston
\$1,000

To help fund a series of training workshops for member commissioners of all of Rhode Island's 59 cities and towns to enhance local protection of natural resources.

Somerset Community Garden – Providence
\$650

To repair the fence around the community garden that includes over 70 plots, two common areas with picnic tables and a tool shed.

Wakefield Elementary PTO – Wakefield
\$1,240

To buy recycling bins for all 248 of the school's families.

VERMONT

Brattleboro Climate Protection Coalition – Brattleboro
\$1,200

To develop the project volunteer base and to increase volunteers' ability to accomplish significant outreach to address the problem of global climate change by actively participating in the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign.

Capital Area Land Trust – Montpelier
\$2,500

To take a leading role promoting a proactive response to the proposed development of Sabin's Pasture, a critical parcel in a proposed trail corridor between Montpelier and East Montpelier.

Citizens for Safe Farming – Charlotte
\$2,000

To help fund the campaign to oppose a new "factory" farm for 2500 cattle with a 5-acre manure lagoon.

Clarendon Neighbors Civic Assn. – Clarendon Springs
\$2,500

To continue to oppose the siting of a heavily industrial asphalt plant in a residential/commercially zoned area of the town.

Concerned Citizens of Franklin County – Highgate Center
\$2,000

To support the group's organizing work around opposing the expansion of Vermont Egg Farm and other Large Farm Operations.

Southside Community Land Trust and Its Community Gardens (Providence, Rhode Island)

Somerset Street, Burnett Street, Peace Street and Potters Avenue. What do these public ways have in common? They are part of the network of over 250 community gardens in Providence, Rhode Island supported by the Southside Community Land Trust.

Urban environmental work is very different from suburban and rural citizen efforts. Neighborhood initiatives often need the support and guidance of larger organizations. NEGEF partners with these urban organizations, supporting projects of the neighborhood groups, because we are dedicated to building the broadest network



of citizen activists as possible. The cultural perspective of city-dwellers enriches our understanding of environ-

mental justice, the cross over between environmental issues and public health and food self-sufficiency, to name a few.

Like local groups throughout the region, the gardeners at Somerset, Burnett, Peace and Plenty and Potters Avenue Community Gardens are working to improve their local environment. The variety of produce grown in the gardens reflects the ethnic diversity of the 140 garden families who are increasing their economic independence and growing healthy food. At the same time, the gardeners are creating and maintaining green spaces across the City and becoming a voice that will advocate for integrating gardens and open space into new community development.

Friends of Burlington Area Community Gardens – Burlington

\$2,373

To identify, categorize, catalog, map and prioritize potential new garden sites in the city and advocate for their creation.

Friends of Pittsford Village – Pittsford

\$2,000

To support the continuing campaign to counter the proposed relocation of the U.S. Post Office from its present location in the village.

Friends of the Winooski River – Montpelier

\$1,200

To help fund the fifth annual “Celebrate the Winooski!” festival.

Garfield/Hyde Park Neighbors Alliance – Hyde Park

\$2,000

To help pay for on-going litigation to stop the construction of a 180-foot cell tower.

Jericho Underhill Land Trust – Jericho

\$1,500

To support a workshop for board members on conservation easements.

Mount Holly Mountain Watch – Mount Holly

\$2,500

To continue the appeal of an Act 250 permit for the expansion of the Okemo Ski Area.

Mud City Conservation Corps – Morristown

\$2,500

To appeal a permit granted by the Morristown Development Review Board for a subdivision of a 111-acre parcel of land in an “off the beaten path” part of the rural town.

Neighbor to Neighbor: Natural Resources Protection Group – South Burlington

\$1,500

To protect the Potash Brook and an adjoining wetland from additional runoff and toxic pollution from a proposed development of condominiums and apartments.

Nulhegan Gateway Association – East Burke

\$1,500

To send a team to a day-long training, “Balancing Nature and Commerce in Gateway Communities of the Northern Forest: A Community Sustainability Training Program”, to learn about land conservation and sustainable forestry as tools to protect the resource.

“The outcome is, as yet, unknown. However, in view of the steadily growing support of the Friends’ position, we are satisfied our efforts are worthwhile... The support of NEGEF gave us the impetus to go forward, and we are determined to carry this case as far as necessary. To do otherwise would leave us wondering if we might have saved our Village from losing its character forever.”

*— Peggy Armitage,
Friends of Pittsford Village*

Residents Opposing Quarries in Neighborhoods – Williamstown

\$2,000

To help fund the group’s participation in Act 250 hearings where they will present testimony against a proposed quarry and aggregate operation in an area surrounded by homes.

Stophesale – Brattleboro

\$2,500

To mobilize people to oppose the sale of the Vermont Yankee nuclear power station to Entergy Corporation rather than allowing its phasing out and shutdown within 10-12 years.

Vermont Bicycle and Pedestrian Coalition – Burlington

\$2,500

To provide support for starting an office with a paid part-time director.

Vermont Conservation Education Fund – Montpelier

\$2,500

To conduct a series of training sessions to identify, organize, train and motivate environmentalists to be more active participants in the political process.

Vermont Genetic Engineering Action Network – Montpelier

\$2,000

To continue VTGEAN’s public outreach work about genetic engineering by convening educational forums around the state and conducting trainings on grassroots organizing and public speaking for food and farm advocates.

Vermonters for a Clean Environment – Danby

\$2,500

To help fund the appeal of the wastewater discharge permit issued to OMYA, the largest user of pesticides in Vermont.

NEGEF FUNDING PARTNERS 1996 ~ 2002

Anonymous Donors (2)
 Beldon Fund
 Claneil Foundation
 Cloud Mountain Foundation
 Naomi & Nehemiah Cohen Foundation
 Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust
 Davis Conservation Fund
 Joseph & Eileen Donahue Foundation
 Howell Family Foundation
 Henry P. Kendall Foundation
 David L. Klein, Jr. Foundation
 Massachusetts Environmental Trust
 John Merck Fund
 Merck Family Fund
 New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
 Prince Charitable Trusts
 Prospect Hill Foundation
 Rhode Island Foundation
 Estate of Richard Simches
 Anna B. Stearns Foundation
 Sudbury Foundation
 Lawson Valentine Foundation

New England Grassroots Environment Fund 2002 Financial Statement

January 1, 2002 – December 31, 2002

Income

Anonymous #1	\$ 75,000
Anonymous #2	20,000
Claneil Foundation	10,000
Cloud Mountain Foundation	50,000
Naomi & Nehemiah Cohen Foundation	25,000
Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust	50,000
Joseph & Eileen Donahue Foundation	500
Henry P. Kendall Foundation	50,000
Massachusetts Environmental Trust	15,000
John Merck Fund	50,000
Merck Family Fund	39,721
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation	20,000
Prospect Hill Foundation	7,500
Rhode Island Foundation	5,000
Estate of Richard Simches	50,000
Sudbury Foundation	45,000
Lawson Valentine Foundation	12,000
Grant Return, Bank interest	4,662

TOTAL **\$ 529,383**

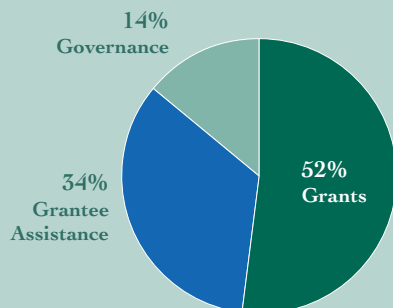
Expenses

Grants	\$ 244,823
Grantee Retreat/Trainings	52,472
Staff Salaries	182,880
Staff Benefits	35,024
Consultants	11,990
Rent/Utilities/Insurance	10,514
Office Expenses	13,767
Travel	13,636
Board/Grantmaking Meetings	11,168

TOTAL **\$ 576,274**

NET GAIN/LOSS (covered by cash reserve) **\$ (46,891)**

NEGEF 2002 PROGRAMMATIC BUDGET



Grants to Grassroots Groups

General Grants	\$ 244,823
Training Grants	26,527
Retreat	25,945
Subtotal	\$ 297,295

Grantee Assistance

Grantmaking – Staff time	\$ 119,764
Technical Assistance	49,068
Training Program	29,441
Subtotal	\$ 198,273

Governance

Administration	\$ 34,970
Program Development/Fundraising	45,734
Subtotal	\$ 80,704

Total 2002 Expenses **\$ 576,274**

GRANT GUIDELINES

Who are the Grassroots?

Applicants must be working at the grassroots level, and must demonstrate a major element of volunteer involvement in their programs. The Fund defines a grassroots group as one that is all or largely volunteer driven, having no more than two paid, full time staff persons or their equivalents, and an annual operating budget, including projects, of less than \$100,000. From time to time, the Fund may consider proposals from larger community-based groups for projects at the grassroots level.

Who is eligible?

Incorporated organizations (with or without established 501(c)(3) status) and unincorporated, ad hoc groups in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and Rhode Island may apply. Individuals are not eligible to apply. Loans will not be made.

What size grants will be made?

The Fund will make grants ranging in size from \$500 to \$2,500.

What types of projects or activities will be funded?

A broad range of activities will be funded. They include, but are not limited to: communication needs, computer networking, capacity building, advocacy campaigns, institutional support, conferences, meeting travel and enhancing partnerships in the region.

What types of projects or activities will not be funded?

NEGEF does not fund the following proposals: Educational curriculum and/or in-school projects, publication of books or reports, lobbying or partisan political activities, studies with no follow-up action, acquisition of land and/or buildings.

How will grant applications be judged?

Successful applicants will have:

- Earned credibility as a grassroots organization through community work which strengthens the role of local citizens in solving environmental problems or developing sound environmental policies;
- Identified a significant community need and developed a clear plan for translating that need into action;
- Developed a vision of the long-range impacts of their work; and
- Demonstrated an ability to account for the expenditure of funds.

When can organizations apply?

The Fund has three funding cycles per year. Proposals should be postmarked by January 15th for a March decision, May 1st for a June decision or September 15th for a November decision. In unusual circumstances, applications may receive immediate review if time is a critical element in effectively completing the project.

Application Form

The Fund uses an Application Form that is available upon request. The Application Form can also be downloaded from the Fund's website at www.grassrootsfund.org. Applicants should follow the application format and type the information into the appropriate sections. **The completed application (Cover Sheet, Narrative and Applicant Profile) should be no more than five (5) pages long.**

*Organize Now to Protect the
Environment and Practice Democracy!*



*Members of Coalition for the Health of Aggregate Industries Neighbors (C.H.A.I.N.)
protest truck traffic in their residential neighborhood.*



New England Grassroots Environment Fund

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