

# 2015



# of people directly served:

**2,405**  
*(group core volunteers, each with their story)*  
STORIES

\$s granted:

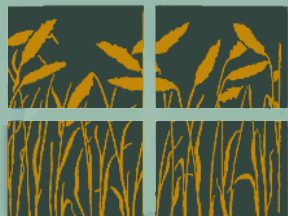
**\$336,245**  
*(Seed, Grow, Partner & Fiscal Sponsor grants)*  
DOLLARS

# webinar/workshop participants:

**735**  
*(through 19 webinars and 3 workshops)*  
TOOLS

% of ad hoc groups:

**58%**  
*(86 out of 150 grantee groups)*  
COLLABORATIVES



New England  
Grassroots  
Environment Fund

<http://grassrootsfund.org>

## 2015 Annual Report

We're honored to bring you our 2015 annual report; reflecting a tremendously robust and impactful year for the Grassroots Fund. We're admittedly proud of the successes in our first full year since the transition from our founding Executive Director, Cheryl King Fischer. While the staff and Board sought to hold steady to the organization's core work over the transition, fundamental program work was deepened and even expanded on several fronts that have aligned the organization for targeted growth of key strategies going forward. Notable accomplishments in 2015 included: doubling our trainings/networking events, expanding the regional energy hub pilot project, increasing our grant pool over 2014 numbers, co-hosting a convening of national and international grassroots grant makers and support organizations, and connecting more fully with grassroots efforts across New England.

Yet our greatest accomplishment remains the impacts of the grassroots leaders across New England for whom we design and deliver our grants programs and services. In the shadow of the impacts of climate change, the intransigence of race and class inequality, threats to clean and accessible drinking water, economic disparities and food insecurity, grassroots organizations are demanding and taking action now. We are humbled by your work and stand ready to adapt our own resources and programs to best align with your needs and goals.

As we celebrate our 20th anniversary this year, we respectfully ask our partners on the ground to continue to question and challenge OUR values, ensuring we live up the potential of the founding vision – that by working together to pool greater resources for vetted, targeted ground action and movement building for transformative change.

Thank you for partnering with us elevating the potential, the voice and the impact of local solutions that build more equitable, resilient and sustainable communities.

With warmest regards,

Julia Dundorf  
Executive Director



Vidya Tikku,  
President, Board of Directors



# GRASSROOTS TRENDS

## Regional Food System(s)

Food system work splits in to supply (gardens, community farms), demand (farmers markets, farm-to-school, eat local guides) and food security/ sovereignty (gleaning, food councils). Increasingly, we are seeing overlap with other issue areas as volunteer efforts are launching food coops.

Grassroots groups are also experimenting with the concept of Food as a Right, where towns and neighborhoods come together, regardless of economic class or race, to share a meal and build community.



Total # of Food Grantees: 75

Total \$s granted in Food: \$90,494

## Energy & Climate Justice

Grassroots Energy & Climate Action work ranges from weatherization campaigns to renewable energy. Identifying a need from communities, the Grassroots Fund worked with Vital Communities and other partners to deliver a Strategic Energy Action Toolkit to help grassroots groups prioritize key local projects. We increasingly see local work framed around democratizing clean energy options, including cooperative ownership and solarize campaigns that are launching in various communities.



Total # of Energy Grantees: 27

Total \$s granted in Energy: \$39,345

## New Economy

In partnership with the Institute for Policy Studies, the Grassroots Fund launched the New England New Economy (NENE) fund to support efforts focused on building community resilience and shaping a new economy that works for their community. Whether a community education series, time banks, mutual aid networks, local currencies or coop start-ups, grassroots are building viable economic alternatives based in renewed relationships with one another.



Total # of New Economy Grantees: 19

Total \$s granted in Economy: \$21,300

## Land & Water

Increasingly, Land & Water projects focus on topics like green infrastructure and how it impacts a community's resilience in the face of changing weather patterns. Groups are facing water rights issues and applying a rights based approach to land use decisions. Groups working on conserving significant lands are ideally finding partnerships with indigenous communities and stakeholders across the community.



Total # of Land/Water Grantees: 31

Total \$s granted in Land/Water: \$36,200

## Environmental Justice & Health

The Grassroots Fund believes that a just economy is one that is inclusive of all people while respecting and preserving the natural environment. We are supporting grassroots organizations that operate programs and campaigns rooted in inclusionary democratic principles to change the current unjust economic and extractive system, often reflected in fossil fuel energy extraction and infrastructure projects.



Total # of Health Grantees: 6

Total \$s granted in Health: \$10,000

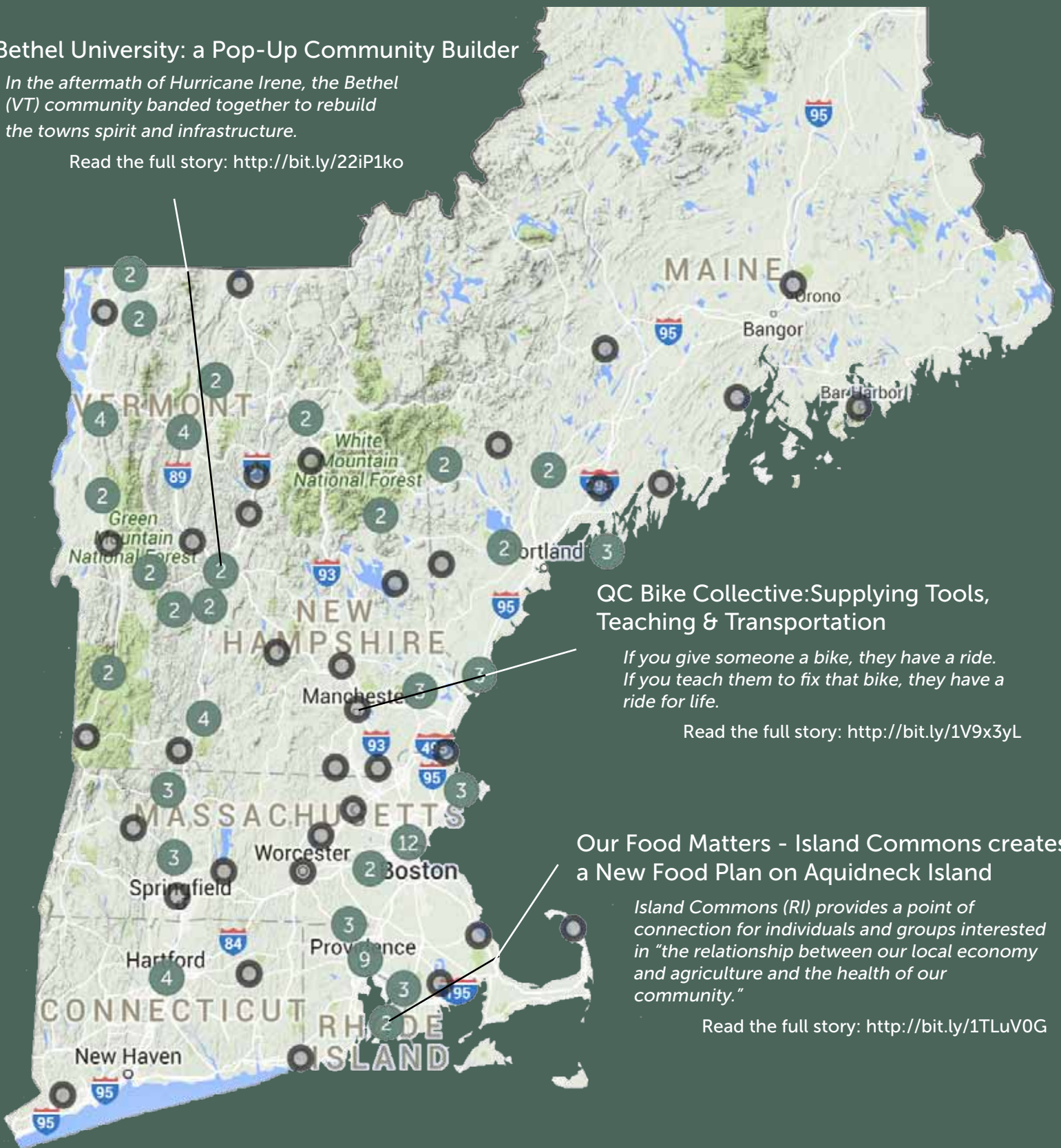


# GRASSROOTS MAP & STORIES

## Bethel University: a Pop-Up Community Builder

*In the aftermath of Hurricane Irene, the Bethel (VT) community banded together to rebuild the towns spirit and infrastructure.*

Read the full story: <http://bit.ly/22iP1ko>



## QC Bike Collective: Supplying Tools, Teaching & Transportation

*If you give someone a bike, they have a ride.  
If you teach them to fix that bike, they have a ride for life.*

Read the full story: <http://bit.ly/1V9x3yL>

## Our Food Matters - Island Commons creates a New Food Plan on Aquidneck Island

*Island Commons (RI) provides a point of connection for individuals and groups interested in "the relationship between our local economy and agriculture and the health of our community."*

Read the full story: <http://bit.ly/1TLuV0G>

For project descriptions of all 2015 grantee groups, please visit our filterable Groups Map and use 'Advanced Options - Grantee Year' at:

[www.grassrootsfund.org/stories/search](http://www.grassrootsfund.org/stories/search)

# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Grassroots Fund's mission is:

*To energize and nurture long-term civic engagement in local initiatives that create and maintain healthy, just, safe and environmentally sustainable communities.*

We seek to Inspire, Connect & Support local community volunteer groups through the following four programs:

## DOLLARS



### GOAL:

bring dollars directly to volunteer-driven (mostly unincorporated) community efforts

### PROGRAMS:

- \* *Seed grants*- targeting newly establishing projects
- \* *Grow grants* - targeting established efforts looking to deepen
- \* *Harvest grants* - targeting replication and long-term work
- \* *Fiscal Sponsor program* - supporting grantee groups bringing in additional dollars using the Grassroots Fund as their fiscal sponsor
- \* *Partner grants* - working with funding partners who have specific (issue) interests.



## STORIES

### GOAL:

share stories of innovative grassroots work to inspire replication

### PROGRAMS:

- \* *Grantee Map* - showing all grantee groups on a filterable online map
- \* *Feature Stories* - sharing on-the-ground stories and perspectives across issue
- \* *PEP Talks* - presenting local leaders/communities and broadcasting the impact of local work
- \* *Project Profiles* - profiling successful, vetted, local projects, their key milestones, challenges and tactics.

## TOOLS



### GOAL:

develop volunteer leadership skills to help build long-term local capacity

### PROGRAMS:

- \* *RootSkills Training Series* - offering webinars, workshops and retreats for volunteer leaders
- \* *Events* - highlighting partner conferences and events of interest to grassroots organizing
- \* *Tools & Resources* - connecting volunteer leaders to vetted, tested on-the-ground tools, How To manuals, websites, documents, in order to streamline access to useful support.



## COLLABORATIVES

### GOAL:

network with partner organizations to align grassroots support programs and resources

### PROGRAMS:

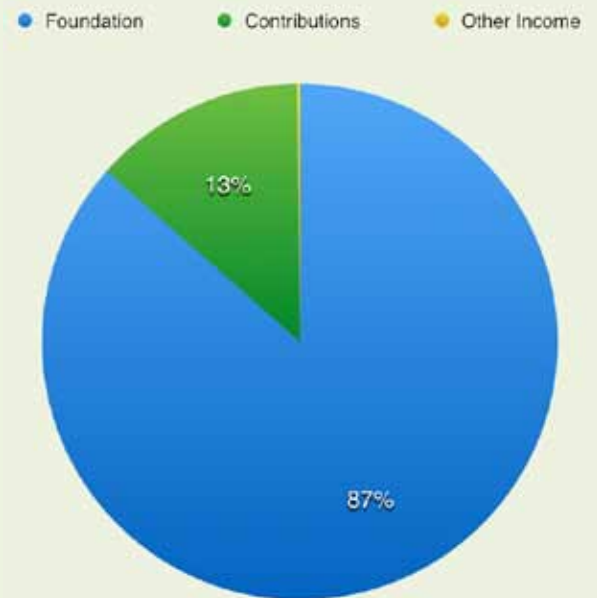
- \* *New England Local Energy Network & NH Local Energy Solutions Working Group* - are comprised of grassroots and "grass-tops" leaders committed to greater local action to further energy efficiency, renewable energy and climate change mitigation and resiliency efforts.
- \* *Food Solutions New England, New Economy Coalition & Funder Networks* - advocate for the needs of grassroots, spread successful models and encourage greater resource distribution.

# 2015 FINANCIALS

## Income

<i>Foundations</i>		
Restricted	-	\$ 887,305.00
Unrestricted	-	\$ 154,000.00
<i>Contributions</i>	-	\$ 44,287.70
<i>Fiscal sponsor contributions</i>	-	\$ 116,192.65
<i>Other income</i>	-	\$ 51,860.92
<i>Plus Transfer from Deferred Assets</i>	-	\$ 157,000.00
<i>Less Transfer to Deferred Assets</i>	-	(\$ 350,000.00)
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	-	<b>\$ 1,060,646.27</b>

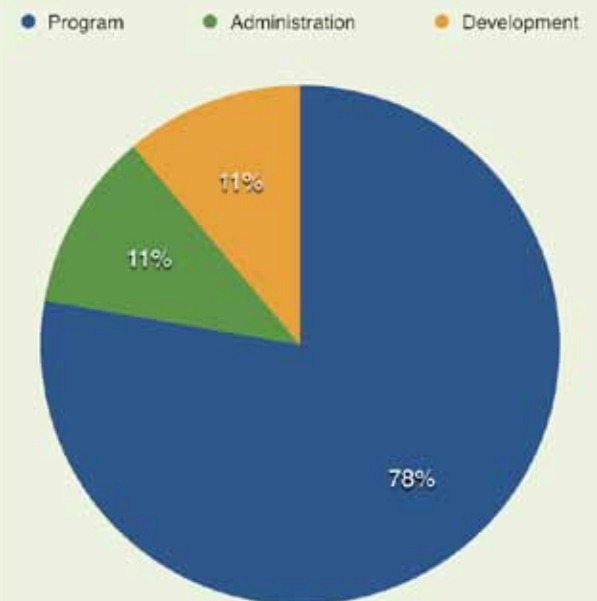
## Income by Category



## Expenses

<i>Grantmaking</i>		
Seed grants	-	\$ 88,989.00
Grow grants	-	\$ 78,250.00
Harvest grants	-	\$ -
Fiscal Sponsor grants	-	\$ 109,326.21
Partner grants	-	\$ 55,080.00
Total Grantmaking	-	\$ 331,645.21
<i>Grassroots Fund Events &amp; Meetings</i>	-	\$ 24,040.70
<i>Travel, Stipends, Sponsorships</i>	-	\$ 20,262.05
<i>Personnel</i>	-	\$ 280,895.79
<i>Contract Service Expenses</i>		
Program support/stipends	-	\$ 45,374.00
Website/sCMS	-	\$ 4,077.50
Workshop trainers	-	\$ 13,623.75
Other Contract Service Expenses	-	\$ 17,819.84
Total Contract Service Expenses	-	\$ 84,445.09
<i>Organizational &amp; Networking</i>	-	\$ 7,543.83
<i>Office Expenses</i>	-	\$ 43,710.17
<i>Capital Reserve Contribution</i>	-	\$ 20,000.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	-	<b>\$ 818,659.56</b>
<b>NET INCOME*</b>	-	<b>\$ 241,986.71</b>

## Expenses by Category



**\$0.78**

of every dollar goes to programming

**7**

new foundations joined the funder collaborative

**34%**

increase in total grant dollars out the door  
(2015 numbers compared to 2014)



# Our Donors

The following contributors provided support in 2015:

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The following foundations provided support in 2015:

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- Cloud Mountain Foundation
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- Jane's Trust
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  - Thomas W. Haas Fund
  - You have Our Trust Fund
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Susan Worgaftik  
Richard & Donna Wright  
Victoria Yoshen  
Cathy Zusy

# Thank you!

to everybody involved in making 2015 a very engaged year!

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Inspiring \* Connecting \* Supporting

local projects creating healthy, just, safe and  
environmentally sustainable communities

through



Grants

Stories



Webinars/Workshops

Tools/Resources



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[www.grassrootsfund.org](http://www.grassrootsfund.org)