



New England Grassroots Environment Fund

<http://grassrootsfund.org>

2012 Annual Report

2012



Across New England:

for the roots, from the roots



Our Mission:

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

<http://grassrootsfund.org>

2012 NEGEF Board

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Curtis Ogden (VP)
Ina Smith (S)
Jesús Gerena (T)
Denise Hart
Valentine Doyle
Rupert Friday
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Grantham

2012 Grantmaking Committee

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Josh Arnold
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Rob Garrity
Aaron Goode
Dave Madan
Elaine Wang
Glenn Oliviera

Dear Friends of NEGEF,

This 2012 Annual Report tells the stories of dozens of community grassroots groups that are part of a collective Story of Change.

Throughout history, it has been at the local level of change from which broader movements emerge. Today, communities across New England serve as incubators for new ideas and as platforms upon which our hopes for a sustainable future can be demonstrated. That shred of local inspiration or innovation is a seed that, when watered and cultivated, creates the ability to replace the old way of operating with new solutions.

Now some 1600+ groups strong across the New England region, each and every local effort is part of multiple environmental and sustainable community movements, all working to make our society more just, safe, and socially, economically and environmentally sustainable. These local solutions simultaneously build the foundational blocks of the larger social, economic and environmental justice movements. Though the efforts of local groups might seem small to some, these engaged citizens are indeed working hard to bring deep and lasting societal change to us all.

The Grassroots Fund continues to Inspire, Connect and Support grassroots groups with People, Dollars and Tools. NEGEF amplifies local change by way of its core services: grantmaking, skills trainings and networking. This past year, the Grassroots Fund also joined an increasing number of colleague organizations to integrate network theory and collective impact principals into our work. NEGEF continues its engagement in state and sub-state level Local Food Networks, a regional group of Resilience and Transition Town initiatives, and established for the first time this year the New England Local Energy Network, facilitated by NEGEF staff.

In this report, you'll see first hand the incredible work happening on the ground all across New England in the movements of local food, energy & climate action, environmental health, local land & water resources, and sustainable economy. This report tells the story of the grassroots activists, community organizers, civic leaders, volunteers, citizens and neighbors that decided to become the change they wish to see. This report tells their story - our collective story. Over the past 17 years, NEGEF remains the best place for these efforts to go for connections to grassroots resources, dollars and skills. By sharing their stories, we offer to you our belief that achieving sustainability starts at the roots. Go ahead, get inspired!

Dea Brickner-Wood

Dea Brickner-Wood,
President



Cheryl King Fischer

Cheryl King Fischer,
Executive Director



"... fueled by energy, creativity and commitment, grassroots activists form the basis for an environmentally responsible democracy."

NEGEF Founders Vision Document, December 1995

NEGEF

in numbers:

16 Years

3900
Applications Received

2500
Groups Applied

2350
Grants Awarded

1500
Grantee Groups

\$4,517,938
directly to the roots

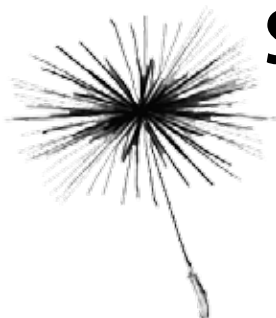
reaching efforts in

50%
of New England's
cities and towns

Grassroots Grants:

New & Improved in 2012!

To better meet the needs of grassroots groups, The Grassroots Fund launched a new & improved grant program in 2012. Our new grants make funding more accessible and offer new opportunities for local change.



SEED

Helping volunteer groups launch and build their newly evolving project(s).

- \$250 - \$1000
- Apply Anytime
- Decision within 2 weeks
- Great for new groups
- Online Application



GROW

Helping established groups increase capacity, collaborate, and leverage impact.

- \$1000 - \$3500
- 2 deadlines: Mar & Sep
- Competitive
- Great for established groups
- Online Application



HARVEST

Helping grassroots leaders establish and share their model, develop their leadership and sustain their local efforts.

- Currently Under Development

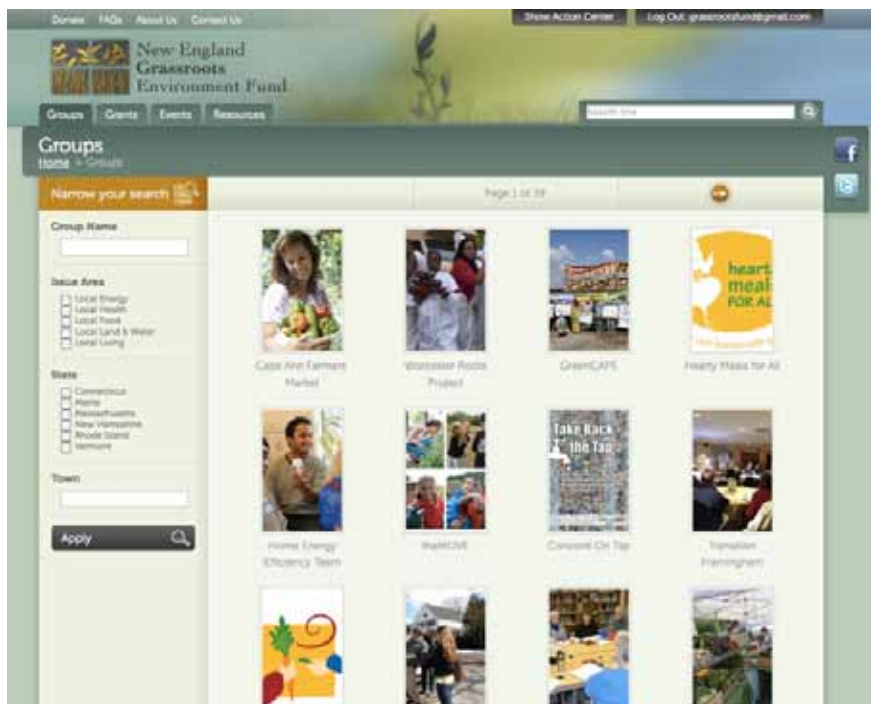
A new model for philanthropy

Instead of relying on *transactions* (grant dollars in exchange for information and completed projects) NEGEF embodies a philanthropic model focused on building relationships, sharing information, and employing collective knowledge to catalyze actual change where it matters most – in community.

grassrootsfund.org/groups

500+ Group Profiles

- * *Filter by issue area*
- * *Filter by state*
- * *Learn what groups all across New England are doing to make their communities more healthy, just, safe and environmentally sustainable!*



Each Profile:

- * *Describes the project(s)*
- * *Gives contact info*
- * *Shares useful tools*
- * *Inspires others!*



For full access to all Group Profiles, log in now at:

www.grassrootsfund.org

rootSkills

Freedom, NH

Cody Center
May 19, 2012

NEGEF rootSkills
Save the Date:
Northwood, NH
June 7 & 8, 2013

NEGEF's daylong RootSkills event brings together grassroots organizers from across the region to share stories, acknowledge our collective impact and learn and laugh together. Workshop tracks around community organizing, group development and personal leadership form the framework to connect and advance the work that is happening in New England communities.

The 2012 RootSkills event took place on May 29, 2012 at the Cody Outdoor Center in Freedom, NH. Over 50 participants attended workshops led by Julia Dundorf, Cheryl King Fischer, Lizann Peyton and Amanda Silver.



To learn more about *rootSkills*, please visit:

http://www.grassrootsfund.org/2012_rootskills

New Bedford, MA

October 26-28,
2012

Connecting for Change

In 2012, as a Connecting for Change conference partner, NEGEF offered 450 free day free passes to NEGEF grantees groups. Connecting for Change is an annual 3-day, solutions based gathering that brings together a diverse audience to create deep and positive change in their communities.

A mix of morning keynotes & performances and afternoon workshops, the event summons environmental, industry and social justice innovators to bring focus on food, health, healing, green business, indigenous knowledge, social justice, women & youth empowerment and spirituality and sustainability.

To learn more about *Connecting for Change*
& the *Marion Institute*, please visit:

<http://www.marioninstitute.org/connecting-for-change>

NEGEF in YOUR community

Root\$hare Garden Parties

In 2012, NEGEF piloted two Meet & Greet events in Bristol (VT) and Putney (VT). Designed to raise awareness about the impact of grassroots groups, network local organizers and share food & drink with friends, the garden parties provide an opportunity to introduce NEGEF to a broader audience.



Bristol and Putney provided a beautiful background for friendly conversations and story-sharing. Part of the Root\$hare - Give Back to Give Forward campaign, NEGEF seeks to expand the Friendraiser event to more communities across New England in 2013. With lessons learned from the '12 pilots, we look forward to seeing you at a Garden Party near YOU! Learn more about root\$hare by visiting grassrootsfund.org



Fixing the Future

The documentary Fixing the Future highlights people and organizations across America that are attempting a revolution: the reinvention of the American economy. By featuring communities using sustainable and innovative approaches to create jobs and build prosperity, Fixing the Future inspires hope and renewal in a people overwhelmed by economic collapse.

Fixing the Future premiered in 60 locations across the country in July. As a New England partner, NEGEF helped organize several premieres in locations like Worcester, Waterville, Keene, and Montpelier. The documentary premiered in 19 New England locations in total, 12 of which were organized by NEGEF grantees.

rootSkills workshops

In addition to connecting grassroots groups to technical assistance and resources from various partner organizations, NEGEF is offering workshops on topics especially relevant to volunteer organizers. As of 2012, we are offering workshops on Budgeting & Community Fundraising, as well as Using Social Media for your local campaign.

Looking forward, we hope to have these trainings available online and we will continue to present content at conferences across New England. We very much welcome all input on current presentations and ideas for future topics.

Check out NEGEF's rootSkills presentations:

<http://www.grassrootsfund.org/resources>



Rai\$ing the Roots

Budgeting and Community Fundraising



Think Social, Act Local

Using Social Media in Your Community

2012 Grantmaking: the #s

NEGEF's 2012 Grant Program consisted of:

1. Seed Grants:

Quick project-based grants dedicated to help groups launch and build their **newly evolving** project(s).

*Rolling deadline
Up to \$1,000*

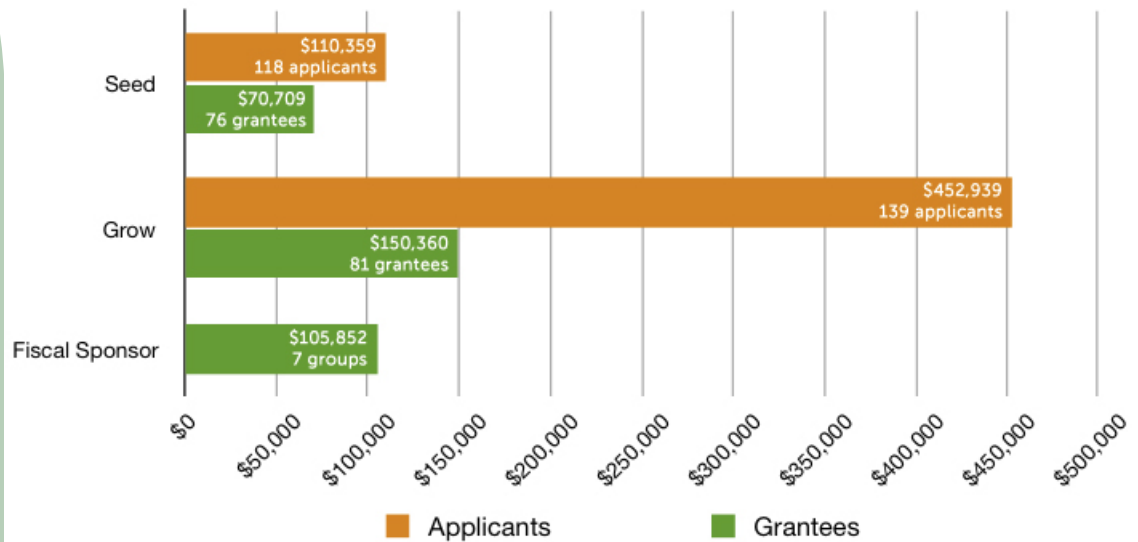
2. Grow Grants:

Competitive group development grants dedicated to help established projects increase capacity, collaborate, and leverage impact.

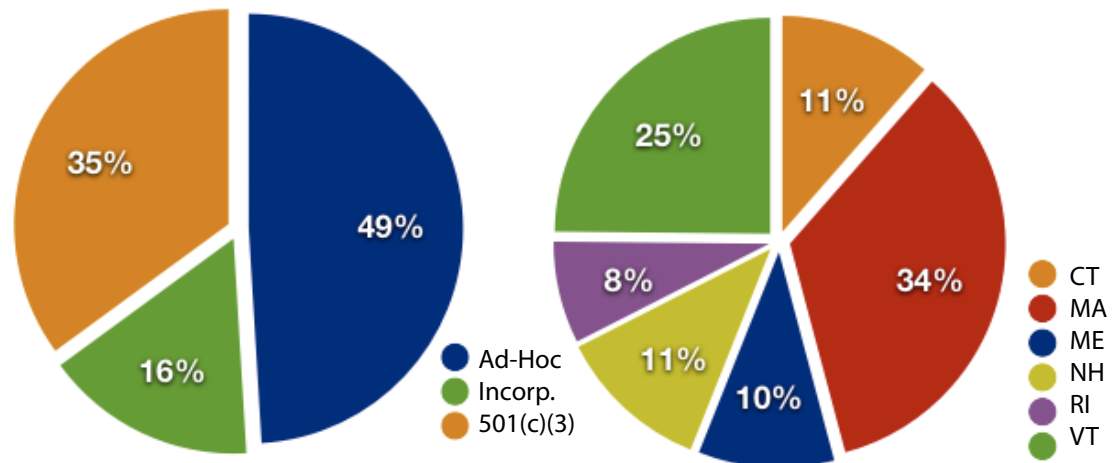
*Deadlines: 3/15 & 9/15
Up to \$3,500*

3. Fiscal Sponsor Grants

NEGEF can serve as fiscal sponsor for any grantee group needing a 501(c)(3) status to offer tax exemption to donors.



Reaching the Roots:



Median Group Budget Seed grantees: \$10,000

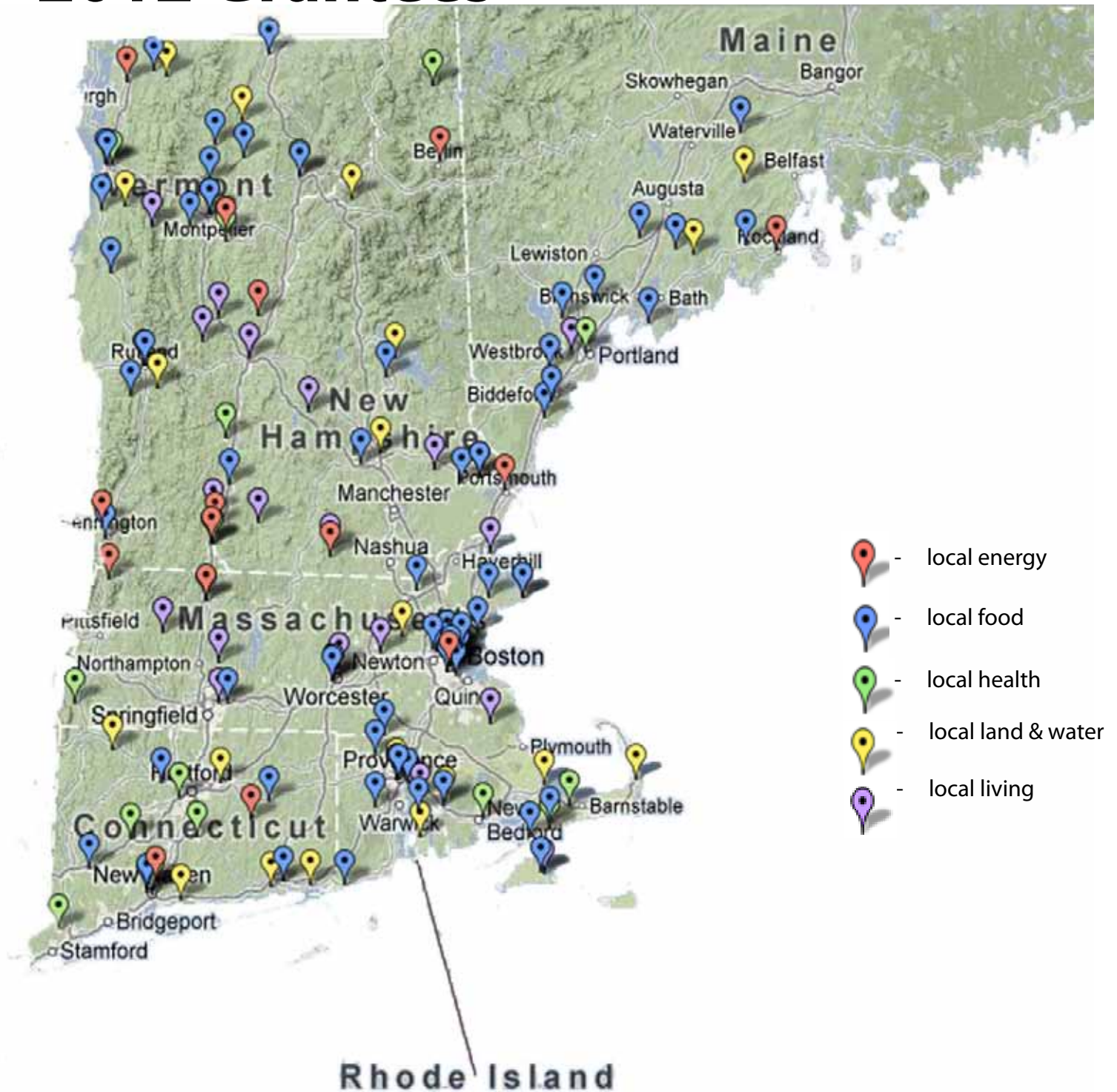
Median Group Budget Grow grantees: \$19,490

Total core volunteers for all 2012 grantee groups: 867
(with 157 grantees, that means on average 5.5 core volunteers per group)

2012 Seed, Grow & Fiscal Sponsor Grants at a glance:

257	157	62%	\$563k	\$327k
Applications	Grants Made	Approved	Requested	Granted

2012 Grantees



For a live version of this map, please visit:
http://grassrootsfund.org/about_us/2011_grantee_map



Local Energy

solar challenges
alternative transportation
municipal lighting campaigns carbon challenges
greenhouse gas inventory solar barnraisers
home weatherization district heating
energyraisers distributed generation
no idling campaigns community
town energy plans renewable energy



Local Energy Program Goal:

Minimize community carbon footprints

2012 Local Energy Grantees

Andover Historical Society (Andover, NH)

\$950 to conduct a one day energy audit for the Lull House and for follow up copies, post audit meetings and demonstration weatherization tools and materials.

Barre Energy Awareness Resource (Barre City, VT)

\$1,000 for food labor and space rentals for the ECO BEAR Fair that will include workshops, exhibits and activities in collaboration with neighboring town energy committees.

Boston Cyclists Union (Boston, MA)

\$2,000 to build capacity in an effort to reach the goal of repairing 1,200 bikes during the 2012 Bike to Market season.

Bennington Solar Hot Water Project (Bennington, VT)

\$1,000 for materials and outreach in a project on constructing do-it-yourself solar hot water heaters.

Berlin Area Renewable Energy Initiative (Berlin, NH)

\$1,000 to plan and install at least 5 solar hot water systems in homes using the community volunteer barnraising model and to promote energy conservation, efficiency and education efforts in the Berlin, NH area.

BIKE North Berkshire (Williamstown, Adams, N Adams, MA)

\$1,000 for the week long BIKEFest that will include numerous events to engage the broad community to get out on their bikes, funds will be used for BikeFest events costs.

Brattleboro Climate Protection (Brattleboro, VT)

\$1,500 to fund coordination and outreach in reducing the Town of Brattleboro's electric consumption through conducting a streetlight inventory and establishing a new set of energy-efficiency and renewable energy loans offered in partnership with local banks.

Dummerston Energy Committee (Dummerston, VT)

\$2,000 to support a SCA Conservation Intern to assist with committee projects, in particular the community-wide energy usage survey, outreach and education.

Elm City Cycling (New Haven, CT)

\$2,000 to hire a consultant to help the group transition to a membership-based funding structure, increase capacity with part-time administrative staff, and revamp the website.

Green Sneakers Project – Midcoast (Rockland, ME)

\$2,000 to expand its core energy efficiency programming to Belfast and further invest in its youth initiative.

Greening Greenfield Energy Committee (Greenfield, MA)

\$1,000 to hold a summit titled Creating Greenfield's Future: Visions for 2050 in the spring of 2013 as a follow up to the 2011 Resiliency Summit.

Lebanon Energy Task Force (Lebanon, CT)

\$1,000 to offer community members a low cost audit to motivate them to go forward with home weatherization work and assist residents as needed.

Monadnock Energy Resources Initiative (Temple, NH)

\$2,000 to invest in its weatherization supplies to continue and expand the home energy efficiency programming.

Monadnock Energy Resources Initiative (Temple, NH)

\$1,000 to purchase roof safety harnesses as part of solar, weatherization and backyard home-raiser efforts.

Seacoast Area Renewable Energy Initiative (Portsmouth, NH)

\$3,000 to design and implement a series of solar energy skills workshops focused on Do-It-Yourself, inexpensive projects to diversify both the program and potential participants.

St. Albans Walk and Bike Group (St. Albans, VT)

\$1,000 to publicly launch the group's efforts to promote and advocate for safe walking & biking in St. Albans through a community-wide workshop and educational day in the spring.

Sustainable Energy Resource Group (Thetford, VT)

\$1,500 to help cover outreach, education and organizing time for the Home Energy Action Team (HEAT) project.



*Home by home we're making a difference. A report this week from the state shows that Maine's consumption of heating oil continues to drop as homeowners adopt weatherization, install more efficient boilers, and change to less carbon-intensive fuel sources. Green Sneakers continues to be a **key community player** in the midcoast in that success story."*
– Green Sneakers Project in Midcoast, ME



Local Food

grow a row
food shelves farmers markets
community supported fisheries job training
community permaculture
compost cooking classes community farms
re-skilling food centers community gardens
localvore challenges eat local
gleaning eat local guides
urban farms community compost
community supported fisheries
food coops school gardens
localvores food councils



Local Food Program Goal:

Create a healthy and safe regional food system through local food efforts



"Due to economic hardships and rising cost of food prices, this community garden project is an experiment which we hope will progress the sustainable and local food movement already ripe in Vermont." - APPLE Corps, Montpelier, VT

2012 Local Food Grants

African Alliance of Rhode Island (Providence, RI)

\$2,860 for garden materials, to support the Farmers' Market Pilot and to conduct interviews in the community.

APPLE Corps (Montpelier, VT)

\$1,000 for a new Northfield Street Community Garden in Montpelier to be based on the National Life grounds, funds will be used for garden start up costs.

AYERS@Hillandale Farm (Westerly, RI)

\$2,000 for further developing a program where local youth participate in farm tours and service learning projects at the Hillandale Farm.

Back to Farming at Laconia State School (Laconia, NH)

\$1,000 for report printing & event costs in an effort to facilitate development of a Lake Region Food Network.

Baird Park Community Garden (Burlington, VT)

\$410 to revitalize the Baird Park Community garden after being inactive for 2 seasons by purchasing compost, fencing and winter rye.

Bay Street Community Garden (Springfield, MA)

\$1,000 to support the Bay Street Community Garden in Springfield, MA to purchase garden tools and a tool shed to be constructed by a Vocational High School class.

Bennington Farm to Plate Council (Bennington, VT)

\$2,000 for materials to raise the group's profile and increase public understanding of and support for the local food system.

Boston Area Gleaners, Inc. (Boston, MA)

\$1,000 to use as a challenge grant in an effort to build the capacity of the organization.

Boston Latin School Youth Climate Action Network

Boston, MA)

\$1,500 to run a weekly garden maintenance program for elementary school students employing Youth CAN students as mentors for the participants and partnering with Green City Growers to help facilitate the program and maintain the garden.

Cape Ann Farmers' Market (Gloucester, MA)

\$1,500 to support the Back Yard Growers (BYG) coordinator position to expand the number of residents benefiting from the program, develop an on-line BYG group for participants to network with one another, create an interactive mapping project of the BYG program, and expand the scope of the annual harvest event from a potluck to a community event.

Capital City Farmers Market (Montpelier, VT)

\$1,000 to hire a facilitator/consultant to work with the Board on a new vision and mission and engage the membership in the future move of the Market.

Center for African Heritage (Portland, ME)

\$1,500 to expand capacity in order to become more organized and strategic in fundraising and program delivery.

Center for Sustainable Systems (Montpelier, VT)

\$1,700 for stipends for students involved in food production during a summer program that is part of a service-learning effort focused on the local food system.

Chelsea Community Gardeners Association (Chelsea, MA)

\$2,000 to hire a fundraising consultant to work with the group in designing a capital campaign plan to seek out investors and supporters and raise a substantial amount of money from the community in order to keep the property for use as a community garden.

Community Gardens for All (Durham, NH)

\$2,000 to coordinate a program connecting local area community gardens to foodshelves and facilitate the donation of excess garden produce.



This project directly responds to a lack of affordable, local, healthy food options for residents of diverse socioeconomic backgrounds.

- Eggleston Square Farmers Market in Roxbury & Jamaica Plan, MA

2012 Local Food Grants

Dixwell Corridor Community Partners (New Haven, CT)

\$2,500 to continue paying the stipend of the Project Manager in developing the Respect for Life Garden, a hoop house farm that aims to help meet the need for affordable, accessible, and healthy food sources in the historically African-American, low-income Dixwell neighborhood of New Haven.

Dorchester Historical Society (Dorchester, MA)

\$375 to help expand the Dorchester Historical Society's local food production in Dorchester by adding blueberry bushes.

Egleston Square Farmers Market (Roxbury/JP, MA)

\$1,000 to start up a winter farmers market in an ethnically and socioeconomically diverse Boston neighborhood.

Fenway Garden Society (Boston, MA)

\$1,500 to complete the construction of a Teaching Garden and Apiary in the Richard D. Parker Memorial Victory Gardens, which would be a fully functioning victory garden with seventeen raised beds dedicated to demonstrating a wide variety of urban gardening techniques.

Fresh Start Community Farm (Newport, VT)

\$2,000 to support various positions to maintain and grow the organizational capacity of Fresh Start Community Farm.

Garbage to Garden (Portland, ME)

\$1,000 to purchase a used utility trailer in order to provide a food scraps collection service and return finished compost to a growing network of over 200 participants in the Greater Portland ME area.

Grand Aspirations- Summer of Solutions (Hartford, CT)

\$2,000 to attract and retain experienced and qualified program coordinators in an effort to make systemic connections in the city and work towards the larger vision of a community farm.

Greater Falls Community Garden Collaborative

(Bellows Falls, VT)

\$2,000 to provide support for the Collaborative coordinator and to initiate and support community gardens throughout the area.

GROW Windham (Willimantic, CT)

\$2,000 to develop and promote a 'Youth Garden Resource Bank' that will enable the implementation of the 'Food Ambassadors' Curriculum at 7 collaborating local youth programs.

Hamilton Wenham GREEN (Wenham, MA)

\$1,000 for community garden materials including fencing, lumber, a picnic table, signs wheelbarrow and tools.

Hardwick Community Gardeners (Hardwick, VT)

\$1,000 to prepare a new community garden site and construct garden beds made from locally grown hemlock lumber and to fill them with topsoil during three planned work days in September.

Harpswell Community Garden (Harpswell, ME)

\$1,000 for fencing the new Harpswell Community Garden to protect the garden from browsing deer and other animals.

Hearty Meals for All (Somerville, MA)

\$2,000 to increase its capacity by offering stipends to two core positions (organizer and head chef) for the first time in its history as part of its strategy to plan for future growth and enhanced stability.

Heirloom Seed Project (Waldoboro, ME)

\$1,000 to support the Teen Agricultural Crew at Medomak Valley High School efforts through student and teacher stipends and field travel expenses.

Highlands Coalition, Inc. (Lynn, MA)

\$1,500 to use as a challenge grant in an effort to secure funding to manage a new garden at the Cook Street Park and to manage the aquaponics system at the current garden.

Just Roots (Greenfield, MA)

\$1,000 to support the new Food for All garden efforts, using gleaned starter plants and turning waste produce into a bountiful crop to be distributed to hunger relief programs and nearby public housing projects.

Kennebec Local Food Initiative (Gardiner, ME)

\$2,000 to support the Online Buying Club, to continue development and promotion of existing programs and to establish a downtown food store and cafe.

Kennebunk Community Garden (Kennebunk, ME)

\$980 to purchase 35 cubic yards of compost that will increase garden fertility and donations to local food pantries and community kitchens.

Kennebunk H.S. Garden & Greenhouse Project (Kennebunk, ME)

\$1,000 to purchase hoop house materials that will extend the garden growing season and also prevent bugs from devouring plants.



A spark of hope by giving back to the community you live in.

– New Urban Farmers in Pawtucket, RI

2012 Local Food Grants

Mad River Localvores (Mad River Valley, VT)

\$1,000 for program support, website development and for trainer and consultant stipends.

Magaziner Farm (Bristol, RI)

\$2,000 to increase its capacity by purchasing an irrigation system to manage additional growing space that will increase the produce yield that is donated to the RI Food Bank.

Mashpee Village Resident Volunteers (Mashpee, MA)

\$1,000 to purchase seedlings and soil for the community garden.

Migrant Justice & Fairfield Community Center (Fairfield, VT)

\$1,500 to cover the costs to design, print and distribute educational materials and travel costs for a Agricultural Justice Partnership local pilot project, which seeks to create a three-way agreement among farmworkers, farmers and milk buyers, in which farmers who endorse and abide by these standards are paid a premium by the milk buyer.

Mill City Grows (Lowell, MA)

\$2,000 to increase leadership capacity through its Garden Coordinator Institute.

Mullen-Hall School Garden Committee (Falmouth, MA)

\$900 for the first stage of a new school community garden that will engage both students and community members.

New Haven Farms (New Haven, CT)

\$2,000 to cover operating expenses to expand our growing capacity in order to supply 40 families with a season's worth of produce and to continue to work with clinicians to measure health outcomes.

New Urban Farmers (Pawtucket, RI)

\$2,000 to increase outreach around the CSA program and ensure those without access to the Internet are well aware and can sign up.

Newmarket Community Garden Group (Newmarket, NH)

\$1,000 to improve the Newmarket Community Garden Group garden infrastructure and support for garden events, including workshops and lectures.

Nubian United Benevolent International Assoc. (Boston, MA)

\$2,000 to fund garden maintenance at three sites to continue the Seed & Yield program, engaging families and teaching youth about gardening, the environment, and the safety of their food.

Nuestro Huerto Urban Farm (Worcester, MA)

\$2,000 to provide support for Nuestro Huerto's director during the critical planning months of November 2012 through April 2013 to expand its reach within the community, create a strategic plan and allow for a greater focus on capacity building

Orchard Community Garden (Roxbury, MA)

\$2,500 to help expand the garden, make it more accessible to seniors and to add educational resources for the garden community.

The Productive Collective (Dorchester, MA)

\$1,000 to construct an urban agriculture aquaponics pilot project in Dorchester to strengthen the urban food system and increase food security.

Re-New London Council (New London, CT)

\$1,500 to move the market toward a more sustainably funded enterprise by funding coordinator roles for piloting two plans to generate revenue: 1) consignment products and 2) food delivery.

Revive the Roots (Smithfield, RI)

\$1,500 to purchase resources to ensure a smooth spring in 2013, to strengthen the garden infrastructure and support volunteer coordinators.

Richmond Riverfront Farmers' Market (Richmond, ME)

\$1,000 for outreach materials including posters, banners, road signs and magnets for the market.



I choose to make a monthly recurring donation to NEGEF's **root\$Share** because I care very much about environmental issues and believe in the power - and right - of citizens to improve their communities.

It's amazing how empowering a small NEGEF grant can be to these local organizers. I give to many organizations but this is the one I'm proudest to be a part of.



- Elaine Wang,
Barre Energy Action Resource

Grow the Grassroots!

Give your root\$Share today: [https://grassrootsfund.org/root\\$Share](https://grassrootsfund.org/root$Share)

2012 Local Food Grants

The Root Center (Burlington, VT)

\$1,000 to construct an aquaponics greenhouse dome which will potentially serve tens of thousands of individuals directly through the food produced, and hundreds of thousands more through demonstrating green architecture, energy conservation and environmentally-friendly food production for any climate.

Roslindale Village Main Street Farmers' Market (Boston, MA)

\$1,250 to fund the Farmers' Market Manager position during the summer season in order to expand outreach efforts and deepen relationships with community organizations to spearhead expansion to a winter Farmers' Market.

Rotary Club of Fall River (Fall River, MA)

\$1,000 for materials and start up costs including loam, fertilizer and any equipment needed for a new community garden with any remaining funds to be used for plants.

Salvation Farms (Brattleboro, VT)

\$2,500 to support a pilot to occur at the Windsor based correctional facility, utilizing inmate work crews to receive, clean, grade and pack an acres worth of donated potatoes this fall, and making ten pound bags of potatoes available to the charitable/emergency food system sites serving the southeast region of the state.

Sankofa Collaborative (Providence, RI)

\$2,000 to engage consultants to prepare a professional business plan and evaluate agricultural practices for the Sankofa Community Farm and the Sankofa World Market

South Boston Grows (South Boston, MA)

\$2,000 to expand urban growing space from 3,000 sq ft to 10,000 sq ft or more, double the number of volunteers and participants involved, and expand community meals from one monthly to five monthly.

St Johnsbury Area Local Food Alliance (St Johnsbury, VT)

\$2,000 to support the growth of the online Farmers' Market and to promote education & outreach work and Community Farm events.

Sycamore Community Garden Project (Concord, NH)

\$2,000 to increase capacity and build community through garden leadership stipends and the purchase of compost for the new growing season.

St Georges Community Garden (Durham, NH)

\$800 to prepare a site for a new community garden in Durham NH to start up in 2012.

theMOVE (Boston, MA)

\$1,500 to expand our community outreach, and to improve our post-trip follow-up with youth participants by adding an outreach component to the role of the communications coordinator, expand print communication publicity, and engage youth trip participants in interactive pre and post-trip reflective exercises and referral sessions.

Thundermist Community Garden (West Warwick, RI)

\$1,000 for supplies and stipends to launch a community garden with 30 garden plots, offer a beginning gardener series of workshops to increase community connections and offer the opportunity for new gardeners to learn the basics of organic growing practices.

Tinmouth Wellness Committee (Tinmouth, VT)

\$2,000 to coordinate the Tinmouth Community Food Project, a workshop series based around food production, food preservation, and food preparation.

Urban Greens Food Co-op (Providence, RI)

\$1,000 to hire a project manager to assist opening a cooperative retail food store by the spring of 2014 that will offer a wide range of fresh local food to serve the population of West Providence, RI.

Vergennes Union H.S. Environmental Club (Vergennes, VT)

\$1,000 to work with Highfields Center for Composting in developing a comprehensive food scrap recycling program that will divert over 5 tons of food waste annually.

Vermont Farmers Food Center (Rutland City, VT)

\$1,000 to recruit volunteers and notify the public of the Winter Farmer's Market by creating a large sign at the current construction site of the Food Center.

Vermont Goat Collaborative (Burlington, VT)

\$980 to support future refugee and immigrant goat raisers with on the farm skills training this summer and for a consultant to design and cost out an exempt slaughter area for the future goat farm.

The Victory Garden (Newtown, CT)

\$1,000 to support the expansion of the Victory Garden to 1/2 acre and add a drip irrigation system.

Volunteer Regional Food Pantry (Unity, ME)

\$1,000 to support general renovation of the regional food facility while making room to install two bath steamers to process local greens, increasing capability to preserve fresh



*We will help these youth develop a **passion** for gardening and community-based food production that will lead them into greater **involvement and leadership** in Hartford's food justice movement."*

- Summer of Solutions in Hartford, CT

Local Health



hazardous waste
landfills
air pollution
incinerators
herbicides
community
pesticides
industrial sites
toxins



Local Health Program Goal:
Prevent and eliminate toxic pollution



*Social cohesion has been significantly lacking. Thus our first phase of our work is to **bring people together in community** working in neighborhood associations."* - Waterbury Neighborhood Council in CT

2012 Local Health Grants

GreenCAPE (Cape Cod, MA)

\$1,250 to support the Clean Waters Safe Lawns Cape Cod program, a municipal effort to protect precious water resources and human health by reducing pesticides and synthetic fertilizers through education, training and the adoption of municipal organic land care policies.

Hands Across the River Coalition (New Bedford, MA)

\$2,500 to fund outreach event materials and administrative office needs in an ongoing effort to monitor EPA cleanup of a contaminated sites in the city and to educate the community on the hazards of contamination.

Neighbors for Healthy Communities (Barre, VT)

\$1,000 for outreach materials and for legal filings in an effort to oppose a proposed asphalt plant.

New Haven Environmental Justice Network (New Haven, CT)

\$700 to hold an informational talk with follow up events and tours of a LEED certified housing project in efforts to advocate for green infrastructure rather than expansion of a sewage treatment facility.

No Asphalt Defense Fund (Sheffield, MA)

\$1,000 to support expert testimony efforts on air and noise quality issues at a MA Department of Environmental Protection hearing.

North Springfield Action Group (Springfield, VT)

\$1,000 to support an upcoming community meeting, travel and outreach materials in an effort to oppose a proposed 35 megawatt biomass plant.

Pesticide-Free New Canaan (New Canaan, CT)

\$1,000 to take joint action to reduce lawn pesticide use in New Canaan by holding meetings, door-to-door canvassing and to produce a survey on pesticide use in their community.

Pilgrim Coalition (Plymouth, MA)

\$2,000 to fund outreach expenses in a campaign to educate and make local communities aware of the safety hazards that exist at the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station.

Power Line Education Fund (Coos County, NH)

\$2,000 to educate and raise public awareness of HVDC Power Lines and the 180 mile long electric corridor proposed for the Great North Woods region and the White Mountains.

Project Green Lawn Committee (Middletown, CT)

\$1,000 to hire an organic lawn care consultant and venue to conduct an Organic Land Care Training for municipal officials and professional landscapers that will explain simple steps to commencing an organic land care program and cover basic concepts, methods and materials needed to get started.

Safe and Green Campaign (Brattleboro, VT)

\$2,000 to pay stipends to four part-time organizers in an urgent, grassroots-people-powered effort to close Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee facility.

Scrap-It, Inc. (Hartford, CT)

\$740 to make art and copies of outreach materials in an effort to provide low cost art supplies for teachers, families, and community members and to partner with businesses to keep materials out of the local waste incinerator.

Somali Bantu Community Association of ME (Lewiston, ME)

\$1,500 to implement a one-on-one community outreach program focused on preventing lead poisoning and proper prescription drug proposal.

Stop the F-35 Coalition (South Burlington, VT)

\$1,000 to hire an expert to respond to the Environmental Impact Statement and for outreach materials and enlarged maps of the at risk areas in opposing the new F-35 planes at the VT Air National Guard Base.

Waterbury Neighborhood Council (Waterbury, CT)

\$1,500 to conduct training sessions for community organizers, help with group organizational strategies, writing of policies and bylaws for newly formed associations and all forms of needed assistance that the members of three focus neighborhoods in the South End of Waterbury may need.

*"We believe that Vermont Yankee should be replaced through conservation, efficiency and renewable **solutions**, moving us towards a truly Safe and Green **energy future**."*

- Safe and Green Campaign, Brattleboro, VT



Local Land & Water

wildlife
greenspace surface water
community smart growth
sustainable forestry
groundwater community forests
trails land conservation
anti sprawl
anti big Box



Local Land & Water Program Goal:

*Balance built environment,
working landscape and wilderness*

2012 Local Land & Water Grants

Cambridgeport Neighborhood Association (Cambridge, MA)

\$1,500 for stipends to key volunteers involved in coordinating and documenting the revitalization of Magaziner Beach.

Committee for a Stronger Somerville (Somerville, MA)

\$1,000 to outreach educate residents on the value of open space and the Community Preservation Act through informational sessions, door to door canvassing and materials that will be translated into multiple languages.

Craftsbury Public Library (Craftsbury Common, VT)

\$280 to purchase field guilds to support Craftsbury's Community of Observers, citizen scientists that observe and report scientific data in our community.

Elmhurst Clean & Green (Providence, RI)

\$1,000 to paint a rusty fence and add mulch to the bare ground in the playground area in an effort to care for and increase use of Fagnoli Park, a community greenspace.

Essex County Natural Resources Conservation District (Bloomfield, VT)

\$1000 to start up the Northeast Kingdom Conservation Nursery on donated land with a long-term lease agreement that will provide locally grown trees, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen the local economy.

Fall River CPA (Fall River, MA)

\$1,000 to engage and educate community members about the importance of preserving greenspace and historic sites by passing a Community Preservation Act in Fall River, MA.

Friends of Ellenville Marsh (Plymouth, MA)

\$2,000 to use as a challenge grant in an effort to secure funding for expert baseline condition assessment as part of the decision to expand the organization's mission to encompass the larger watershed.

Friends of Oswegatchie Hill Nature Preserve (Niantic, CT)

\$1,000 for equipment/material needs to remove invasive plants by hand pulling and mulching and replace them with native species.

Hidden Valley Nature Center (Jefferson, ME)

\$1,000 to develop an engaging educational center and nature-based curricula and partner with local students, teachers and community members in conducting community-centered, real-life scientific studies at the Nature Center.



Lake Winnepesaukee Watershed Association (Gilford & Laco-

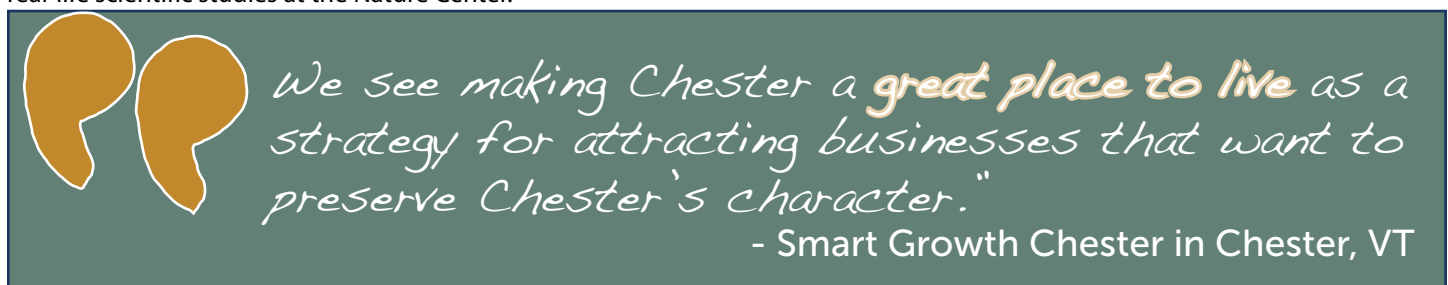
nia, NH)
\$1,000 to hire an intern to conduct one on one outreach with businesses along Black Brook focused on education about stormwater runoff and voluntary participation in a pollutant loading model.

New Haven Inner City Outings (New Haven, CT)

\$2,000 to support efforts to expand programming that brings youth to the natural world and engages them in direct work to improve their environment.

North Country Alliance for Balanced Change (Littleton, NH)

\$1,000 to leverage community donations by meeting a \$15,000 legal defense fund challenge grant to support the group's opposition of a drag strip.



2012 Local Land & Water Grantees

North Pond Association (Smithfield, ME)

\$1,000 to improve an erosion control mulch and buffer plant project at the boat launch area of North Pond with blueberry bushes.

Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group (Vineyard Haven, MA)

\$1,000 to create a public flyer for distribution with fishing licenses that will increase public awareness of the Vineyard's Shell Recycling efforts and outline ways for community members to contribute and to cover fuel expenses for the support vehicle to travel the shell collection route weekly, picking up shell from restaurants & landfills.

Massachusetts Baykeeper (Boston, MA)

\$1,000 to pay for volunteer training and materials to implement a nine month pilot program at Carson Beach for a Marine Debris program.

Orleans Pond Coalition (Orleans, MA)

\$1,000 to start up a shellfish nursery in Arey's Pond, an enclosed saltwater embayment, to improve water quality and increase interest and access in local shell fishing.

Preserve Portsmouth (Portsmouth, RI)

\$2,500 to continue to raise awareness around smart growth and development on Aquidneck Island.

Redefining Our Community Neighborhood Watch (Dorchester, MA)

\$2,500 to establish a local park and engage youth through the Envision Youth Media Project.

Responsible Growth Hinesburg (Hinesburg, VT)

\$2,000 for legal expenses and outreach in an effort to appeal a recent Design Review Board decision regarding a 36,000 sf grocery store in the downtown.

Sheepscot Wellspring Land Alliance (Liberty, ME)

\$1,500 to complete an ecological inventory that enhances SWLA land protection, trails, and education program areas and to create public educational presentations connecting diverse community groups with the wilderness in their neighborhood.

Shrewsbury Conservation Commission (Shrewsbury, VT)

\$930 for follow-up support from their successful Community Forum to compile results from participants that include their vision for its future and actions to fulfill that vision.

Smart Growth Chester (Chester, VT)

\$2,000 for legal expenses and a consultant on the visual impact of development in an effort to stop the Dollar General proposed for the Village center and to promote smart growth principles.

Southie Trees (South Boston, MA)

\$2,000 to continue its core programming and expand its programming by launching a Plant-a-Tree program.

Surfrider Foundation CT (Mystic, CT)

\$879 for beach clean-up equipment and storm drain stencils needed in efforts to improve water quality along the shoreline of CT and Long Island sound.

Who Decides? (Gloucester, MA)

\$1,500 to strengthen communications speed and effectiveness (hardware, software, IT assistance, videography and editing) in the group's effort to raise awareness around the threat of water system privatization in Gloucester, MA.

Winchester Land Trust (Winchester Center, CT)

\$1,000 to produce a trail map for new and existing trails.

Winnicut River Watershed Coalition (Greenland, NH)

\$2,000 to launch a "Better Backyards" campaign, using the Tethys Blue model, and work with a minimum of 10 landowners in an effort to change stewardship practices.



*We believe this type of **networking** can build new bridges in our community and strengthen existing bonds, as well as focus the broadest range of stakeholders in our community on discussing and working toward **addressing common challenges**.*

– Community Resiliency Summit in Worcester, MA

Local Living



time banks
population growth transition towns
zero waste campaigns
sustainable study circles recycling
buy local campaigns
green products community
local economy green jobs



Local Living Program Goal:

*Inspire behavior changes towards
conscious and ecological living*

2012 Local Living Grantees

BackYards For Everybody (Portland, ME)

\$535 to purchase materials and gift upcycled and repurposed container vegetable/ herb/ flower gardens to residents in Portland.

Barnard Community Trust (Barnard, VT)

\$1,000 to support efforts in reinstating the local general store and pay for unanticipated expenses of renting a sound system and entertainment for a two-day fundraising event towards store purchase.

Building A Local Economy (South Royalton, VT)

\$2,000 to develop and deliver an outreach and engagement strategy in the White River Valley titled Why Build a Local Economy?

Community Resiliency Summit (Cummington, MA)

\$1,000 to carry out a Community Resiliency Summit planned for the early spring of 2013, engaging residents in the towns of Cummington and Plainfield in Western MA.

Concord On Tap (Concord, MA)

\$1,500 for marketing and communications work around the bylaw banning bottled water in town and to broaden the dialogue to include health issues and general sustainability.

Cummings Conservation Center (Deerfield, NH)

\$1,000 for plants, picnic tables, and landscaping materials to build community interest and participation in a new permaculture and wildlife gardens project.

Fixing The Future Ad-Hoc Coalition (Worcester, MA)

\$500 to co-host a showing of the Fixing the Future documentary film and provide scholarships and travel to allow low income residents of Worcester to attend.

GiftFlow.org (New Haven, CT)

\$1,500 to increase offline outreach and connection with the New Haven community.

Grand Aspirations- Summer of Solutions (Turners Falls, MA)

\$2,000 to fund participant stipends and stipends for low-income program leaders for an eight week program that engages 15 full and part-time youth participants in community organizing and sustainability.

The Green Dragons (Brookline and Boston, MA)

\$1,000 to support an 8 week pilot program that merges martial arts with health and nutrition and will take place at an after school program in Brookline with local martial arts high school student mentors will be involved.

Green Hanson (Hanson, MA)

\$2,000 for materials and stipends to encourage local businesses in Hanson to go green and to support the local economy.

Green Marlborough (Marlborough, MA)

\$1,000 to hire a professional communications consultant to work on a compelling message that they will use to build a fundraising campaign to enable the group to hire a coordinator in the future.

Green Power Project (Medford, MA)

\$1,000 to support a 2012 youth Earth Day celebration that will include hands on environmental activities in alternative energy, recycling and a park clean up.

Jamaica Plain New Economy Transition (Jamaica Plain, MA)

\$1,500 to fund a stipend for a youth intern who would allow the group to improve its programming, engage more diversity, and support the leadership development of a young person from JP.

Kearsarge Valley Transition (New London, NH)

\$1,000 to lower the costs for participants attending a week-end Transition Training and to allow for some scholarships at the event.

Monadnock Buy Local (Keene, NH)

\$2,000 to hire a part-time coordinator to help build stronger relationships with business owners, non-profits directors and citizens within each of our 35 towns, resulting in more impacts and future revenue streams.

One-Day University: Arts, Culture, Sustainability (Oak Bluffs, MA)

\$1,000 to support staff to organize communities of practice follow up activities after the pilot One Day University: Arts, Culture, Sustainability.



*To move **good ideas** into **action**, the VFN has created citizen-led working groups focusing on a variety of questions related to agriculture, energy, local currency, housing, recycling, arts, habitat, and transportation."*

- Valley Futures Network in the Mad River Valley, VT

2012 Local Living Grantees

Ottauquechee Natural Resources Conservation District

(White River Junction, VT)

\$500 to partner with two Conservation Commissions to connect communities to local resources by producing a local town resource map that highlights agriculture, businesses, natural resources, recreational opportunities and community group activities.

Rich Earth Institute (Dummerston, VT)

\$1,000 to pilot a high nutrient reclamation project that will be used as a fertilizer on a hay field on an organic farm in Dummerston, VT and analyze the treatment area and report results.

The Shipshape Challenge (Warren, RI)

\$1,000 for educational resources and materials for Shipshape Challenge participants who will engage their neighbors in a friendly competition to clean up their community.

Sustainable Rutland (Rutland, VT)

\$1,500 to fund the salary of the group's part-time coordinator who will be integral to many ongoing projects, including zero waste efforts and launching the group's first public fundraising campaign.

Transition & Resilience Gathering

On Saturday October 20, 72 activists from 32 communities gathered in a musty New England church basement to connect, share stories, and think about the resilience of our historic region. The gathering was to unite Transition Town and resilience efforts across New England. Transition Towns work locally as part of a vibrant, grass-roots movement that seeks to build community resilience in the face of such challenges as peak oil, climate change and the economic crisis.

For more: <http://transitionus.org/stories/transitioning-new-england-our-regional-gathering>



NEGEF partnered with the Institute for Policy Studies, Resilience Circles & local groups to support the event.

Our hope is the project provides a little positive PR buzz for the town while helping to educate residents about the tangible and intangible benefits of working together to create positive change."

- The Shipshape Challenge in Warren, RI

Temple Community Collaborative (Temple, NH)

\$1,000 to support the Temple Community Collaborative efforts to create local solutions to allow their community to adapt and thrive by hosting a series of community events.

Thorndyke Road School (Worcester, MA)

\$1,000 for t-shirts to raise awareness about recycling and to roll out other initiatives in an effort to foster a responsible citizenry in the school and in the community.

Transition New England Hub (Boston, MA)

\$250 to establish a regional support system for local community resilience efforts in New England.

Transition Putney (Putney, VT)

\$2,000 to build organizational capacity through working with a local consultant to develop a long-term fundraising plan and providing and Transition training for 8 new members of the Transition Core Group.

Valley Futures Network (Mad River Valley, VT)

\$2,500 to use as a challenge grant in an effort to raise funds to bring Front Porch Forum, an online neighborhood forum & community-building service, to Fayston, Warren and Waitsfield.

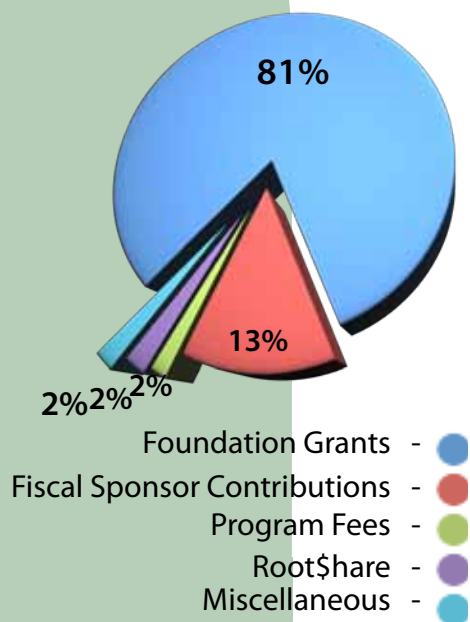
Worcester Solidarity And Green Economy (Worcester, MA)

\$2,000 to convene a 2012 conference and critically improve on conference outreach, planning and follow-up processes from last year's Making a Green Solidarity Economy conference.

"To overcome mindless consumerism and exploitative relationships with others and the environment, we must be able to imagine and enact new ways of doing business."
- Worcester SAGE (Solidarity & Green Economy) in Worcester MA

2012 Financials

2012 Sources of Income (%)



INCOME

Unrestricted Grants	\$323,000.00
Restricted Grants	\$345,000.00
Contributions (root\$hare)	\$17,065.9
Fiscal Sponsor Contributions	\$109,957.92
Program Fees	\$12,640.37
Miscellaneous	\$16,397.44
TOTAL INCOME	\$824,061.63

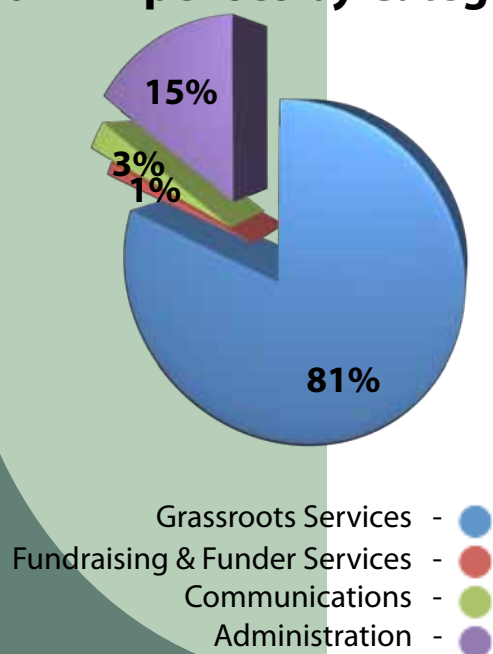
EXPENSE

Program Delivery	
Program Administration	\$264,678.82
Seed Grants	\$65,709.00
Grow Grants	\$124,860.00
Harvest Grants	\$3,630.25
Fiscal Sponsor Grants	\$104,851.67
Partner Grants	\$2,969.73
RootSkills & Conferences	\$20,844.2
Board & Grantmaking Meetings	\$6,252.87
Governance Activist Stipends	\$5,600.00
Issue Reasearch	\$1,211.23
Development	
Fundraising/Funder Networking	\$10,174.03
Communications	
Website Upgrade	\$21,725.00
Local Energy Program	\$27,492.00
Administration	
General Op. Administration	\$88,224.77
Office Expenses	\$20,767.23
Professional Services	\$8,700.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$777,690.80

NET INCOME

\$46,370.83

2012 Expenses by Category (%)



23

Funding Partners

107

Individual Donors

\$8

of every \$10 is spent on
Grasroots Services

THANK YOU for your support!

Foundation Partners:

AGAPE Foundation
Anna B. Stearns Foundation
Barr Foundation
Block Foundation
Canaday Family Charitable Trust
Cloud Mountain Foundation
Common Stream
Holborn Foundation
Horizon Foundation
Johnson Family Foundation
Kendall Foundation
Lawson Valentine Foundation
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
Normandie Foundation
Putnam Foundation
Rhode Island Foundation
Rothchild Foundation
Adelard & Valeda Lea Roy Foundation
The Sand Dollar Fund
Singing Field Foundation
Sudbury Foundation
The Fine Fund
Wilkinson Foundation

2012 root\$harers:

Anonymous	Carolyn Fine	Andy Robinson
Stephanie Amyot	Cheryl Fischer	Russel Rueger
Jill Appel	Shana Frank	Don Schramm
Josh Arnold	Rupert Friday	Alyssa Schuren
Daniel Ayala	Marie Fukuda	Caroly Shumway
Mary Ann Babinski	Aaron Goode	Jessica Skinner
Katherine Barratt	Rebekah Greenwald Speck	Ina Smith
Catie Berg	Paul Gustavson	Theresa Snow
RN & PJ Boudreau	Laury Hammel	Ed Solar
Mona Boutin	Conni Harding	John Soper
Lauren & Bob	Michael Harris	Martha Stein
Brickner-McDonald	Nancy Hazard	Jeffrey & Deborah Stein
Kailee Brickner-McDonald	Dan Hock	Nancy Storrow
Deirdre Brickner-Wood	Greg Horner	Friends At Sustainable
Juliet Buck	Daniel Hoviss	Winchester
Bob Buermann	Jessica Hyman	Sara Trunzo
Anne Burt	Robert Nichols & Debra Kam	Elaine Wang
Susan Butler	Jean Kiedaisch	Patricia & Albert
Renee Carpenter	Becca King	Wheeler
Margaret Carsley	George Landis	Susan Wilder
Memorial Channing	Richard Legault	Claire Wilson
Laurence Chase	Nancy Lin	Susan Worgaftik
Justin Cifello	Amy Wright & Gil Livingston	Cathie Zusy
Linda Clark	Dave Madan	
Russ Cohen	Chris Mancini	
William Conklin	Klyza McGrory	
Jean Cummings	Beth Milham	
Priscilla Daggett	James Miller	
Sylvie Desautels	Ann Morrill	
Judith Diamondstone	Christopher Nyth	
Marianne DiMascio	African Alliance of Rhode Island	
Valentine Doyle	Curtis Ogden	
David Driver	NRDC Ottawaquechee	
James Dumont	Priscilla Payne	
Claire & David Dundorf	Emily Peyton	
Jessica Edgerly Walsh	Mary Phillips	
Amy Ellsworth	Dea Plummer	
Aline and Henry Euler	Micaela Porta	
Barbara Fenhagen	Emily Richards	
Marjorie Findlay	Susan Z Ritz	



Learn more about root\$share:
<http://grassrootsfund/rootshare>

Every dollar of every root\$share donation directly supports grassroots groups across New England. THANK YOU!

A large, stylized leaf logo in a light green color, centered on a dark green background. The leaf has a central vein and several smaller veins branching out. It is surrounded by concentric circular lines, also in a light green color, creating a circular frame around the leaf.

Do you care about your community?

We do too.

**Thank You
for 15 amazing years.**

We look forward to all that is yet to come!

NEGEF STAFF:
Ginny Callan
Julia Dundorf
Cheryl King Fischer
Bart Westdijk
Claire Wheeler

Aria Brickner-McDonald, 2013 Americorps State Member

<http://grassrootsfund.org>