

Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

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In 2010, the Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice received a grant for the "Hartford Recycles" project to educate 900 residents on how to recycle, to protect local air quality by reducing the amount of trash burned at the city's incinerator.

Malama Learning Center Small Grant Success Story

In 2010, with a \$25,000 Environmental Justice Small Grant award, the **Malama Learning Center** formed a partnership with Leeward Community College, as well as local businesses, government and community groups to launch the Hawaii Green Collar Institute. The purpose of the institute was to engage high school and college students in learning about public health and climate change issues affecting their communities.

Students learned from professionals about environmental justice issues, conducted team-based research projects, and received training to become better prepared to enter Hawaii's green collar job industry. In March 2011, the Institute honored its first graduating class of 36 students, 40% of which were of Native Hawaiian descent.

The Institute supported its students' transitions into the workforce by offering them career counseling services that include bulletins to alert them of **green job** openings, resume writing workshops, practice job interview sessions, and career fair opportunities.

To read about more projects like this, visit environmentaljustice/grants/ej-smgrants



Supporting Community-Based Action Programs

EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson's priorities are the focus for 2012 Environmental Justice (EJ) Small Grants. Among the top priorities are: reducing greenhouse gas emissions; improving air quality; managing chemical risks; cleaning up hazardous waste disposal sites; protecting America's water; expanding the conversation on environmentalism and working for environmental justice; and building strong state and tribal partnerships.

The Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) supports the Plan EJ 2014 strategy through the Environmental Justice Small Grants Program. The program uses grants to strengthen community-based programs that engage overburdened communities and build partnerships to promote environmental and public health issues.

About The EJ Small Grants Program

The Environmental Justice Small Grants program provides financial assistance to community-based organizations, and local and tribal governments working on community projects aimed at addressing environmental and public health issues. Since 1994, the program has awarded nearly \$23 million to 1,253 grant recipients. The goal of the program is to help affected communities create self-sustaining, community-based partnerships that will continue to improve local environments in the future.

Is My Organization Eligible?

An eligible applicant **MUST BE** one of the following entities:

1. Incorporated, non-profit, community-based organizations. This includes environmental justice networks, faith based organizations and those affiliated with religious institutions;
2. Federally recognized tribal governments; OR
3. Tribal organizations

AND an eligible applicant must be:

1. Located within the same state, territory, commonwealth, or tribe that the proposed project will be located; federally recognized tribal governments; OR
2. Able to demonstrate that it has worked directly with the affected community.

How To Apply

To find the application or more information, visit environmentaljustice/grants/ej-smgrants

*Did You
Know?*

EPA awarded environmental justice grants to local organizations helping communities affected by the BP oil spill. Funds are being used to help address and adapt to the spill's long-term effects.

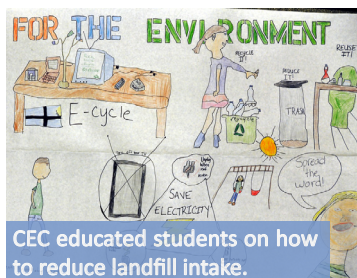




How Have Grants Been Used?

Funding for EJ Small Grants in Fiscal Year 2010 was dispersed among 76 projects across 32 states to support the Administrators' priorities. The types of projects and priorities supported by grants included:

- ▶ **14 projects that reduced America's greenhouse gas emissions.** *Little Village Environmental Justice Organization* received funding to weatherize 100 housing units, and worked with the Chicago Transit Authority to begin a new, 12-mile cross-town bus service that will serve 300,000 people in seven Chicago community areas and the town of Cicero.
- ▶ **18 projects that managed chemical risks.** The *Philadelphia Department of Public Health* used an environmental justice grant to provide outreach support and training for children and pregnant women at-risk and/or affected by lead exposure.



- ▶ **10 projects that cleaned up hazardous-waste disposal sites.** *Citizens' Environmental Coalition (CEC)* educated low-income citizens in the City of Geneva, New York, about the environmental and public health issues associated with the Seneca Meadows Landfill. They also conducted an air monitoring study to determine if the air quality near communities surrounding the landfill is within national air quality standards.

- ▶ **8 projects improved air quality.** *Communities United for Action* provided education and outreach to four low-income communities on how to protect families from air toxics in Mill Creek Valley, OH, and developed strategies to reduce air pollution.

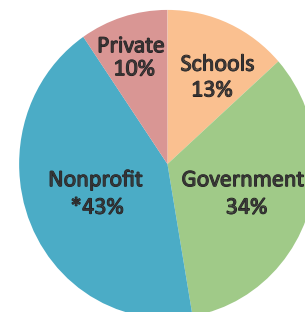
- ▶ **10 projects that protected America's water.** In Richmond, California, The *Watershed Project* used a grant to create a greenway garden as a low-impact way to remove storm water pollutants, as well as to encourage green approaches to cleaning storm water. Recently, the project expanded its efforts by partnering with the City of Oakland to manage the Department of Public Works' Rain Barrel Program.



- ▶ **16 projects that focused on addressing climate equity, energy efficiency, renewable energy, local green economy, and green jobs capacity.** An award on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota funded the *Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation* to provide training on community energy use, organic gardening, and opportunities for green-jobs.

Grant Partnerships

EPA awarded \$1.8 million for grants in 2010. Of the 76 projects, community-based nonprofit grant recipients created partnerships with 313 other organizations, averaging 4 partners per project.



* Percent of \$1.8 million awarded

There was a wide array of partnerships from all sectors, including:

Nonprofits: Grassroots groups, community councils, community health centers, Development corporations

Educational Institutions: Elementary, high school and universities, technical and vocational institutes

Government: Federal, State and local governments, advisory commissions, task forces, planning committees

Private: Farmer's markets, construction companies, local businesses, consulting firms

Geographic Diversity

Grants awarded in 2010 supported 6 tribal governments or organizations in urban and rural areas.

Grant Totals		
Rural	Tribal	Non-Tribal
	5	19
Urban	Tribal	Non-tribal
	1	51



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For More Information

To find out more about the EJ Small Grants Program, call 202-564-2515 or visit www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/grants/ej-smgrants.html

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