



S M A L L GRANTS, TRAININGS & RESOURCES

for community-driven grassroots environmental and “local economy” projects

WHO WE ARE

The New England Grassroots Environment Fund introduces our organization and the resources we provide to support local community efforts focused on **environmental sustainability, justice and local economies**. Since its inception, the Grassroots Fund has built up a core grantmaking program that has funded over 1,800 different community groups located in over 60% of New England’s cities and towns - putting over \$4 million directly into these communities. Search our map for grantees in *your* community - www.grassrootsfund.org/stories/search.

WHAT WE DO

The Grassroots Fund is dedicated to inspiring, connecting, and supporting community-based environmental projects throughout New England. We help those on-the-ground, for whom grassroots work is a passion and whose volunteer time is a priceless contribution communities.

Dollars (financial capital)

- [Seed grants](#) - grants up to \$1,000 to community-based groups with newly evolving local projects
- [Grow grants](#) - grants up to \$3,500 to groups expanding existing projects and broadening their scope

Stories (social capital)

- [RootShare news bulletins](#) - regular email service sharing stories, resources, events, etc.
- [Group profiles](#) - overview pages for each grantee group, searchable by state and issue area
- [Feature stories](#) – highlights of exciting and inspiring local efforts across New England

Tools (intellectual capital)

- [Trainings](#) - *RootSkills*, is a skills-building and networking opportunity with workshops and activities led by professional leadership and community organizing trainers
- [Technical Resources](#) –How-To's, manuals, videos and links designed to assist with project implementation and resources designed to help with the governance side of organizing

PROJECT GRANT EXAMPLES

- [Dunbarton Neighbors Warming Neighbors](#) (NH) – an energy committee driven program that trains volunteers to conduct basic energy efficiency evaluations, installations and energy use counseling for low-income residents.
- [Brattleboro Climate Protection](#) (VT) - a town energy/climate group funded for over twelve years by NEGEF to directly reduce the city’s energy consumption and greenhouse gases, and to educate and motivate residents to act.
- [Bowdoinham Community Development Initiative](#) (ME) aims to establish the capacity to provide local capital to address local community needs, and to incubate and/or support mutually beneficial enterprises. While its initial starting point has been food and farming, its overall goal is to support and strengthen the community.
- [Recycle-a-Bike](#), Providence (RI), has worked since 2001 to connect people - in one of the most economically challenged neighborhoods in the state with the nations highest unemployment rate - with refurbished bikes and practical bike knowledge.
- [Co-op Power Hamden County](#) (MA) - This urban-focused group is tackling social issues that transcend the lines of race and socio-economic status by embracing diversity in order to focus on the shared vision of local ownership of energy services, creating green jobs and improving the environment.
- [Resilience Hub](#), Portland, (ME) helps build resilience at personal, household and community levels in the face of peak oil, climate change and economic volatility while also creating a thriving and abundant local culture. Much of their work is focused on working with the thriving new American neighbors.

- [New Urban Gardeners](#), Pawtucket (RI), have spent the past three years spreading their message and knowledge to the sorts of neighborhoods and residents whom the localvore movement has largely overlooked: families in poorer urban areas, whose geographical terrain is marked by fast-food joints and convenience stores.
- [West Hartford Clean Energy Task Force](#) (CT) - to implement the Town's commitment to obtain 20% clean energy by the year 2010 and more broadly assist the Town on energy-related matters.
- [Messalonskee High School Garden Club](#) (ME) - to design and promote a new multi-faceted student based learning opportunity in the area of gardening, agriculture and environmental awareness.

DOLLARS: What We Fund

Municipal volunteer-driven committees, commission and boards such as an energy task force/committee or conservation commission may apply for funding with the municipality serving as fiscal agent, provided the core organizing team includes active community members/volunteers and not primarily paid municipal staff.

Grants are intended to support community groups across New England that represent the most exciting energy in the environmental movement that are not being reached by traditional funders and that incorporate deliverables with tested methods for community outreach, education and awareness building.

Eligible applicants:

- *are doing community-based environmental work in CT, ME, MA, NH, RI or VT;*
- *are volunteer-driven or have up to 2 full-time paid staff (or equivalents);*
- *have an annual budget under \$100,000;*

The Grassroots Fund does not fund statewide, regional, national or international work. Our focus is on community-based, local initiatives. Grants cannot be used for retroactive expenses, lobbying purposes, regranteeing of Grassroots Fund dollars or large capital acquisitions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO APPLY VISIT: WWW.GRASSROOTSFUND.ORG

• EMAIL info@grassrootsfund.org • CALL 603-905-9915 •

We invite you to spread the word about our grants program and resources to community leaders in your town. Let us know if you need additional information or outreach materials.