



# Environmental Justice Green Development Pilot Projects

U.S. EPA | ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AT EPA NEW ENGLAND

## EPA NEW ENGLAND'S ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM

works to protect all people, regardless of race, color, national origin or income, from environmental harms and risks, and to involve all citizens in making decisions that affect their environment. The program is designed to achieve environmental and public health improvements for communities disproportionately burdened by the impacts of pollution.



### INTRO:

In response to the economic crisis and double-digit unemployment rate in New England, EPA New England has been working to develop strategies that will help grow the green economy, while focusing on promoting green jobs. Working within the confines of EPA's mission-related regional goals and responsibilities, EPA New England has identified several areas where we can make a difference in promoting green jobs while specifically targeting under-resourced and under-served communities that have historically suffered a disproportionate share of negative environmental impacts. EPA New England's goal is to develop activities and approaches that can be modeled throughout the agency.

### PILOT PROJECTS:

#### Supporting the Drinking Water Operators Placement Partnership

New England Water Works Association, in partnership with the CT Section of American Water Works Association and MA Water Works Association, is developing internship programs addressing the aging workforce and pending shortage of future water operations professionals. These efforts are intended to provide six to ten internships in the drinking water sector for students in the Connecticut and Massachusetts environmental justice communities.

#### Training Greenscapers

A "Greenscaper" training was held on May 11 and 18 at the Beardsley Zoo in Bridgeport, Conn. The training was targeted to small and minority landscaping and contracting/construction businesses. The training was provided by EPA New England's Assistance and Pollution Prevention Office, the Bridgeport Small & Minority Business Resource Office and Bridgeport Parks Department, University of Connecticut, the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Water Program, and Rutgers University. The training focused on rain gardens as a way to control stormwater runoff. As part of the program, the 28 trainees installed a rain garden at the Beardsley Zoo that will be used both for education and stormwater management. EPA also worked with and funded a municipal internship program designed to train interns on green landscaping and rain garden techniques.

EPA New England plans to expand this effort and offer rain garden training to communities throughout New England.

#### Supporting the Youth & Environment Program

EPA New England awarded a \$15,000 grant to the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission to oversee a program that would introduce economically disadvantaged youth in Lowell to career opportunities in the environmental field. The program was held at the Lowell, Mass. Regional Wastewater Utility for the summers of 2010 and 2011. The Lowell program promotes environmental education and helps high school students become more aware of the need to protect the environment and water quality in their own communities.

#### Connecting Trained Community Members with Environmental Jobs

EPA New England held two regional roundtables in October 2010, in Hartford, Conn. and in February 2011 in Providence, RI, to identify strategies for increasing the success of connecting New England brownfields job training graduates to jobs. Participants in the roundtable included representatives of the five New England job training centers, brownfields grantees, state and municipal government, private businesses, and EPA. To learn more about EPA Brownfields Job Training Program, please visit [www.epa.gov/region1/brownfields/programs/jobtrain/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/region1/brownfields/programs/jobtrain/index.html).

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