FOCUS: TAMWORTH—Tamworth, New Hampshire

In April 2003, Tamworth residents were shocked to discover that developer Club Motorsports of Derry planned to build “Valley Motorsports Park,” a private race-track, on a mountainside in town. At the facility, members would drive high-performance cars and motorcycles around a two-mile track seven days a week.

Noise analysis showed that noise levels would be unacceptable across the area. The track site is over a major aquifer, so spills of high-octane racing fuel could wreak havoc with local water quality. A number of residents of Tamworth and surrounding towns were very concerned, especially since Tamworth has no comprehensive zoning ordinance to control this kind of development.

The core of the group came together in the fall of 2003 and petitioned for a special Town Meeting to enact Emergency Temporary Zoning in Tamworth. The measure failed, as have many other attempts to enact zoning in town. The next spring, Focus: Tamworth was created, with a concentration on regulatory and legal action.

Ups and downs
Focus: Tamworth helped pass a Racetrack Ordinance at Town Meeting in 2004, only to find that the developer had pushed a bill through the NH legislature that exempted this kind of private track from town regulation. Tamworth’s state representatives introduced a repeal bill, for which Focus members lobbied hard in Concord. The bill survived a floor fight in the New Hampshire House but failed in the Senate.

Over the last three years the group has assembled a team of legal, environmental and engineering experts; organized dozens of speakers and presentations for local, state and federal permit hearings; conducted a vigorous public information campaign in the local press; worked to pass a Noise Ordinance at Town Meeting, and spent many hours (and dollars, including two NEGEF grants) challenging the project’s major permits.

In December 2004, Focus: Tamworth and a group of other area residents sued the developer to force the project to get a Special Use Permit under Tamworth’s Wetlands Conservation Ordinance, which is much stricter than state or federal wetlands protection laws. The group saw its first big victory when New Hampshire Superior Court ruled unequivocally in its favor in December of 2005; the developer appealed anyway.

This spring, Focus: Tamworth supported the election of two open-minded Selectboard members and helped defeat a bill to change the form of town government.

Coming to the end?
The racetrack was originally scheduled to open for business in the fall of 2004, but so far there has been only a small amount of logging, all outside the affected wetlands areas. Group members are hopeful that they’re close to the end of the struggle, but there are still several challenges ahead: the outcome of the appeal of the Superior Court

North slope of Mt. Whittier, site of the proposed racetrack facility.

(Continued on Page 2)
Dialogue versus Discussion. Is there a difference?

Have you ever sat in a meeting where everyone is busy giving their point of view, trying to prove why they are right? In the continuing divide between our culture’s values and ideas, finding common ground is one of the biggest challenges facing community volunteers. As simple as it may sound, there is a significant difference between dialogue and discussion. Most of us, I’m willing to wager, discuss when we really need dialogue to nurture good governance and community decision making. So if you have really never stopped to think about the subtle and not so subtle differences, I’d like to take this opportunity to introduce you to DIALOGUE.

The roots of Dialogue trace to the Greek words "dia" and "logos" which means "through meaning." One might think of dialogue as a stream of meaning flowing among and through a group of people. Done well, the exchange helps spawn new understanding, and a fresh approach to problem-solving. Dialogue moves beyond any one individual's understanding, makes explicit the implicit, and builds collective meaning and community.

Discussion is the way that most people communicate. During discussion we present our ideas. Everyone else analyzes and dissect them from their different points of view, then offers their counterpoints. Discussion is really a type of exchange designed to make sure you win. With everyone trying to win the argument, shared decisions are the exception, sub-committees are the rule, and the debate endlessly continues.

Dialogue, on the other hand, is an exploration of ideas. It is not a new form of communication but is the way the ancient Greeks and many so called “primitive” societies explored ideas. During dialogue the team is greater than the sum of the parts. Dialogue focuses on trying to learn and create. Individual assumptions are suspended, creating a space for a free flow of ideas. Participants think and watch themselves think. The great physicists Heisenberg, Pauli, Einstein and Bohr described the conversations they had with each other. As we know from history, their conversations (dialogue) changed traditional physics because what they could achieve as a group exceeded what each could do as individuals.

Three conditions are needed to get a group to approach a problem through dialogue:

—Everyone must suspend their assumptions, something that is not easy, to really see where the truth is. Dialogue comes to a grinding halt when someone digs in their heels and says “this is the way”.

—Team members must be colleagues and equals. If we think of others as colleagues we will interact as colleagues.

—Facilitators may at first be needed to practice dialogue and ensure that all assumptions are suspended. As a group gets better at dialogue the need for a facilitator is reduced.

If you would like to read more about the differences between dialogue and discussion, you might visit http://www.thedialoguegrouponline.com/whatsdialogue.html. Next time you are in a situation that requires an exchange of ideas – your regular group meeting, a planning, zoning, conservation commission, selectboard or other public meeting, think about dialogue as opposed to discussion. If you and your group would like to learn more or would like NEGEF to organize a training around the use of dialogue in problem solving, email or call. We would welcome your thoughts.

—Cheryl King Fischer, E. D.

(continued from Page 1)

decision, to be heard by the NH Supreme Court some time in the next few months; a hearing before the Tamworth Planning Board on CMI’s court-ordered application for a permit under the Tamworth Wetlands Conservation Ordinance; and a challenge to the project’s Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 permit, based on an independent study of the impact of track noise.

After more than three years of hard work, the group hopes they will soon be able to “focus” on bringing Tamworth badly-needed jobs and tax relief via environmentally friendly development.

For more information, and a detailed history of Focus: Tamworth’s activities and updates on the situation, see www.focustamworth.org.

—Kate Vachon, Focus: Tamworth

Focus: Tamworth members meet to discuss strategy to prevent construction of the racetrack on Mt. Whittier.
Sprawlscaping
EcoAlert from American P.I.E.

A recent inventory of developed land in the lower 48 states revealed that more than 106 million acres are now developed, one-third of which was paved over during the last two decades of the twentieth century (National Resources Inventory). A corollary finding: U.S. census statistics indicate that the number of people living in metropolitan areas rose 80% between 1950 and 1990, while the land covered by those areas rose 305%. Urban swelling has led to high levels of pollution and congestion; the degradation of life in urban areas - the loss of traditional neighborhoods, downtowns and community centers - has also led to the all too familiar sprawlscapes where most people now live.

The pace of sprawling development has quickened, shows no sign of lessening, and the environmental consequences are emerging with clarity. According to the Worldwatch Institute, suburban roads and houses supplant more than 2.2 million acres of farmland each year in the United States. Sprawl also is linked to climate change; road transportation has been the fastest growing source of carbon emissions from burning fossil fuel. A global consequence of urban sprawl is that more of the world's people are experiencing health effects of car-centered development; the prevalence of asthma in the United States alone more than doubled from 6.8 million people in 1980 to 17.3 million in 1998, with deaths also doubling to near 6,000 in 1995. Consequences of sprawl are not limited to humankind; all other life - flora and fauna - are competing with people for livable space.

Citizens can work to forestall - even reverse - the environmental and health consequences of sprawl in their own communities. Among the key steps:

- Citizen coalitions can work to encourage urban transportation alternatives. Cars require more space than other forms of transit. A lane of light rail, for example, can move four to eight times more people per hour than a lane of highway can. Municipal leadership in construction and promotion of bicycle paths can boost the share of riders in an urban area.

- We should rehabilitate what we already have. We are a disposable society that is not connecting well with our past. Many built structures - our accumulated architecture - represent opportunities for reuse. As we recycle everything from newspapers to glass bottles, for the same reasons we should recycle and sustain our older, established structures.

- Let's begin the process of restoring abused landscapes. Urban sprawl causes environmental degradation and loss of biodiversity. Human beings depend upon well-functioning ecosystems, upon the good health and persistence of indigenous plant and animal species that also occupy the communities which we construct.

In your community, advocate naturescaping, not sprawlscaping.

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NEGEF GRASSROOTS SURVEY

On June 14th the New England Grassroots Environment Fund sent out a request to all groups that have applied for funding during its ten years of existence, asking them to fill out an online survey. NEGEF staff and board of directors are currently working on a ten-year strategic plan, and feedback on current programming is a vital input in this process. The survey questions were designed to understand how well NEGEF is doing at meeting the needs of those involved in New England grassroots work, and what other services NEGEF should consider offering to community activists in the future.

We were overwhelmed with the responses we got from all of you; a total of 345 activists took the time to complete the survey. Groups from all over the New England region shared their thoughts with us, with respondents from both NEGEF’s small grants program and from its Boston Grants Initiative program. Both funded and non-funded organizations filled out the informative questionnaire. The information is currently being processed and will provide valuable insights as NEGEF embarks on its second decade. Thank you to all of you who participated; we appreciate your honest and important feedback.

As a token of our appreciation, NEGEF staff randomly chose one respondent from each New England state and one respondent from the Boston Grants Initiative program. The following people will receive a highly valued and sought-after NEGEF hat:

Chuck Toal—Colchester Land Trust, Colchester, CT
Richard Romano—East Quabbin Land Trust, Hardwick, MA
Tom Reeves—Friends of the Kennebec River Rail Trail, Hallowell, ME
Olivia Zink—Save Our Groundwater, Barrington, NH
Wayne Asselin—Citizens Alliance for Responsible Development, Coventry, RI
Marcia Bourne—Vermont Earth Institute, Brattleboro, VT
Marcos Beleche—Codman Square CDC, Dorchester, MA
NEGF

With the garden season in full force, we thought you would appreciate a few tips about natural pest controls. We found this useful article in one of our grantee’s newsletters, Prudence Conservancy’s Gardening Times

Control Insects Without Pesticides: Simple Organic Solutions for Pest Problems

We certainly understand that many gardeners become anxious when they see pests on their plants and want to react decisively when they see their plants damaged. But we must remind you of the central principle of organic gardening: growing plants in harmony with Nature. And insects, even those that eat your plants, are a crucial part of that system. When you see insects in your garden, take some time to really watch what they’re doing. Are they actually destroying the plant or just nibbling it a bit? Many plants can outgrow minor damage. Also, in many cases, insects attack stressed out plants. Do you have enough healthy plants to spare the sickly ones? Can you restore sickly plants to robust health so they can resist insect attack? The best defenses against insect attack are preventative measures. Grow plants suited to the site and they’ll be less stressed out. Don’t let them be too wet, too dry or too shaded. Design a diverse garden, so that pests of a particular plant won’t decimate an entire section of the garden.

Most importantly, encourage the natural predators of pest insects to hunt in your garden—beneficial insects (such as the common ladybug), birds, frogs and lizards control pests by eating them. You can make your garden hospitable for your natural allies by keeping a water source (just a dish-full, if that’s all you’ve got) nearby for them and by not wiping out the entire pest population with a pesticide, sending the beneficials elsewhere in search of food. Also, grow plants with small blossoms like sweet alyssum and dill, which attract predatory insects who feed on flowers’ nectar between attacks on pests.

Barriers such as row covers, netting and plant collars very effectively protect crops from pests. Sticky traps and pheromone lures are another way to minimize your pest problems without harming other living things in your garden.

Finally, if you need to react quickly to an acute pest invasion you can choose from several natural products that affect specific insects, won’t harm humans, pets or wildlife, and that degrade quickly in the environment. Among the best of those products is Bacillus thuringiensis, a naturally occurring bacteria that you apply to your plants to disrupt the digestion of caterpillars and other leaf-eaters. Be sure to identify the pest positively before you buy this product because each strain of Bt affects specific kinds of insects. Horticultural oils, insecticidal soaps and garlic and/or hot pepper sprays also work well against many pests. For more information, go to (www.organicgardening.com/feature/0,7518,s1-2-9-9,00.html)

Niaz Dorry, a grantee and the Director of Clean Catch that focuses its efforts in Gloucester, MA, recently sent us an article from Seaworthy News. We have excerpted parts of the article here.

Friends Don’t Let Friends Eat Farmed Shrimp

Although not a revolutionary idea in itself, farming fish — or aquaculture — has been replacing wild fish on many plates. Using the increasing global population and the decline in wild fish stocks as their alibi, the armies of industrial aquaculture farms believe their "Blue Revolution" will be the answer. This notion is causing a stir.

Dr. Vandana Shiva, physicist and author from New Delhi, India, has worked with communities fighting against the expansion of the shrimp aquaculture industry in that country. In recent years, despite Supreme Court rulings that should halt the expansion, the industry continues to operate and the protests continue to mount.

"We need to dispel the notion that the environmental movement is a luxury of the rich when in fact it’s not. It’s the people’s survival, especially the poor people’s survival!” says Dr. Shiva. "An 80-year old elder from one of the tribes who recently died once said ‘I want everyone that is eating aquaculture shrimp to know that they are eating our blood.’"

Cecile Robin compares flooding the market with farmed-raised fish to demanding vegetables out of season. "People want seafood, vegetables, all year around but there is only good stuff during the season. Strawberries are good in season. Shrimp is the same way. Out of season shrimp -- imported from somewhere else -- have no taste to them."

Food & Water Watch has released a series of reports detailing the problems with industrial shrimp aquaculture ranging from toxins in the shrimp, disease in farms, and economic implications of the expansion of shrimp farms to coastal fishing communities around the world.

In recent years, proliferation of industrial-scale aquaculture has led many fishing communities around the world and in the U.S. to stand against the expansion of the industry.

What Can You Do?

Many consumers avoid wild shrimp due to concerns about bycatch of unwanted species and habitat impact of bottom trawling. To fill the void, cheap, farmed-raised shrimp has replaced the wild version on many menus. But the cost to our oceans, coastal habitats and small-scale fishing communities is too high a price to pay for farmed shrimp.

Over the years, shrimpers have worked to resolve their environmental issues and have indeed come a long way. Their efforts to date need to be rewarded.

Next time you have a yen for shrimp, demand wild caught shrimp. From New England, to the Northwest, to the Gulf of Mexico, wild shrimpers are waiting to regain the consumer’s trust as well as their share of the market.
There have been two rounds of grants since our last newsletter. The following groups received grants at the April meeting:

**Bear-Paw Regional Greenways**
Deerfield, NH  $1,000
To engage more landowners in land conservation by providing them with the booklet, "Conserving Your Land" which details options available to them and then track results of this outreach.

**Belmont Conservation Commission**
Belmont, NH  $1,000
To educate and activate the citizens and officials of Belmont about the need to preserve and protect natural resources and open space.

**Blackstone River Watershed Association**
Uxbridge, MA  $1,500
To help fund the Second Annual Water Chestnut Clean Up to remove invasive plants from the three acres of infestation nearest to the shore.

**Center for Biobased Economy**
Hardwick, VT  $1,500
To establish the Hardwick Community Garden to raise awareness of the benefits of sustainable agriculture by enhancing community food security and access to local, organic food.

**Community Bicycle Center**
Kennebunk, ME  $1,500
To initiate a social entrepreneurial business engaging youth in recycling bicycles to sell to summer tourist industry employees.

**Connecticut Coalition Against Millstone**
Redding Ridge, CT  $1,500
To help fund the "Katie the Goat Strontium Awareness Project" by which the goat's milk, produced near the Millstone Nuclear Plant, is being tested for Strontium-90.

**Cumberland Concerned Citizens**
Cumberland, RI  $1,500
To oppose the appeal of the town's zoning board rejection of a 343-unit condominium development.

**East Longmeadow First**
East Longmeadow, MA  $2,000
To help pay for an independent traffic engineer to conduct a peer review of a developer's proposal for a 147,054 square foot Lowe's store on 34 acres of land and towards the cost of environmental impact studies on the site's wetlands.

**East Quabbin Land Trust**
Hardwick, MA  $1,500
To enhance citizen action through financial support and physical labor in the creation of the Ware River Rail Trail, a 3.5-mile trail that follows the old Mass Central rail line.

**F.R.E.S.H. New London**
New London, CT  $1,500
To help fund a program of community food security projects that connect youth with nature, families with food, and the community with greater health.

**French River Connection**
Webster, MA  $1,000
To enhance advocacy for the group's vision of the French River as a valued community resource through an updated brochure and website, newsletters, and a powerpoint projector.

**Friends of Vaughan Field**
Hallowell, ME  $1,500
To organize and educate the residents of Hallowell about the critical nature of saving one of the city's last remaining urban greenspaces and to help finance a study to determine the impact of potential development.

**Help Raynham/RCAF**
Raynham, MA  $1,500
To help fund legal counsel and water quality tests for the group's campaign to prevent the construction of a large trash transfer facility near two large neighborhoods and an Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

**Hoosic River Watershed Association**
Williamstown, MA  $1,000
To fund programs and workshops that will help community groups become relatively independent partners with HooRWA in looking after streams and rivers of the Hoosic Watershed.

**Lamoine Conservation Commission**
Lamoine, ME  $1,500
To establish a permanent monitoring system for recording water levels in the aquifer, monitor water levels in representative wells, establish a data base of water quality of wells in three communities, and raise community awareness about protecting groundwater.

**Lull's Brook Watershed Association**
Hartland 4 Corners, VT  $1,000
To continue the campaign against the construction of a large septic system that will discharge 9500 gallons per day of partially treated wastewater into Lull's Brook, a tributary of the Connecticut River.

**Mashpee Environmental Coalition**
Mashpee, MA  $1,000
To expand the group's outreach via a newsletter, internet presence, pamphlets and presentations.

**Millers River Watershed Council**
Athol, MA  $1,000
To strengthen and expand the group's volunteer watershed monitoring activities and conduct increased educational outreach to local town officials, residents and youth.

**Montpelier Energy Team**
Montpelier, VT  $1,500
To develop a framework for organizing data and awareness of current energy use, urge the City Council to establish goals for energy reduction and outline a community involvement process that will lead to energy reduction.

**Neighborhood Guardians**
West Nottingham, NH  $1,000
To help fund an appeal in Superior Court regarding the Town of Nottingham's site plan approval for the USA Springs Bottling Plant.

Members of F.R.E.S.H. New London lean against their newly constructed compost bin.

Katie poses in front of the Connecticut Capitol with her new kids, Cindy-Lu and Joe-Joe.
Old Bedford Village Development  
New Bedford, MA  $2,300  
To help fund the Environmental Justice Project, a series of meetings, workshops and events that promote environmental education, environmental health, justice, sustainability, leadership and stewardship among neighborhood residents on issues concerning brownfields development.

Our Town Damariscotta  
Damariscotta, ME  $2,000  
To help fund outreach expenses related to the group’s Size Cap campaign in the region which is being threatened with the development of a WalMart Supercenter and the resulting sprawl.

Our Town Thomaston  
Thomaston, ME  $2,000  
To develop and carry out a campaign to educate the citizens about the long-term impact of huge retail development and the importance of a size cap initiative.

Pittsford Preservation Corporation  
Florence, VT  $1,000  
To support community discussions about the Agency of Transportation’s plans to alter Route 7 through the village with presentations from engineering and scientific surveys of the proposed project.

Policy Development  
Amherst, MA  $1,500  
To support StopSprawlMart.org, a project that brings together a coalition of concerned citizens and groups to stop the building of a WalMart Supercenter in Hadley, MA on a 26-acre site that includes wetlands, agricultural land, rare species habitat and nesting grounds.

Rhode Island Earth Institute  
Providence, RI  $1,000  
To promote Sustainability Study Circles, engage in community building efforts and support appropriate actions as communities to reduce individual and collective ecological footprints.

Save Ingate Land  
Belchertown, MA  $1,500  
To save as much as possible of the habitat and resources, including extensive wetlands, on the 385-acre property proposed for development of 125 high-end homes and major equestrian community.

Shaftsbury Citizens for Responsible Growth  
Shaftsbury, VT  $1,500  
To hire professional experts to assess the impact of a proposed solid-waste transfer station, secure necessary legal counsel, and educate the community about the facility.

Stenbeck Place Preservation  
Scituate, MA  $1,000  
To hire a hydrologist to analyze the proposed housing development site in order to prevent contamination of the underground aquifer and/or the nearby brook.

Terra Firma Farm  
Stonington, CT  $1,000  
To start a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) garden to bring together community members, farmers and agricultural land to celebrate nature and community.

Trips for Kids New Bedford  
New Bedford, MA  $1,000  
To help fund a program with inner-city kids who will create a tree nursery in a local Bioreserve to restore the native Atlantic White Cedar.

Watershed Partnership  
Guilford, CT  $1,500  
To fund the group’s “Safe Grounds” campaign to reduce or eliminate private and public use of toxics lawn pesticides in Connecticut towns and cities.

We The People  
Milford, ME  $1,500  
To help pay for expert testimony for the campaign against the expansion of the West Old Town Landfill.

In our most recent round in June, the NEGEF Grantmaking Committee awarded grants to the following groups:

Addison County Relocalization Network  
Middlebury, VT  $1,000  
To assist with the organizational development of a new Peak-Oil response group through outreach and educational programs, networking, web site creation, and facilitation of community-based projects.

Amherst Farmers’ Market  
Milford, NH  $1,500  
To help fund the first year-round indoor farmers’ market in the state, bringing fresh locally grown and crafted goods to a wide community base.

Bayside Neighborhood Association  
Portland, ME  $2,000  
To expand the opportunities for urban residents to garden in the Bayside community.

Belmont Citizens Forum  
Lexington, MA  $2,000  
To hire a consultant to review the effect of proposed development of the privately-owned Belmont Uplands parcel, an ecologically important parcel which provides stormwater storage for flood-prone areas in town, on town sewers.

Bike to the Sea  
Malden, MA  $2,000  
To assist the organization with funding for a temporary Executive Director.

Central Vermont Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom  
Montpelier, VT  $2,000  
To help stabilize the south bank of the Winooski River where the Peace Garden is located by planting indigenous dogwoods and to replace benches and other accessories in the park.

Citizens for Sludge-Free Land  
North Sandwich, NH  $1,500  
To continue work with Local Advisory Committees and municipal boards in the towns they represent to increase protection for water and agricultural soils from landspreading, topdressing and stockpiling of sewage sludge and septage.

Corinth Conservation Commission  
Corinth, VT  $500  
To help fund start-up costs, including Green Up Day activities, gathering data on local rivers, compiling natural resources inventories, a speaker series, and outreach to townspeople.
East Montpelier Peak Oil Group  
Montpelier, VT  
$1,500  
To inform people about the impending decline in world-wide oil production and its consequences and to prepare the local community to east the shock of sudden oil price increases while protecting the local environment.

East Side Neighborhood Network  
Augusta, ME  
$1,500  
To stop city plans to rezone public property in the neighborhood that allows for the construction of a 47,000 square foot grocery store on land that was deeded to the citizens for educational and recreational purposes and includes a building on the National Register of Historic Places.

Environmental Justice Program  
Edgecomb, ME  
$1,500  
To double the number of congregations participating in the new $10/week local foods project as part of the 2006 Maine Food Policy goal that all Mainers will get 80% of their food calories from Maine food by 2020.

Friends of Dexter Training Ground Park  
Providence, RI  
$1,000  
To establish a "friends" group of one of Providence's most heavily used and prominent parks to advocate for maintenance and care of the park that will bring neighbors together in community, fun, and park improvement.

Friends of Donigian Park  
Providence, RI  
$1,500  
To continue hiring park monitors for weekly cleanups and surveillance of the park, participate in park events, and create new partnerships with Abackus, a software company, and YouthBuild, a local construction training program.

Friends of Newton Hill  
Worcester, MA  
$1,000  
To help fund two vital aspects of a ten-year management and restoration plan for the Newton Hill section of Elm Park, part of the consultant costs and public presentations and community outreach.

Friends of Sears Island  
Islesboro, ME  
$2,000  
To articulate a positive and environmentally appropriate future for Sears Island, engage citizens throughout the region in support of this vision, to effectively participate in a stakeholder planning process initiated by the Governor, and ensure implementation of the Sears Island conservation management policies that arise from this process.

Friends of Tully Lake  
Royalston, MA  
$2,000  
To increase public outreach and to fund expert review of environmental threats from a development for 54 luxury homes to Lake Tully, a major natural and economic resource in central Massachusetts.

Genetic Engineering Action Group  
Brattleboro, VT  
$1,500  
To create a computer database that will allow GEAG to compile contact information for all Vermont citizens who have expressed an interest in GMO issues, thus allowing information to be conveyed in a more timely and efficient manner.

Grafton Community Organic Gardening Project  
Grafton, VT  
$750  
To bring together community members who might not otherwise be directly involved with their neighbors to grow organic food for themselves and to distribute any surplus food for community members in need.

Greenways Alliance of Rhode Island  
Jamestown, RI  
$500  
To help develop a strategic plan to seek out and secure the commitment of community advocates to encourage participation of other Rhode Island trails and bicycle groups to advocate for safe roads and trails.

Hogback Conservation Association  
Brattleboro, VT  
$2,000  
To help fund appraisal and legal costs as well as fundraising expenses associated with purchasing the Hogback Mountain area, a 559-acre tract of land for conservation and accessible recreational use.

Katahdin Center for Education & Research  
Brunswick, ME  
$2,000  
To inform the public about the human and ecological dangers of using sludge as a fertilizer/compost, present alternative safe products, and safe methods to dispose of the sludge generated by the Town’s waste treatment facility.

Mad River Neighborhood Association  
Moretown, VT  
$1,500  
To continue the campaign to prevent a rock mining quarry from being opened on 90 acres of exceptionally scenic land in the agricultural district currently being used for both recreational and agricultural purposes.

Neutaconkanut Hill Association  
Johnston, RI  
$1,500  
To help fund appraisal and legal costs as well as fundraising expenses associated with purchasing the Hogback Mountain area, a 559-acre tract of land for conservation and accessible recreational use.

Nuclear Free Vermont  
Dummerston, VT  
$2,000  
To help support a full-time graduate student intern and for production costs of public education and campaign materials that will educate the public about recent victories regarding the closing of the aging Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant.
Outdoor Leadership and Environmental Education Project  
Providence, RI $2,000  
To help fund OLEEP’s mentor program in which Brown students volunteer as mentors to high school students and teach after-school workshops on understanding the environment, assessing the problems facing the quality of Rhode Island’s environment, and building leadership skills on wilderness trips to effect change within the community.

Pascommuck Conservation Trust  
Easthampton, MA $1,500  
To support outreach and fundraising efforts related to the Echodale Farm Conservation Project, a unique project aimed at permanently protecting a working farm and creating new recreational opportunities for Easthampton residents.

Pascommuck Conservation Trust  
Easthampton, MA $1,500  
To support outreach and fundraising efforts related to the Echodale Farm Conservation Project, a unique project aimed at permanently protecting a working farm and creating new recreational opportunities for Easthampton residents.

Peace and Plenty Community Garden  
Providence, RI $1,500  
To enrich and maintain lead-free soil, protect the garden from unsafe pests, and improve the community grounds with new beds.

People of Ayer Concerned About the Environment  
Ayer, MA $1,500  
To continue the work of assessing and monitoring the cleanup of PCE contamination in a zone II aquifer located in Ayer.

Potters Avenue Neighborhood  
Potters Avenue Neighborhood  
Providence, RI $2,000  
To replace contaminated soil in the garden beds and the playground area and assemble and install new playground equipment in the Potters Avenue Park, a community garden/park complex.

Sakonnet Preservation Association  
Little Compton, RI $1,500  
To protect wetlands on a 5.2-acre site that adjoins property owned by the organization.

Salt Ponds Coalition  
Charlestown, RI $2,000  
To monitor the dissolved oxygen and water clarity in two of Rhode Island’s Coastal Salt Ponds during the summer months and use the data to estimate the aquatic health of the salt ponds.

Simsbury Homeowners Advocating Responsible Expansion  
Simsbury, CT $2,300  
To help advocate for responsible development in Simsbury and to oppose an impending application by Konover Development Corporation for large-scale retail on 60 acres of land.

South County Conservancy  
Charlestown, RI $1,000  
To produce a semi-annual newsletter and a brochure to improve the group’s visibility in the community by showing what they have achieved and plans for future projects.

Stockbridge Community Garden  
Stockbridge, VT $650  
To improve the garden with new raised beds, with the children involved in the planning, planting, maintenance, harvesting, cooking and eating of the foods grown with support of school faculty, staff, parents and community members.

U.N.I. Force  
Williamstown, VT $2,250  
To continue the group’s efforts in appealing the Agency of Natural Resources and the Department of Environmental Conservation to postpone reclassification of a portion of groundwater in Williamstown from potable to non-potable until after further testing.

Little City Growers  
Providence, RI $1,500  
To expand the farmer’s cooperative’s operation and presence in the community by developing a useful cooperative model for sales of organic produce to restaurants.

Valley Alliance for Smart Growth  
North Smithfield, RI $2,000  
To continue to educate town officials and boards regarding sustainable smart growth opportunities while opposing the environmentally destructive and unsustainable Dowling Village project, a 122-acre big box retail development.

Vermont Interfaith Power and Light  
Richmond, VT $2,500  
To help fund a major expansion of educational workshops and energy audits to help Vermont congregations recognize the moral implications of present patterns of energy use and learn how to reduce energy consumption and increase use of renewable energy.

Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Alliance  
Greensboro Bend, VT $2,000  
To educate, build alliances, lobby and demonstrate in every format available to citizen activists to advance the positive options of conservation and alternative energy sources.
The Boston Grants Initiative program provides grants to groups working on environmental justice and health, greenspace and other environmental projects in Boston, Chelsea, Somerville and Cambridge. The most recent grants were awarded to the following groups:

**Boston Community Garden Council**
**Boston**
$7,000
To increase membership through mailings, translation services, neighborhood outreach, and workshops.

**Chelsea Latino Immigrant Committee**
**Chelsea**
$10,000
To expand and intensify its worksite environmental organizing campaign to reduce worksite hazards for immigrant workers through workshops, organizing at selected sites, and mobilizing a coalition to advocate for changes in public policy.

**CitySprouts**
**Cambridge**
$7,000
To support and further develop a summer and after school garden program at five public school sites for urban children, youth and adults in Cambridge.

**Columbia Point Community Garden**
**Boston**
$2,500
To make the Columbia Point Community Garden more handicapped accessible with raised beds, and to fund tools, benches and outreach events.

**Dorchester Housing and Open Space Action Team**
**Dorchester**
$9,000
To transform a long-blighted, overgrown and inaccessible 70,000 square foot "urban wild" owned by the city of Boston into a green space where residents can enjoy walking paths, picnicking and other passive recreation.

**Erie Ellington Neighborhood Association**
**Dorchester**
$9,000
To engage neighborhood residents in a planning process for addressing vacant lots inventory within the group's area and develop strategies for putting these vacant lots into better active use that improves environmental health of the neighborhood.

**Four Corners Action Coalition**
**Dorchester**
$7,000
To fund the organization's environmental justice campaign around transit equity.

**Friends of Generations of Hope Community Garden**
**Dorchester**
$7,000
To complete construction of the Generations of Hope community garden through an internship for neighborhood teenagers, vegetable gardening program for children, materials for paintings and mosaics, plants, construction of an arbor, bringing water to the lot, and gathering activities for the neighborhood.

**Islamic Multi-Service Organization**
**Roxbury**
$5,000
To complete work begun last year on Cabot Street Peace Garden by putting in grass, a walkway and a gazebo area and then host several community events in the garden.

**On the Move: Greater Transportation Justice Coalition**
**Roxbury**
$10,000
To solidify and expand the membership base to include a broader collection of resident-driven organizations and to achieve real improvements for transit users, pedestrians and bicyclists in Greater Boston's lower income communities and communities of color.

**Somerville Arts Council**
**Somerville**
$5,000
To help fund the Mystic River Mural Project by providing summer stipends for 10 local low-income Somerville youth.

**South Street Youth Center**
**Jamaica Plain**
$5,000
To provide nontraditional ways to engage youth at the drop-in center by starting a community garden to emphasize nutrition and ecological education.
There are a number of upcoming conferences around the region. We will have more details on our website about each conference, but you might want to mark your calendars for the following events:

**Our Communities, Our Water: Connecting the Local and the Global**  
September 22—24—University of Massachusetts/Amherst, Amherst, MA  
For more information: www.massglobalaction.org

**Renewable Energy Vermont Annual Conference**  
Thursday, October 19th—Wyndham Hotel, Burlington, VT  
For more information: www.revermont.org

**Bioneers By the Bay: Connecting for Change**  
Visionary and practical solutions for restoring the Earth and its inhabitants  
October 20—22—University of Massachusetts/Dartmouth, Dartmouth, MA  
For more information: www.connectingforchange.org

**Connecticut Environmental Justice Conference**  
Saturday, October 21st—Capitol Community College, Hartford, CT  
For more information: ccej@environmental-justice.org; Dawn at 860-548-1133

**Managing Land & Visitors: Stewardship Challenges of Natural & Historic Places**  
Friday, November 3rd—Doyle Conservation Center, Leominster, MA  
Sponsored by Trustees of Reservations-Putnam Conservation Institute  
For more information: www.ttor.org

**Vermont Environmental Activist Conference**  
Saturday, November 11th—Randolph, VT  
Conference Organizers: NEGEF, Rural Vermont, Toxics Action Coalition, VNRC, VPIRG  
More information to follow on our website: www.grassrootsfund.org
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UPCOMING GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE:
Small Grants Program: Postmarked by September 15th for an early November decision
Check our website: www.grassrootsfund.org for grant guidelines and for the application.

Please call the office, 802.223.4622, if you would like to discuss a potential project or if you have any questions about the application process.