

Environmental Finance Center Highlights October – December 2014

Syracuse University EFC (Region II)

- The EFC facilitated the November 2014 meeting of the Vieques Sustainability Task Force, part of *President Obama's Task Force on Puerto Rico*. The Vieques Task Force is made up of community leaders, municipal representatives, the Puerto Rico Solid Waste Authority, private sector representatives, EPA, and other agencies. The Task Force seeks to advance sustainable economic development, job creation projects, and Superfund cleanup and remediation efforts. For more information on the work of the Task Force go to: <http://www.prrcycles.org/vieques-sustainability-task-force.html>.

NOTE: Vieques, Puerto Rico, an island municipality east of the main island, is home to the largest wildlife refuge in the Caribbean, the world's brightest bioluminescent bay, and more than 60 years of use by the US Navy as a bomb and testing site.

University of Maryland EFC (Region III)

- The EFC registered eight new communities in the Sustainable Maryland Certified Program during the quarter. Sustainable Maryland is a free and voluntary certification program that helps Maryland communities choose a direction for their greening efforts. The program provides a framework to benchmark sustainability initiatives and facilitate community prioritization. Ten new communities achieved full certification in 2014 bringing the total number of such municipalities to in the program to 22. The program's website is located at: <http://sustainablemaryland.com/>.

University of North Carolina EFC (Region IV)

- The EFC completed a portfolio of work on innovative financing approaches for stormwater and green infrastructure which include a capital improvement guide for budget officers, a green financing strategy, a catalog of publications on the benefits of green infrastructure, case studies, and numerous presentations and workshops. These documents are available online on the EFC's website at: <http://www.sog.unc.edu/project/innovative-financing-approaches-stormwater-and-green-infrastructure>.

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University of Louisville (Region IV)

- The EFC completed and published Practice Guide #35 on Urban Transportation and the Benefits of Public Transit providing practical advice and support to policy makers and organizations on this environmental policy issue. The practice guide evaluates a wide range of transportation options, their relationship to economic development and public support, and concludes that a well-balanced transportation system is one where individuals have multiple options for meeting their transportation needs. Practice Guide #35 can be accessed online at: <http://louisville.edu/cepm/publications/practice-guides/pdf/practice-guide-35-urban-transportation-and-the-benefits-of-public-transit/view>. The EFC's Practice Guides series serves as a resource for technical assistance, best practices and financing mechanisms to maintain or improve environmental conditions.

Great Lakes EFC at Cleveland State University (Region V)

- The Great Lakes EFC co-hosted the **2014 Second Annual National Community Summit on Green Infrastructure** held on October 28-29, 2014 in Cleveland, Ohio. This important national meeting was co-sponsored by U.S. EPA (Office of Water) and the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District. Attendees used the event to advance community dialogue on green infrastructure through sharing lessons learned and emerging issues. Specific topics covered included reducing stormwater volumes, creating effective stormwater management, designing project to provide multiple/maximum benefits and building resilient communities and infrastructure. Information on the event is available at <http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/greeninfrastructure/clevelandconference.cfm>.

Wichita State University EFC (Region VII)

- The EFC, in partnership with the National Association of Development Organizations, U.S. EPA, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Louisville EFC, hosted a two-day workshop titled, **"Linking Water Infrastructure to Community and Economic Development in Small Places."** The event, held on October 28 and 29, 2014, brought together groups from across the country to discuss investing in resilient communities, successes and challenges related to regional water planning, water's impact on economic development and cost savings through regional approaches. Additional information on the workshop is available on the internet at <http://louisville.edu/cepm/projects/sustainable-community-capacity-building/wichita-conference-on-resilience-and-econ-dev-materials>.