The EPA Office of Environmental Justice
EJ Small Grants Program

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. *Fair treatment* means that no group of people, including racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic groups, should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal state, local, and tribal programs and policies. *Meaningful involvement* means that: (1) people have an opportunity to participate in decisions about activities that may affect their environment and/or health; (2)public contribution can influence the regulatory agency's decision; (3) their concerns will be considered in the decision making process; and (4) the decision makers seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.

Environmental justice is about people confronting local environmental and/or public health problems by working collaboratively with their local government agencies, impacted community groups and the responsible state and federal agencies. Environmental justice promotes environmental and public health protection within the context of sustainable development. EPA recognized that community involvement was critical to environmental decision-making and made a commitment to invest resources in projects that would financially benefit affected communities.

In 1994, the Office of Environmental Justice established the Environmental Justice (EJ) Small Grants Program whose purpose is to assist community-based/grassroots organizations and tribal governments that are working on local solutions to local environmental problems. Funding specifically supports affected local community-based efforts to examine issues related to a community's exposure to multiple environmental harms and risks. Each year funds are made available and divided equally among the ten EPA regions where the actual grant is awarded and managed.

This publication is an inventory of the profiles from the grants awarded in 2015. Each region conducted a grant selection process in which grant proposals were evaluated through a competitive review and ranking process. Award decisions were made within each region based on established criteria that include geographic and socioeconomic balance, diversity of project recipients, and sustainability of benefits of a project after the grants is completed. For FY 2015, additional grants were funded by EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program for projects located in communities in the Gulf of Mexico area.

Region 1
(CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT)

New Haven Ecology Project, Inc. *dba* Common Ground (CG)
Project Title: Green Jobs Corps – Creating a New Generation of New Haven Environmental Justice Leaders
Location: New Haven, Connecticut

CG and its partners (the CT Fund for the Environment and the Urban Resources Initiative) plan to engage more than 30 youth in at least 35 job opportunities to: *Improve access to clean water by identifying threats to water quality, engaging and educating residents about these threats, and taking direct action to improve clean water access along New Haven's West River.* Corps members will support efforts of the CT Fund for the Environment and the West River Watershed Coalition to develop and implement a watershed based plan by, among other things, (1) conducting and sharing results of citizen surveys of major tributaries, (2) developing a web-based platform to share information and engage community, (3) planning and leading watershed stewardship activities, and (4) educating peers and adults. CG and its partners also plan to *Improve air quality, water quality, and access to other critical ecosystem services in urban low-income communities of color by addressing disproportionate access to urban street trees, community greenspaces, and green infrastructure.* Corps members will work with the Urban Resources Initiative to (1) conduct outreach to neighborhoods disproportionately affected by poor air quality and low tree cover, (2) plant urban street trees in these neighborhoods, (3) work side-by-side with grassroots greenspace groups to increase vegetative cover and improve health, and (4) install and steward green approaches to storm-water management.

The Trustees of Reservations (ToR)
Project Title: Boston Youth Conservation Corps (YCC)
Location: Six neighborhoods of Boston, Massachusetts (Mattapan, Roxbury, Hyde Park, East Boston, Dorchester, and Jamaica Plain)

The YCC seeks to empower and educate urban youth ages 15 – 18 about their local environment, while engaging them in experiential learning and developing job-readiness skills. Projects such as enhancing urban greenways, tending gardens, and planting native vegetation trails immerse teens in the natural and green spaces of the city, while raising their awareness of pollution, air and water quality, access to healthy food, and organic vs. conventional food production. For many participants, the YCC is their first exposure to issues of environmental and food justice. YCC participants raise awareness within their communities about local environmental and public health issues, and emerge from the program as passionate environmental stewards with the commitment and skills to address environmental justice issues in Boston. The project seeks to address high rates of asthma, diabetes and obesity in Boston's poorest neighborhoods that report a disproportionately high number of asthma incidents and diabetes hospitalizations, disproportionately high rates of adult obesity and the least amount of open space per child.

Childhood Lead Action Project, Inc.
Project Title: Lead-Safe Central Falls
Location: Central Falls, Rhode Island

The goal of the project is to work strategically in one of Rhode Island's highest risk communities to reduce the incidence of childhood lead poisoning by increasing the capacity of Central Falls residents to address the presence of lead based paint in their local community. The project will: 1) provide community based education on lead poisoning prevention and tenant rights; 2) coordinate committees of stakeholders in Central Falls to advocate for improved implementation of current laws and regulations regarding lead-based paint in the City, in particular RI's Lead Hazard Mitigation Act (LHMA) and the Federal Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule (RRP); 3) train contractors on lead-safe work practices through RRP training, and

4) provide training and technical assistance to Central Falls building and code enforcement officials on implementation of the LHMA and RRP. The Childhood Lead Action Project (Project) will partner with four organizations - the Blackstone Valley Community Action Program, Rhode Island Medical-Legal Partnership, RI Department of Health, and Progreso Latino - in a comprehensive and coordinated effort to have the greatest environmental health impact.

Regional Environmental Council (REC)
Project Title: Greening Our Gardens – Urban Growing Strategies for Climate Resiliency
Location: Worcester, Massachusetts

The project will promote efficient water use, storm water run-off prevention, and the use of gardening practices that can contribute to climate resiliency, including carbon sequestration. REC's project also seeks to increase access to healthy food in Worcester's lowest-income/highest risk neighborhoods through an educational program for urban gardeners in Worcester, MA. Greening our Gardens project activities will educate gardeners on these practices via community workshops on strategies that urban growers can use to increase climate resiliency, implement these practices through intensive support at four community gardens to strengthen capacity to sustainably grow healthy food, and build sustainability through the creation of a resource guide for the network of 60+ community and school gardens supported by the REC. The project will impact gardens across the city, but resources will be focused in Worcester's five lowest-income/highest-risk neighborhoods. REC is partnering with the Stockbridge School of Agriculture and the MA Chapter of the Northeast Organic Farming Association.

Region 2
(NY, NJ, PR, US VI)

Council on the Environment, Inc (GrowNYC)
Project Title: Green Infrastructure training in West Harlem
Location: New York, New York

GrowNYC aims to install rainwater-harvesting systems for capturing storm water that flows off rooftops to reduce flooding and storm water flow entering the sewer systems. Through this project, GrowNYC will train and educate a team of area youth to install, repair and maintain green infrastructure in local community gardens located in the Harlem section of Manhattan. In addition, GrowNYC will educate community residents through workshops, GrowNYC's online Green Infrastructure toolkit and on-site educational signage paired with visible green infrastructure projects in public spaces (community gardens).

Coral Bay Community Council, Inc
Project Title: Empowering Youth Messengers to reduce illegal dumping in Coral Bay, St. John
Location: St. John, U. S. Virgin Islands

This project intends to raise awareness of the improper solid waste disposal in the Coral Bay community in St. John, U.S. VI. The Coral Bay Community Council seeks to increase the community awareness on the associated health risks and environmental hazards to the local coastal waters caused by the practice of illegal dumping of solid waste disposal in guts and bin sites in the Coral Bay Community. Through education and outreach, the applicant will work with local partners and residents to reduce or eliminate the dumping of solid waste in guts and bins, and mitigate point and non- point source contamination of coastal water and marine life.

Friends of Van Cortlandt Park
Project Title: Wetland Stewardship for a Healthier Bronx Watershed
Location: Bronx, New York

The Friends of Van Cortlandt Park "Wetland Stewardship for a Healthier Bronx Watershed" project will reduce the amount of water that flows from Van Cortlandt Lake and Tibbetts Brook into the sewer, thus reducing sewer overflow into the rivers during heavy storm water events. A combination of classroom study, hands-on participatory group work, and outdoor service projects will stimulate eager students to become involved in planting, invasive plant removal, and other activities that will decrease the storm water runoff from entering the Harlem River and East River watersheds.

Eastern Queens Alliance (EQA)
Project Title: Southeast Queens Air Quality Monitoring Brigade
Location: Southeast Queens, New York

This project seeks to engage community residents in the development and implementation of a plan to reduce exposure to the emissions from the operation of JFK airport and airport-related sources that could affect the health of the residents living adjacent to JFK airport. Led by EQA, residents will deploy an "Air Quality Monitoring Brigade" or grab sampling technique, as well as particulate monitoring system. Eastern Queens Alliance will conduct air-monitoring sampling to assess the extent of air quality and its effects on the community in proximity to the airport. In addition, EQA will perform community outreach and education about environmental harms and risks related to the emissions. Armed with appropriate

scientific guidance for the collection and data interpretation, community members will be empowered to understand the sources of air pollutants in their community and possible ways of mitigating exposures in preparation for exacerbation due to climate change. EQA will partner with Global Community Monitoring who will supply sampling equipment as well as training and technical assistance.

Region 3
(DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WA)

Friends & Farmworkers, Inc.
Project Title: Fulfilling the Promise: Empowering Farmworkers and Overcoming Pesticide-Related Environmental and Health Challenges in Northwestern Pennsylvania.
Location: Erie County, Pennsylvania

The goal of the project is to educate farmworkers about pesticide exposure and to prepare community leaders to educate others on the subject. It will provide them with knowledge, training, and educator skills needed to directly address pesticide exposure. Farmworkers in Erie County, PA will benefit first and foremost by learning about the health risks associated with pesticide exposure; knowing and understanding the laws intended to protect them and the willingness of Friends of Farmworkers (FOF) to help; and becoming aware of the importance of environmental sustainability for the health of both the farmworker community and the general population.

Greater Southeast Development Corporation
Project Title: Community-based Participatory Approach for Southeast Community Resilience and Adaption to Address Lung Health Impacts Exacerbated by Climate Change
Location: Newport News, Virginia

This project aims to build an effective, resident-led partnership that uses community-based participatory research to address respiratory health effects of increased air pollution associated with climate change. Specific goals of the project are to: 1) create a resident-led coalition that will implement an educational program to improve the health of residents in the Southeast Community, Newport News, VA; 2) increase residents' awareness about respiratory disease; 3) increase residents' awareness about air pollutants and climate stressors associated with respiratory disease; and 4) develop asthma care and management strategies as a mechanism for adapting to the health impacts of climate change. The project will build community partnerships, while hosting forums, workshops and a summer camp to disseminate scientifically sound and community specific information and to educate residents about respiratory disease risks, air pollutants and climate stressors. Lastly, the project will assist residents with the development of common-sense, flexible approaches for sustaining self-care management as a long-term approach.

Parks & People
Project Title: Soil Safety Baltimore City
Location: Baltimore, Maryland

Healthy urban soils play a critical role in building communities that are food secure and climate resilient. This project will focus on vacant lot sites located in Baltimore City's East and West/Southwest Public Housing Development areas, providing outreach and hands-on-training to residents engaged in edible gardening. Specifically, the project aims to (a) educate over 2,000 city residents about the importance of soil and the preventive and precautionary measures of dealing with soil contaminants; (b) provide hands-on training to 12 to 15 community youth in soil sample collection, analysis and clean up; (c) provide assistance for the collection and analysis of 30 soil tests in the targeted communities; and (d) select 4 to 6 vacant lot demonstration sites (based on soil sampling results) to conduct hands-on training in strategies for building productive soil, such as building raised beds. Furthermore, the proposed project seeks to mitigate the impacts of climate change on these communities by increasing the area of "green" spaces which will help reduce the amount of stormwater runoff and the "heat island" effect caused by impervious surfaces (e.g., roofs, sidewalks, roadways).

Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA)
Project Title: Farming for the Future: Empowering Pennsylvania Farmers to Build Resilient and Sustainable Agricultural Systems in Response to a Changing Climate
Location: Pennsylvania

The project will empower farmers to adapt to changing climate conditions through sustainable agricultural methods including building soil and enhancing biodiversity on their farms. By bringing farmers, extension educators, researchers, and private and land grant universities together to learn and share with one another, the project will foster a community-based learning and innovation network to guide future work supporting climate change resiliency in the Pennsylvania agricultural community. PASA will host two on-farm Field Days, one Pre-Conference Track at the 2016 *Farming for the Future Conference*, and one webinar. The project seeks to increase Pennsylvania farmers' knowledge about climate change and its impacts on farms, both ecologically and economically. At least 100 farmers in Pennsylvania will attend educational workshops and increase their understanding of climate change and sustainable agricultural methods that can build farm resiliency. Through a Project Planning Committee and culminating Climate Change and Agriculture Round Table Meeting, a community-based learning and innovation network including farmers, agricultural organizations, Penn State Extension, and university students and researchers will be formed to advise project development and set new goals for future collaborative work.

Region 4
(AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN)

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Boca Raton
Project Title: Replicable and Scalable Community Climate Resilience Building in Two Communities in Palm Beach County
Location: Boca Raton, Florida

This pilot project will create a Resilience Adaptation Community Toolkit (ReACT), for use in community-led neighborhood canvassing. In addition the tool will be used at community meetings to provide education and training to reduce public health risks associated with increasingly severe storms and sea level rise related to climate change in South Delray Beach and the Pearl City area of Boca Raton. This project seeks to address respiratory illness, water contamination, injury, and environmental contamination due to climate change and sea level rise.

Dream in Green, Inc.
Project Title: Green Schools Challenge (GSC): Evidence-Based Practice
Location: Miami, Florida

This project proposes to explore the influence the GSC program has on school staff and students' understanding of and response to the effects of climate change. Specifically, the program focuses on creating resource-efficient behaviors; increasing understanding of environmental challenges; and empowering staff and students to take action to reduce their carbon footprint, implement recycling programs, and make "green" choices related to transportation and in work/school life.

Rural Empowerment Association for Community Help (REACH)
Project Title: Climate Change Resiliency: Effects of Industrial Animal Production on Mother Earth
Location: Warsaw, North Carolina

The purpose of this project is to enlighten the public, including grassroots, mid-range, and upper level stakeholders about the correlation between industrial animal operations and climate change and how to protect themselves from these risks. This project is primarily concerned with the effects climate change can have on industrial animal operations.

Gills Creek Watershed Association
Project Title: Exposure to Mercury through Subsistence Fishing: Assessment and Outreach In Lower Gills Creek
Location: Columbia, South Carolina

This project will investigate the potential presence of mercury in fish within Gills Creek and then effectively communicate those findings and the related health effects to the surrounding communities of Arthurtown, Washington Park, Little Camden, Starlite, Eastway Park, Sims, and Bluff Estates. The Gills Creek Watershed is already one of the most impaired urban watersheds in South Carolina with five different sites listed as impaired, according to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, due to high fecal coliform levels, low dissolved oxygen, and/or the inability to support a balanced, indigenous aquatic community.

Region 5
(IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI)

Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT)
Title: Helping the Chatham Neighborhood of Chicago become Rain Ready
Location: Chicago, Illinois

The aim of this project is to help the neighborhood of Chatham become prepared for rain events as they become more prominent with climate change. CNT, partnering with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will design and test green infrastructure to improve storm water management and reduce urban flooding and water pollution. A Green Infrastructure model (Rain Ready) will be developed which can be replicated in other communities. Outputs include: 200 completed resident surveys, 100 residents attending meetings, 10 property assessments, and increased number of community leaders and partners addressing urban flooding and water quality.

Keep Growing Detroit
Title: Detroit City Soils
Location: Detroit, Michigan

Healthy urban soils play a critical role in building communities that are food secure and climate resilient. This project will educate urban growers about the importance of soil and the preventive and precautionary measures of dealing with lead in soil, as well as demonstrate the positive impact that urban agriculture has on soil quality. Project goals are: 60 site visits, 135 soil samples, 352 yards of compost distributed, 50 raised bed gardens built, 10 workshops with 230 residents educated, and 75 gardeners trained on the importance of soil testing, how to take a soil test, and how to interpret results.

Groundwork Milwaukee Inc.
Title: Building community empowerment by Building Green Infrastructure
Locations: Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Groundwork Milwaukee will work with teens and young adults from the community area and train them about the impacts of climate change and the ability of green infrastructure (GI) to lessen its impacts. The young adults will be ambassadors to raise community awareness and knowledge of GI. Additionally, the water absorbing capacity of the land will be improved with rain gardens and absorbent trees. Outputs include: 15 rain gardens, 15 rain barrels installed, and 500 residents reached through door canvassing and flyers.

United Congregations of Metro-East
Title: A Visual Approach to Educating a Community on Air Quality
Location: Granite, Illinois

This project will engage the schools, senior citizens, and other residents in learning about air pollution and climate change by involving them in education programming and community science projects while highlighting ways to improve air quality and prepare for a changing climate. An Elm Air Sensing Network Monitor, an interactive tool to involve and educate residents about air quality and its relation to health, will be installed. The project will work with resident to construct an ozone garden to illustrate ozone and its effect on both plant and human life. Using ozone-sensitive plants, students can learn about the effects of air pollution on plant tissue by collecting and analyzing damaged leaves. In addition, six education sites and nine schools will be equipped with displays and education activities. Continued evaluations at educational sites will improve learning activities reflected by comments and visitors, support staff, and volunteers.

Region 6
(AR, LA, NM, OK, TX)

Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services (t.e.j.a.s.)
Project Title: Manchester Disaster Preparedness Collaborative
Location: Houston, Texas

The purpose of this project is to work with key stakeholders of the Harrisburg/Manchester area - community residents, businesses, local government agencies, researchers, and first responders - to understand challenges in planning and preparing for disasters, to identify opportunities to reduce risk and impact, and to work together to gather information about potential hazards in the community. The goals of this project are to build community knowledge about disaster preparedness and to spur collaborations between various stakeholders that will lead to increased community resiliency.

Friends of Valle de Oro
Project Title: Developing an Environmental and Economic Justice Strategic Plan for the Southwest's First Urban National Wildlife Refuge
Location: Mountain View neighborhood, the wider South Valley, and contiguous neighborhoods along both sides of the Rio Grande, located in Albuquerque and Bernalillo County, NM

Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) is the Southwest's first urban refuge. A major known problem for the Refuge and the Mountain View neighborhood is stormwater impacts that have long plagued the South Valley. The Refuge will be used as part of a plan to manage stormwater under a new pilot watershed-based MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit and a new project of the Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority (AMAFCA) to install stormwater management facilities in the South Valley, including use of the Refuge for end-point collection and treatment. This project will inform that process using various tools, primarily canvassing and outreach to community leaders, to achieve four goals: research baseline community understanding and awareness of the Refuge and the National Wildlife Refuge System; Create marketing materials and host community events to raise awareness of the Refuge; and its development and encourage community participation; Identify community needs and issues and ways the Refuge can support these needs; Identify potential negative environmental and economic impacts of the development of the Refuge and formulate recommendations to minimize or eliminate such impacts.

Louisiana Environmental Action Network (LEAN)
Project Title: Louisiana Environmental Action Network 2015 Community Climate Resiliency Initiative
Location: Grand Bois, Louisiana

This project is a new collaborative effort between the Louisiana Environmental Action Network, Defenders of Our Land and Water, and Louisiana State University to empower community members and facilitate opportunities to identify and reduce climate-related environmental concerns and threats to public health first in the small, rural Native American community of Grand Bois, LA and then to communities throughout Louisiana. LEAN and its partners will convene the 2015 People's Collaborative Workshop. The workshop will bring together representatives of EJ communities from around the state that are affiliated with LEAN to identify local environmental hazards that could be exacerbated by climate change and to take the first steps to develop a Climate Hazards Action Plan (CHAP) for their community. Prior to the workshop, the partners will work closely with environmental leaders of the Grand Bois community and help them develop a CHAP which will be used as a case study to inform the efforts of the workshop attendees.

TEWA Women United
Project Title: Adapting to Climate Change: Española Edible Food Forest
Location: Española, New Mexico

The project will educate tribal and rural communities in Northern New Mexico to understand environmental, public health, and climate change issues related to one of our most vital resources – water. Project activities seek to educate the residents about local strategies to maintain clean and safe water supplies by demonstrating how traditional dry land farming techniques can be combined with contemporary strategies to improve water use efficiency and adapt to climate change. The project, developed by community members, is a collaborative effort between local schools, organizations and government. Tewa Women United has partnered with the City of Española for an Edible Food Forest terrace garden project. Specific project goals are: 1) Demonstrate wise use of water and water harvesting; 2) Educate our community on sustainable gardening methods as a tool for adapting to climate change.

Region 7
(IA, KS, MO, NE)

Diesel Health Project (DHP)
Project Title: Building Community Capacity to Protect Air Quality and Environmental Health
Location: Kansas, City (Argentine, Central Industrial, Downtown, Fairfax, Turner, and Quindaro NE neighborhoods)

Diesel Health Project will work with the communities to (1) identify the communities most impacted by exposure as a result of goods movement air pollution; (2) train residents regarding the risks of diesel exhaust exposure, how they can reduce their personal and family exposure, and how they can work together to improve the health of the community; (3) use the Collaborative Problem Solving model to identify issues, develop a vision and set goals in those neighborhoods; and 4) develop collaborative relationships between and among Kansas City, Kansas community groups, the MoKan Clean Air Coalition, community health organizations, environmental, public health, and other academic programs throughout the region, as well as with other members of the national Moving Forward Network. DHP is partnering with the University of Kansas, members of the Argentine Community, and the MoKan Clean Air Coalition to deliver the goals of this project.

Together Incorporated of Metropolitan Omaha
Project Title: From Habitable to Healthy Project
Location: Omaha, Nebraska

Through this project, Together Inc. of Metropolitan Omaha will partner with the Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance to improve the quality of the indoor environment of Together Inc.'s clients. The purpose of this project is to: (1) provide "Healthy Home Assessments" for Environmental Hazards in at least 125 homes of families with children under the age of 12; (2) offer education to residents about Healthy Homes through in-person trainings and distribution of educational materials; (3) provide Healthy Homes education to Together staff; and (4) collect data on the costs for upgrading homes of residents and create a business plan for continued work to address healthy homes concerns.

Friends of the Kaw
Project Title: KAW CITY (Kids About Water: Community Issues Taught by Youth)
Locations: Kansas City, Kansas

Friends of the Kaw will work with two high school classes to teach water quality classes that include classroom and field work. Ten students will be trained on water quality and water quality monitoring. These students will then plan a community event and teach courses to adult community members. In addition, 30 adults from the community will be selected to participate in water quality trainings that will be led by the students. Friends of the Kaw will then work with two middle schools and provide a similar curriculum to the one that was provided to the high school students. This time, the adults from the community will use the knowledge they gained and assist in the field sessions of the curriculum. This project will result in an intergenerational approach towards learning and teaching about water quality in Kansas City, Kansas. Participants will learn how their actions impact water quality and what they can do to improve water quality in their community.

Sunflower Community Action, Inc.
Project Title: Wichita KS Industrial Corridor Emissions Transparency and Accountability Project
Location: Wichita, Kansas

The purpose of this project is to bring community stakeholders together to better understand the environmental factors that may be impacting the quality of life and health, and discuss action plans to improve air and water quality. It will be Sunflower's job to act as researcher, organizer of the public and community organizations, and catalyst for a new look at corridor environmental quality. There are four components to this project: (1) Research - Sunflower staff and neighborhood leaders will gather information to identify and review the compliance history of local facilities; (2) Public Education - Sunflower will hold public meetings to educate neighbors about the environmental quality of air and water in 67214 and what can be done to improve it; (3) Leadership Training - Sunflower will recruit neighborhood leaders who will be organized and trained to engage businesses and environmental agencies regarding environmental quality; (4) Compliance Relationships - Sunflower Community Action intends to bring businesses, environmental agencies, and local government together with neighborhood leaders to see the results of Sunflower's research and make the Wichita industrial corridor and adjacent neighborhoods a better place to live and work.

Region 8
(CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY)

Four Corners for Resource Efficiency (4CORE)
Project Title: Southwest Solar Barn Raising Program: Improving Climate Resiliency through Solar Installations for Low-Income Households
Location: La Plata County, Colorado, potentially including homes in the towns of Bayfield, Ignacio, and Durango.

4CORE will work to address high-energy costs for low-income residents of La Plata County with the goal of reductions in pollution from nearby coal burning power plants. By encouraging the use of solar panels, 4CORE plans to address climate resiliency by promoting a source of clean energy in this community. Specifically, the applicant proposes to educate low-income residents of La Plata County, CO on solar PVs and provide access to affordable solar PV system installations. The panels will be installed in a cooperative approach amongst community members. The community will benefit by reducing emissions from nearby power plants and from reduced power bills for homeowners through the installation of solar panels. The community will benefit from reduced energy costs for low-income residents and the elimination of the upfront cost burden to solar electricity. 4CORE will be successful through collaborating with partners including the Regional Housing Alliance of La Plata County, La Plata County Habitat for Humanity, and Housing Solutions for the Southwest.

Groundwork Denver
Project Title: Solutions for Climate Resiliency in North Denver EJ Communities
Location: North Denver and Commerce City, Colorado

Groundwork Denver will work to address climate resiliency specific to public health impacts associated with extreme heat events. Groundwork Denver plans to build community capacity to address these issues and provide "co-benefits" for residents. The project will help reduce public health impacts associated with climate change and build community capacity to address climate change issues. Groundwork Denver will work collaboratively with partners to address the issue, including Denver Environmental Health (DEH), community residents, and Adams County Sustainability Officer. At least 112 residents will be engaged in data collection, strategy development, piloting and action planning for the project. DEH and Adams County will help obtain data for vulnerability analysis, review and develop strategies to address vulnerabilities and identify ways to integrate strategies into local planning efforts. This project will develop an action plan with residents to address the public health impacts in low-income Denver communities resulting from extreme heat events. Extreme heat events can contribute to a range of health problems and aggravate pre-existing conditions Health impacts of extreme heat events are known to disproportionately impact vulnerable populations such as the elderly, infants and children, and people with chronic medical conditions.

Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK)
Project Title: ELK Youth Naturally – Community Water Connections (ELKYN-CWC)
Location: Montbello, Green Valley Ranch, and Commerce City, Colorado

Environmental Learning for Kids seeks to address a lack of knowledge of water quality and environmental justice issues, a shortage of leadership capacity and an absence of community action on water quality and safe drinking water. ELK youth development project seeks to increase the interest in community stewardship, increase academic and career aspirations and increase the science knowledge base and interest and devotion to environmental issues amongst the youth. They will address environmental and public health issues by providing hands-on, outdoor learning labs for youths to explore all aspects of water pollution and contamination and local environmental and public health issues.

ELK connects local youth with community partners to strengthen their work. ELK partners include Colorado Parks and Wildlife, US Forest Service, Denver Parks and Recreation, National Park Service and Denver Water. These organizations will share roles of providing natural resource and science professionals to assist in leading projects and trips.

High Country Conservation Center
Project Title: Summit County Energy Justice Initiative.
Location: Throughout Summit County, Colorado

Making homes safer and more energy efficient reduces the amount of fossil fuels used to heat homes and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. The project seeks to improve indoor air quality and energy efficiency in low-income residences through 25 home audits, five home weatherization projects, and three energy efficiency workshops for homeowners. High Country seeks to educate the community in energy efficient practices/behaviors, and provide workshops in Spanish to resolve language barriers. The community residents will benefit by experiencing more comfortable, safe and energy efficient homes, while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions. High Country will collaborate with The Family Intercultural Resource Center, Summit Combined Housing Authority, and the Northwest Council of Governments.

Region 9
(AZ, CA, HI, NV, GM, AS)

Clinica de Salud del Valle de Salinas
Project Title: Proyecto La Semilla: Pesticide Safety Leadership Training for Farmworker Parents
Location: Salinas, California

Proyecto La Semilla will train farmworkers who are parents and leaders in their communities to protect children from pesticides by becoming pesticide safety educators. The project will conduct eight one-day train-the-trainers workshops in eight agricultural communities for 120 parents. After attending the workshop each participant will conduct three peer presentations with a goal of training 100 more parents, so the training and follow up conducted will support the education of 1200 parents. Farmworkers and their children are at increased risk of acute and chronic exposures to pesticides through pesticide residues carried into their homes from the fields on the farmworkers' clothes and shoes and pesticide applications to fields near their homes and schools.

Sonora Environmental Research, Inc. (SERI)
Project Title: Rainwater Harvesting Loan Program for Low-Income Families
Location: Cities of Tucson and South Tucson, Arizona

SERI, with the assistance of Tucson Water and the University of Arizona, will educate low-income families and develop a loan program to overcome the upfront cost of obtaining a rainwater harvesting system and to provide a mechanism for families to invest in a system to meet the needs for more effective water management. SERI will develop this program with community input and pilot the program with a minimum of 10 families for shade tree irrigation. The project also seeks to educate low-income families on other measures to reduce the urban heat island effect. Given the ongoing drought in the southwest and the predictions that our climate will continue to get hotter and drier, approaches for more effective water management are increasingly important for our communities.

Social & Environmental Entrepreneurs Fiscal Sponsor for Central California EJ Network (CCEJN)
Project Title: Building Community Resiliency in San Joaquin Valley Communities by Providing Advanced Training to a Cohort of Residents and Community Leaders
Location: San Joaquin Valley, California

This project is a multifaceted approach to building the capacity of the community to conduct community-based monitoring to address the environmental and public health issues identified in their community. The project will prepare five residents to complete and gain certification in three to four CalEPA regulatory courses. CCEJN will coordinate with trained community members to do three citizen science events, providing tools that will assist the trained community members to engage other residents in community monitoring that will inform them about the environmental and/or health characteristics within the community. Additionally, this project will help support the development of a handbook (or database) identifying, describing, and categorizing instruments that regulatory agencies have at their disposal to gather environmental data. This handbook will not only be helpful for community members, but it will also help other regulatory agencies understand the capacity and jurisdictions of other agencies.

Community Water Center (CWC)
Project Title: Empowering Disadvantaged EJ Communities in Protecting Groundwater, Accessing Clean and Safe Drinking Water and Participating in Water Planning and Decision-making
Location: Visalia, California (San Joaquin Valley)

Community Water Center (CWC) will provide capacity building, organizing support and technical assistance to low-income, predominantly Latino communities in the southern San Joaquin Valley of California to foster effective community participation in local water decision-making, and enable community members to collaborate with other partners (agencies, organizations and decision-makers) to secure safe and affordable drinking water solutions. As noted in a 2013 California Water Boards report, the most common contaminates found in the water supply that serves California's San Joaquin Valley include nitrates, pesticides, coliform bacteria. The specific goals of this project are to: 1) inform residents of impacted communities about the toxic chemicals in their community water systems, the potential health impacts and how to access safe and clean drinking water; 2) reduce the potential exposure to toxic chemicals in groundwater that serves as the source of drinking water (whether public water system or individual well) for communities in the San Joaquin Valley; 3) promote community capacity building to understand and participate effectively in water policy and planning decision-making affecting drinking water in the southern San Joaquin Valley; and 4) address the cumulative impacts of pollution in drinking water sources through collaboration between residents, community-based organizations and local government. This work is especially important given the severe drought in California.

Region 10
(AK, ID, OR, WA)

Beyond Toxics
Project Title: New Minority Residents in West Eugene: Strengthening public health and community resilience in an environmental justice community
Location: West Eugene, Oregon

This project is designed to achieve community-identified solutions and accomplish measurable results by identifying areas of vulnerability, collecting community data, and building community effectiveness. This project seeks to help residents learn about how protecting natural and local wetlands can reduce the risk of flooding in flood prone areas. Additionally, community participants will learn to take necessary steps to reduce their vulnerability to flooding caused by increasingly frequent storms. Beyond Toxics will also work with residents to reduce health risks from exposure to high levels of fine particulate matter, and advance climate resiliency by learning to grow organic, culturally appropriate food for themselves and launching a community garden. Through this project, Beyond Toxics will provide education, training, and outreach on environmental issues and building capacity for current and future leaders on EJ issues, particularly vulnerable members of the Hispanic community.

Seattle Tilth Association
Project Title: The South King County Just Garden Project
Location: Renton, Kent, South Park, and Federal Way, Washington

The South King County Just Garden Project will include the following environmental activities: 1) teaches residents how they can work to reduce pollution within the greater Puget Sound watershed and especially in the already stressed Green-Duwamish watershed by building healthy soil, reducing lawn and garden inorganic fertilizers and pesticides and reducing stormwater runoff; 2) provides an opportunity to improve the health of low-income, diverse residents by helping them grow healthy food for their families without causing environmental harm; 3) emphasizes locally grown food with a low-carbon footprint, keeping food accessible and safe and in the hands of the community; and 4) provides peer leadership and models behaviors that contribute to a healthy, more resilient community and environment. This project seeks to construct at least 90 garden beds in low-income residential complexes for families and organizations serving low-income populations in South King County.

Chickaloon Native Village
Project Title: Promoting Environmental Justice, Public Health, and Climate Resiliency in Response to Three Industrial-Scale Coal Mining Projects Proposed in the Fastest Growing Community in Alaska
Location: Chickaloon Native Village (traditional ancestral territory), Alaska

This project seeks to educate the local community, empower them to take action regarding public health, air, water quality, fish, wildlife health, and climate in response to proposed coal surface strip mining. In addition, the community will increase their awareness of the connection between coal surface strip mining, transporting, exporting, and consumption in relation to climate impacts, how climate impacts are being experienced locally, statewide, nationally, and globally. A final goal of the project will be to create a formal community stakeholder engagement plan, use an assessment of community concerns and goals, and develop a final Community Environmental Health Report to be shared with policy and decision-makers. It will include suggestions the community can act on locally to address climate change.

Northwest Sustainable Energy for Economic Development
Project Title: Renewable Energy Farm Walks
Location: Pierce, Whatcom, and Klickitat counties, Washington

This project seeks to increase awareness and direct participation in renewable energy generation by agriculture producers through Renewable Energy Farm Walks. Farm walks are on-farm education events for farmers and other rural community members to learn about innovative farming practices. The proposed farm walk series will focus on the use of renewable energy technology. Though primarily farmer led facilitation, the information presented is complemented by the expertise of local resource people such as agricultural extension specialists, service providers, consultants, and other professionals. The goal of this project is to provide peer-to-peer education and resources regarding on-farm applications of renewable energy to farmers that are new to the idea and/or are in need of guidance on proper installation and usage.

Gulf of Mexico Program Office
Selected Projects

Groundwork New Orleans (GWNO)
Project Title: Building Climate Resilient Communities
Project Location: New Orleans, LA

The Groundwork New Orleans (GWNO) Building Climate Resilient Communities project will focus on teaching students to design, build, and install solar powered charging benches on or near bus stops in underserved communities. This will provide clean energy sources for public transportation users, educate community members, and provide a green power source within the community in case of an emergency. The project will coincide with other green initiatives GWNO has implemented along the Green Slice Lower 9th Ward neighborhood corridor and be a welcomed companion to the Lower 9th Ward Earth Lab, a green site previously developed under an EPA Small Grant. The goals of the demonstration project are to: 1. Address climate resiliency issues and community revitalization in two underserved communities; 2. Introduce green technology and innovative design career paths to GWNO's Green Team students by creating a transferable skill; and 3. Provide community members with clean energy to use during daily commutes and during emergency power outages, when individuals may only have a cell phone to use for emergency calls.

The demonstration project will increase public engagement capacity and efforts by providing educational signage on the importance of green energy sources while giving most people their first opportunity to utilize a solar powered energy source first hand. In addition, this project will expand our current Green Team curriculum and program to include climate change resilience as a central topic. The GWNO Green Team creates job opportunities for middle and high school students in New Orleans. In this program, youths engage in the meaningful work of environmental stewardship and green infrastructure development. The program focuses on renewing and inspiring sustainable relationships between the land, water, and people of New Orleans. While planning, implementing, and maintaining practical community-based projects, youth develop workforce-ready skills while cultivating leadership, stewardship, and citizenship capacity. In addition, the job training works as an afterschool curriculum, integrating environmental and social sciences and supplementing STEM education. The youth are encouraged to participate in the program throughout their school careers, building on previous skills and mentoring incoming students. Opportunities to attend field trips and leadership conferences enable program youths to shine on college applications and prepare for a variety of careers.

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
Project Title: Project Oka
Project Location: Durant, OK

The project will call for the implementation of an education project focusing on the importance of keeping our water sources clean. The hands-on program will provide educational activities and recycling support to school children, elders groups, and civic groups in the areas surrounding Wister, McAlester, Sardis, Beaver's Bend, and Hugo Lakes in southeastern Oklahoma. The goal is to help citizens recognize the critical role of each individual in reducing the negative impact of litter in the local environment, protecting and conserving local waters, and making a positive impact on climate change. This project, titled "Project Oka" (Oka is the Choctaw word for water) will be headquartered in the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Environmental Sustainability Office in Durant, Oklahoma (zip code 74702), but will extend to other areas in southeast Oklahoma including Wister, McAlester, Tuskahoma, Broken Bow, and Hugo. The project will support community climate resiliency by addressing local environmental issues and reducing vulnerability

through education of citizens. Participants will be empowered to recycle litter instead of dumping to mitigate climate change and maintain the health of local water systems.

Common Ground Relief Youth Wetlands Education and Outreach Program (CGR)
Project Title: Common Ground Relief, Inc.
Project Location: New Orleans, LA

The Common Ground Relief Youth Wetlands Education and Outreach Program directly addresses community climate resiliency, in relation to the Clean Water Act, Section 104(b) (3), by engaging local youth in adaptation strategies that improve water use efficiency and quality in local neighborhoods and communities. The CGR Youth Wetlands Education and Outreach Program utilizes the following integrated environmental justice strategies to reduce water pollution and improve urban water quality, and to improve the resilience of local wetlands in the face of erosion and sea level rise: (1) education of local youth about the function of healthy wetlands and watersheds as well as the vulnerabilities to environmental risks in their neighborhoods and communities; (2) active engagement of local youth in research, hands-on projects and monitoring aimed towards the prevention, reduction, and elimination of water pollution; and (3) empowering local youth to actively participate and be a strong voice in the planning and decision-making processes that impact the region's sustainability. The CGR Youth Wetlands Education and Outreach Program will serve elementary, middle and high school students in the primarily low-income New Orleans neighborhoods of Central City (70113), Treme (70116), Lower Ninth Ward (70117), Mid-City (70119), Gentilly (70122), Gert Town (70125), the CGR Native Plant Nursery II in the Lower Ninth Ward (70117) and planting and water testing locations including Bayou Bienvenue (70117), New Orleans City Park (70119), Bayou St. John (70119), Lake Pontchartrain (lake view area), locations along the Mississippi River and in various planting locations, to be determined.

Steps Coalition (Steps)
Project Title: North Gulfport Water Quality Education and Leadership Development Program
Project Location: North Gulfport, MS

Steps proposes an education and leadership development program that seeks to improve the water quality of Turkey Creek and connected waterways and to mitigate the effects of climate change for nearby communities. Steps proposes to achieve this goal by 1) educating nearby communities of storm water pollution prevention, improving water quality in Turkey Creek watershed, and wetland preservation and by 2) identifying and training leaders within the community to engage in a variety of activities that will improve water quality of Turkey Creek and connected waterways and the climate resiliency of nearby communities.