

## **EJ Small Grant 2009 Awards**

### **Each Project is one year in length**

#### **Organization: Groundwork Denver**

This project addresses the environmental justice issues likely to result from climate change impacts in the future by focusing on actions that build a healthy community today and are authorized under the Clean Air Act and the Solid Waste Disposal Act. The goal of the Porch Bulb Project is to empower the low-income Latino immigrant community to reduce air pollution and properly dispose of household toxic substances while providing comprehensive education on mitigating and adapting to the potential future environmental and public health impacts of climate change. The project entails door-to-door outreach, through which volunteers and community workers engage the community through the offer of swapping an incandescent front porch bulb for a compact fluorescent bulb. This simple gesture provides the occupant with immediate energy and cost savings, and reduces air pollutants associated with electricity generation. This action also opens the door to a more in-depth conversation about ways to save energy in the home and other environmental issues.

#### **Organization: Citizens for San Luis Valley Water**

This project will be conducted by a broad-based collaborative network formed to help low-income rural populations living in the San Luis Valley of southern Colorado. The over-all goal is to provide testing of unregulated household wells and to educate participants about ways to protect their health by protecting their water supply. The project will target the underserved low-income populace living near acid mine drainage, mining operations, toxic drift areas, or in proximity to agricultural fields with commercial applications of fertilizers and pesticides. The program will empower these communities by educating participants about the relationship of ground water and air quality to public health, by reinforcing the need to test water quality regularly, and by encouraging participants to modify their behavior by avoiding contamination from toxins found in household wells.

#### **Organization: Mountain Studies Institute**

The goal of the project is to educate, empower, and facilitate the participation of rural people in SW Colorado-NW New Mexico that are affected by air, water, and toxics pollution from oil and gas and energy production facilities. Mountain Studies and their partners will work to: (1) build community knowledge about ozone, mercury, and other environmental quality issues via youth-created radio announcements; reader-friendly outreach materials; and air/water quality alerts in newspapers; (2) engage a broad range of stakeholders via an Air Quality Forum; and (3) empower and facilitate community participation by forming mercury and ozone advisory committees. This may lead to informed decision-making by individuals regarding ozone, mercury, and other air/water environmental quality problems that affect them and their community (i.e. an angler deciding whether or not to consume caught fish; an asthma-sufferer deciding what level of outdoor activity to engage in on a summer afternoon; or a resident deciding what to write in a public comment to a government agency).

**Organization: Trees, Water & People**

The project titled *Hope in the Headwaters* will give real capacity-building skills to at least 15 hardrock mining watershed groups representing 672,347 citizens at two training sessions in the spring and fall of 2009. The participants will gain: (1) greater community capacity to identify local environmental justice issues and empower the community to seek changes in the identified issues, (2) increase knowledge of non-profit capacity building, watershed issues (3) networking opportunities, and (4) technical assistance in capacity-building (grant writing, board development, volunteer monitoring programs). Each training will be specific to requests of the stakeholders, such as offering a track on water monitoring for both the beginner and the more advanced volunteers. The measurable outcomes would be a more successful, sustainable, and empowered group of watershed organizations working throughout the impoverished area of the hardrock mining West.

**EJ Small Grant 2007 Awards Still Active****Organization: Plateau Restoration, Inc.**

**Project Description:** The project is to address immediate threats of herbicide contamination in drinking water for residents of Castle Valley, Utah. It will reduce the need for herbicides by investigating and employing alternative methods of removal of Diffuse Knapweed and other noxious weeds and by educating residents of threats to water quality from herbicides. It will develop a Castle Valley weed management plan and coordinate a Weed Board consisting of landowners, Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, and State land managers and Grand County Weed Department to ensure long-term protection of the aquifer from herbicides. This group will educate residents about these issues through public workshops that include presentations by regional experts in herbicides and health effects.

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