



# **GREENPOINT ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT PROJECTS PROGRAM**

## **COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**

**FACT SHEET 6**

**MARCH 2013**

### **Background**

This is the sixth in a series of Fact Sheets prepared to keep the Greenpoint community informed of progress on the implementation of the Greenpoint Environmental Benefit Projects Program (the "Program"). Funding for the Program was obtained from a 2011 settlement between the State of New York and ExxonMobil Corporation that required the company to, among other things, pay a sum of \$19,500,000 for projects to benefit the environment in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. In accordance with the settlement, projects are to be designed to secure significant environmental improvements in Greenpoint and address environmental areas of concern for the community, such as water quality, groundwater, open space, reduction of toxic pollution, and air quality.

### **Selection of General Administrator**

On Friday, February 8, 2013, New York State Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman and Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Joseph Martens announced the selection of a partnership of the Greenpoint-based North Brooklyn Development Corporation (NBDC) and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to serve as the Program's General Administrator (GA). This team combines direct knowledge of Greenpoint with extensive national experience in implementing large-scale environmental benefit projects programs. The team's administrative fee will be roughly 10% of the \$19.5 million over the next four years. In the event that the Program runs longer, any additional administrative fees are anticipated to be modest. Based on NFWF's experience in implementing similar environmental benefit projects programs, it is expected that they will be able to attract substantial additional funds to the Program, thereby expanding the pool of money available for funding environmental improvement projects in Greenpoint. The State's announcement of the partnership's selection as the Program GA is available at: [www.ag.ny.gov/environmental/greenpoint-environmental-benefit-projects](http://www.ag.ny.gov/environmental/greenpoint-environmental-benefit-projects)

### **February Community Meeting/Open House**

The second Community Meeting on the Program -- an Open House -- was held on February 11, 2013 at the Polish & Slavic Center in Greenpoint. Approximately 110 community residents and other interested parties attended the event, where they participated in small table presentations/discussions on the Program's status and next steps, and continued to weigh in on the types of environmental projects they want to see funded in Greenpoint. Attendees also had an opportunity to meet with the Program's newly-selected GA.

### **Meeting Highlights:**

After the small group presentation/discussion tables, each meeting participant was invited to participate in an informal exercise where they were given 12 tokens and asked to allocate them among various categories of environmental projects. The goal of this exercise was to gain preliminary insights into community preferences.

(Note: this exercise was not intended to provide information about individual projects, as some project ideas are more developed than others, and many ideas fit in more than one project category). The results of the exercise were as follows:

Category	Number of Tokens
Waterfront & Waterfront Infrastructure	167
Open Space & Park Improvements	158
Community Environmental Facilities	118
Stormwater Mitigation	108
Wetlands/Soil/Water Quality Improvements	96
Environmental Stewardship/Environmental Planning	84
Environmental Education & Youth Employment	82
Transportation Improvements	74
Clean Energy/Energy Conservation	66
Urban Forestry & Community Greening	59
Air Quality Improvements & Monitoring	56
Waste Management/Composting	28

Meeting attendees were also asked to indicate their interest in participating in, or leading, the development of specific project proposals. Attendees expressed interest in being involved in the development of the following projects:

- Science-Technology-Culture center; film/art/horticulture
- Green infrastructure on the Brooklyn Greenway
- Intertidal habitat construction
- Brooklyn Museum of Science and Art
- Health impact study
- City Farm & Fish sustainable structure with outreach program
- Community center with youth oriented facilities
- Environmental after-school program
- Environmental LEED fitness facility with afterschool programs and early childhood education
- Children/family environmental center at Transmitter Park
- Land acquisition for Java Street Garden Collaborative
- Community gardens, community gardens with farm space
- Acquisition of Bushwick Inlet
- Community/school gardens
- Community garden located in plume area
- Solar panels
- "Cool roofs" (painting roofs white to reflect energy)
- Sustainable net-energy producing greenhouse (model at Brooklyn Navy Yard)
- Greenpoint Monitor Museum
- Urban forestry & community greening
- Youth education and training program
- STEM (science, technology engineering and math) programs for youth
- Youth job training program via recycled bicycles
- Multi-media, multi-cultural environmental education for community
- Composting food work with aerated static pile technology

If you are interested in being involved in the development of project proposals for these or any other project ideas, please contact Laura Truettner at [ltruettner@aol.com](mailto:ltruettner@aol.com). We would like to know who you are so that we can connect you with other interested parties and keep you up-to-date on the proposal process.

Lastly, we continue to encourage members of the Greenpoint community to add to our existing list of ideas for environmental projects for potential funding by the Program (see "Preliminary List of Community Project Ideas" on the Program's webpage). Participants at the meeting offered the following new project ideas:

- Allocation of funds to lobby for an appropriation from the Sandy Relief Fund to be used for completion of Parks Department Master Plan that includes a Williamsburg/Greenpoint waterfront park designed to buffer the impact of future storm surges and increased development.
- Replace black rubber mats in parks with less heat absorbent material and install drainage system under new mats.
- Set aside funds to support affordable housing that will be needed when bike paths and green streets increase property values and taxes and cause displacement.
- Oyster reefs for storm protection/water remediation and habitat.
- Establish an investment fund at a local bank to preserve some of the \$19 million for the future.
- Health impact study & education.

If you have additional ideas for project to improve Greenpoint's environment, please contact Laura.

## Next Steps

Now that they are on board, the General Administrator is actively working on a work plan that will cover the next steps of the Program, including developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) to attract project proposals addressing as many of the community's ideas for improving Greenpoint's environment as possible. The GA will be meeting with the Program's Community Advisory Panel (CAP) in mid-March to work through a draft of the work plan. The work plan will be shared with the community once it is finalized, and another community meeting is anticipated in late spring or early summer to involve Greenpoint residents in its implementation.

## For More Information

For more information -- including latest developments and accomplishments -- visit the Program's website at: [www.ag.ny.gov/environmental/greenpoint-environmental-benefit-projects](http://www.ag.ny.gov/environmental/greenpoint-environmental-benefit-projects).

## Contacts

Please contact **Laura Truettner** at [ltruettner@aol.com](mailto:ltruettner@aol.com) with project ideas, questions or comments about the Program or to be added to the Program's contact list.

### State contacts:

**Michelle Moore** of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation at [mmmoore@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:mmmoore@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

**Peter Washburn** of the Office of the NYS Attorney General at [peter.washburn@ag.ny.gov](mailto:peter.washburn@ag.ny.gov)

### General Administrator contacts:

**Rich Mazur** of NBDC at [rmazur@northbrooklyn.org](mailto:rmazur@northbrooklyn.org)

**Lynn Dwyer** of NFWF at [Lynn.dwyer@nfwf.org](mailto:Lynn.dwyer@nfwf.org)

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