



## **GREENPOINT ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT PROJECTS COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**

### **FACT SHEET 3 APRIL 2012**

#### **Background**

This is the third in a series of Fact Sheets prepared to keep the Greenpoint community informed of progress on the Greenpoint Environmental Benefit Projects ("EBPs"). Funding for these EBPs arises 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 and public health in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. EBPs will 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.

#### **Community Meeting**

On March 21, 2012, the State of New York, its community outreach consultant, Enviro-Sciences Engineering/ARC Engineering & Construction, P.C. ("ESE"), and the Greenpoint Community Advisory Panel ("CAP") joined with approximately 170 members of the community to discuss the Greenpoint EBPs process, the community's ideas for possible EBPs, and preferences for criteria to be used in selecting a General Administrator to manage the EBP process. The project ideas and criteria preferences identified by community members at this meeting are presented below.

#### **Community Project Ideas**

Community members identified over 100 different ideas for specific environmental benefit projects or project types. The State will review this list to ensure that all proposed projects are consistent with the 2011 settlement with ExxonMobil and the NYS Department of Environment Conservation's policy on EBPs. Consistent project ideas will be used as a guide in selecting a General Administrator with related expertise, and in developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) that attracts project proposals addressing as many community ideas for improving Greenpoint's environment as possible.

#### **STORMWATER MANAGEMENT**

##### Green roof projects/programs

1. Roof top gardens and farming
2. Green roof program and garden at 370 Greenpoint Ave
3. Green roofs and solar panels on 1) community facilities and schools, 2) residences, and 3) park facilities; metering to allow revenue sharing with community; plus one year of professional training (possibly at McCarren Park) for building owners
4. Green roof for YMCA
5. Program for green roofs and solar panels for small businesses
6. Small business program to adopt a school and construct green roofs
7. Green roof on boathouse
8. Green roof on GMDC buildings
9. Business/job retention program: green roofs stormwater management in industrial areas

### Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs)

1. Stormwater management related to CSOs, specific locations TBD
2. Rainwater alert for overflow prevention

### Street improvements

1. Permeable paving program
2. Porosity improvements to streets/curbs to improve drainage; curbside water infiltration
3. "Bio-swales" for stormwater capture and filtration

### Resurfacing improvements

1. Remove concrete from Greenpoint backyards to increase infiltration of stormwater
2. Convert schoolyards to green infrastructure playgrounds
3. "Green" park spaces – trench drains, permeable surfacing

### **COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

1. Off-grid community center for environmental education programs and shared tool space using stacked containers
2. Science museum with focus on environmental projects via art
3. Creation of public environmental science school, K-12, such as a NYC magnet school
4. LEED-certified Environmental Science center covered with moss/grass, roof top gardens; use building at Transmitter Park, McGolrick Park, or on Newtown Creek, or at Maspeth tank site
5. Science-technology-culture center; film/art/horticulture
6. Writers' community workspace on waterfront with solar panels, green roof, teaching garden
7. Build Monitor Museum on community-controlled site in Bushwick inlet

### **OPEN SPACE AND PARK IMPROVEMENTS**

1. Community gardens with farm space
2. De-map Commercial Street from Franklin to water for parkland
3. Homeless task force for parks; funds for clergy coalition to rent space for the homeless
4. Greenpoint Ave street-end "pocket" park, Newtown Creek side
5. Community gardens on Greenpoint Avenue
6. Improvements to McGolrick Park Playground
7. Re-surface softball field at Commercial and Franklin
8. Drainage improvements for McGolrick Park; greening around monuments; preserve the pavilion; hire dedicated gardener
9. Tree health maintenance program at McGolrick Park
10. Improvements to Nature Walk

11. Develop industrial lot on south side of McGuinness Blvd (between Green and Freeman) into a community garden
12. Acquire Motiva property on Bushwick inlet (cost \$3M), good faith \$ to leverage City commitment to purchase property and turn into a park
13. Skating rink in McCarren Pool/Park
14. Lighting on dog runs
15. Improvements to Cherry Street
16. Purchase lot between Calyer Street and Greenpoint Ave for community garden
17. Street end parks at Java and Oak streets

### **CLEAN ENERGY**

1. Wind turbine on Newtown Creek
2. Gym in which exercise machines create energy ("energy gym")
3. "Green" Greenpoint Library, clean energy adaptations

### **ENERGY CONSERVATION**

1. Painting roofs white
2. LEED certification for YMCA to provide needed upgrades to facility
3. Grant program for homeowners to install new locally-made windows for energy efficiency
4. Energy retrofits of municipal buildings

### **WATERFRONT & WATERFRONT INFRASTRUCTURE**

1. Public docks, especially at Bushwick inlet
2. Pier at Transmitter park/10<sup>th</sup> Street
3. Waterfront access at Transmitter site, Noble Street
4. Boat access and park at Kent Street
5. Acquisition of waterfront lands for public access
6. Esplanade around Greenpoint
7. Create a North Brooklyn boat club on piece of land on Newtown Creek
8. Repair bulkhead, construct a dock, add solar lighting to Monitor Museum site
9. Acquire land at Noble and Quay streets

### **WATER ACCESS**

1. Kayaking program for Bushwick Inlet
2. Enviro-barge for Bushwick Inlet
3. Fund purchase of boats for, or building of boats at, boathouse being constructed with Newtown Creek EBP funds at GMDC

### **URBAN FORESTRY**

1. Smart greening program: trees/stormwater management on Greenpoint Ave and Manhattan Ave
2. Smart Green corridor/canopy from Bushwick inlet to McCarren Park
3. Tree-planting in residential areas
4. Tree pit expansion for mature trees

5. Personnel to care/manage urban forest
6. Tree planting, maintenance and education; create whole canopy of trees over Greenpoint;
7. Locally-made ornamental tree guards for residents
8. Backyard planting program for homeowners/tenants
9. Replicate and expand Borough President's "Neighborhood Beautification Fund" which allows block associations and civic groups to apply for tree pit expansions, wrought-iron tree guards and new street trees

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### Pedestrian/bike paths

1. Greenpoint Ave bike path, widen and improve safety
2. McGuinness Blvd pedestrian walkway
3. Improve Pulaski Bridge bike lane
4. Bike and pedestrian bridge to Manhattan
5. Build a pedestrian bridge to Queens

### Traffic

1. Air quality improvements via changed traffic pattern at BQE and Apollo Street
2. Enforcement program on use of designated truck routes
3. Traffic calming on McGuinness Blvd

### Transportation Service

1. Solar powered streetcar for waterfront
2. Green Bus – mobile education center
3. Ferry service to Manhattan

### Other

1. Placement of sound barriers, especially around bridges under construction

## **AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS/MONITORING**

1. Program to assist business with "process optimization" to reduce carbon footprint
2. Community air monitoring program with locally placed equipment
3. Retro-fit oil boilers in schools
4. Pollution prevention program for factories
5. Install planters with air-filtering plants identified in NASA Clean Air Study

## **ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION/WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS**

1. Water remediation and wetland restoration outside area impacted by ExxonMobil spill
2. "Green Eggs" wetlands on North Henry Street and Newtown Creek, i.e., vegetative digesters for stormwater treatment
3. "Opflex" sorbent usage for stormwater and oil (can be combined with other projects)
4. Plant oyster beds to filter water; esp Bushwick Inlet
5. Habitat restoration at Bushwick Inlet Park

## **SOIL TESTING AND REMEDIATION**

1. Bio-remediation of surface soils in Greenpoint residents' backyards
2. Soil remediation program for McGolrick Park
3. Bio-remediation program – mushroom planting

## **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

1. Environmental history archive/exhibit in Greenpoint Library
2. Enviro-mobile
3. Environmental education programs at McGolrick Prk
4. Park ranger program for environmental/nature education programming and education
5. Basic community education/information materials for community residents on water quality and other topics
6. Education program around actions to take if Newtown Creek floods
7. Exhibit of land pictures at Community Board
8. Environmental organizing program with children
9. Volunteer water quality monitoring program with citizen science, connection to Nature Walk
10. Citizen science project – soil testing in back yards across Greenpoint

## **YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL EMPLOYMENT**

1. Environmental training summer program for youth
2. Expand boathouse to create youth employment via boat-building
3. Program for high school students to support wetlands

## **WASTE MANAGEMENT/COMPOSTING**

1. Composting at McGolrick Park
2. Solar powered recycling bins
3. Pneumatic garbage tubes
4. In-vessel composting system; business assistance program for composting/recycling; compost facility, perhaps on NYC Dept of Sanitation property, using \$150,000 American-made containers
5. Construction debris material exchange – re-use center
6. Public art with recycled materials from local artists
7. Recycling and waste management plan for Greenpoint

## **FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP**

1. Property Investment program to create ongoing revenue for future environmental projects
2. Endowment to pay park worker salaries in event of future NYC budget cuts
3. Program to monetize filming in area to benefit Greenpoint
4. Create a reserve fund for future use

5. Land trust/easement to restrict use (no further details provided)

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS**

1. Greenest block competition
2. Incentive program for block by block greening

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING**

1. Coordination of environmental planning in Greenpoint – Superfund activities, Brownfield Opportunity Area Program, and Environmental Benefit Projects
2. Implementation resources for Newtown Creek Brownfield Opportunity Area
3. Community conservancy and health think tank

### **Criteria for Selecting the General Administrator**

Community members identified preferences for criteria to be used in selecting a General Administrator to manage the Greenpoint EBPs process. The State will follow a formal process to select the General Administrator, and these community preferences for selection criteria will be used by the State to guide this process. The State intends to involve the CAP in this process to the greatest extent allowable under government procurement rules.

#### **Community Preferences for General Administrator Selection Criteria**

- Expertise in managing large request for proposals and technical review processes
- Local presence/experience
- Community outreach experience
- Financial management experience
- Cost effective administration
- Current knowledge of advanced principles of sustainability and demonstrated experience/capacity in environmental improvements
- Experience in construction and project management
- Prior experience as a General Administrator

### **For More Information**

For more information -- including latest developments and accomplishments -- visit the Greenpoint EBP 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 646-872-4157 or [ltruettner@aol.com](mailto:ltruettner@aol.com) with questions or comments about the Greenpoint EBPs or to be added to the project contact list.

State contacts are Michelle Moore of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation ([mmmoore@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:mmmoore@gw.dec.state.ny.us)) and Peter Washburn of the Office of the NYS Attorney General ([peter.washburn@ag.ny.gov](mailto:peter.washburn@ag.ny.gov)).