

July 13, 2016



Notes from the Environmental Workforce Professional Learning Community (PLC)—Cycle 15, Session 1

This was the first session of PLC Cycle 15 that features informal, 20-minute discussions with EPA EWDJT grantees, alumni, and interested stakeholders. The goals for this cycle include:

- Highlighting EWDJT programs, and identifying successes and challenges
- Exploring proven strategies and activities used by established EWDJT programs
- Discovering resources and leveraging opportunities
- Helpful hints and open discussion

Topics: 1. News from Washington and HMTRI
2. Questions
3. Groundwork Providence
4. Upcoming webinars
5. Making connections and networking
6. Opportunities
7. HMTRI Grantee and Community Outreach Listserv
8. HMTRI Brownfields Toolbox website

1. News from Washington and HMTRI

Important: All PLC participants are invited to the Annual Environmental Job Development All-Grantee Meeting on August 17–18, 2016. You are invited as a PLC member, especially if you did not receive an award this cycle. Participants must cover travel to Alexandria, VA plus some meals. Hotel and meeting fees are provided. Contact Glo Hanne at ghanne@eicc.edu for registration and information before the hotel deadline of July 26. (See additional information later in these post session notes)

2. Questions

A question was posted to our listserv: An EWDJT grantee is interested in an example of an RFP for a contractor to deliver basic hazardous substances management training, e.g. HAZWOPER, OSHA 10-hour, lead and asbestos abatement, etc.

Thank you, Aisha Tzillah, city of Cincinnati. Aisha shared an RFP they used in 2010 that is still applicable. (Contact Glo Hanne at ghanne@eicc.edu to request a copy.)

If you have an question, Glo will post it to the HMTRI Grantee and Community Outreach listserv. We will seek a response from our 900+ listserv members and share their experiences. (See listserv information later in these notes.)

PLC question: We are interested in developing an EWDJT program around alternative energy jobs. Do you have a grantee with experience using this approach?

The PLC session (#149) held on June 8, 2016, featured the Energy Coordinating Agency (ECA) with Scott Coleman located in Philadelphia, PA. Scott addressed the issues of leveraging, sustainability, and integrating EWDJT into alternative energy training. You can read post-session notes on our [Brownfields Toolbox](#) website. Scott would also be happy to discuss his program with you.

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3. Groundwork Providence—Amelia Rose, Executive Director

Thank you, Amelia, for your presentation today.

Groundwork USA is a national network of local organizations devoted to transforming the environment of marginalized communities. Groundwork is a national enterprise with local roots, working at the intersection of the environment, equity, and civic engagement.

Primary goals of Groundwork USA include:

- Pursuing a future in which everyone’s neighborhood environment is green, healthy, and resilient.
- Undoing legacies of poverty and racial discrimination.
- Breaking the trend of widening disparity between communities that are experiencing disinvestment, neglect, and deepening poverty.
- Producing tangible improvements in people’s lives, staying positive, and learning at every step of the way.

Learn more about Groundwork USA at <http://groundworkusa.org/about-us/>.

While the national organization provides a global perspective, each affiliate is independent and responsible for program offerings, leveraging, and sustainability. Location and contact information for each of the 25 affiliate programs can be found at <http://groundworkusa.org/groundwork-network/>.

Groundwork Providence began environmental training with two EPA grants in 2002 and 2004. After a six-year break, they reemerged with new, expanded EWDJT programs in 2010, 2012, and 2015.

Groundwork Providence has demonstrated success and sustainability “putting it all together” by expanding services, fundraising, and effectively using social media to link with the communities they serve. Visit their website at <http://groundworkprovidence.org/>.

Program overview

Service area

Groundwork Providence serves unemployed and underemployed residents of the urban communities of Providence, Pawtucket, Central Falls, and Woonsocket.

- There are four federally designated Enterprise Communities (EC) in the service area.
- The target communities are home to 60 percent of the areas’ Hispanic population.
- Communities they serve also include 68 percent of the African-American population of the entire area.

- Approximately 30 percent of Pawtucket's households are 150 percent or more below the poverty line.
- About 25 properties in the city are being considered for economic development or historic preservation.

Special considerations

- A new state program offers tax incentives to businesses that occupy and reuse vacant mill properties.
- Pawtucket just received supplemental funding for their Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund.
- A partnership with the state has created the potential for brownfields-related jobs for EC residents with the appropriate environmental training.

Core curriculum

The training program covers 222 hours of classroom instruction, including the core coursework listed below.

- HAZWOPER 40-hours
- Confined Space Entry
- OSHA 10-hour Construction
- First Aid/CPR
- EPA-Certified 8-hour Lead Renovator Training
- Asbestos Supervisor/Contractor 40-hours
- Indoor Air Quality and Vapor Intrusion
- Underground Storage Tank Class A and B Operator
- Green Infrastructure and Stormwater Management
- Environmental Justice and Health Equity
- 70-hour Contextualized and Hands-on Curriculum

Participants who complete the core training earn five state or federal certifications.

Recruitment and screening

Groundwork Providence recruits trainees from urban core communities in Providence, Pawtucket, Central Falls, and Woonsocket, with a special emphasis on serving formerly-incarcerated individuals and residents of public housing.

All applicants are invited to complete an orientation with Groundwork Providence before enrolling in the program. Application information and program requirements are posted on their website at http://groundworkprovidence.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/AJT-Application_updated-Spring-2015.pdf.

- Participants must be legal U.S. residents (due to funding restrictions).
- Participants must meet income requirements for free training.
- Participants should have a high school degree or equivalency (recommended but not required).
- Groundwork Providence screens for participants who have a strong interest in careers in hazardous materials handling/clean-up and sustainable urban landscaping, and are working to improve their own lives.

As with other smaller urban communities, the pool of potential applicants is limited with large cultural and educational disparities. After completing the application review and orientation, potential participants are interviewed before acceptance into the program.

Key partners

- Providence Housing Authority
- City community and municipal organizations
- Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
- Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston
- Additional Groundwork Providence services and programs
- Several environmental and community-based organizations

Placement

- Groundwork Providence plans to train 52 students and place at least 39 graduates in environmental jobs.
- To date, 73 percent of their trained graduates have been placed.
- Jobs range from temporary crew positions on remediation projects to full-time salaried positions with remediation contractors (T.F. Green Airport, and others).
- Manpower and temp firms are included as part of the potential employer pool.
- Public housing authority and municipal agencies are potential employers.
- Groundwork Providence has established “fee for service” opportunities for program graduates.

Partnerships, leveraging, and sustainability

Groundwork Providence leverages environmental workforce training with “fee for service” programs in urban farming, community gardens, and the establishment of nurseries on Brownfields sites across the service area. They partner with youth programs such as the Green Team—a summer youth employment program sponsored by the Miriam Hospital and in collaboration with YouthWorks 411.

GroundCorp is a fee-for-service landscaping social venture that provides job training graduates with paid hands-on experience in sustainable landscaping, urban land restoration, green infrastructure, stormwater management, and general landscaping maintenance work.

Hope Tree Nursery, Prairie Avenue Farm and Greenhouse, and Ring Street Community Garden are sustainable partnerships linking Brownfields with the EWDJT program.

Groundwork Providence, located in a midsized community, has challenges in recruitment and placement similar to EWDJT programs in other small to midsized cities. Associations with a larger organizations provides leveraging, shared facilities, and services that a stand-alone program would not have. Additional affiliations with a national organization supplements awareness and marketing efforts, contributing to program’s sustainability.

Amelia would be happy to discuss Groundwork Providence and the Groundwork Network with those interested in the program.

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4. Upcoming webinars

Groundwork USA Equitable Development Webinar—Investing in People and Place: Building Wealth and Equity to Advance the Equitable Development Agenda
Wednesday, July 20, 2016
1:30–3:00 p.m. ET

Tune in for a rich discussion among three leading-edge practitioners about how their programs promote wealth building, job placement and training, job creation, and increase access to financing and supports for small businesses and social enterprises. These programs respond to the needs of low-income people and people of color, and are making tangible impacts in everyday lives, helping long-marginalized families keep pace with place-based investments in their neighborhoods, and advancing equitable development more broadly in long-marginalized American communities.

Guests include Amy Shapiro, Director of Business Development, Franklin County CDC (Greenfield, MA); Tony DeFalco, Living Cully Coordinator, Verde/Living Cully (East Portland, OR); and Kevin Jordan, Vice President for National Programs, LISC (Washington, DC). For more information about Groundwork USA and upcoming events, visit <http://groundworkusa.org/news-resources/>.

Leveraging for Brownfields Revitalization

Webinar Series (#1)

July 26, 2016, 1:00–2:30 pm EDT

The first webinar, *Leveraging Resources for Brownfields Revitalization*, will discuss available tools to assist communities in leveraging resources to address community revitalization goals and challenges. It will include a presentation on Dubuque, Iowa's successful efforts to leverage its own resources to attract other federal, state, public, and private sources of funding and technical assistance. Speakers include Patricia Overmeyer, EPA OBLR; and Teri Goodman, Assistant City Manager, and Maurice Jones, Economic Development Director, City of Dubuque, IA. Matt Ward, CEO, Sustainable Strategies DC, will moderate the session.

Register at <https://clu-in.org/training/webinar/BFLeveraging1/>.

Leveraging Resources for Brownfields Revitalization: Meet the Funders

Webinar Series (#2)

October 25, 2016, 1:00–2:30 pm EDT

This webinar will highlight the resources for brownfields revitalization available from one or two federal agencies outside of EPA. It is the second in OBLR's webinar series on what communities need to know to successfully leverage resources for brownfields revitalization.

Leveraging Resources for Brownfields Revitalization: Meet the Funders
Webinar Series (#3)

December 14, 2016, 1:00-2:30 pm EST

This second “Meet the Funders” webinar will highlight the resources for brownfields revitalization available from one or two more federal agencies outside of EPA. It is the part of OBLR's webinar series focusing on what communities need to do to successfully leverage resources for brownfields revitalization.

5. Making connections and networking

2016 Annual Environmental Job Development All-Grantee Meeting

August 17–18, 2016

Travel days: August 16 and August 19

Holiday Inn & Suites

Alexandria, VA 22314

The *Annual Environmental Job Development All-Grantee Meeting* is a networking and break-out event attended by:

- Current EPA-funded Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) grantees
- Past EWDJT grantees
- PLC members
- EPA regional workforce development coordinators
- EPA headquarters staff

Reservation deadline is Tuesday, July 26, 2016. For additional information or questions contact Glo Hanne at ghanne@eicc.edu.

Second Annual Southeast Brownfields Conference

October 16–19, 2016

Jacksonville, FL

Hosted by the Florida Brownfields Association and its regional partners, the Second Annual Southeast Brownfields Conference will be taking place in Jacksonville, Florida on October 16–19. Over 200 brownfield practitioners were in attendance last year and gained valuable insight into redevelopment practices in the southeast region. Registration is now open. Topics selected for the conference proceedings will emphasize Brownfields-related topics and case studies including but not limited to:

- Brownfield Redevelopment Success Stories
- Public Outreach and Changing the Perception of Brownfields
- State, Tribal, and Local Programs and Partnerships (Community Engagement)
- Obtaining and Managing Brownfields Grants
- Brownfield Incentives
- Sustainable Brownfields Redevelopment
- Redevelopment Financing
- Environmental Justice and Public Health
- Local, State, and Federal Regulatory and Policy Changes and the Effects on Brownfields
- Due Diligence, Liability Protection, Long-term Stewardship, and Risk Management
- Innovative Assessment and Remediation Technologies
- Brownfield End-Use Planning

The deadline for the Call for Presentation abstracts is July 1, 2016. For more details, visit <http://www.floridabrownfields.org/>.

Annual Georgia Environmental Conference

August 24–26, 2016

Jekyll Island, Georgia

In its 11th year, [the Annual Georgia Environmental Conference](#) is the state's largest, most comprehensive and diverse educational opportunity. The conference will be attended by over 700 local, state, and federal government officials, business and industry leaders, attorneys, consultants, engineers, developers, land owners, architects, agribusiness leaders, energy experts, water planning districts, universities, public health officials, solid waste, enviro-tech, recycling experts, and many, many others with a strong interest in environmental activities in Georgia and the southeast region.

6. Opportunities

Partnership for Resilient Communities

Request for Proposals

Proposal Due Date: Friday, July 29, 2016

The Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC) is seeking to support community-based organizations (CBOs) through a combination of technical, strategic, and financial assistance to implement projects that will advance local resilience. ISC is requesting proposals from organizations that are working within the following cities with a goal of building healthier, stronger, more equitable and resilient communities:

- Baltimore, MD
- Buffalo, NY
- Charlotte, NC
- Cleveland, OH
- Des Moines, IA
- Detroit, MI
- Fresno, CA
- Henderson, NV
- Houston, TX
- Kansas City, MO
- Knoxville, TN
- Lexington-Fayette, KY
- Memphis, TN
- Omaha, NE
- Pittsburgh, PA
- Providence, RI
- Sacramento, CA
- St. Louis, MO
- St. Paul, MN
- Salt Lake City, UT
- Wichita, KS

ISC will make grants of up to \$250,000 to 2–3 CBOs that are working on the ground in the above cities. Funding will support innovative, community-driven projects.

Applications are due by 5pm ET Friday July 29, 2016. ISC anticipates that selection will be completed by August 31, 2016.

Eligible recipients and activities applicants must be a community-based organization (CBO) with 501(c)(3) status, based in one of the cities listed above.

Learn more at www.iscvt.org.

7. HMTRI Grantee and Community Outreach Listserv

PLC members are also on the HMTRI Grantee and Community Outreach listserv. If you have questions or requests for information, send them to Glo Hanne and she will post them for response on the listserv. Contact Glo at ghanne@eicc.edu.

8. HMTRI Brownfields Toolbox website

Session notes and MP3 recordings of earlier PLC sessions can also be found on the [Brownfields Toolbox](http://www.brownfields-toolbox.org) website. Go to the pull down menu titled "PLC corner." Those interested in providing content or suggestions are encouraged to contact Glo at ghanne@eicc.edu.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Next PLC Session: July 27, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. ET
Please call in five minutes early.

Feel free to invite a guest! Send your contact information to Mike Senew at msenew@aol.com.



Visit our *HMTRI Brownfields Toolbox* Web site at <http://www.brownfields-toolbox.org> for more information on Brownfields Job Training programs. All PLC session notes and recordings are also located on the *Brownfields Toolbox* website at <http://brownfields-toolbox.org/plc-corner/>. For those interested in providing content or suggestions, please contact Glo Hanne at ghanne@eicc.edu.

NOTE: The PLC brings together ideas and opinions of individuals interested in environmental workforce development and training. Ideas and opinions are not those of EPA, its policy or opinions and should not be taken as official guidance.