



For Immediate Release:

Contact: Jennifer Marshall, SEEAL Coordinator, 508-493-4343, jmarshall@seeal.org

**CITY OF NEW BEDFORD, SEEAL
MAKE GRANTS AVAILABLE – REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

SEEAL (Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance), under the auspices of the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts, has grants available for environmental education, stewardship, and sustainability-related projects to be delivered in the Greater New Bedford area/.

Grants are for non-profits, schools, businesses, service agencies, and/or community groups. The funds are for projects that will improve New Bedford residents' environmental awareness and stewardship efforts. All projects should pay attention to reducing 1) harmful emissions into the environment and/or 2) the use of toxic chemicals and pesticides.

Grants will be awarded in April and August, 2008. Application deadlines are March 30, 2008, and again, July 30, 2008.

Preference will be given to projects that meet recommendations put forth by the Mayor's Sustainability Task Force report, to be released this Spring. Green projects related to transportation, waste, energy, health, food, education, community involvement, water, and/or toxics reduction are preferred. Groups that are Minority and/or Women Business Enterprises (MBE, WBE) are highly encouraged to apply.

Class I grants are available for schools, non-profits, businesses, and service agencies. These grants will range from \$500-\$5000. Collaborative applications will be given stronger consideration. Class II grants are available for community groups made up of 6 or more individuals (no 501(c)(3) required, but individuals must be residents of New Bedford) and will range from \$500-\$1000. Individuals may not apply.

If your school, organization, business and/or community group would like more information, please refer to our website, www.seeal.org, or contact SEEAL Coordinator, Jennifer Marshall, 508-493-4343, jmarshall@seeal.org.

About SEEAL

SEEAL is administering an EPA environmental education grant for the City of New Bedford. SEEAL's mission: to improve awareness and stewardship in Southeastern Massachusetts. SEEAL, a program of the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts (CFSEMA), was formed in 1997. SEEAL's main purpose is to secure funding and support its nearly 100 partners.

Some of SEEAL's active educational and institutional partners who are present and provide programs in New Bedford include New Bedford Public Schools, Global Learning Charter School, New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School, UMass Dartmouth, and SMAST. Present and/or active SEEAL non-profit partner organizations that deliver programs and resources to the City of New Bedford include The Trustees of Reservations, Lloyd Center for the Environment, Schooner Ernestina, Buttonwood Park Zoo, Operation CleanSweep, Friends of Buttonwood, Trips For Kids, Community Boating Center, New Bedford Explorium, New Bedford Whaling Museum, SEMAP, Working Waterfront, 3rd Eye Unlimited, Mass Audubon, and the Marion Institute. Others include Bristol Community College, Brick by Brick, YouthBuild, Peaceworks, Zeiterion Performing Arts Center, and Sea Lab. Jennifer I would seriously consider cutting this paragraph because the release is getting way too long.

To learn more about SEEAL or this grant and its objectives, contact SEEAL Coordinator, Jennifer Marshall, at jmarshall@seeal.org or at 508-493-4343. www.seeal.org coming soon.

About the Community Foundation

Since 1995, area residents have been turning to the Community Foundation to make their philanthropic giving as effective as possible. CFSEMA is a public charity serving thousands of people who share a common concern – improving the quality of life in Southeastern Massachusetts.

While the Foundation's primary grantmaking focus is on the SouthCoast communities of Greater New Bedford, Greater Fall River, and Southern Plymouth County, CFSEMA is a regional foundation serving 41 cities and towns. To date, the Community Foundation has assets of more than \$18.5 million and has distributed nearly \$6 million from 108 funds to humanitarian, educational and cultural organizations in the region. To learn more about the Foundation, visit www.cfsema.org.