



Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance

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SEEAL AWARDS OVER \$71,000 IN GRANTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS AND GREEN JOBS

SEEAL (Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance), under the auspices of the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts, has awarded \$71,250 in grants to environmental education, stewardship, and sustainability-related projects in the Greater New Bedford area.

Grant awards will be announced at SEEAL's annual meeting on Friday, Nov. 21, at which Environmentalist/Author Bill McKibben will speak on climate change.

Grants totaling \$36,000 have been awarded as part of "Sustainable New Bedford," a two-year project funded for 2008 and 2009 by the Environmental Protection Agency. SEEAL is the subcontractor of the award and will carry out project goals for the City of New Bedford. The balance came from an NSTAR grant that was made to SEEAL for weatherization training. The grants were awarded to:

Bristol Community College \$5,000

Green Jobs for New Bedford: Tidal Power Education

The project will develop and present a six-week training class that introduces Ocean Energy and Tidal Power to 10-15 members of the New Bedford community during January and February 2009.

Brick by Brick \$2,500

Project I Thrive - Green Alive: Creative Careers Program

This 8-week component of Brick by Brick's Creative Careers Program will focus on helping students understand how the environment is being affected and what they can do to create positive change.

Community Economic Development Center - Working Waterfront Festival \$5,000

Surf & Turf: Fishermen and Farmers Finding Common Ground

This grant will support a program of the 2009 Working Waterfront Festival, which is intended to educate attendees about the importance of buying locally harvested produce and seafood, the merits of eating organically grown produce and wild caught fish, the connection between pesticides/herbicides and contaminated water, the importance of clean water, and the challenges facing family farmers and fishing families.

Global Learning Charter Public School \$5,000

Community Garden: Seed To Table

This grant is intended to establish a community garden and Seed to Table program in partnership with the Marion Institute and will involve students in design and construction of raised beds in four existing plots on the exterior of the building.

Lloyd Center for the Environment \$5,000

“Shrink your Footprint” Series

This will consist of three events focused on educating people in the community on how to reduce their negative impact on the environment through lectures, interactive demonstrations, introductions to local businesses with responsible practices, and as a venue to network with other people looking to learn more.

Rotch Jones Duff House \$5,000

Safe Soils for Healthy Food

This grant will fund a series of community workshops intended to expand knowledge of sustainable food production within the city and will promote safe, sustainable gardening techniques that focus on the development of healthy soils, thereby reducing the reliance on chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

UMass Dartmouth Office of Community Service and Partnerships \$3,500

Earth Eve Procession 2009

The annual Earth Eve procession is an Earth Day celebration on AHA Night in April in downtown New Bedford where Mother Earth and Father Ocean 2009 will lead a procession of eco-floats through historic downtown New Bedford.

Greater New Bedford Workforce Investment Board, Inc. \$40,250

Weatherization Technician Training Program

The Southcoast Massachusetts Weatherization Technician Training Program (WTTP) will provide entry-level weatherization education, skills development, and employment opportunities to a New Bedford-focused group of participants and individuals are expected to obtain full-time employment upon completion of the project.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Marshall, jmarshall@seeal.org, 508-493-4343.

About SEEAL

SEEAL, a program of the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts (CFSEMA), was formed in 1997. SEEAL’s mission is to support member organizations in their capacity to provide quality environmental education and stewardship in Southeastern Massachusetts.

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, and YouthBuild.

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 Greater Plymouth County, CFSEMA is a regional foundation serving 41 cities and towns. To date, has distributed more than \$7 million from 110 funds to humanitarian, educational and cultural organizations in the region. To learn more about the Foundation, visit www.cfsema.org.

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