



September 24, 2008

SEEAL MAKES GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS
SOLICITS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

SEEAL (Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance), under the auspices of the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts, has mini-grants of up to \$5,000 available for environmental education, stewardship, and sustainability-related projects that benefit New Bedford.

Non-profits, schools, and/or community groups are eligible to receive the grants. Businesses are not eligible to receive funds directly, but only through a non-profit partner. All projects must: 1) benefit the City of New Bedford, 2) include an educational component, and 3) address the reduction of toxic chemicals, pesticides, and harmful emissions into the environment.

The grants are made possible by the City of New Bedford and the Environmental Protection Agency. Application materials can be found at www.seeal.org.

Preference will be given to projects that are: 1) collaborative, 2) recommended by the Mayor's Sustainability Task Force Report in one of ten categories: jobs, transportation, waste, energy, health, food, education, community involvement, water, and/or environmental justice, and 3) led by Minority and/or Women Business Enterprises (MBE, WBE). The Mayor's Sustainability Task Force Report can be found online at, www.ci.new-bedford.ma.us/Mayor/PressReleases2008/Sustaining_New_Bedford_09.02.08.pdf, or at the Mayor's Office in City Hall.

Grants for up to \$5,000 are available for schools, non-profits, businesses that are collaborating with a non-profit partner, and service agencies. Grants for up to \$1,000 are available for community groups made up of 4 or more individuals that do not have non-profit status. Members of these community groups must be residents of New Bedford. Individuals may not apply.

The application deadline is October 31, 2008. Grants will be awarded in November.

Projects that have received these mini-grants in the past include 1) installation of bike racks, 2) improvement of community gardens, 3) providing green business workshops, 4) educating residents about their carbon footprint, and to, 5) support of green youth leadership. Project grant awardees have included Sustainable Southcoast/Green Verde, 3rd EyE, UMass Dartmouth, and Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School.

If your non-profit, school, organization, 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 a network of non-profit and service organizations, public agencies, schools and universities, and others, who are committed to collaborative efforts for environmental education and stewardship in Southeastern Massachusetts. SEEAL's mission is to support its partners' capacity to provide quality environmental education and to promote stewardship in Southeastern Massachusetts. SEEAL, a program of the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts (CFSEMA), was formed in 1997.

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 million and has distributed nearly \$6 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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