



GREENPOINT ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT PROJECTS PROGRAM

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

**FACT SHEET 5
NOVEMBER 2012**

Background

This is the fifth in a series of Fact Sheets prepared to keep the Greenpoint community informed of progress on the implementation of the Greenpoint Environmental Benefit Projects Program (the "Program"). Funding for the Program 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. In accordance with the settlement, projects are to 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.

What has happened over the summer?

On July 6th, the State released a Request for Applications (RFA) for the General Administrator (GA) (<http://www.ag.ny.gov/environmental/greenpoint-environmental-benefit-projects>). The State worked closely with the Greenpoint Community Advisory Panel ("CAP") to develop the RFA, including the scope of work, the minimum requirements for the GA position and a system for evaluating and scoring the qualifications of applicants. Applicants needed to meet several minimum eligibility requirements to qualify for the position and were scored in accordance with their experience, resources and capabilities related to five areas: 1) Grant Program Management; 2) Fiscal/Fiduciary Management; 3) Community Engagement/Collaboration; 4) Grant Program Tracking, Recordkeeping and Reporting; and 5) Budget. The State and the CAP designed the scoring system to reward applicants who have collaborated with communities on similar types of programs, have familiarity with the Greenpoint community and have experience in managing programs involving the range of project ideas that have been identified by the community.

The State held a pre-application conference on July 25th that was attended by eight different organizations. Three of these organizations submitted applications (two as a team) on August 22, 2012 and both applications were found to meet the minimum eligibility requirements for GA candidates. A five-person evaluation committee (Arturo Garcia-Costas and Meghan Joplin, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation; Joe Haas and Jeremy Magliaro, NYS Attorney General's Office; and Laura Truettner, Enviro-Sciences Engineering/ARC Engineering & Construction, P.C. ["ESE"]) interviewed the applicants, and reviewed and independently scored their applications. The interviews occurred on October 1, 2012 and evaluation committee members submitted their scores to the State on October 10, 2012. The State is currently reviewing the scores submitted by evaluation committee members, and will announce the General Administrator selected for the Program once a contract is in place.

What's Next?

The next step is to continue to develop the community's ideas for environmental benefit projects into full project proposals. To that end, the Program will host a second meeting of the Greenpoint community early in 2013. The goal of this meeting will be to further build the community's list of project ideas, and to link community members with project ideas to academic institutions, not-for-profit organizations, government agencies, and other entities that are capable of translating these ideas into proposals that can compete for funding by the Program. In addition, the Program is exploring other ways to provide assistance to community members who want to develop project ideas into competitive project proposals.

Following the community meeting, the GA will work closely with the CAP and the State to develop and distribute a Request for Proposals ("RFP") to solicit proposals for environmental benefit projects for funding by the Program. While the details of the RFP and the project selection process remain to be worked out, it is anticipated that both small grants (e.g., \$10,000 to \$25,000) and large grants (e.g., > \$25,000) will be available, and that there may be more than one round of project solicitation and funding.

Schedule

A tentative schedule for the Program was included in Fact Sheet 4 (issued in July 2012). The State, the CAP and the GA will update this schedule -- both the tasks and the dates -- once the Administrator is "on-board," and will provide a revised schedule as soon as possible. In the prior schedule, the next Program milestone was Community Meeting #2, which was tentatively scheduled for November 7, 2012. In view of the amount of preparation involved, as well as the approaching holidays, it is anticipated that this meeting will occur in early 2013, with the release of the RFP to follow shortly thereafter.

Preliminary List of Project Ideas

Additional community project ideas are always welcome and should be forwarded to Laura Truettner of ESE at the e-mail address provided under "Contacts" below. The most recent list of project ideas identified by community members is available on the Program's website at: www.ag.ny.gov/environmental/greenpoint-environmental-benefit-projects. The first version of the list was assembled after the March 21, 2012 community meeting where the State of New York, its community outreach consultant, ESE and the CAP joined with approximately 170 members of the community to discuss ideas for possible projects. Since then, community members have continued to add to and provide clarifications for the 100+ project ideas generated at the meeting. The State, ESE and the CAP thank everyone for their ideas and enthusiasm!

For More Information

For more information -- including latest developments and accomplishments -- visit the Program's website at: <http://www.ag.ny.gov/environmental/greenpoint-environmental-benefit-projects>.

Contacts

Please contact Laura Truettner at 646-872-4157 or ltruettner@aol.com with project ideas, questions or comments about the Program or to be added to the Program's contact list.

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

Between Hurricane Sandy and the nor'easter, it has been a difficult several weeks for New Yorkers and, for many, recovery will continue for months to come. We hope that you and your families are safe and well.