Building Equity and Alignment for Impact (BEA) is a multi-sector, grassroots-led project launched by the Overbrook Foundation in 2013. Tracking the field aims to explore gaps in funding in addition to following trends and giving focuses. BEA approached EGA and we included this section to further our understanding of this gap area.

The BEA project is rooted in the Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing, and the understanding that environmental advocacy and impact is most effective when it is inclusive and when it maximizes the range of environmental assets in the field. A critical and strategic asset is the grassroots sector, which historically has formed the backbone of base-building power. Since 2013, BEA has been working to increase the impact of the environmental and progressive movements by expanding resources to the grassroots-organizing sector and cultivating equitable partnerships among the grassroots organizations, mainstream environmental groups, and funding sectors. The BEA was founded to build resources for the grassroots sector to expand its base-building power in a meaningful way (equity) and to facilitate and to promote the different sectors of the movement toward common strategies and purposes (alignment).

The BEA has four goals: 1. To break down historical barriers among large, national environmental groups, grassroots and funding sectors, building authentic partnerships toward greater alignment and solidarity; 2. To support the philanthropic field to elevate a base-building, bottom-up, collaborative approach; 3. To expand the pool of resources available to the environment and overlapping progressive issues; 4. To shift that growing pool of available resources to more equitably service the grassroots-organizing sector.

BEA’s research task force requested that EGA track and analyze baseline data to help identify the current landscape of the philanthropic sector and the dynamics of funding to different scales of organizations, which will benefit future comparison after the project’s full implementation. This special insert is designed to reflect EGA members’ current funding strategies to organizations of different scales, from small grassroots to larger-scale environmental organizations, with a special focus on “Environmental Justice” grants.

Quick facts of environmental giving by EGA members in 2013:

- EGA members gave $158 million to a list of major environmental groups like Nature Conservancy and NRDC; these 22 organizations in total received as much as 11.7% of all EGA funding.
- Among 6,000 EGA grantees, the top 200 largest grantees received 53% of all EGA funding. While the bottom 5,000 grantees received only 17.5% of EGA funding.
- Over 4,000 EGA grants (accounting for 32.9% of all EGA grants) were small grants of less than $10,000. However, in terms of total grant dollars, these grants were worth only 1.4% of all EGA giving.

In 2013, EGA members gave $31 million to domestic grants that have “Environmental Justice” as the primary or secondary issue area, almost double that of 2012. However, this change is due to the significant increase of funding with “Environmental Justice” as the secondary issue area, meaning that “Environmental Justice” in itself is not the primary focus of the grant.

To study the distribution of domestic “Environmental Justice” grants to small-, medium-, large-, and extra-large-scale organizations, the EGA research team categorized all domestic “Environmental Justice” grantees by size based on annual revenue on their Form 990s. The following infographic shows the number of grantees that belong to each size group, and the proportion of funding each group received in 2013.

The data also show that though smaller organizations received less funding on average, this portion of funding played a more important role in these organizations’ operation. The total EGA “Environmental Justice” funding received accounted for as much as 17% of the total revenue of small-scale organizations in 2013, compared to 13% for medium-scale organizations, 6% for large-scale organizations, and only 0.05% for extra-large-scale organizations.

In terms of the differences between the giving strategies of “Environmental Justice” funding received by small-scale and extra-large-scale organizations, funding to small-scale organizations was more likely to use “Advocacy / Organizing / Movement Building” as the strategy than were extra-large-scale...
organizations (63% versus 46%). This has been the trend in both 2012 and 2013. However, in 2012, only about one-third of domestic “Environmental Justice” giving used “Advocacy / Organization / Movement Building” as the strategy. The big jump in 2013 was due to a number of new large “Environmental Justice” grants given by a few foundations, including the W. K. Kellogg Foundation and the Kresge Foundation, which frequently used “Advocacy / Organization / Movement Building” as the strategy.

Another trend is that a higher percentage (30%) of funding to extra-large organizations used “Capacity Building / General Operating” as the strategy, compared to 21% for small-scale organizations. It is also worth mentioning that 14% of funding to extra-large-scale organizations was given to “Research: Scientific / Environmental”, this is due to the fact that one third of the extra-large-scale organizations are university affiliates.

As mentioned, it is an across-the-board trend that a small number of large grantees received the majority of funding. It is the same case for domestic “Environmental Justice” grants. In 2013, among over two hundred domestic “Environmental Justice” grantees, the top 20 received almost half of all funding.

To get involved with Building Equity and Alignment for Impact, or to learn more about BEA’s analysis that true impact will not happen without equitable investment in the grassroots organizing sector, please contact Samantha Harvey at sharvey@overbrook.org. She will connect you with the appropriate BEA leader.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grantee Name</th>
<th>$ Given</th>
<th># of Grants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Center for Social Inclusion</td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Law Foundation</td>
<td>$1,415,000</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Fund</td>
<td>$884,609</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earthjustice</td>
<td>$829,689</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Environmental Law Center</td>
<td>$820,000</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coalition of Immokalee Workers</td>
<td>$810,000</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair Food Network</td>
<td>$800,000</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Center for Healthy Housing</td>
<td>$750,000</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tufts University</td>
<td>$675,000</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Southern California</td>
<td>$491,834</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UPROSE</td>
<td>$475,000</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Law and Policy Center of the Midwest</td>
<td>$467,150</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American Rights Fund</td>
<td>$437,500</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Entrepreneurs of New Orleans</td>
<td>$415,000</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Philanthropy Partnership</td>
<td>$412,000</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs</td>
<td>$405,000</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic Monthly Group</td>
<td>$399,621</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Association of County and City Health Officials</td>
<td>$386,082</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coming Clean, Inc.</td>
<td>$385,750</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Harlem Environmental Action (WE ACT)</td>
<td>$380,000</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14,639,235</strong></td>
<td><strong>81</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Building Equity and Alignment for Impact

### Total Domestic Environmental Justice Giving by Grantee Size, 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANNUAL BUDGET SIZE</th>
<th>SMALL: &lt; $350,000</th>
<th>MEDIUM: $350K - $1M</th>
<th>LARGE: $1M - $10M</th>
<th>EXTRA LARGE: &gt;$10M</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AVG money received per organization</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>$85,000</td>
<td>$211,000</td>
<td>$212,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Domestic Environmental Justice Giving Strategies by Grantee Size (Small versus Extra-large-scale Organizations), 2013

#### % Given to Small-scale Grantees
- Advocacy / Organizing / Movement Building
- Capacity Building and General Operating
- Communications / Media
- Education / Youth Organizing
- Litigation
- Public Policy
- Research: Scientific / Environmental
- Stewardship / Acquisition / Preservation

#### % Given to Extra-large-scale Grantees
- Advocacy / Organizing / Movement Building
- Capacity Building and General Operating
- Communications / Media
- Education / Youth Organizing
- Litigation
- Public Policy
- Research: Scientific / Environmental
- Stewardship / Acquisition / Preservation

#### Total Revenue 100%
- Total Revenue
- Domestic "Environmental Justice" funding accounted for 17.33% of total revenue of small-scale organizations in 2013
- Though received much more "Environmental Justice" funding, it only accounted for 0.05% of total revenue of extra large-scale organizations in 2013

#### Key
- 20 Organizations
- $800,000

---

36 TRACKING THE FIELD: VOL. 5
We gratefully acknowledge the essential support provided by EGA members that makes this report possible. By working together, we can continue to build on the advances made in this report and generate the kind of high-quality resources that enable us to examine our individual and collective grantmaking strategies in new ways.

**THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FOUNDATIONS:**

Overbrook Foundation  
New York Community Trust  
Ford Foundation  
11th Hour Project / Schmidt Family Foundation  
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation  
Energy Foundation  
Brainerd Foundation  
Wilburforce Foundation

**REPORT AUTHORS:**

FRANNY CHILES CANFIELD, Knowledge and Program Director  
MAUD HENDERSON, Program Coordinator  
ASHLEY LI, Operation Research Analyst

**RESEARCH TEAM:**

DEBBIE PIERCE, Senior Consultant and Researcher  
JOHN REYNOLDS  
Copy Editor: AMY BROSEY  
Designer: NADIA KHASTAGIR, Design Action Collective

**CONTRIBUTING STAFF:**

REINA MUKAI, Senior Research Associate, Foundation Center  
RACHEL LEON, Executive Director, Environmental Grantmakers Association

Please contact the EGA Tracking the Field team if you are interested in exploring the development of your own custom project.

**NOTES**

1. EGA Strategic Framework, 2010  
http://foundationcenter.org/gainknowledge/research/keyfacts2014/  
http://foundationcenter.org/gainknowledge/research/keyfacts2013/  
http://foundationcenter.org/gainknowledge/research/keyfacts2014/  
6. Ibid.  
7. Foundation Center 2014, Service 1  
8. Represents estimated giving by grantmaking private and community foundations for the “environment,” based on subject categories developed by the Environmental Grantmakers Association (EGA).  
9. Foundation Center 2015, Service 1  
10. “Causes of Drought: What’s the Climate Connection?,” Union of Concerned Scientists  
13. 579,000 square miles is approximately 150 million hectares. This area is nearly four times the size of California.  
The mission of EGA is to help member organizations become more effective environmental grantmakers through information sharing, collaboration and networking.

www.ega.org