

CREWS Grantee Work to Date

Leveraging resources

In May, P4P awarded grants to GSI projects in Milwaukee and Newark.

Launched a new collaborative mini-grant program focused on peer learning and mentorship for SSDN members who want to learn more about sustainability and equity and resilience. Six Southeast Sustainable Communities Fund grantees kick started their work on equitable water projects throughout the South.

Well, in Baltimore, we are very close to getting a Request for Expressions of Interest (in an Environmental Impact Bond) out the door to potential investors (July), and close to a full definition of what will be the specific EIB-funded projects in Hampton (August).

We succeeded in getting FEMA to release more data than ever before to the public about major 2017 and 2018 hurricanes which has driven community advocacy and policy change in several states and territories.

Now there is less flooding and new relationships being formed, possibly leading to new projects.

- Able to make a grant to adopt a catch basin program.

Strengthening networks

We hosted a workshop on managed retreat bringing together local, state, and federal policymakers with NGO and other experts to discuss equitable approaches to facilitating managed retreat as one strategy for addressing sea-level rise and coastal flood risk.

Our initiative, Higher Ground, has become the largest flood survivor network in the U.S., representing 46 flood survivor groups in 21 U.S. states.

The Exchange just completed it third all-network Annual Meeting where we prioritized working together to integrate equity into the full value chain of GSI.

Working with Baltimore City to identify members of the community and agencies to connect to through environmental impact bond funded green infrastructure projects.

Built a big tent of stakeholders who previously did not work together. Members of Elizabeth, NJ's local Yeshiva sitting down to talk combined sewer overflows with senior black and Latino residents of the local housing authority. Working with youth to articulate why addressing the disproportionate impact of heat and flooding are parts of the modern day civil rights movement.

Earth Economics has established and is fostering new relationships and project collaboration with more than 14 Kresge grantees.

Launching the Atlanta Watershed Learning Network (Youth Edition)

Initial focus on getting our project done, but we are now raising up leaders in our networks, creating new partners and engaging community leaders.

Gave local nonprofits the tools they need to begin addressing the challenges of achieving climate resilience and water affordability in the communities of greatest relevance to their missions.

Beta testing our stormwater app. Getting youth from Detroit, Toledo, Flint engaged in water activism.

Our Inrenchment Creek One Water Management Task Force has focused on learning and listening by engaging with leading edge water managers in the City (toured NCR's stormwater capture and reuse system), hosted Georgia State University leaders to present on their live projects that will impact and manage stormwater and hosted a watershed walk with community and Department of Watershed Management staff to explore opportunities for raising the profile of the hidden headwaters of the Creek.

Engaging partners

IJC was hosting a community input meeting and we wanted to invite community members to attend and give them some background knowledge to assist them.

At a Hip Hop social justice organization with the help and engagement of 5 community partners we hosted Peter Annin author of the "Great Lakes Water Wars" to help us inform the community regarding two regional water meetings taking place in Milwaukee: International Joint Commission and the Great Lakes Governors and Premiers Meeting.

We also hosted our Confluence event whereas we hosted a panel of Native and Women of Color who are environmental leaders on behalf of water.

Two of the women came from the 30th street corridor, a neighborhood in the Black Community which experiences frequent flooding events. This counteracted an article on Environmental Activism that appeared in a local newspaper which did-not highlight any work done by People of Color.

They shared their experiences, their strategies, their vision for the future of our waters. It was a clarion call to our sector, which is still dominated by white male leaders. They also talked about how to be a good ally and why this isn't a side-issue.

Our panel conversation at our Confluence event - six Native Women and Women of Color leading in the environmental movement.

We created a community engagement guide for how cities and governments can engage communities in their work.

Creating and applying new tools

Led to better more comprehensive solutions that worked across sectors and organizations, allowed coalition to work with built environment people such as housing people.

Beta testing our stormwater app. Getting youth from Detroit, Toledo, Flint engaged in water activism.

HOME coalition -- Working with county on initiative.

An open-source, web-based, participatory mapping app for neighborhoods at repeat risk of flooding (developed and soon to be piloted in partnership with Freshwater Future)

Beta testing our stormwater app. Getting youth from Detroit, Toledo, Flint engaged in water activism.

We have almost completed a beautiful on-line presentation with maps, narrative and images that explain the relationships between historic redlining, impervious surfaces, tree canopy, land surface temperature and community demographics and vulnerability in five cities.

A user-friendly, easily operationalized (i.e. Excel-based,) co-benefits calculator for municipalities considering green alternatives to traditional, built infrastructure assets (developed and currently in the pilot process with the Green Infrastructure Leadership Exchange)

Our project is in its early stages, so few accomplishments have been achieved yet. The most notable is an update of CNT's Green Values Calculator, which communicates the co-benefits of green infrastructure (though this is still internal and not visible on our website yet.)

Building green infrastructure

An open-source, web-based, participatory mapping app for neighborhoods at repeat risk of flooding (developed and soon to be piloted in partnership with Freshwater Future)

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We are delivering innovative economics analysis and tools and developing important new ways of working equitably and in authentic partnership with community-based experts, in full recognition of the many types of expertise that add enormous value to complex projects. Recent highlights include:

An analysis of the potential social and environmental impacts associated with the Magic City development in Little Haiti, Miami, for the Community Justice Project, with the goal of fostering a conversation around more inclusive development. Thanks to the efforts by Community Justice Project, this work was cited in the Miami Herald.

Developing new ability to qualitatively evaluate the impacts of green infrastructure implementation on flood risk at high spatial resolution

Started construction on our first project in St. Louis, a \$1M installation of a variety of green infrastructure elements on a previously vacant property in a low-income neighborhood.

Promoting learning

National Adaptation Forum, updated Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange, creation of the Climate Change Adaptation Certification/Checklist tool for the development of climate savvy planning

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The creation of a tri-city (Flint, Detroit & Petoskey) water quality/policy education for young people.

Held a Regional Youth Educational based water canoe camp in Toledo Ohio

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Launching the Atlanta Watershed Learning Network (Youth Edition)

We are poised to release the first (to the best of our knowledge) national water equity and climate resilience policy framing paper. It's been quite a lift!

BEST thing is the development of the Water Equity and Climate Resilience policy paper that Caucus members will be advancing over next 2 years.

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Publishing articles/op-eds with CREWS grantees that have appeared in The Hill, Ensia, and newspapers all over the U.S.

Spoke at a series of conferences and events about EIBs, promoting the instrument, and understanding what questions and priorities different audiences have.

We are about to start a strategic communications plan for the Exchange to improve cross-network communication, to share our lessons learned more widely, and to increase awareness of the Exchange to outside audiences. It would be helpful to work with someone with communications expertise -- and who may be able to assist us through a contract ultimately.

We created a community engagement guide for how cities and governments can engage communities in their work.

Challenges moving forward

How does one scale up climate resilience organizing and advocacy beyond the converted in real time?

Ways to collaborate with other groups working at the municipal government level (on financing, procurement, planning, infrastructure dev, etc.)

In my work with the Urban Water Funders, I'd be interested to talk about network practice. It's a challenge to work with a national network of people that don't have the opportunity to physically see each other regularly. Are there tools or techniques that others have found effective in their work with networks?

Strategies for moving state water equity and climate resilience policy--Community Water Center

Getting national officials to be open to change at the scale of the problem climate change presents as opposed to just tinkering around the edges of existing systems. I think it would be interesting to pair people who don't usually talk about this but are seeing this in different parts of working on water issues - I would love to talk about this with people who don't work on disaster recovery but work on other water issues connected to climate change.

How to influence the local city government officials to look at lead in water as a health issue.

Best practices for working in complicated, multi-agency big city environments.

I'm interested in social media as a strategy. Not the basics, but the strategy and tactics - how do harness the power of social media to build power.

We are trying to synthesize and capture best and emerging practices for centering equity in adaptation work. We'd love to be able to engage with CREWS grantees to ensure that our work captures the efforts of CREWS grantees but also can help them learn from other case study examples to advance their work. We are trying to do as much outreach as possible to ensure that our work is meeting the needs of practitioners.

Ensuring equity is a part of the decision-making for water infrastructure decisions. Could use SDM techniques (Jennie Hoffman, Adaptation Insight) with ways to breakdown structural/institutional racism that perpetuates bad decisions.

Community Equity in areas of water, green infrastructure, public spaces

"Centering" equity

Working with utilities to shape more equitable hiring policies in the water sector

Unfortunately the timing didn't work out for Ronda, so we didn't put on the session, since we are certainly not qualified to lead this discussion. However, we still have the abstract and would be interested in hearing perspectives from CREWS members. Since we have already discussed with Ronda, then she would be a great candidate to be paired with, and there are likely many other CBO/NGO representatives whose input would be very valuable.

Last December we had considered facilitating a session at the ACES conference, with Ronda Chapman's help, on the topic "Gentrification and Displacement: Addressing the potential negative impacts of green infrastructure adoption in underserved communities."

We are currently working on this now, and have a member-led committee, but I'd love to learn more from River Network, GI Leadership Exchange and others on how to measure this - If there is a Southeast - focused CREWS grantee that can join this conversation, that is even better!

Measuring impact and especially working on how we can measure equity and build capacity among members and staff around equity in our work.

Sharing resources

Resources available for small grants for community work: maintenance for green projects, fences, continued training or education

Accessing funding

Funding and financing for implementing our equitable, natural, integrated water solutions.

Creating funding and program models that support long-term maintenance of GSI in low-income communities

Sustaining the work

Where do we find our recharge?

Solidarity is the only way to move these efforts forward, how do we make it a priority?

The ability to leave the work in the city with the community (self-care)

Modifying the Climate Change Adaptation Checklist (<https://www.cakex.org/adaptation-certification>) for water quality and quantity related projects.

To do this I would like to be paired with those who make water quality and quantity protection decisions.

Developing tools

GIS Mapping

Improving our understanding of flood risk, particularly in non-coastal areas, and identifying ways in which this improved understanding will help us develop resilience solutions.

I'd like to work with others who have done work on flood risk mapping; those I know of include TNC and the New School, as well as several academic institutions (and I'm sure there are many others).

Translating the science

What climate science is most useful for climate adaptation planning and policymaking? How should scientific information and quantitative information in particular be provided, visualized, or communicated to be useful and impactful?

Quantification of Co-Benefits of Green Infrastructure