

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT

REPORT ON THE ORGANIZATIONAL NEEDS OF
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ORGANIZATIONS IN
THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER, 2009

PREPARED BY MIDGE TAYLOR, PROJECT MANAGER



ENVIRONMENTAL SUPPORT CENTER

Building Power at the Grassroots

This research would not have been possible without the time and thoughtfulness of the environmental justice groups who participated in the interviews. ESC and I are deeply appreciative that you gave us time from your busy lives to talk with us. We have done our best to accurately report your comments. We plan to use this information to advocate for more financial, moral, and political support for your efforts to survive and protect the environment.

As Manager of this project, I want to thank the team of ESC staff and consultants who interviewed, gave advice, and offered insights about the data we collected. Those individuals are listed in the Methodology section. Thanks to Sonja Carlborg for editing assistance and thanks to Donna Munoz and Judy Hatcher for their guidance.

Lastly, I want to thank the ESC Board of Directors allowing me to be a part of this project.

The Environmental Support Center promotes the quality of the natural environment, human health and community sustainability by increasing the organizational effectiveness of local, state and regional organizations working on environmental issues and for environmental justice.

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Introduction

Since 1990, over 2,600 groups have participated in the Environmental Support Center's (ESC) capacity-building programs. Capacity building has been defined by Letts, Ryan and Grossman as *the capacity to deliver a program, expand a program, or adapt to change* (See Echoes from the Field, by ESC and Innovation Network). ESC has supported capacity building for environmental groups by providing financial assistance, technology, and to a lesser degree, hands-on technical assistance, to address a broad assortment of non-profit challenges, including strategic planning, fundraising and financial management, staff and leadership development, program development, community organizing, and dealing with major institutional changes.

ESC places high priority on supporting groups working within communities to resolve environmental problems. To receive ESC's assistance, a group must be:

- A local, state, or regional nonprofit organization with at least 10% of its resources devoted to environmental issues; and
- An environmental justice organization, an environmental activist organization, or a network or coalition of such groups, or
- An environmental organization that supports other organizations and engages in building the capacity of groups to engage in activism.

In March 2009, ESC launched the Environmental Justice Needs Assessment Project to determine how it might better support environmental justice efforts around the country, particularly those with limited resources. To this end, project staff interviewed directors or board members from groups assisted by ESC in the past about ways to maintain, improve, or create programs and services that could strengthen the capacity of environmental justice groups around the country.

ESC designed the needs assessment to answer key questions:

- According to environmental justice groups, what do they need to build strong organizations?
- What would groups like to learn more about?
- What's the best way for groups to learn capacity-building skills?
- What are the barriers groups face in doing their work, and what can be done to address them?
- Do groups have allies or belong to membership organizations where they can gain access to resources, assistance, and information?
- How useful are gatherings as a resource for groups to obtain assistance and information?
- What is their advice to ESC for supporting environmental justice groups?

Methodology

Groups interviewed were selected from a sample of 149 assisted by ESC between 2004 and 2008. Using selection criteria that would ensure a mix of geographic location, age, budget size, and number of staff, an initial pool of groups was narrowed from 149 to 68, who were invited to participate in the interviews. As an incentive for participating, each group that completed the interview was entered into a drawing to receive technology equipment worth up to \$1,000, accompanied by consultation from Technology Resources Program Manager Stan Johnson. Two groups, whose names were pulled at ESC's June board meeting, won the drawing.

A team of ESC staff and consultants--Peggy Mathews, Stan Johnson, Tom Aloisi, and e'Marcus Harper--conducted interviews under the direction of Midge Taylor, an independent consultant who served as Project Manager. The interview team created and tested a survey instrument by interviewing six groups. After producing a final survey form, the team conducted 52 interviews during a seven-week period.

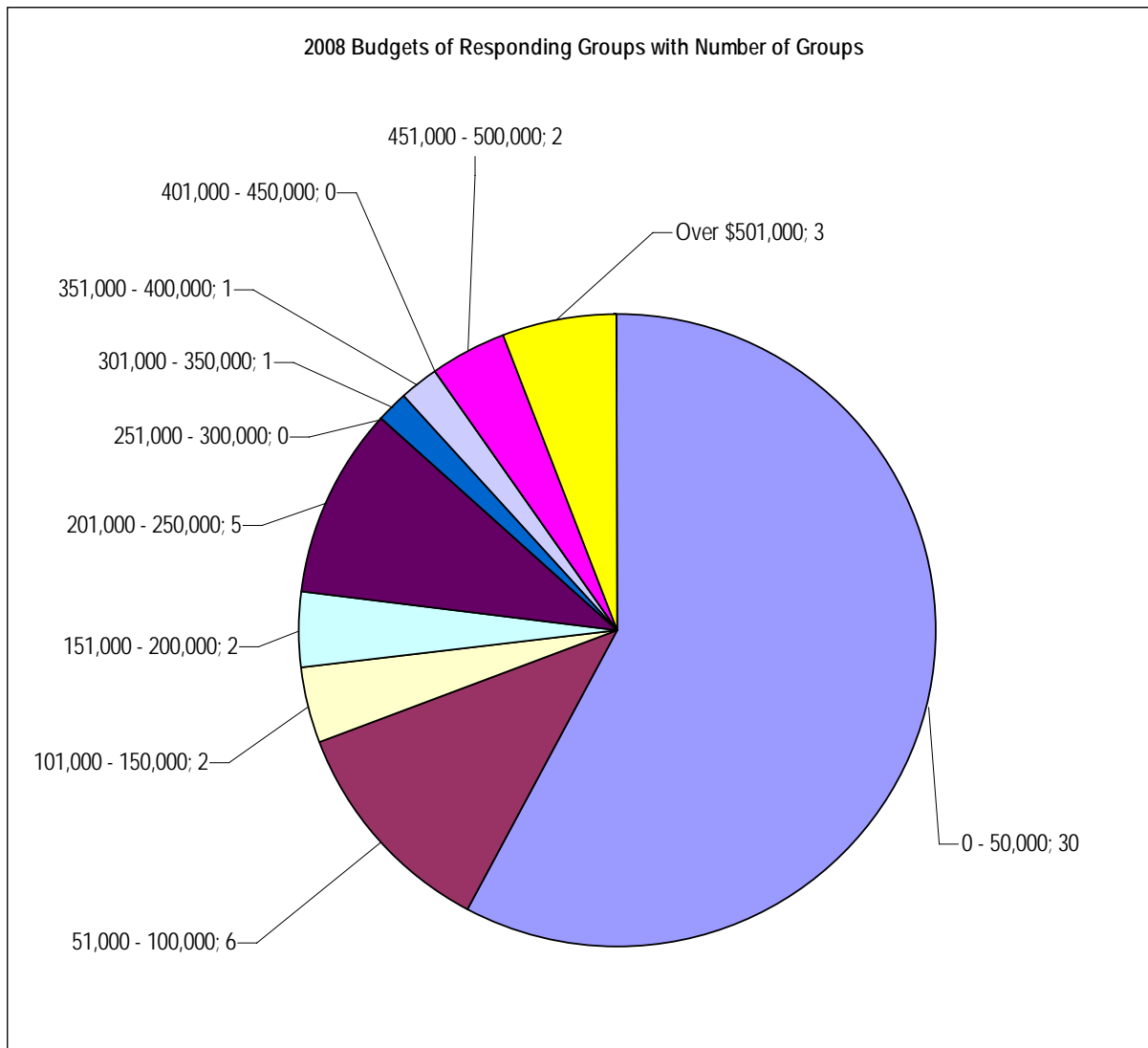
Profile of Participating Groups

The groups that participated in this survey represent a cross-section of the environmental justice community. They are courageous, they are proud, and they work hard to build a good life for their families. They are steadfast in their conviction to help their communities. But their patience is constantly being tested while their financial resources are stretched to the limits. They have long grown weary of the responses (or lack thereof) they receive from businesses and government officials when there is clear and present danger from pollution and contamination in their communities.

Who are these people? They are everyday folks fighting for their rights to clean air, safe water, and a healthy environment. According to one interviewee, they believe in “the eradication of racism in all decisions, in enforcement and in rulemaking that affect the environment and human health.” They are environmental justice activists who say, “We know that we need industry. It’s the disproportionate impact [that is unjust]. No group, no community should be disproportionately impacted. We want to treat our environment responsibly and equitably, so that it does not impact one population over others.” They believe that the people most affected must have a voice and that their positions should be taken seriously. Still others define environmental justice as “where all are treating our natural resources with respect so that the next generation will have a decent place to live.”

Groups interviewed work in 21 states around the United States, as shown in Table 1. Since the sample groups for this survey had been participants in ESC programs, there was strong representation from the South and Southwest where ESC provides the Technology Resources program, its only program specifically for environmental justice groups.

Alabama	Illinois	North Carolina
Alaska	Louisiana	Pennsylvania
Arkansas	Maryland	South Carolina
California	Massachusetts	South Dakota
Florida	Mississippi	Tennessee
Georgia	Nevada	Texas
Hawaii	New Mexico	Virginia
		Table 1



Graph 1

The majority of groups surveyed had small budgets. A budget of \$50,000 was the most frequent and six had budgets from \$51,000 to \$100,000. There were also groups with larger budgets, as shown on Graph 1, including three with budgets exceeding \$500,000 in 2008.

Foundation grants comprised the largest source of income, representing 50% or more of total income for 30 groups. Individual contributions provided the next highest source of income: 98% for one group, while 23 others collected between 5% to 50%. Other sources included government, corporations, and grassroots fundraising. One group received 100% of its income from the government, while another relied on government for 95% of its funds. These, however, were atypical. Thirteen groups received government support ranging from 5% to 46% of their budgets, but the majority received none at all.

The average number of staff members for groups surveyed was 2.78. One group had 14 paid and 13 unpaid staff/volunteers. This was an exception. More typical were the 18 groups with no paid staff at all. Staff data is not consistent, since we relied on the groups themselves to define staff. Survey data included information about paid and unpaid staff, but groups did not explain the difference between unpaid staff and volunteers. The data also does not distinguish between full-time versus part-time staff or whether staffs are paid a regular salary, stipend, or whatever the budgets will allow.

What we do know is that groups are minimally staffed, if at all, and those that have staff usually do not have enough to effectively carry out their scope of work.

The average age of participating groups was 13 years. Two groups founded in 1972 were the oldest. One was formed in response to a proposed landfill. The other “formed when the civil rights movement was influencing different communities of color to stand up and be proactive around social justice movement building.”

When they formed, 35 of the 52 groups were committed to a long-term existence, seeing themselves as institutional resources that formed to confront an initial problem, but would expand to address other needs as they emerged. The remaining 17 groups expected to resolve a problem and shut down. Years later, some of the latter admit that “we never thought about how long it would last.” All 17 are still in existence today.

Some of the reasons groups gave for their initial formation were to

- Challenge a government decision;
- Gather information;
- Alert the public;
- Investigate health conditions and unusual numbers of illnesses; or
- Monitor and protect a natural resource.

Many are still working on the same environmental or human health issues they were formed to address, while others have broadened their scope to two or more issues. Groups were asked to list up to three of their primary issues, which are shown in Table 2.

Agriculture/food	Forest management	Toxins
Air	Fresh water	Transportation
Basic community amenities: sewage, plumbing, etc	Green economy - green jobs, home retrofitting, access to resources	Waste
Biodiversity/habitat	Housing, home environment and impact on health	Water
Climate change/ global warming	Human health/environmental	Wetland preservation and coastal erosion
Community-based soil remediation	Hurricane debris cleanup and recovery	Workplace health
Conservation/rehabilitation	Land use	Youth leadership development
Energy	Mining	
Environmental justice	Sustainability	Table 2

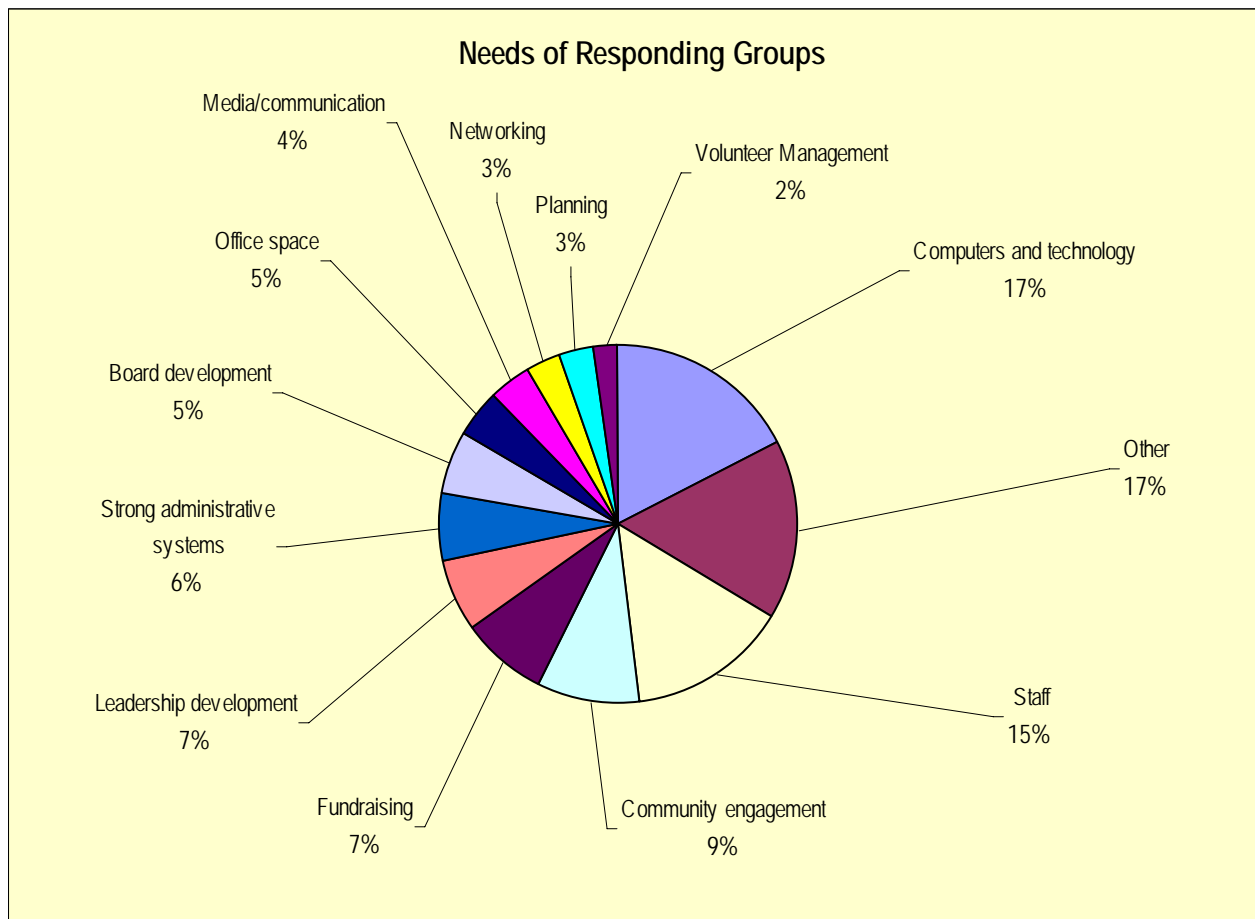
When interviewees were asked about their involvement in issues beyond the environment, ESC found that 26 of the groups dedicate 50% to 94% of their time on environmental justice work, while 14 spend 100% of their time on environmental justice. The non-environmental issues named most frequently were voter education and registration, cultural awareness and preservation, immigration, criminal justice, tenant rights, reproductive rights, and political empowerment and education.

What They Said and What We Learned

In addition to the primary questions listed on page 1, we added questions to delve deeper for information and clarity. For instance, groups were asked to rate the efficacy of their organizations using a scale of 1 to 10, 10 being the highest score. The average score for this question was 7.18, the basis for which varied widely. Most often the score was based on accomplishments in the community, even though the question was intended to ask about the group's internal operations. For example, one group said, "We are getting wins," while another reported, "We get a 10-plus on impact on the work we produce, however, we grew so fast and the organizational infrastructure is a mess. Help!"

What do environmental justice groups say they need to build a strong organization?

Participants were allowed to list multiple needs in response to this question. At 17%, computers and technology were cited most often as items that would contribute to building stronger organizations. Specifics included more and newer equipment; more access to technology professionals; and equipment maintenance. People were also interested in improving their websites and in sources for technology grants.



Graph 2

Staffing was identified as the next greatest need, accounting for 15% of respondents. This slice of the pie included concerns about staff hiring, decent wages, workloads, and staff training and development.

Nine percent of the directors wanted to support the education and empowerment of community members so that they might become more involved and confident in questioning public decisions that could harm or disenfranchise the community.

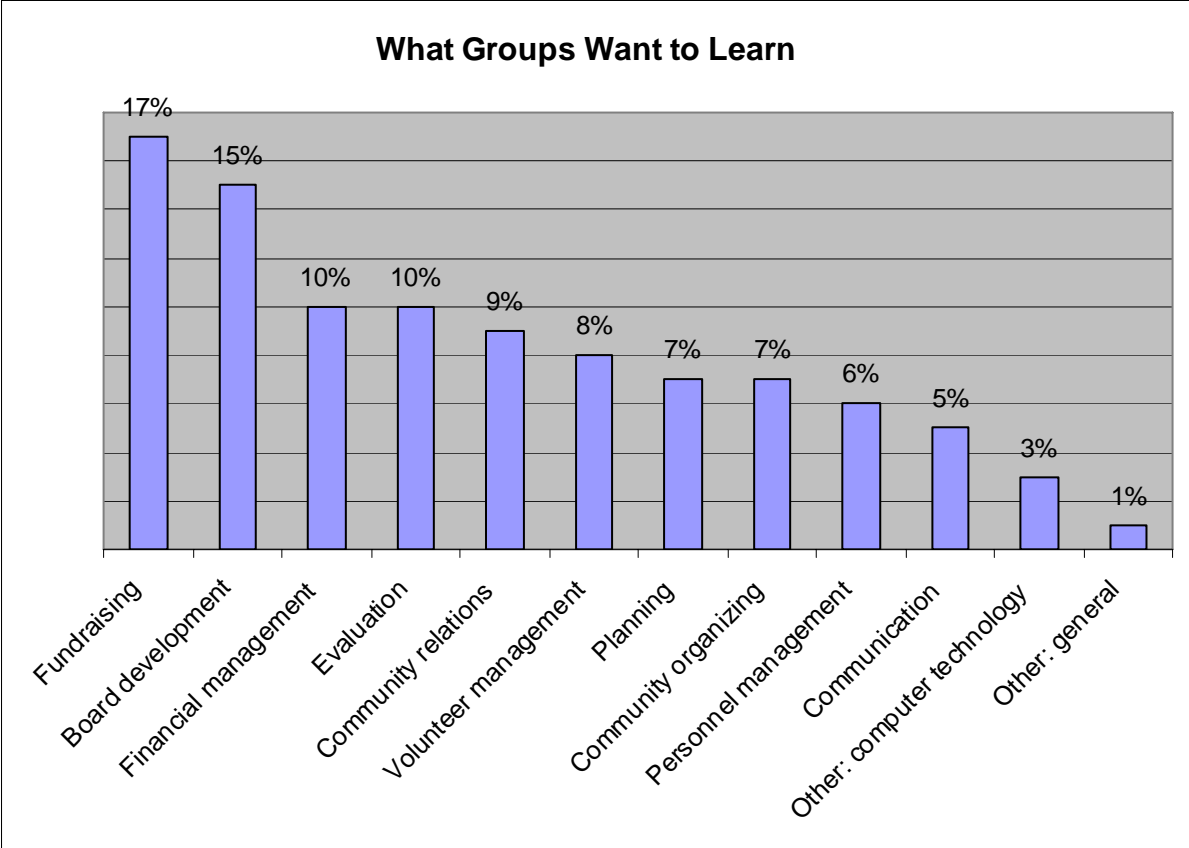
Fundraising was listed as a need for seven percent of the groups. Some were very specific about the type of assistance they desired, including more knowledge and training in grassroots fundraising and ways to diversify their funding base.

Seventeen percent of responses were grouped as "Other" on Chart 2. This category accommodated many concerns specific to one or two groups, for example, "We need training on healthy farming," or, "We want studies on health."

When questioned about their needs, some respondents requested training on specific topics, for example, "training on board development." In these cases, we interpreted the topic as the need, so this response was counted as board development rather than training.

What would groups like to learn more about?

Respondents were asked to select topics for further education and training from a list of ten management areas. If there were interests in unlisted topics, they were invited to make additions.



Graph 3

Fundraising topped the list of management areas groups wanted to learn more about, with board development and financial management following next, at 15% and 10% respectively.

Computer technology was not one of the ten listed topics. However, six people added this topic to the list under "Other."

Several interviewees mentioned very specific management areas, captured under the category "Other: general":

- Mission-related businesses "that fit with our values and promote social entrepreneurial values";
- Building capacity in a region and developing a regional movement; and
- Managing multiple needs and challenges, working in committees, and being more organized.

What are the best ways for groups to learn capacity-building skills?

For the initial interviews, a test group of six individuals selected from the larger sample group was asked, "What's the best method for your group to learn capacity-building skills?" Interviewees were then asked to rate each of the following forms of learning on a scale of 1 to 10, 10 having the highest value.

- One-day or half-day workshops
- Working with a consultant
- Conferences
- Webinars
- Online classes
- Mentoring
- Peer learning
- Exchanges--visiting another organization for a designated time to learn how tasks are done by others

Working with consultants received a score of 50 out of a possible 60, while mentoring received a 49, followed closely by 47 for peer learning.

The lowest scores were given to webinars and online classes, receiving 13 and 18 points respectively. The six sample respondents indicated that they had limited experience with these forms of learning. Webinars were relatively well received by the two people with some exposure; the other four had not tried them. On the other hand, online classes, which had been tried by more respondents in this group, remained a less appealing choice. After testing this question, ESC removed it from the remaining interviews due to concerns that groups with limited exposure to the range of options offered might distort the ratings.

What are the barriers to becoming a stronger organization, and how can they be overcome?

When asked about barriers to becoming a stronger organization, the following were most often cited:

- Workloads and being spread too thin;
- Fear in the community about getting involved;
- Organizing and building community leadership takes a long time;
- Local and state elected officials are not held accountable; and
- Racism.

Answers to the question “What would it take to overcome these barriers?” included

- More staff and more training;
- Strategic planning;
- Money;
- Board development;
- Computer and office technology;
- Community education; and
- Leadership development.

Do groups have access to resources, assistance and information to do their work in communities?

ESC used this survey to find out if groups that participate in alliances and membership organizations gain access to resources and assistance. Fifty-eight percent of those surveyed belong to membership organizations, with dues ranging from \$0 to \$500 per year. These respondents actively participate in more than 79 membership organizations. Five of the 52 respondents are members of the Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice (SNEEJ). Other membership organizations listed two or more times were Grassroots Global Justice, Refinery Reform Campaign, Global Community Monitor, Gulf Restoration Network, and Military Toxics Project.

Interviewees named roughly 200 groups and individuals as allies, a list that included elected officials, churches, universities, and numerous environmental and social justice organizations. The Environmental Support Center was named several times, along with Sierra Club, Deep South Center for Environmental Justice, Indigenous Environmental Network, Center for Health and Environmental Justice, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Whether through membership groups or other allies, groups worked together for many practical and strategic reasons, including

- Collaboration on policy work;
- Networking opportunities;
- Credibility from association with other groups;
- Support for each group’s issues;
- Collaboration on research;
- Comradeship that promotes a collective understanding of problems and solutions;
- Shared legal resources and strategies;
- Joint training sessions, joint publishing, joint organizing efforts;
- Opportunities for learning and sharing best practices;
- Stronger relationships between cultures;
- Travel funds and assistance;
- Access to technical expertise;
- Use of meeting facilities;
- Shared staff;
- Joint foundation fundraising, shared foundation contacts and joint funding ventures; and
- Problem-solving assistance.

How useful are gatherings as a resource for groups to get assistance and information?

Groups attend a significant number of gatherings, including conferences, summits, and forums on specific issues. They attend community meetings and participate in events conducted by funders.

They attend City Hall meetings and social gatherings. If they belong to networks, coalitions, or membership organizations, they participate in those activities as well.

Although groups are invited to many events, they choose to attend those that are perceived as most productive and therefore worth the cost of travel and attendance: "We don't have money to waste on something we're not sure will be good."

Most frequently cited reasons that gatherings were useful were

- Time was reserved for networking and letting groups tell their stories;
- Participants learned about new issues or discovered connections between their issues and others;
- Meetings were well organized;
- Sessions were facilitated;
- Sessions were designed for attendance of 50 to 70 people with a shared interest;
- Take-home tools and materials were provided; and
- Fun activities were included.

Gatherings were disappointing if they

- Lacked structure;
- Had too much on the agenda;
- Did not allow time for participants to consider strategies for implementing what they learned;
- Were too big;
- Failed to promote cultural sensitivity; and
- Were inflexible in adapting the agenda and discussions to address the interests of participants.

What is groups' advice to ESC for supporting environmental justice groups?

When asked for advice on how ESC should reach out to help more environmental justice groups, there were almost as many answers as there were interviewees.

- Six interviewees felt that ESC needs to be more visible by going to more conferences to share information, and by advertising in environmental publications. More networking, especially through coalitions, was suggested. Two others thought that ESC should continue to rely on word-of-mouth as an outreach method.
- Five respondents were content with ESC as is: "Keep doing what you're doing. You seem to be very efficient."
- Two respondents suggested that ESC improve its communication with groups in the field through a newsletter or some other format. One person suggested that the newsletter include information about foundations.
- Two groups wanted ESC to provide specialized long-term assistance: "[We want] someone that can come out and train us longer than just a day. Grant money gives assistance but can keep you dependent. The right kind of training would help us walk alone."
- Another person said, "Change your re-imbursement policy. It's difficult to pay upfront."

- “[ESC needs] more diverse staff,” said one interviewee. “Diversity plays a huge part in who gets help and who does not get assistance.”
- “Hold gatherings for people with similar interests or issues,” like bookkeeping or sustainable development. “Keep the attendance to fifty people or less.”
- “Use groups that have on-the-ground experience to train others.”
- “Funding is always appreciated,” said one respondent. “Technical assistance is a huge need along with fundraising training for groups, media training, lobbying, etc. A lot of community-based organizations have the passion and the people, but don’t have the sophistication to do these things. It’s like continuing education for small grassroots groups.”
- Several groups were also pleased and honored to participate in this survey. “Keep doing this,” said one director. “Keep checking in with groups and conducting surveys. [It] makes me feel like we’re still on your radar. You’re paying attention. You really care.”

Observations

Research confirmed that environmental justice groups are resourceful. They learn how to track down the information they need. They try to make maximum use of available resources, and they are not shy about asking for help. Even though funds are scarce, they are trying to survive. And they are cutting back while doing as much as they can with what they have.

Groups recognize their strengths and shortcomings, and they apply the lessons they’ve learned to move forward. For example, some groups are expanding youth involvement in their work by encouraging young people to help them communicate with the public or their communities through emerging technology. In the past it has been difficult to engage youth. Now, however, young people are documenting environmental conditions and producing educational pieces on-line, giving maximum exposure to the issues while the organizations build a closer relationship with a new generation they hope will remain committed to the work.

In summary, this assessment project found that

- Groups are maturing in their appraisal of the conditions they face and how to effect change: They refuse to be victims.
- Many groups work in political and geographic isolation on a daily basis, but they remain enthusiastic and committed to their work. The isolation makes it sometimes tough to move forward, so participation in membership organizations or periodic contact with allies is helpful.
- Groups measure themselves by what they’ve succeeded at doing programmatically, not by internal capacity. For them, being an effective and successful organization means putting a halt to a dangerous mining practice, winning a zoning restriction, etc. Success is rarely defined as a \$400,000 budget and five staff working in two neighborhoods.
- Groups win victories, but they must remain vigilant to protect their wins from attack. For example Native tribes may successfully assert their sovereignty and their right to determine natural resource management on their reservations, but federal lawmakers may attach riders to federal bills, without public hearings, that grant individuals or industries permission to explore or extract natural resources that tribes seek to protect.

Recommendations

Recommendation One

ESC should not only continue to support gatherings organized by and highly valued by grassroots environmental justice groups, but should also take on the role of convener, though only on special occasions. There are ample opportunities for constituents to attend events already. ESC need not allocate major organizational resources to holding convenings that compete with other events.

Recommendation Two

Every two years, ESC should coordinate an environmental justice gathering that would create the space for groups to network, tell their stories, share information, discuss their needs, break down feelings of isolation, and celebrate the work and willpower of environmental justice activists. Groups say that they would benefit from these activities, so I recommend such a gathering despite Recommendation One, which discourages ESC from conducting too many convenings.

Recommendation Three

Working with a consultant, mentoring, and peer learning all rely on close interpersonal relationships to share information and develop skills. Strong interest in these forms of learning was expressed throughout the survey. Priority consideration should be given by ESC to requests for one-on-one and small-group assistance. After assistance ends, ESC should evaluate whether these hold greater advantages over other forms of skills development for groups. If so, ESC should continue to emphasize programs and services that rely on these forms of skills development.

Recommendation Four

ESC should continue to support collaborations and relationships between groups like the ones found in membership organizations and alliances. There is an impressive list of benefits that groups gain from these relationships. (See responses to question – Do groups have access to resources, assistance and information to do their work?) ESC should encourage more of this kind of sharing. ESC should also encourage groups to talk with funders, who appreciate hearing about collaborations, about the benefits gained from these relationships.

Recommendation Five

Consistent staffing is fundamental to organizational sustainability. Groups recognize that they need well-trained and well-paid staff. However, staffing also requires a substantive commitment from leadership toward planning for the future of the organization, an activity that often takes a back seat in small grassroots groups. Therefore, ESC should help interested groups develop a plan to acquire and maintain paid staff--within the context of larger organizational plans.

Recommendation Six

ESC should co-host periodic webinars for environmental justice groups to learn practical ways of applying technology to their work in different communities. To this end, ESC could collaborate with nonprofit technology partners on fundraising, marketing, and other responsibilities for these sessions. Such partnerships could build on the existing Technology Resources program, and lead to more coordinated technology services for environmental justice groups.

Recommendation Seven

ESC should use this report to stimulate funder interest in funding capacity-building services. As a grantmaker with more than 25 years of experience in philanthropy, I have sat in many meetings with my co-workers to review grant requests. My goal has always been to pick groups with strong

leadership and effective strategies that produce results. We expect and often require that the group be fiscally sound, with achievable fundraising plans, and free from fiscal, legal, or tax liability. Yet we often underestimate the time, costs, training, and advice groups need to achieve their objectives. Funders need to accept that if they expect groups to succeed, they have to support their efforts to use new tools and new skills to build their organizations.

During their interviews, environmental justice groups reiterated their commitment to organizing over the long term. This report documents the multiple interests groups have in learning new programmatic, management, and administrative skills that will make them stronger. Funders need to explore ways to make more resources available to pay for capacity-building assistance. Funders also need to understand the importance of general support funding that gives small groups the freedom to not only pursue their program objectives but also to obtain skills and organizational assistance as needed. ESC needs to engage funders in continuing discussions about capacity-building, and work toward being seen as a viable advisor to funders who care about grassroots organizations.

Recommendation Eight

ESC should use this report to encourage more Information Technology grants from grantmakers intrigued by the role of technology in advancing social causes. Recommendation Six addresses the need for basic technology workshops. This recommendation is intended to meet the needs of groups who have advanced beyond the basics. More experienced groups want to use technology to reach wider, even national audiences by building better and more creative websites, using blogs and YouTube videos, and raising funds over the Internet.

Recommendation Nine

Training was consistently stated as an interest by survey participants. In response, ESC should build more partnerships with organizations that offer consulting and skills-building programs. Historically ESC has provided funding for groups to work with a wide variety of trainers, consultants, management support organizations, and facilitators around the country. ESC should pursue joint funding to collaborate more intentionally with key capacity-building organizations committed to providing culturally competent support to environmental justice groups and rural or low-income communities.

Recommendation Ten

ESC should assemble a team of seasoned social justice activists to serve as mentors to groups over two to three years, or longer. Each mentor would be paid an honorarium, responsibility for which would be shared between ESC and the client group. Occasional travel could be included, but mentors would primarily stay in touch with groups through telephone and the Internet.

Recommendation Eleven

ESC's anti-racism work should be promoted to the environmental and environmental justice communities. ESC should build partnerships and pursue joint fundraising with groups and consultants that conduct related workshops and consultation. In the survey, racism was listed as a barrier for getting things done in some communities, and a major deterrent for people speaking out about problems. Yet only three people suggested that workshops be conducted on racism. I do not think that the respondents suggesting these sessions knew about ESC's internal work in this area. I believe that more groups would consider doing work on dismantling racism if they had access to experienced, culturally appropriate resources.

About Midge Taylor

Midge Taylor has supported grassroots social justice activism since 1977 when she interned for the Emergency Land Fund, a group dedicated to helping southern Black farmers save their land. She pursued her first job in grantmaking, as the Grants Officer for the Fund for Southern Communities in 1982. She continued to fund social justice work around the country when she worked at the Funding Exchange. In 1988, Midge moved to Washington D.C. where she consulted for several foundations. Midge's experience working with grassroots efforts helped her understand that the groups need to build strong, effective organizations that can sustain themselves. This belief led Midge to the Environmental Support Center, where she worked or consulted from 1990 to 1999. While at ESC, Midge managed the Apple Computer Donation Program. She was one of the co-designers of the Leadership and Enhanced Assistance Program. She conducted the feasibility study for the Revolving Loan Fund Program and she investigated other special programs for ESC. In 1999 Midge became Program Officer for the Environment at the Public Welfare Foundation until 2007, where she funded environmental activism, especially environmental justice.

Survey Participants

Alaska Community Action on Toxics	Anchorage	AK
Alternatives for Community and Environment	Roxbury	MA
Bay Area Women's Coalition	Mobile	AL
Black Mesa Water Coalition	Flagstaff	AZ
California Indian Environmental Alliance	Berkeley	CA
C-Aquifer for Diné	Leupp	AZ
Center for Environmental & Economic Justice	Biloxi	MS
Centro por la Justicia	San Antonio	TX
Chinese Progressive Association	San Francisco	CA
Citizens for Environmental Justice	Corpus Christi	TX
The Clinch Coalition	Nickelsville	VA
Community In-Power and Development Association, Inc.	Port Arthur	TX
Community Organization for Rights and Empowerment	Holly Hill	SC
Concerned Citizens of Wagon Mound	Wagon Mound	NM
Defenders of the Black Hills	Rapid City	SD
Defense Depot Memphis TN- Concerned Citizens' Committee	Memphis	TN
Diné Care (Citizens Against Ruining the Environment)	Winslow	AZ
Dooda Desert Rock Committee	Farmington	NM
Eastern Carolina Community Development Corporation	Florence	SC
Environmental Community Action (ECO-Action)	Atlanta	GA
Environmental Justice Coalition for Water	Oakland	CA
Farmworker Association of Florida	Apopka	FL
Fuerza Unida	San Antonio	TX
Galveston-Houston Association for Smog Prevention (GHASP)	Houston	TX
Honor Our Pueblo Existence (HOPE)	Espanola	NM
Imani Group	Aiken	SC
KAHEA: The Hawaiian Environmental Alliance	Honolulu	HI

Kalpulli Izkalli	Albuquerque	NM
Lowndes Citizens United for Action	Hayneville	AL
Mesquite Community Action Committee	Las Cruces	NM
Mossville Environmental Action Now	Westlake	LA
Mothers and Daughters Protecting Children's Health	Anniston	AL
Moving Forward Gulf Coast	Slidell	LA
Neighborhood Citizens of Northwest Ocala	Ocala	FL
Pee Dee Indian Nation of Upper South Carolina	McColl	SC
People For Community Recovery	Chicago	IL
People Organized in Defense of Earth and Her Resources (PODER)	Austin	TX
People Organizing to Demand Environmental Rights (PODER)	San Francisco	CA
Power U Center for Social Change	Miami	FL
Project Awake	Coatopa	AL
Right To Know Committee	Philadelphia	PA
Rogers-Eubanks Neighborhood Association	Chapel Hill	NC
Sand Mountain Concerned Citizens	Ider	AL
South Bay Community Alliance	Coden	AL
South Texas Colonias Initiative, Inc.	Corpus Christi	TX
Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services (TEJAS)	Houston	TX
Tewa Women United	Santa Fe	NM
Turkey Creek Community Initiative	Gulfport	MS
Union de Vecinos	Los Angeles	CA
West Atlanta Watershed Alliance	Atlanta	GA
West End Revitalization Association	Mebane	NC
Western Shoshone Defense Project	Crescent Valley	NV