

GARFIELD FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2006

Even with Challenges, Conservation Progress Made in Gran Chaco

By John Beauclerk, Garfield Foundation



Aerial view of Kaa Iya National Park in Bolivia, 10 million acres of protected area fed by the mighty Parapeti River, which is under constant pressure by agricultural interests pushing against all borders.

In May, the Garfield Foundation's second supervision mission of its Gran Chaco Biodiversity Conservation Program took place as Bolivian troops stationed themselves at the region's natural gas installations. Their orders were to ensure that the country's underground assets ran smoothly along the sensitive borders with Argentina and Brazil. The corporations involved were quick to accept a revision of contracts in tacit acknowledgement that the deals struck with prior governments were unfair to impoverished, land-locked Bolivia.

The incident drew unusual attention to a forgotten area best known for the vicious Chaco War fought between Bolivia and Paraguay in 1932-35. The

Foundation's investment in the area has been precisely because of the incredible biodiversity there, yet little attention has been received, especially when compared with the more popular Amazon region to the north. The Chaco has few environmental champions despite being home to the world's largest tropical dry forest and an eco-zone of great scientific interest. Indeed the Chaco, like the Amazonian wetlands, is threatened on several fronts.

The gas deposits which have given Bolivia wealth and notoriety lie under a vast area of flat scrub-land in the Chaco. Gas spills are an inevitable feature of extraction on such a terrific scale and they are indiscriminate in affecting protected areas and indigenous

territories. Other environmental threats include expansion of the agricultural frontier, logging, free-range cattle grazing and the disruption of major watersheds. The insatiable consumption of soybeans by the west has led to extensive and unchecked deforestation as soybean fields are erected in both Bolivia and Argentina. Further degradation is exacerbated by too many free range cattle grazing large areas of forest and destroying chances for re-growth.

With local partners such as the Indigenous organization CPI-Chaco and the Bolivian NGO Yangareko, the Foundation has developed a holistic strategy for protecting this unique environment. At its heart is the 10 million acre Kaa Iya National Park, created in the wake of worldwide protest at the construction of a gas pipeline through the Chaco to Brazil. The park is co-managed by the Bolivian park service and Guarani, Chiquitano and Ayoreo organizations. To assert

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their role in co-management, the Isoso Guarani are leading an initiative to establish a 100 kilometre “living fence” along the border. The fence, already half completed, consists of revered flowering native tree species and borders the vulnerable western flank of the park.

Conservation efforts extend beyond the park into all the countries that encompass the Chaco through activities such as community land use planning and watershed management. Such projects are encouraging innovative and sustainable uses of the forest. For example, highland communities in the headwaters of the River Parapeti, the main source of water for Kaa Iya, are replanting valuable native trees to stabilize formerly deforested hills and riverbanks, and planting native medicinal herbs gardens to reintroduce sustainable use of forestry resources.

Several hundred kilometres away, the lowland isolated Tapiete community produces honey in the driest and most fragile part of the Chaco. Across the border in Argentina, Wichi communities are seeking title to their lands and working with Salta University to develop sound land use plans and improved management practices for cattle rearing to influence their non-indigenous neighbours!

Garfield’s strategy is mobilizing communities and raising public awareness - there is an emerging environmental consciousness spreading beyond NGOs and Universities to agri-business boardrooms and local authorities. But despite the best efforts of Evo Morales to bring his country’s gas resources to the attention of the world, the Chaco has yet to overcome its habitual state of neglect. Biodiversity



John Beauclerk & Jennie Curtis are instructed on the medicinal uses of a native Bolivian tree by an herbalist and Monteagudo Watershed Management Committee member, Bolivia - May 2006.

protection is a slow process even in relatively well-resourced Amazonia. In comparison the Chaco is not even on the map. Raising the profile of the Chaco remains one of our great challenges.

GF Votes its Values

By Jennifer Golarz & Eboni Geary, Garfield Foundation

The Garfield Foundation actively participated in shareholder proxy voting this year as a way to align its investments with its grant making values. The Foundation reacted to 19 corporate proxies which included 37 shareholder resolutions on issues such as global warming, labor standards, equal employment opportunities, toxics reduction, human rights, sustainability, and many more.

Voting shareholder proxies can benefit a foundation in two important ways. First, the process supports strengthening management at publicly traded companies enabling them to better protect shareholders and to adequately represent their interests. Also, it can potentially strengthen a foundation’s charitable mission by using their shareholder votes to voice values that are in alignment with its grant making.

It wasn’t until very recently that American foundations began aligning investment dollars with philanthropic priorities. U.S. foundations have a total investment portfolio of approximately \$400 billion, yet only 5% of it is allocated to mission-related investments. Foundations would leverage far greater social and environmental change if some of the remaining 95% were re-aligned as well, or, more foundations used their shareholder power to move businesses to more sustainable, socially just practices.

To help determine what shareholder proposals were most important, Garfield staff referenced several on-line resources and the *Proxy Season Preview – Spring 2006* developed by colleague foundations As You Sow, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, and the Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation. The Preview was created as a way to

help foundations and other investors learn about important upcoming proxy votes and ensure that they vote in an informed manner. Of the 37 shareholder proposals Garfield voted on, 33 were noted in the Preview as issues commanding immediate attention by foundations and investors.

To download a copy of the *Proxy Season Preview - Spring 2006* or to access other publications on shareholder advocacy, visit - www.asyousow.org.

As You Sow is dedicated to ensuring corporations act responsibly and in the best interests of the environment and the human condition through shareholder advocacy and education. The Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors and the Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation are leaders in the funder community for promoting awareness about how proxy voting can protect endowments and boost philanthropic mission.

Indigenous Leaders Exchange Experiences on Protecting Biodiversity and Traditional Territories

By Peter Kostishack & Meghan Mckinney, Amazon Alliance

On April 18-20, indigenous leaders from eleven countries met in Ecuador to share their experiences defending their territories and the environment. The exchange, entitled “Biodiversity and Territorial Rights: Towards New Relationships Between Indigenous Peoples and Conservation”, was organized by the Amazon Alliance in collaboration with Fundación Pachamama, the University of Autonomous Regions of the Nicaraguan Caribe Coast (URACCAN), and the Center for Support of Native Lands. The exchange was co-funded by the Mott Foundation, Moriah Fund, and Garfield Foundation.

Participants reflected on current trends in biodiversity conservation including how it is financed, how priorities are set internationally, and how the conservation community views indigenous peoples and their territories. The leaders presented what their organizations are doing to defend their territories from a variety of threats including extractive industries, harmful government policies, and top-down development schemes. Indigenous leaders expressed frustration with

external conservation models that do not take into consideration their vision of territory and which regularly fail to address the underlying political and economic forces that are destroying their environment and cultures.

Since 1992, at least 80% of new protected areas in Latin America have been created on indigenous peoples’ traditional territories. The concept of prior and informed consent appears in many international instruments such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, ILO Convention 169, as well as in the policies of some international conservation organizations. However, in many conservation projects, indigenous consultations are not incorporated into the design of the project.

The Ecuador gathering has prompted the creation of an international network that will enable indigenous organizations to further share their experiences and help them gain access to funding for the environmental protection of their territories.

To learn more about Amazon Alliance visit - www.amazonalliance.org



Exchange participants came from 11 countries of North, Central, and South America.

CONCLUDED GRANTS

COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids

2004-06 - \$170,000

Supported efforts to educate policy-makers in key states and mobilize new constituencies to advocate for children and youth. www.fightcrime.com

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations

2004-06 - \$130,000

Support to join the Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance and promote the link between community development and smart growth, and to advocate for smart growth policies that promote community development interests. www.macdc.org

Trenton Downtown Association

2002-05 - \$210,000

Supported an incubator that recruits, develops, and supports minority-owned businesses in Trenton, NJ and contributes to stimulating economic growth there. www.trenton-downtown.com

ENVIRONMENT

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Amazon Alliance 2003-05 - \$40,000

Facilitated inter-regional workshops and exchanges for indigenous NGOs conserving cultural and environmental biodiversity in Upper Amazonia. www.amazonalliance.org

Centre for the Development of Indigenous Amazonia (CEDIA) 2002-05 - \$200,000

Strengthened institutional capacity, collaborations with NGOs and indigenous federations and, supported efforts to resolve land tenure issues for 24 communities in the Apurimac Valley. www.cedia.org.pe/

Foundation for Regional Research and Development (FUNGIR) 2003-05 - \$150,000

Strengthened the capacity of the Indigenous Commission of the Pilcomayo river basin to influence the decisions of the EU-funded Tri-national (Bolivia, Argentina, Paraguay) Commission of the Pilcomayo.

SUSTAINABILITY

Journal for Industrial Ecology

2003-05 - \$10,000

Developed and distributed a special issue on sustainable production and consumption containing peer-reviewed articles from academics, researchers and NGOs active in the SPC arena. www.yale.edu/jie/

Watershed Media 2001-2005 - \$150,000

Supported the publication of the Wood Reduction Trilogy books and the development of a website to update information presented in the Trilogy, maintain interest and momentum, and serve as an effective resource and tool for professionals. www.watershedmedia.com

Former Garfield Grantee, the Sustainable Cotton Project, Continues to Effect Market

By Marcia Gibbs, Sustainable Cotton Project

We were delighted to come across a recent article on GreenBiz.Com about the booming organic cotton market and to see the ambitious goals noted by Garfield's former grantee, the Sustainable Cotton Project (2002-05), now quoted as reality. It prompted us to check-in with the Sustainable Cotton Project's Program Director, Marcia Gibbs, for an update on the Project's latest efforts to promote, and increase the market for, organic cotton.

As a pioneer in the movement to improve the way cotton is grown, the Sustainable Cotton Project (SCP) continues to impact farmers, companies and consumers through its work, as it comprehensively addresses the issue at both the supply and demand ends of the market.

In the Biological Agriculture Systems in Cotton (BASIC) Program, farmers gain support and learn techniques to use less harmful chemicals and move into organic cotton production. In 2006, two BASIC growers transitioned to organic cotton on 40 acres, increasing the number of organic cotton farmers in California from one to three. Five more BASIC growers are expressing an interest for the 2007 growing season.

SCP makes regular forays into the world of clothing and interior design via its

Developing Demand Program, encouraging companies like American Apparel, Del Forte Denim and Eileen Fisher to use our more biologically grown (BASIC) cotton or organic cotton in their clothing. The organic industry now incorporates information from SCP's landmark slide shows (e.g. it takes 1/3 pound of chemicals to produce one cotton T-shirt), which transform abstract numbers into tangible ideas that illustrate problems and identify solutions.



BASIC field scout using sweep net to sample insects in the field.

Annual farm tours bring design students and industry insiders face to face with the way cotton is grown; these tours are perhaps the most effective way of driving SCP's message home. New markets are constantly explored, the latest being the contract fabric industry, which serves high-end interior designers and architects. This is a new opportunity for SCP and a chance to market the BASIC cotton produced through the program. SCP also plays an active role in the education sector, creating curricula and working directly with colleges including Academy of Art University, California College of the Arts, Stanford and UC Berkeley.

To learn more about SCP visit - www.sustainablecotton.org

GF's Fall Recommended Reading



We asked grantees, colleagues and staff to recommend publications related to GF's grantmaking priorities. The following readings have been suggested:

Biodiversity Conservation

- Initiative for the Integration of Regional Infrastructure in South America - www.pantanal.org/gottgens.htm
- *Policy Matters*, Issue #14 (March 2006) - Issue on the relationship between poverty and conservation - www.iucn.org/themes/ceesp/publications/publications.htm#pm14

Global Warming

- *The New Internationalist*, Issue 391 (July 2006) - Issue on the inadequacy of carbon trading programs to address climate change - www.newint.org/issues/

Community Revitalization

- *Costs and Benefits of Green Affordable Housing* - New Ecology - www.newecology.org/\cb%20description.htm

- *The Geography of Opportunity: Race and Housing Choice in Metropolitan America* (2005) - Xavier de Souza Briggs
- *Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things* - William McDonough, Michael Braungart
- *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* - Jane Jacobs

Global Market Booming for Organic Cotton Products, New Report Shows *Source: Greenbiz.com*

The following is a synopsis of the article featured in May 2006

Use of organically grown cotton by retail titans, fashion designers, and small and medium-size companies resulted in a dramatic growth in global retail sales of products containing organic cotton between 2001 and 2005, according to a new report by Organic Exchange, a nonprofit trade association that works to expand the use of organically grown cotton.

During the four-year period, global organic cotton product sales increased an estimated 35% annually, from \$245 million in 2001 to \$583 million in 2005. The author of the report, "The Organic Exchange Spring 2006 Global Organic Cotton Market Report," projects global organic cotton product sales to skyrocket to \$2.6 billion by the end of 2008, reflecting a 116% average annual growth rate.

"Consumers are no longer simply eating organically grown food—they are wearing clothes, using personal care products and outfitting their kitchens, bathrooms and bedrooms with products made with organic cotton," says report author Rebecca Calahan Klein of Organic Exchange, "By using organic cotton, companies can bring added value to their customers and position themselves for long term growth."

According to the report, the five brands using the most organic cotton globally in 2005 are (in order by quantity): Nike (Oregon), Coop Switzerland, Patagonia (California), Otto (Germany), and Sam's Club/Wal-mart (Arkansas). In addition,

the report identified more than 30 companies with growing organic cotton programs in 2005. A few include: American Apparel (California), Avanti (Japan), Coop Sweden, Earth Creations (Alabama), Eileen Fisher (New York), Gaiam (Colorado), and Hanna Andersson (Oregon). All together, brands and retailers incorporated an estimated 9,066 metric tons (19,945,200 pounds or 42,552 bales) of organic cotton fiber into the products they offered in 2005.

Organic cotton production and fiber sales to manufacturers also grew during this time period. Organically grown fiber production increased from 6,480 metric tons in the 2000-01 harvest to 31,017 metric tons projected for the 2005-06 harvest, reflecting an average

annual growth rate of 76%.

Organic cotton was grown in 22 countries in 2004-05, led by Turkey (40%), India (25%), the U.S. (7.7%) and China (7.3%).

In 2005-06, these four countries are expected to grow

79% of the global organic fiber crop. Manufacturer demand for organic cotton fiber increased an estimated 93% per year during this time period.

Organic cotton production is expected to grow in the next three years as existing organic farming projects add more farmers, planned projects come into production and new projects are started to meet demand in specific supply chains. To help expand fiber production, retailers, brands and their



business partners are encouraged to work with fiber producers to plan for future fiber needs, engage in pre-plant planning and contracting and explore opportunities for using crops grown in rotation with cotton.

Download the full report at - www.organicexchange.org/marketreport.php



Organic Cotton production is based on a system of farming that maintains and replenishes soil fertility without the use of toxic and persistent pesticides and fertilizers and genetically modified seeds.

Ramping Up the **RE AMP** Story *By Action Media and the RE-AMP Media Center*



RE-AMP has been telling a powerful story about moving the Midwest toward energy independence and seizing the opportunity to revitalize their economy. Since ActionMedia completed its initial research and recommended framing a year ago, the national and regional demand for change has grown. So has the media dialogue. In July, RE-AMP leaders, including media center state partners from Iowa, North Dakota and Wisconsin met at the RE-AMP Media Center for a day-long discussion with ActionMedia about how to refine the existing RE-AMP frame and message, and also discussed ways to take advantage of new opportunities to *ramp up* their communications.

The group acknowledged the marked increase in media attention to global warming, and recognized reporters want to tell stories about the problem. Ways to accelerate the education of journalists, and other messengers, was discussed. RE-AMP's outreach goal is to describe global warming as a crucial part of the background; the foreground is the work ahead of us – the solutions - as America and the upper Midwest builds a clean, efficient energy system. RE-AMP does not want

to use its communication resources and opportunities to make people more aware of global warming – research indicates the public already knows that story! RE-AMP's focus is on seizing the moment within the context of global warming to create the clean energy future and the economic prosperity it can bring, which is instrumental to solving the problem.

The frame developed last year is increasingly becoming the dominant story in print and broadcast media, widely articulated by business leaders, elected officials, and agricultural interests. Each time individuals from various sectors of society make statements that support the RE-AMP frame, they become strategic messengers. RE-AMP can also recruit them in a variety of ways at the same time building alliances, and broadening and shaping the debate. Importantly, these messengers can be “recruited” without any direct contact – when a CEO or elected official is quoted in the media that quote can become a strategic asset, to be used and widely repeated by RE-AMP participants and its allies.

The coal industry and coal-dependent utilities recognize the power of widely

held values for energy – that it be clean, reliable, technologically up to date, and secure into the future. Their public communications increasingly invoke these values, particularly after work done for example by the Media Center and other allies in South Dakota using the RE-AMP frame. This is seen as a new opportunity to ramp up the fight against further increasing our over-dependence on coal. RE-AMP will be forcing the opposition onto these terms, and build demand that they provide tangible proof of their claim that coal can be part of the clean energy solution.

Energy efficiency is one element of the RE-AMP story that has not been widely reflected in the public discourse. It is vital that all the RE-AMP organizations and their allies increase their emphasis on this value, making sure it is included in their communications. The Energy Efficiency Team will be meeting with ActionMedia and the Media Center staff this fall to continue to think through the story and the communication opportunities relating to energy efficiency policy goals.

Meanwhile, the Media Center continues to make progress with trainings for messengers in all five states, developing an exceptional media database including clips, and improving a developing rapid response mechanism. The early results are promising as outlined by Action Media's own analysis and we look forward to creating substantial change in how the energy debate - current and future - are framed in the media dialogue and the RE-AMP role in it.

For more information visit - www.reamp.org

Dental Mercury Summit Initiates More Coordinated Strategy

Garfield Foundation grantees, Michael Bender – Executive Director, Mercury Policy Project (MPP), and, Charles Brown - National Counsel, Consumers for Dental Choice (CDC), designed and coordinated the first gathering of health and environmental activists working to get mercury out of the dental industry. The following is an overview of the Dental Mercury Summit.

The Dental Mercury Summit, held in Baltimore on June 9, brought together more than 30 organizations, advocates, and professionals who care deeply about mercury's toxic impact on human development and the environment. Participants represented the nation's leading mercury-free dental society, two national medical associations, both national and state-based environmental organizations, plus consumer organizations focused on mercury. The group's stellar credentials offered the broadest range of expertise on public and government relations; recycling and cremation; biochemistry and medicine; and, environmental science and law. Furthermore, while she was unable to attend herself, Congresswoman Diane Watson sent an enthusiastic and encouraging opening video message.

Timing for the Dental Mercury Summit was critical to future activist successes. Over the past several years, numerous mercury-related dental bills have been introduced in state legislatures and in congress, with varying degrees of success. The content of bills range from bans on amalgam placements, to efforts aimed at controlling releases, monitoring use, requiring consumer notification prior to treatment, and narrower bans on placement of amalgams in pregnant women and children. While policy wins have been nominal, activists can at least note that eight states have adopted legislation or policies mandating pollution controls at dental clinics. In addition, four states have adopted policies requiring consumer notification prior to dental treatments and a few states also now require the tracking of dental mercury use.

The purpose of the Dental Mercury Summit was to initiate a stronger more coordinated effort to rapidly get mercury out of dentistry. The Dental Summit brought together groups interested in participating in a multi-state coalition and provided the opportunity to develop a national coordinated strategy to reduce dental mercury use and pollution. The underlying assumption for the effort is that mainstream dentists will reduce mercury use and release based upon a combination of pressure from market forces, the growing stigma associated with using mercury, and proactive governmental policies requiring dentists to reduce mercury and inform patients.

After several presentations, facilitated discussions and strategy brainstorming, the group arrived at a consensus that

greater coordination and emphasis should be placed on:

Government Agencies. On a targeted basis, more attention will be focused on agencies to support regulations already in place or promote new regulations within existing mandates to protect the environment and public health. For example, informed choice will not work for lower-income persons if there is no actual choice. Action must be continued and strengthened to change insurance plans, and users need to be informed that Medicaid is supposed to allow for choice of mercury-free dental fillings.

Legislatures. As discussed, both environmental protection and informed consent provisions have been adopted into law and serve as models for passage

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BREAKING NEWS: FDA PANEL QUESTIONS SAFETY OF MERCURY FILLINGS!

Federal health advisers have rejected a government report that mercury tooth fillings are safe, saying that the government report's conclusion is not reasonable. The panel also stated that a federal review of data fails to clearly and objectively present the current body of knowledge on the subject. During a two day hearing in early September, dozens of people—including activists, citizens, dentists and dental assistants—complained of ill health effects they attributed to mercury fillings. Mercury is mixed with other metals to form dental fillings and studies have shown that this toxin can cause neurodevelopmental deficits in children and motor problems in adults. Prior to the hearing, Consumers for Dental Choice, the Mercury Policy Project and the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology filed a petition to the FDA to immediately ban mercury fillings for pregnant women. The petition points out that several European and other countries, including Canada, Norway, Sweden, Britain, Germany and Denmark, currently advise dentists against using mercury fillings in pregnant women. The FDA has six months to respond to the petition.

A Day in the Life of a Smart Growth Advocate

By Kristina Egan, Director, Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance



For someone who works to educate decision makers on Beacon Hill, June and July are a busy time. After months of slow movement by the legislature, suddenly the flood gates open and everything comes to the floor at once.

Because smart growth is about promoting affordable housing and job creation, protecting the environment, and expanding public transportation, the Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance (MSGA) covers many fronts. We are simultaneously working to replenish a fund to help redevelop abandoned industrial sites, add criteria into an economic development proposal to guide new jobs to where people already live and work, ensure that new roads and rail investments are accompanied by better land-use, and advance a tax credit proposal to help conserve land. Thankfully, MSGA's member organizations¹ possess such varied and

deep expertise that I don't have to be an expert in all of these areas!

My day begins with a meeting at the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, one of MSGA's members, to discuss our response to the fast-track development bill. In addition to working on our campaigns, I spend a fair amount of time "playing defense" to make sure initiatives advanced by others take the Commonwealth's development in smart directions. After that, I head back to the office to answer emails and take care of the myriad details involved in running a small non-profit.

Before long I have a meeting with the issues director of the Gabrielli campaign. MSGA is meeting with each of the gubernatorial candidates or their staffs, with the hope that we can get several of them to embrace a holistic approach to thinking ahead about how and where we want to grow in the Commonwealth. In

other states, leadership from the corner office has proved crucial to meaningfully advancing smart growth, and MSGA members and I are working hard to ensure that the next governor, whoever it may be, will be a smart growth champion.

As I'm walking to my last meeting of the day, my cell rings and it's a reporter from the *Worcester Business Journal*. He asks me to provide a couple examples of places in the state where towns are cooperating in planning for new development. Unfortunately, only a few examples pop to mind, such as the major redevelopment of the South Weymouth Naval Station, a land area that spans three towns. We still have a long way to go in Massachusetts before we start

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in other locales. Not only can legislatures pass laws, but they will be prodded to exercise oversight as to how well agencies, including dental boards, are doing their jobs. Legislative committees can hold hearings and ask questions. Individual legislatures can write to the attorney general's office or to other agencies and offices, posing questions. Bills, even if they don't pass, can serve as a rallying point for education and publicity, thereby tying into the overall media strategy.

The Judiciary. The threat of a lawsuit hanging over the agencies, dental boards and others who are not always doing the right thing needs to continue. FDA remains too compliant to the pro-mercury faction of dentistry and must

be challenged to do an environmental impact statement. The issue is now the subject of a lawsuit against FDA and a topic of discussion in recent weeks on Capitol Hill. Fighting the gag rules will help people find mercury free dentists more easily.

Changing the Marketplace. As people become more aware of dental mercury, they will vote with their feet by avoiding dentists who still use it. Press outreach will be coordinated and professional public relations input sought so that advocates become more effective in their efforts to reach the public and policy makers. As we educate more dental consumers, that will force a shift in dental practice, since mercury-free alternatives are increasingly being used.

Four committees have been established to focus and coordinate efforts in these areas. Due to the groundwork laid at the dental mercury summit, these organizing efforts have already resulted in a major breakthrough after a two day hearing recently where an FDA advisory panel questioned the safety of mercury tooth fillings.

We will be hearing more in the coming months from the MPP and CDC as to how this newly coordinated effort is hastening the campaign to get mercury out of dentistry.

To learn more visit www.mercurypolicy.org and/or www.toxicteeth.org

solving issues that cross town borders, like housing, transportation, and water, regionally.

I'm a few minutes late to my meeting with the Deputy Director of the Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations. As an MSGA member, she has been spearheading our campaign to recapitalize the state's Brownfields Redevelopment Fund. This has been our primary campaign for the last year. We built a team of business, developer, housing, and environmental stakeholders from across the Commonwealth to advance the campaign, and have grown adept at using pressure from our team to keep momentum strong. We are in the home stretch of the campaign – the House and Senate included our provisions in their budget for next year – but Governor Romney reduced the appropriation from \$30 million to \$15 million. We map out MSGA's strategy to recapture the full amount and what

we are going to ask our campaign team to do to help.

The workday is over, but my work is not quite finished. The Taunton River Watershed Association is sponsoring a talk of mine in Raynham tonight, so I'm heading down to the South Shore. I spend a lot of time on education, making sure that we reach people in all regions of the state and that we hear their concerns about housing, transportation, land loss, and jobs. Finally, after the presentation and lively "Q & A", I pack up my computer and projector and head for home.

MSGA won its campaign to recapitalize the state's Brownfields Redevelopment Fund in July. The fund secures \$30 million for assessment and clean-up of vacant, contaminated lots for new housing, jobs, and other community needs.

GF's 2005 grant to MSGA supported a thorough analysis of its collaborative efforts

and identified strategies to strengthen the Alliance. A second grant was awarded in July to follow-up on the recommendations and strategies identified in its organizational analysis, and to continue its rigorous advocacy for smart growth issues in Massachusetts.

For more information on MSGA visit - www.ma-smartgrowth.org

¹ The Alliance is comprised of the Boston Society of Architects - Civic Initiative for Smart Growth, Citizens' Housing and Planning Association, Conservation Law Foundation, Environmental League of Massachusetts, Fair Housing Center of Greater Boston, Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations, and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council.

Green Affordable Housing at Massachusetts CDC, Urban Edge

By Noah Maslan and Hong Ly, Urban Edge

Over the past few years, green affordable housing projects have emerged across the country demonstrating that green building is not only feasible, but a vital component in providing healthier and more cost efficient housing opportunities for low-income families. Urban Edge, a community development corporation (CDC) in Boston, MA completed Egleston Crossing, its first landmark green affordable housing project in 2005. Based on its experience with Egleston Crossing and through funding from the Garfield Foundation, Urban Edge implemented Green HUE (Housing at Urban Edge), an initiative to standardize a more environmentally sensitive approach to the agency's development and maintenance practices.

The goals of Green HUE are to establish standards for new construction at Urban Edge; develop high visibility green standards; and, educate Urban Edge staff and residents. Key program activities have included implementing an agency-wide green cleaning program, developing an energy modeling study, conducting green building workshops for statewide CDCs, and launching a green housing website.

The website is a dynamic resource that helps a range of users consider sustainable alternatives to construct, operate, or live in affordable housing. The website's Green Housing Toolkit, offers developers, property managers, and residents information about green alternatives and how to implement them.



Urban Edge custodian uses green products to clean a door at Egleston Crossing.

In addition to the website, Urban Edge's partner New Ecology Inc. conducted a series of five workshops in different regions of the state during spring 2006, to educate CDCs about the Green HUE project and to provide guidance on implementing sustainable development

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strategies at their organizations. Staff ranging from development to property management capacities attended the sessions.

According to Noah Maslan, Associate Director of Real Estate at Urban Edge, "As developers, we have a responsibility in understanding how our bricks and mortar decisions affect the health of the environment and our tenants. The Green HUE project allows our staff and other CDCs to become aware of important issues and use alternatives that lessen the adverse impacts of our work."

To learn more about the Green HUE Project visit - <http://www.urbanedge.org/green-housing.php>

Fall 2006 Events and Conferences

GF staff will be busy this fall attending and participating in many informative meetings, funder briefings, and conferences, related to the Foundation's grantmaking programs and priorities. While each of the meetings noted will have at least one GF representative in attendance, we encourage GF board members to join any event that might be of interest to them. Please contact the office if you would like further information on any of the events listed.

- 2006 EGA Annual Retreat, Pacific Grove, CA (October 9-11) – GF is hosting two workshops: *Keeping Score when the Game is Big* and *Indigenous Approaches to Conservation and Territorial Defense*
- Jennie's trip to Massachusetts for grantee site visits and a check-in with staff (October 16-20)
- Bioneers, San Rafael, CA (October 20-22)
- Bioneers by the Bay, Marion, MA (October 20-22)
- Funders' Discussion of Public Policy for Smart Growth and Livable Communities, Boston, MA (November 2)
- Jennie's trip to Washington D.C. for grantee site visits (November 6-8)
- GF Board Meeting, Santa Fe (November 28-29)