

Bureau of Environmental Services

Budget Advisory Committee FY 2014-15

Environmental Services through an Equity Lens

Clean Rivers Education

Clean Rivers Education has been providing free K-12 classroom and field lessons to school districts serving Portland students for more than 18 years. Currently, the program provides classroom and field science opportunities to five school districts: Centennial, David Douglas, Parkrose, Portland Public, and Reynolds. On average, 13,000-15,000 student contacts per year are made through lessons on wastewater, stormwater management, water chemistry, watershed health, and Superfund. Over a five year period, more than 54% of schools served have been Title 1 schools, meaning a majority of the schools' students are eligible for free or reduced lunch.

Associated with Clean Rivers Education are career programs provided by BES. *Futures Working for Clean Rivers* brings together BES staff and select school groups to promote career development with a focus on increasing awareness of environmental career opportunities for young women and to foster a more diverse workforce. In addition, the BES Water Pollution Control Laboratory has a partnership with Roosevelt High School to provide career development opportunities. BES staff visit the school to provide presentations about careers in protecting rivers and streams and promoting watershed health. Students visit the lab to participate in activities and demonstrations related to careers at the Water Pollution Control Laboratory. During the summer of 2013, the Water Pollution Control Laboratory hosted a student intern from Roosevelt High School.

Portland Brownfield Program

The Portland Brownfield Program provides technical and financial resources to property owners, developers, community organizations, and neighbors who are interested in cleaning up and transforming brownfields into vibrant, active space. A brownfield is property where contamination or fear of contamination is interfering with reuse. The program primarily provides services on Portland's eastside for projects with significant community benefit. Assisted projects include the June Key Delta Community Center at N Albina and N Ainsworth, the NE 72nd Avenue Community Garden at the new Cully Park, Esperanza Court affordable housing at SE 28th and Powell Blvd, and the coming Dharma Rain Zen Center on the former LaVelle Landfill at NE 85th and Siskiyou.



Contracting Opportunity Program

BES's Contracting Opportunity Program performs outreach in the Minority, Women and Emerging Small Business (M/W/ESB) contracting community; works with bureau project managers to maximize M/W/ESB participation in BES contracts; monitors and reports on BES's contracting and subcontracting activities; and works to create a favorable business environment in which small businesses can compete, grow and succeed. For fiscal year 2012-2013, BES awarded a total of fifty-three PTE contracts valued at \$6,818,869 and a total of twenty-five construction contracts valued at \$45,394,508. M/W/ESBs received eighteen prime PTE contracts valued at \$1,347,705 and eight prime construction contracts valued at \$3,923,907. In May 2013, BES was awarded a Public Agency Legacy Award from the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs (OAME). This award recognizes the bureau for outstanding commitment to helping minority businesses over the past 25 years.

Community Watershed Stewardship Program (CWSP)

The Community Watershed Stewardship Program (CWSP) is a partnership between BES and Portland State University that supports Portlanders who want to improve the health of Portland watersheds. CWSP provides up to \$10,000 for projects such as adding plants and trees to neighborhoods; restoring parks, playgrounds and streams; replacing pavement with native plants; and environmental education and art projects. In addition, CWSP provides native plants mini-grants of up to \$500 to both community groups and private landowners. Since 1999, CWSP has granted nearly \$1 million to 213 projects. To date, CWSP grants have been matched by \$3.6 million in community support through donations of services, materials and volunteer time; over 43,000 people donated 325,000 volunteer hours; and CWSP volunteers have planted 147,000 native plants and trees, restored over 190 acres of riparian and upland habitat, and enhanced over 10 miles of streams. For the last several years, the program has undergone an equity analysis, which resulted in a new marketing strategy, increased technical support and grant awards to include community groups that were formerly underrepresented in the program.

Urban Tree Canopy Program

Since November 2008, BES' Urban Tree Canopy program has helped to plant over 32,000 trees in Portland. Planting efforts have been prioritized in low-canopy, low-income neighborhoods to help provide more equitable distribution of the urban forest canopy and the benefits urban trees provide—e.g., the number of trees planted in east Portland (EPNO) neighborhoods increased from 184 trees planted in fiscal years 2004-08, to 3,474 trees planted in fiscal years 2009-13. Using new models of outreach, such as providing “opt in” free tree offers to expand street tree planting in neighborhoods lacking fully developed rights-of-way (e.g., no sidewalks,) helped to increased acceptance and interest in trees in many neighborhoods. BES partners with Confluence Environmental Center to sponsor an AmeriCorps member to develop community partnerships that help to distribute services more equitably to Portlanders. Examples of partnerships include planting with David Douglas High School ESL and science students and offering educational programming with Multnomah County libraries.



Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant Citizen Advisory Committee (CBWTP CAC)

The CBWTP CAC provides input to staff regarding the CBWTP's operations, as well as feedback regarding projects on the grounds of the CBWTP. Feedback from the CAC helps the bureau address public issues and needs during the design and construction phases of projects. The CAC is comprised of representatives of the Kenton, Portsmouth, University Park, and New Columbia neighborhoods; the University of Portland; a floating homes community; and a trail advocacy group.

East Side CSO Community Benefit Opportunity Program (CBO)

The East Side Community Benefit Opportunity (CBO) Program provided \$2 million in funding for community projects in neighborhoods and business districts affected by the construction of the \$464 million, nearly 6-mile long combined sewer overflow (CSO) east side tunnel. Working with the recommendations of a 15-member advisory committee representing neighborhood and business associations and environmental and other organizations, BES funded 24 projects that spanned the full alignment of the east side tunnel. Revegetation projects, trail enhancements, sustainable stormwater management projects, and watershed and stream education were among some of the projects funded through the CBO program.

