



## **Press Release**

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## **Newark Leads the Way in Planning for Climate Change!**

The New Jersey Justice Alliance (NJEJA) is inviting you to the press event for the Kresge Foundation's Climate Resilience and Urban Opportunity Initiative, on February 11, 2015, at 11:00 a.m., at Newark City Hall. Please contact me, Lauren Boles, at [director@njeja.org](mailto:director@njeja.org), to indicate your willingness to support this effort.

The Kresge Foundation's Climate Resilience and Urban Opportunity Initiative have selected seventeen community-based nonprofits from across the nation out of over 230 nonprofit applications, with a grant that will focus on climate-resiliency planning, policy development, and implementation efforts to advance the priorities and needs of low-income people. As the only application selected in New Jersey, the **New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance, Ironbound Community Corporation, and Clean Water Action**, have been awarded this opportunity in Newark to work as a collaborative team to deepen their leadership in local and regional climate-resilience efforts. This partnership will work in conjunction with the City of Newark, community leaders and residents to address efforts to reduce the greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change, adapt to the changes already underway, and foster social inclusion and cohesion.

As a frontline community, Newark has seen first-hand the impact of climate change, with Hurricane Sandy being the most recent, and most severe, impact. With resident's public health and safety in mind, it is now the time more than ever for Newark to lead the way in climate resiliency efforts. The risk to our residents' public health and safety make this a critical opportunity for Newark to seize and for our communities to lead the way towards greater climate-resiliency. This partnership will allow residents to put forth their vision for resilience and develop a roadmap for action to achieve that vision. Together, this partnership will empower residents to create a sustainable and climate resilient city.

### **About New Jersey Environmental Alliance**

The New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance (NJEJA) is an alliance of New Jersey-based organizations and individuals committed to working together to create healthy, sustainable and just communities by eliminating environmental injustices in low income and communities of color. Together we support and work with communities through local, state, and national policy development, targeted campaigns and organizing, education, advocacy, training and technical assistance focused on critical environmental justice issues.

NJEJA has become a thought and policy leader developing air pollution, climate change and public health policy from an environmental justice perspective. This is in part due to its success in helping to move several issues in these areas from the margin to the mainstream of environmental policy discussions. As a statewide alliance, the organization is socially and geographically diverse, an important asset that permits acknowledgement of unique perspectives. For more information, contact NJEJA at **267-207-1558** or visit [www.njeja.org](http://www.njeja.org).

### **About Ironbound Community Corporation**

The Ironbound Community Corporation (ICC) is a multi-service, community-based organization rooted in and representative of the diverse Newark neighborhood called Ironbound. Founded in 1969 by residents, ICC's mission is to engage and empower individuals, families, and groups to realize their aspirations and, together, work to create a just, vibrant, and sustainable community.

Today, ICC touches the lives of nearly 1,000 people on average daily and thousands annually with a broad array of programs and services including early child care and education, parenting education and family support services, health services, adult education, senior citizen services and environmental and community development initiatives. For more information, contact ICC at **973.465.0555** or visit [www.ironboundcc.org](http://www.ironboundcc.org).

### **About Clean Water Fund**

Clean Water Fund (CWF) is a national organization with 3 offices in NJ including Newark. It has centered its programs and advocacy on addressing economic, social and environmental injustices that communities face due to the disproportionate impacts of pollution for over 40 years. CWF has worked with diverse constituencies in Newark for over 14 years developing environmental justice leadership amongst its youth and in City Hall, as well as concrete, sustainable solutions that result in more vibrant and healthier neighborhoods. The strength of their programs lies in their ability to not only enact stronger local, state, and federal policies, but to work on a grassroots level and to engage and empower people to make a difference.

Clean Water Fund offers a multi-dimensional approach to improving urban climate change resiliency and mitigation while advancing green jobs, local food production, and a more vibrant, sustainable economy. CWF works in close collaboration with Clean Water Action where its membership is 175,000 strong in the State of NJ. For more information, contact Clean Water Fund at **973-420-7925** or visit [www.cleanwateraction.org/nj](http://www.cleanwateraction.org/nj)

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