



2011 ANNUAL REPORT



Building power for environmental justice

Welcome members!



Dear Members,

It feels like this year just flew by! 2011 has brought so many great victories for ACE and the social justice movement around the world. As people rise up against tyranny and oppression and call out for equality and profound change, we stand in solidarity, continuing the work to build an equitable and sustainable future here in Roxbury and beyond.

This year, we improved access for riders of the 112 bus, prevented a fossil-fuel power plant from using Brockton's drinking water and wrote a diesel ordinance to improve air quality in Boston. Our youth organizers published a report on implementing a Youth Pass to improve public transit access to school, jobs and opportunities—and secured a pilot study from the MBTA.

We are ramping up the fight to improve bus service and find alternatives to proposed fare increases and service cuts. And this summer, we started working on food justice in lower-income communities, striving for healthy, affordable and local food for all. This was made possible by the dedication of members like you!

We are learning from our struggles, combining the vision of ACE members and supporters into a five-year strategic plan to direct our environmental justice work. While there will be challenges, your inspiration and strength keeps us going. 2012 is shaping up to be a year of energy and momentum, and I am deeply grateful to have you by our side.

In solidarity,

Kalila Barnett
Executive Director

Above: ACE staff and members at our Annual Meeting in December.

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Working for EJ

Our programs

► ACE builds the power of lower-income communities and communities of color to affect real change by organizing youth and adults, T riders and residents, and adding the expertise of lawyers and professionals. We address environmental justice issues through four main programs.

Dudley Square Organizing Project (DSOP)

builds ACE's membership base in our home neighborhood of Roxbury, engaging residents and community stake-holders in campaigns to achieve environmental justice. We organize toward a shared vision of sustainable communities with quality green jobs and resources.

T Riders Union (TRU)

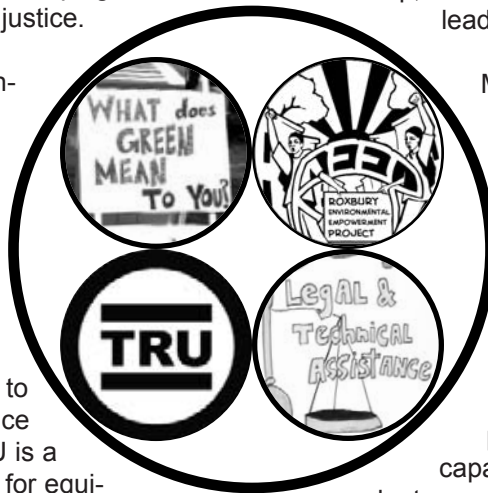
organizes transit riders to fight for first-class service in Greater Boston. TRU is a voice of the movement for equitable public transportation in lower-income communities and communities of color. We demand respect, equality, accountability, first-class service, accessibility, affordability and comfort.

Roxbury Environmental Empowerment Project (REEP)

is a youth-led, adult-supported environmental justice community organizing program. We build youth power, membership, and movement by developing the leadership of young people from Roxbury, Dorchester and Mattapan and winning youth-led campaigns and classroom-based action projects.

Environmental Justice Legal Services (EJLS)

provides legal, technical and capacity-building support to resident groups working for environmental justice. We coordinate the Massachusetts Environmental Justice Assistance Network (MEJAN), a panel of over 250 lawyers, environmental engineers, public health professionals and others who work with community groups on environmental justice issues at no cost.





BUILDING A MOVEMENT

“The stereotype that youth don’t care just fuels my fire.”

Anthony Rivers, ACE Member

► *Anthony is an intern for the T Riders Union and a member of REEP.*



I grew up in the Orchard Park Community, but my family doesn’t think too much about injustices in the ‘hood. My work as a youth organizer opens their eyes a bit more. They’re much more supportive than when I first got involved. I’m happy that I can do this. I like having my little brother and sister look up to me—a positive role model. I like kids a lot. I want to be a pediatrician.

I’ve been a TRU intern twice. The first time, I learned a lot and it was very meaningful. I learned how to share knowledge, go out of my comfort zone and teach. I loved outreach on the bus. I also learned a lot about gardens and growing food in the city. The second time is more about working on our strengths and weaknesses. If I’m feeling shy, it’s time to do more outreach. I like to watch people becoming interested, seeing the lights turn on. They say, *“I’ve been living here six years, and I didn’t know that...”*

This summer, I gave a Toxic Tour to kids ages four to 13. These kids asked lots of questions—I never thought they’d care so much. They took it all in and wanted to know about pollution and asthma. The stereotype that youth don’t care just fuels my fire. Look how messed up things are, right here in our face. It makes

me angry to come into the ‘hood and see all the vacant lots. Rich neighborhoods don’t have to tolerate that. I want to outreach more and march to let people know what we want!

In TRU, we have general meetings to keep the public informed about our work in Boston and Chelsea. They’re doing a good job. We need more TRU chapters all around. In the meetings we talk about the rights that we have as passengers: air quality, on-time buses, space on the bus. We play a game called 10 Chairs, which shows how much capital investment the commuter rail has compared to buses. We crowd 10 people representing bus riders into five chairs while the commuter rail gets three chairs for one person.

I want to see green plants, more parks, trees, bikes, healthy eating, people growing food. That’s my vision. ACE is one of the only organizations in the community willing to come together and fight for change. Why shouldn’t we be involved in decisions right here in our community? When I joined ACE, I felt comfortable right away. It’s warm and loving. I’ve gotten a lot of new communications skills and people skills—it helps to come out of your comfort zone and do some good for the community.

October 2010–June 2011

Clean air

Cutting pollution locally

Our campaign to stop dirty diesel pollution progressed this winter when we started working with the Diesel Pollution Solution Coalition on a Diesel Emissions Reduction Ordinance (DERO) for the City of Boston. To draft the ordinance, REEP youth leaders received legal support from EJLS.

If DERO is passed, the City of Boston would require the best available pollution control technology on all city owned and city contracted diesel engines. This would mean installing retrofits—pollution traps—on older engines in the city fleets and construction vehicles used on major sites in the city. These vehicles would also be required to use ultra low sulfur diesel fuel (substantially less polluting than regular diesel) and strictly adhere to state anti-idling laws.

DERO arose from work by REEP youth organizers and Mission Hill middle schoolers in 2010 to encourage local institutions to commit to reducing diesel emissions from local construction projects. In May, we presented an award to Brigham & Women's Hospital for being the first to commit to our clean construction demands.

To move DERO forward, we met with the leadership of the City Council's Asthma Task Force to discuss EJ issues, the disproportionate health impacts of diesel pollution and to secure support for DERO. REEP youth leaders and students from the Mission Hill Summer Program have also built support for DERO through presentations to the City Council President, State Rep. Marty Walsh, the leadership of the Boston Public Health Commission and the Chief of Energy and Environment Services for the City.

From top: Diesel construction vehicle in Roxbury, talking about air quality in Dudley with the Roxbury Youth Initiative.



Sharing our work



In March, REEP and EJLS facilitated an air pollution workshop at Toxics Action Center's Environmental Action Conference 2011. We spoke with participants about diesel soot, fine particulate matter, black carbon emissions, health impacts and solutions to these problems.

EJLS and REEP leading our air quality workshop, *Killing us softly with soot: PM 2.5 now and in the future.*

Enforcing anti-idling



Students from a REEP classroom at Dorchester Academy worked on a clean air project this winter, filming idling at T stations and other places. The videos document MBTA and Boston Public Schools vehicles breaking the state idling law and will be used in our campaigns against diesel pollution.

A Washington Street lot in Roxbury filled with rows of idling school buses at night.

Making strides for clean air and water

Residents of Brockton and West Bridgewater, represented by EJLS, secured a major victory in June when the Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB) voted to draft a Tentative Decision banning the proposed fossil-fuel power plant from using Brockton's drinking water for its cooling towers. This decision followed six days of evidentiary hearings, legal briefs filed by EJLS and oral arguments. We expect the EFSB to confirm the vote in a Final Decision in fall 2011, forcing the corporation behind the plant to find another water source for operations.

Because most of Brockton's drinking water comes from Silver Lake, the EFSB decided that a power plant using more than two million gallons a day would threaten the Silver Lake and Jones River ecosystems.

This is not the first time the EFSB has ruled against the plant: In 2009, it denied Brockton Power's request to waive local zoning requirements for the plant's construction. However, the EFSB did approve construction of the plant. Residents, the City of Brockton, and the Town of West Bridgewater appealed that approval to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. This proposed power plant will increase air pollution in an environmentally overburdened city with one of the highest premature mortality rates in the state. Stay tuned for updates on this campaign.



Materials from Brockton and West Bridgewater's Stop the Power campaign.

"I am extremely pleased that the EFSB has taken this preliminary vote to support the citizens' desires. Dirty and hazardous energy generation is reason enough to be against this plant. However, my opposition is enhanced by the fact that this is being proposed in a heavily populated low-income and already extremely polluted urban area."

—Michelle DuBois, ACE Member, Brockton City Councilor



Fighting power plant toxins

Westfield residents are fighting a proposed fossil fuel power plant that would add more pollution to an area already struggling with poor air quality and multiple industrial uses. If built, the power plant will discharge water contaminated with mercury, copper, lead, arsenic and other toxins into the sewer, which will eventually end up in the Westfield River.

This river is federally designated as wild and scenic, meaning the waters and shorelines are pristine with some accessibility by roads. Construction

of the plant would destroy wood turtle and eastern box turtle habitat, two Species of Special Concern in Massachusetts. EJLS represented the residents in a state sewer permit appeal and is continuing to support other legal proceedings.

In June, the Department of Environmental Protection ruled that residents of this EJ neighborhood, many of whom live in mobile home communities, have standing to bring a case against the plant. The company proposing to build the natural gas and diesel-powered plant is the same developer as Cape Wind, which aims to build wind farms in Nantucket Sound. Westfield residents, with support from EJLS, are working to reach other community members about the hazards of the power plant.

Residents of mobile home communities like this one in Westfield would be exposed to more toxins if the power plant is built.





ORGANIZING COMMUNITIES

“It’s exciting to understand that people do have power.”

Michelle Green, ACE Member

► *Michelle is a member and former intern of the Dudley Square Organizing Project.*

I spent most of my childhood in Cambridge, and now I live on the Roxbury/Dorchester line. My building faces Seaver Street, near Franklin Park, which is one of the biggest green spaces in Boston. I think the environment is extremely important—that’s why I live where I do. I’m an artist, and I do most of my work out of my home. I make tiles and necklaces. I’ve been doing it since I was a kid—I’ve always been very crafty, but I only recently started getting paid for it.

I’ve also been a community organizer for many years. I’ve done tenant organizing for rent control, for food justice and for better public education in my neighborhood. It started when we were told that that our building would be sold to the highest bidder, which would lead to the displacement of 152 families. Having been homeless, that was not an option for me. I started organizing and we won 99 years of “affordable” housing, though rents are still really high. It’s exciting to understand that people do have power.

A friend told me about the community organizing work that ACE was doing. I applied for the DSOP internship position in April of this year. There are a lot of challenges to organizing in Dudley Square, but what kept me coming back was Kalila’s clear vision of what this community could be. ACE is one of the only non-profits in this community with a director



who is both intelligent and humble. If ACE continues to attract people who reflect our mission, this will be one of the best places to work in the community.

I believe that environmental inequality will be more widespread the more our society is made up of haves and have-nots. Environmental justice would mean access to real food, clean air and water. When I was growing up in the ‘60s, we recycled and composted. It’s just what we did. Now people don’t enjoy our environment—we litter it, we ignore it. There are crazy numbers of children in this area with respiratory diseases. Kids miss school because of this and we need more people to take action.

We have our work cut out for us, but I know it’s doable. People are so fearful of everything—fearful that if they speak up they’ll lose their job or be evicted. There’s not a sense of communal living. But a lot of good people live in this community. My father was a ninth generation Bostonian and he migrated here from Beacon Hill. I know that Roxbury can be a thriving community. It’s possible. But it calls for a different way of thinking. The whole way you look at yourself and your community has to change.

October 2010–June 2011

Green jobs & climate change



Laying groundwork for weatherization

In January, ACE staff and members helped complete pre-weatherization work in a Grove Hall home, alongside members of the Green Justice Coalition (GJC) and volunteer apprentices from the carpenters union. This work brings old homes up to code—a process frequently unaffordable for lower-income residents—before weatherization can begin. We laid cement in the basement, installed sheetrock and hired professionals to remove asbestos. Meanwhile, organizers went door-to-door in the community to share how neighbors can access energy efficiency services and funds. We are demanding pre-weatherization financing to households excluded from energy efficiency programs.

The barnraising crew with resident Betty McGuire (left).

Making energy savings accessible

The statewide Green Justice Coalition (GJC) is working to reduce climate change and provide living wage green jobs to lower-income communities and communities of color. When it was announced that Northeast Utilities wanted to merge with NSTAR, EJLS submitted comments to the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) in February to push for equitable distribution of energy efficiency programs. As a result of our work, along with other allied organizations, the DPU changed its review process to require utility companies to demonstrate a public benefit before mergers can be approved. Utilities now have to meet a higher standard to receive state approval that includes showing benefits to utility customers.



As a member of the coalition, we testified at merger hearings in January and organized Boston-based GJC members around issues of green jobs, weatherization outreach and financing. This May, we finished a formal negotiation process with utility companies that addressed barriers to accessing energy efficiency programs in lower-income neighborhoods. We came out with agreements on the importance of community-based outreach, multilingual materials and a commitment to reduce financial burdens that block resident participation in these programs. We are now working to implement these recommendations in the next year and beyond.

In June, EJLS filed comments on utility companies' proposed mid-term modifications to their three year energy efficiency plans. We asked the utilities to include tiered incentives so that lower-income residents can afford home weatherization, widespread community outreach to improve access to the programs and local hiring for these jobs, along with fair wages and benefits.

Presentation at a Green Justice Coalition—Boston community meeting.

Working locally, thinking globally

In January, ACE members participated in a training run by Oakland-based Movement Generation, a non-profit that supports grassroots organizations with analysis and tools to address the ecological crisis. With partner organizations, we learned how increased growth and resource-intensive production are impacting the planet, along with solutions like running cities on a closed energy loop and ensuring affordable or free public transportation.



In April, we held an organizing launch of the Dudley Square Organizing Project (DSOP), taking residents on a neighborhood Toxic Tour and creating spaces for community dialogue. We also began surveying ACE members on issues like gentrification, development and energy efficiency, and started an organizing internship to build the skills and leadership of members.

Leading a Toxic Tour of EJ sites in Dudley.

► Green jobs & climate change

Piloting equitable programs



As part of the Green Justice Coalition (GJC), we are creating an equitable and sustainable model for imple-

menting energy efficiency work through Community Mobilization Initiatives (CMI). The organizing focus of CMIs build partnerships between community groups with longstanding relationships in lower-income neighborhoods and responsible contractors who are committed to providing livable wages, benefits and career pathways for local workers.

This fall, GJC member Chinese Progressive Association (CPA) launched a workforce development pilot with the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades DC 35 (IUPAT DC35), Chinatown Green Collar Pathways. This project provided bilingual weatherization training accompanied by workplace English proficiency classes. The apprentices have priority acceptance to the union and can take advantage of additional job training.

In March, the Chelsea Collaborative, a GJC member, kicked-off a pilot program to weatherize up to 130 lower-income households and provide living

wage green jobs. The New England Regional Council of Carpenters trained 12 residents in home weatherization techniques, leading to job and apprenticeship opportunities and a membership with the carpenters' union. Insul-Pro, the union contractor working on the Chelsea pilot, agreed to hire three of the trainees to start, and more as the project continues.

Residents must complete surveys to gauge eligibility for energy efficiency work as well as applications. However, participation in energy efficiency programs was historically low in EJ neighborhoods. As part of the pilots, community-based organizations received funding to conduct weatherization outreach in working-class communities and assist residents in determining eligibility, completing applications and navigating the programs.

Six months after the pilots began, one-third of people surveyed are now recruited by community groups, a dramatic increase in participation by EJ communities. Organizers helped people through the weatherization process, explaining everything from energy audits to costs and benefits. This model provides access to energy efficiency funds and programs for lower-income communities, reduces utility bills as well as our collective carbon footprint, and creates sustainable, living wage jobs for local residents. Thank you to members for supporting this work!

Ribbon-cutting ceremony for opening of Chinatown pilot program.

Calling for equity

This January, the Green Justice Coalition wrote legislation filed by Senator Eldridge and Representative Sciortino that would require utility companies to disclose the spending of energy efficiency funds as well as those hired using the funds.

Currently, companies are in charge of distributing weatherization money and are refusing to report where the work is taking place or what was completed. We want to make sure EJ com-

munities are being served equally and are demanding data reporting so the work can be monitored for disparities.

The bill, H.1774, expands energy efficiency goals so that statewide, 100 percent of homes and 50 percent of businesses are weatherized by 2030. Also, the jobs created by these programs must be tracked and include fair wages and benefits. In June, ACE members held legislative visits on the bill at the State House, in partnership with Boston Climate Action Network and other GJC

member organizations. We spoke with elected officials about the need for transparency and the impact of weatherizations on lower-income communities and communities of color. Stay tuned for developments!



Green Justice Coalition member meeting.

TAKING ACTION

“We’re taking action instead of just talking about it.”

Tanajah Pierre, REEP Member

► *Tanajah recently moved out of Boston for her first year of college.*

I come from a single-parent home, with three younger sisters, and another sister born last year. I’ve lived in Mattapan my whole life. Either I was at home or with my grandmother down the street. She passed away two years ago, which was hard on the family, cause she was the glue that held everything together.

When I came here, I didn’t know this was ACE. I only knew REEP because Dakeria, a Youth Organizer, went to my school. Senior year, we had to do internships, and we needed 100 hours and a paper. Mine was about equality and affordability on the MBTA. I started talking about it and Dakeria had the same project. She told me about her job at REEP. And she told me that they’re the ones who pushed the bus pass from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., and hold rallies and change things all over, and I was like, “That’s perfect.”

Over the summer, Dave asked me what I wanted to be, and I said a lawyer. One day, he asked if I would be interested in an internship with EJLS. So I interned with them over the summer. That’s how I got involved in ACE as a whole. I kept coming to ACE because it was more than an internship—it’s always been more than an internship for me. You



guys really grew as family to me, so I’m really grateful for being able to come here.

It makes me happy and hopeful how REEP was able to extend the bus pass, because, as a student rider who is dependent on the MBTA, it was hard to get to where I was going. School for me ended at 3:30, then I would be there until 5:00 doing homework or getting help from teachers, and then, it’d be two hours for cheerleading practice. So by the time I was finished with practice, I would be running at 7:59 for the 8:00 bus.

Students have other obligations, they have other activities in that short time from school to home. The change really makes me hopeful because it means that we’re taking action instead of just talking. I feel like if the government knows that we’re out here, and not backing down, things will change.

Saying goodbye to REEP is one of the hardest goodbyes I have to say. The others are my mother and boyfriend. So it’s in the top three hardest. I come here earlier than I’m supposed to, stay later than I’m supposed to—I love being here, it’s like a second home. I’m definitely gonna miss it. But I don’t feel like it’s ‘goodbye,’ it’s like a ‘see you later.’ I’m not too worried, because I know I’m gonna come back.

October 2010–June 2011

Food justice

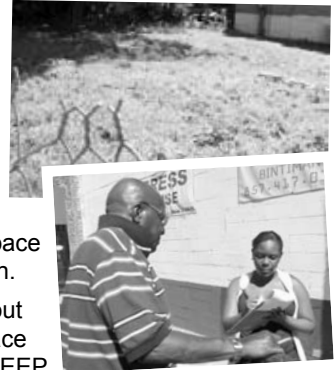
Rethinking vacant lots

In February, REEP members began to identify access to open land as a key barrier to growing healthy fruits and vegetables in our neighborhoods. We explored guerilla gardening techniques as an approach to the problem. We learned that vacant and unkempt property is concentrated in Roxbury and North Dorchester, neighborhoods that have severely limited access to healthy, affordable foods and high incidences of diet-related illnesses.

In June, REEP teamed up with the Design Studio for Social Intervention to conduct community mapping of open space around Dudley Square. We used more than a half dozen parcels to imagine alternative uses that would meet community needs. We imagined a swimming pool instead of a giant hole in the ground between the Ferdinand building and Dudley Station. And a community garden on another parcel we've called "the asbestos pile" since 2002 when REEP forced a developer to clean

a 15-foot high pile of lead and asbestos-laden debris it had dumped and abandoned. We also analyzed symbols and concepts to connect the themes of healthy food, open space and self-determination.

To open dialogue about the use of vacant space with our neighbors, REEP began a seed bombing project in June. We made and dropped several thousand seed bombs—balls of clay, compost and wildflower seed—on vacant lots. We used the wildflowers to begin conversations with neighbors and passersby about the land's potential use. Ideas included gardens, places to play and affordable housing.



From top: The asbestos pile lot, surveying in Dudley Square.

Building raised beds

This June, we closed out REEP's spring session with a gardening project and celebratory cookout. We partnered with The Food Project to build raised beds in the Roxbury and Dorchester yards of two REEP Alumni, both first-time gardeners, and learned how to setup beds for future actions. Thank you REEP members for your hard work and thank you Food Project for this opportunity!



A Food Project raised bed.



"Growing food is uplifting for the community and a source of joy for the people who live there."

—Melissa Lopez, REEP Youth Organizer

Developing a campaign

REEP youth organizers spent the past year exploring the issue of food justice after we were inspired by the community agriculture movement in Detroit, which we saw during our trip to the US Social Forum, and by our partnership with United Neighbors of Lower Roxbury last summer. We attended food justice conferences, held exchanges with youth groups who grow food and advocate for healthy foods in corner stores, and researched health disparities like diabetes and heart disease.

Civics students in a REEP classroom at Dorchester Academy lobbied the school administration to build raised bed gardens at their new building and won! Students also helped secure funding and started a school garden club. Congratulations to youth at Dorchester Academy for a beautiful final project!

From top: Dorchester Academy REEP students visit ReVision Urban Farm, a Detroit community garden.



October 2010–June 2011

Legal strategies

MEJAN Case review

We provide help to community groups working on EJ issues with in-house attorneys from our Environmental Justice Legal Services (EJLS) team and volunteer professionals from our Massachusetts Environmental Justice Assistance Network (MEJAN). Here are MEJAN cases from this year.

► ACE is receiving assistance negotiating with the Akron, Ohio Bar Association, who seeks to trademark “Jammin’ for Justice.” MEJAN

Volunteer: Thomas J. Engellenner, Esq. of Nutter, McClennen & Fish.

► The Aids Action Committee sought legal and technical assistance on a property. MEJAN Volunteers: Cicely Parseghian, Esq., of Foley Hoag, Sam Butcher, LSP formerly of Goldman Environmental, currently at Loureiro Engineering Associates.

► Chelsea Greenspace resolved outstanding issues with Boston Hides & Fur. MEJAN Volunteer: Christophe Courchesne, Esq. of Goodwin Procter.*

► Citizens Leading Environmental Action Network in New Bedford is receiving assistance on contaminated land. MEJAN Volunteers: Arthur Kreiger, Esq., of Anderson & Kreiger, Ian Phillips, LSP of Roux Associates.

► Our Dudley Street Organizing Project is receiving advice on home weatherization. MEJAN Volunteer: Gary Gill-Austern, Esq. of Nutter, McClennen & Fish.

► Our Boston Community Energy Services Co-op (ESCO) is looking for start-up funding. MEJAN Volunteers: Tima Sensenig of Roux Associates, Colin

Van Dyke, Esq., Christopher T. Bird, Esq., Anthony E. Hubbard, Esq., and Jeffrey McCourt, Esq., all of Mintz Levin, LLP.

► The Food Project was granted a trademark for the name and website of their new program, the Real Food Challenge. MEJAN Volunteers: Thi Ly, Ph.D., Dana M. Gordon, Esq., Ph.D and Joshua Jarvis, Esq., all of Foley Hoag.*

► The Board of the Forest Glen Housing Co-op is receiving legal advice. MEJAN Volunteer: Walter Boldys, Esq. of Mintz Levin, LLP.

► Hawthorne Area Association is concerned about a developer's effort to build condos in the neighborhood. MEJAN Volunteer: Sam Butcher, LSP formerly of Goldman Environmental, currently at Loureiro Engineering Associates.**

► Hawthorne Area Association will apply for a grant to develop green space in Roxbury. MEJAN Volunteer: Bethany A. Bartlett, Esq. of Sherin & Lodgen.

► Hawthorne Area Association is looking to acquire land for projects. ACE organizer Khalida Smalls has been collaborating with them in this project.

► Lucerne Garden's owner is looking to refinance and

the Lucerne Gardens Residents Association is receiving real estate advice. MEJAN Volunteer: Sheryl Howard, Esq. of Krokidas & Bluestein.

► Morley Street Neighborhood Association has negotiated with BRA to use a vacant lot for neighborhood activities. MEJAN Volunteer: Dana Lanzillo, Esq. formerly of Dionne & Gass, currently at Saul Ewing LLP.

► A Neighborhood Association obtained a judgment prohibiting Star Five Oil from illegally parking oil trucks at the entrance to the Urban Wild. MEJAN Volunteers: Michael D. Vhay, Esq. and Paul Ham, Esq., both of DLA Piper.*

► Neighbors concerned about contamination and development in South Boston received advice. MEJAN Volunteer: Ian Phillips of Roux Associates.*

► A non-profit organization received employment advice. MEJAN Volunteer: Richard E. Bowman, Esq. of Rose, Chinitz & Rose.

► A CDC will soil test and write a management plan for development on its property when they receive financing. REEP youth organizers will monitor this work. MEJAN Volunteers: Gary Gill-Austern, Esq. of Nutter, McClennen & Fish, Sam Butcher, LSP formerly of Goldman Environmental, currently at Loureiro

Engineering Associates.

► Roxbury neighbors received advice on proposed construction in the neighborhood. MEJAN Volunteers: Jennifer Rushlow, Esq. of Anderson & Kreiger, John Thompson, LSP of Woodard Curran and Gretchen Schneider of Schneider Studio.

► A year-long study must cover potential public health threats at the proposed BU Level 4 Bioterrorism Lab. A Roxbury resident group is monitoring the situation. MEJAN Volunteers: Jenny Rushlow and Douglas Wilkins, Esq. (now Judge Wilkins) of Anderson & Kreiger.

► Tommy's Rock Neighborhood Association requested legal assistance to form a nonprofit corporation. MEJAN Volunteer: Jeffrey Groshek, Esq. of Gesmer Updegrave LLP.*

► Tommy's Rock Neighborhood Association is concerned about a construction project in the neighborhood. MEJAN Volunteer: Philip B. Posner, Esq.

► A youth organization received data evaluation. MEJAN Volunteers: Julie Goodman, Ph.D., DABT, and Yodi Melnikov, MS, both of Gradient Corporation.

*Case closed this year.

**ACE in-house legal staff assisting.



TAKING COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP

“I’ve always had a desire to work with the environment.”

Matt Simmons, ACE Member

► *Matt is a member of the Dudley Square Organizing Project.*

I’m a long-time resident of Roxbury. I was born and raised there, but now I live in Dorchester with my wife and my three kids—25, 18, and 5 years old. I worked as a regional manager at a telecommunications company for 12 years, but I’ve always had a desire to work with the environment. If you walk around here you see a lot of trash, a lot of litter.

I belong to the Pasadena Supple Road Neighborhood Association. We deal with a lot of quality-of-life issues, from crime to traffic. We sit down and discuss problems in the community and how to deal with them. Violence is the number one issue. We’ve been trying to get a handle on it for a long time. I’ve been active with PSRNA for nine years, and I also got my oldest daughter involved at age 13. She’s 18 now and still active, and my five year old is getting involved as well.

I live right around the corner from an empty lot on Pasadena Road, and I used to walk past the lot every day for years. One day I found myself walking in the middle of the street because people were dumping trash on the



sidewalk. I asked myself, “Why am I walking in the street?” The city should be taking care of dumping its trash. Pasadena Road was one of the most notorious streets for crime, and people I know have been murdered on that street, so this is something I take very personally. I decided to try to revitalize the lot and do something good with it, but I needed help from the city.

That’s where ACE comes in. I wasn’t getting anywhere with City Hall. Then I met Khalida Smalls and Staci Rubin about a year ago. I’m so happy that I met them. They’ve been instrumental in getting us some support. We just received a grant to have stipends for people in the community who aren’t working. This will help us reduce crime. It’s good for us to get people from the community to take ownership.

I feel like the people at ACE really do take ownership and value the community. I feel like I’ve found a new family, a new group of friends. I attended the New England Environmental Justice Forum and it was very helpful—it inspired me to keep doing the work that I’m doing. I feel that getting involved with ACE has been a big boost to my organizing work.

Land use

Testing contamination



Residents of New Bedford are working with MEJAN volunteers Art Kreiger, Esq. of Anderson & Kreiger and Ian Phillips, LSP, of Roux Associates to advocate for better testing

of heavily contaminated land on the former Parker Street Waste Dump. Our intervention has changed how the EPA is responding to the situation, such as requiring more testing to identify the full extent of the contamination—which resulted in additional toxins being found this winter.

We also helped neighbors navigate ongoing environmental and public health issues. Homes, playing fields, a church and schools have been built on the land. Some of the homes have been condemned due to contamination in the soil and some residents have developed serious illnesses. Residents are demanding a transparent process that includes updated testing information, input on clean-up plans and monitoring the elimination of public health hazards. We are working with New Bedford residents on a project about the impact of exposure to toxins like dioxins and PCBs.

New Bedford residents rallying for testing and clean up.

Preventing fuel spills

Residents in Chelsea, Revere and East Boston are concerned about plans by Global Petroleum (GP) to expand its fuel terminal and bring ethanol in using 60-car trains. Most ethanol in the state arrives by ships and trucks. The company is proposing to bring four times the amount they normally store, at 1.8 million gallons per train. EJLS is assisting residents in the regulatory process



and preparing for the Conservation Commission hearing on the terminal.

Unlike petroleum, ethanol does not float in water. Instead, it dissolves, and is highly flammable—even when mixed with four times its amount in water—making clean up extremely difficult. The ethanol trains will run by homes, wetlands, bodies of water and cross city streets. Ethanol can suffocate fish and wildlife and cause groundwater contamination. When spilled on soil, the fuel can degrade into methane and cause explosions long after the accident has passed.

Global Petroleum oil tanks on the shores of Chelsea Creek.



“I’m always appreciative of the opportunity to help out.”

—Phil Posner, Esq., MEJAN Volunteer assisting residents on gardens

Reclaiming community ownership

EJLS and DSOP are providing legal and organizing support to the Pasedena-Supple-Columbia Road Neighborhood Association (PSCRNA) in Grove Hall who want to transform an empty lot into a community space. In June, residents coordinated a lot clean up to prepare the land for future projects, which may include a playground, park benches and vegetable gardens. Neighbors are using this opportunity to build community, create green space and prevent the land from being misused. We also helped PSCRNA apply for funding to start the project.



Residents want to transform this lot into a community space.

Reducing waste for public health



This winter, EJLS participated in the state Solid Waste Legislation Transition Task Force and urged the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to ban disposal of recyclable materials at trash transfer stations. If passed, the law will increase recycling and cut trash and incinerator pollution. We also submitted comments on draft

regulations released by the DEP in May on anaerobic digester facilities that break down food and yard waste. We asked for proof that the compost produced is non-toxic and for public participation in decisions on building and expanding facilities.

Virtually all the municipal solid waste generated in Boston is transported out of the city—a large portion of this is trucked to a transfer station in Lynn and an incinerator in Haverhill. These communities disproportionately shoulder the negative health burden of exposure to large quantities of garbage, truck pollution and incinerator residue and emissions. We are working with EJ communities in those cities, along with Clean Water Action, to demand that waste industries and local government reduce trash intake.

In Chelsea, EJLS is providing legal support to residents dealing with a notorious trash transfer station with a history of state enforcement actions. We have commented on an approval that DEP is considering for the station and are monitoring its status.

Trash transfer stations like this one by Dudley Square collect city waste before trucking it out.

Planning gardens

The Hawthorne Youth and Community Center in Roxbury is looking to build a sustainable learning space with gardens in Roxbury. The project will teach families how to grow food and maintain fruit trees. DSOP is lending organizing support.



The Hawthorne Youth and Community Center.

Rebuilding a landmark

In March, the mayor announced plans to move the School Department from their downtown offices to the Ferdinand building in Dudley Square, bringing 400 jobs and new retail space. This is the first sign of movement on the site, despite several attempts to redevelop the building over the years. Formerly the largest and best-known furniture store in New England, the Ferdinand has been abandoned for more than 30

years and is plagued with deterioration and structural problems.

Few details have been given about the construction timeline or the retailers that would occupy the ground floor. We're calling on the Mayor to ensure that the jobs created by this project would follow the Boston Jobs Ordinance by hiring locally and paying a living wage. We're also concerned about the gentrifying effect of revitalization and are continuing



to monitor this development.

The Ferdinand Building in the heart of Dudley Square.

“We’re working to help the city as a whole.”

**Judy Babikian,
ACE Member**

► *Judy is a member of the Chelsea T Riders Union.*

I’m originally from Lynn, but I’ve lived in Chelsea for a long time. I’ve been in my building for 11 years now.

I’m retired, but I go to day programs twice a week to get out of the house. I started coming to some of the ACE events a while back. It was nice to get out of my house and meet some interesting people.

I got involved with TRU five years ago. It all started because of a bus stop. I noticed that not all the stops in Chelsea have bus shelters on both sides of the street. People were getting wet and it wasn’t safe, so I spoke up. From there to the city council, and now meeting with the general manager...it’s really been a learning process for me.

It’s very exciting. I’m learning to talk in front of big groups of people. Sometimes you’re afraid to talk to anyone, afraid to sound like an idiot,



but this way it’s fun!

I use the MBTA Ride, but people in Chelsea have a hard time getting out to Roxbury. We would love to have our own space for meetings. That’s why it’s great that the general manager came out to Chelsea—I worked very hard to prepare for this meeting.

For me, environmental justice is all about making the situation comfortable. But a lot of the time it’s just a waiting game. We bring up a problem and it might take one and a half or two years to be addressed. I don’t think we should have to wait that long.

TRU is one group that’s for the public good, not our own personal gain. We’re working to help the city as a whole. Everyone’s very nice—I love being with them. I would love to see more young people get involved in the process. We need their energy and ideas to bring things into perspective.

October 2010 — June 2011

Transit Justice

Increasing youth access

After years of hard work, the Youth Way on the MBTA campaign secured a major victory in June when the MBTA and MassDOT agreed to sponsor a pilot study of our proposed Youth Pass! The proposed Youth Pass would be valid on the bus and subway, available to all youth ages 12 to 21 and cost \$10 a month.

Over the past few years, REEP and Boston-area Youth Organizing Project (BYOP) completed over 4,000 surveys of Boston youth. The surveys showed that public transportation is crucial in providing access to school, jobs, doctor's appointments and other opportunities. However, many lower-income youth struggle to pay fares. In June, we released a report, *OpportuniT*, that highlighted these struggles and made a case for a Youth Pass solution.

The Youth Pass will increase access to public transit for all youth, allowing young people to build a future through education, employment and enrichment activities. In addition, it is an opportunity for the T to innovate and be part of a just and sustainable future for youth in Greater Boston.

We released *OpportuniT* as part of a week that included actions at T stations, a march to the Transportation Building to deliver more than 500 postcards to the Secretary of Transportation, a press conference and a Youth Riders Banquet. With



over 120 youth at the banquet, special guest General Manager Richard Davey received the report and committed to a pilot study that would be revenue-neutral for the T. Youth Way is a collaborative campaign of REEP and BYOP. Thank you members for your support of a Youth Pass!

Clockwise from top: Young people at the Youth Riders Banquet with T officials, marching for a Youth Pass, our *OpportuniT* report.

Funding public transit nationally and locally

As part of the Transit Riders for Public Transit coalition, we filed a federal bill that would restore the right to take legal action when transportation policies have discriminatory impacts based on race.

The bill would allow transit agencies to flex budget money from capital (building new routes) to operations (running and maintaining the existing system), a move that would keep systems in good repair, prevent service cuts and create almost twice as many jobs as capital spending. As of May, 144 representatives had signed on. In June, TRU members visited legislators in DC to secure additional support.

On the state level, we supported legislation filed by coalitions On the Move and Transportation for Massachusetts to raise revenues for public transit. TRU members met with elected officials about the bill in April and performed street theater at Dudley Station and Park Street in May to publicize the need for increased state funding. This "Legislatizol" event gave legislators the remedy to fix transit funding.

Supporter at the Legislatizol action for more state funding for public transportation.



Building coalitions

This year, TRU has continued to strengthen relationships with workers, attending transportation conferences from Chicago to DC to work with the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU). We are also helping to start riders unions across Massachusetts, meeting with folks in New Bedford and Fall River in May and Worcester in June.



TRU Vice Chair Taisha O'Bryant speaking at an event for union workers and transit rider organizers.

“This calls for a celebration! I’ve been fighting for this for over a year. A lot of the seniors are handicapped, or they’ve got bundles, and it’s too much for them to cross the parking lot. This is a necessity. It will make so many seniors happy.”



—Marjorie Delorian,
Chelsea TRU Member,
on the Route 112 change.

Organizing for better service



This year, T Riders Union (TRU) members have organized riders to improve service from Roxbury to Chelsea. In October, we held a bus action and outreach day at Dudley Station, holding “on time” and “late” signs to arriving buses depending on their schedule and gave prizes to drivers whose route was on time. This winter, the MBTA finally started shoveling snow at bus stops after years of complaints from riders, ACE members and the disability community. TRU Vice Chair Taisha O'Bryant is also participating on the Community Advisory Committee of the Roxbury/Dorchester/Mattapan Transit Needs study run by MassDOT to envision the future of public transit in our neighborhoods.

Members in Chelsea, many of whom are senior citizens in Admiral's Hill, are conducting outreach in Spanish to connect with more people. In June, we secured a service change on route 112, moving a bus stop from a supermarket closed two years ago directly to its new location. Now, riders will no longer be forced to cross a busy street and parking lot for groceries, a victory especially helpful for elderly and disabled passengers.

In the spring, we celebrated the extension of bicycle hours on the Blue Line, a victory by youth in the Environmental Chelsea Creek Crew (E3C) and Know What's Up, programs of our partner organizations, Neighborhood for Affordable Housing (NOAH) and the Chelsea Collaborative, respectively. The bicycle campaign was presented, along with TRU's demand for on-time bus service, to General Manager Richard Davey when he attended a TRU member meeting in November.

From top: On time/late bus action, youth working on the Blue Line bicycle campaign with the MBTA General Manager at a Chelsea TRU meeting.

Making buses work for riders



This spring, TRU riders in Chelsea organizing to prevent bus stops from being cut through the MBTA's Key Bus Routes program successfully saved some stops on routes 111 and 116/117. The MBTA has received stimulus money to consolidate and streamline bus operations on its 15 busiest routes, which carry one-third of bus passengers. TRU is strategizing on how to use the stimulus money to improve service without eliminating stops that would adversely affect transit-dependent riders. We are continuing to organize on the issue of Key Bus Routes and are gearing up for a campaign against next year's proposed fare hikes.

The heavy ridership route 111 bus runs from Haymarket to Chelsea.

"TRU is like a family—these folks have been there for me in times of need. We all support each other. We share a passion for justice, and with that comes a mutual respect that makes us able to achieve great things together. That's what keeps me coming back!"

—Jeremy Hanson, ACE Member



Talking to the top



The T Working Group, a committee of the T Riders Union, has been meeting with MBTA offi-

cial every month to discuss bus service issues and solutions that meet the needs of transit-dependent communities. In May, we worked with the Customer Service department and submitted comments on their guidelines and processes for addressing problems. TRU also visited the driver recertification training and customer service center. We appreciate the relationship we have been able to develop with the MBTA and look forward to increasing transparency and cooperation for T riders.

Chelsea TRU members meet with MBTA officials.

Building leadership



TRU continues to fulfill our mission of developing leadership through fighting for transit justice. This year, three members participated in the internship program, supported by former board chair Trina Jackson. Anthony Rivers, Patricia Hayden and Edilberto Rodriguez conducted outreach, coordinated actions and led workshops on transit justice. Thank you for your dedication to first-class public transit!

TRU Member Interns Patricia (left) and Anthony (middle) speak out for increased public transit funding.



BRINGING YOUTH TOGETHER

*“Youth finally have a say—
people listen to us.”*

Dakeria Fulks, REEP Youth Alum

► *Dakeria is a new graduate of REEP, having served as a Youth Organizer for over a year.*

I grew up in Dorchester with my mom, my sister and my cousin Ronneshia. My cousin was in REEP when she was in high school. I’ve always wanted to work here, ever since I was a volunteer. When you come in, there’s this feeling of love. The fact that REEP is youth-led means youth finally have a say—people listen to us.

Not many people understand environmental justice. People associate it with “going green.” For me, EJ means every community having equal access to resources, from the ‘hood to upper-class areas. We identify problems we want to fight in our community, brainstorm about strategy, and fight until we win. It’s a long process—you want to see victory right away, but everything is long-term.

When I started working at ACE, I thought I would be protesting all the time. I didn’t know how much research it takes for a campaign to be successful. There’s a lot of background work. At first I was involved in the asthma/diesel campaign because I have asthma, but I switched to working on the Youth Way campaign. I had a research internship with the T Riders Union that helped me learn a lot about transit. Eventually, I went to



MassDOT meetings to push for a Youth Pass. The meetings had ups and downs, but we were able to get some transportation officials on our side.

One of my best memories at ACE was the U.S. Social Forum in Detroit last summer. At that time, REEP was still new. We decided to have a meeting, and that ended up bringing us closer together. There’s a lot of good energy from everyone we work with. No one puts us down.

My advice to future REEPers would be to go after your dreams and don’t shut down your ideas. I want to see more members doing a lot of work, coming up with campaigns. That would make me so happy.

This fall I’m going to Regis College to major in psychology. I originally wanted to be a defense attorney, but I changed my mind. I think I’ll enjoy this more. Depending on what I do, it will be possible for me to use my knowledge to connect with people. I have lots of ideas. I also want to play volleyball—I want to try something new.

October 2010–June 2011

Youth organizing

Organizing for employment

As part of the Youth Jobs Coalition (YJC), REEP helped restore severe cuts to summer jobs this year. Students from a REEP classroom at Social Justice Academy and REEP youth organizers joined marches and rallies in February and April, asking the state to maintain youth jobs funding. Last year, 39 people ages 25 and under were killed in Boston, more than half the murders in the city. Youth programming is crucial in bringing these rates down.

After partial successes in reversing federal and state cuts, the YJC approached the City for help as a last resort. Before Boston's budget hearing in June, young people rallied at Government Center, calling on the City Council to ensure the same number of jobs in Boston as last year, over 10,000. While the budget passed without an increase, the work of the YJC helped push the overall number of jobs higher than originally projected, to slightly over 9,000. Organizers have pledged to keep up the fight. Thank you to the YJC for your hard work and commitment to the struggle!

Clockwise from top: REEP Youth Organizer asking for more funding as the city council debates, youth jobs rally at City Hall, marching to the action.



Fighting for jobs nationally

In May, REEP youth traveled to DC with Boston-area Youth Organizing Project, to support the Youth Employment Act as part of the Alliance for Educational Justice. Over 1,000 young people converged in the city from around the country, wearing red shirts that said *Education + Youth Employment = Life. No Schools + No Jobs = Death.*

This trip provided an opportunity to build with other groups, share stories and struggles. The bill will provide \$6.5 million for education and youth employment and is still in progress. Stay tuned for updates!

From top: Marching on the Capitol, REEP leading chants, coffins represent lives lost.



"We point out problems in the community and try to help in any way we can. I get angry that no one pointed out these problems sooner! But it makes me hopeful to know that people like us are doing this kind of work."



—Hakim Sutherland,
REEP Youth Organizer



Saving schools

In March, REEP testified against school closings at a Boston Public School (BPS) Committee hearing, along with El Movimiento and Boston-area Youth Organizing Project. Youth packed the auditorium and spoke about the devastating impact of closures. Students from our REEP classroom at the Social Justice Academy came to demand the school be taken off the chopping block and nobody testified in support of the closings. Prior to the hearing, youth held a rally to show support for saving our schools. Unfortunately, the BPS budget was passed and the Social Justice Academy, among others, were shut down.

Pictured: Rally to save our schools before the School Committee hearing.



Helping families

In April, REEP Youth Organizers and alumni supported an eviction blockade in Hyde Park organized by our Right to the City partner organization, City Life/Vida Urbana. This action successfully blocked a family from being evicted.

REEPers on bullhorns in front of the home.



Giving back



In February, we formed an Alumni Committee for REEP graduates to formally

provide support to current youth organizers. We adopted a charter and workplan, elected Committee Co-Chairs and are helping with REEP campaigns and events. Thank you alums for your guidance!

REEP alums at Jammin' for Justice.

Youth member leadership

Over the year, we held biweekly REEP Member Meetings to build youth power and advance our youth-led campaigns. Through participation in meetings, events, actions and more, 30 Boston youth became official members of REEP. During school vacation in February, REEP held our



first overnight Member Leadership Retreat. Along with youth from our partner organization, Boston-area Youth Organizing Project (BYOP), REEP members participated in youth-led organizing and facilitation trainings, political education and REEP history activities. We shared life stories, deepened relationships, welcomed new official members and had lots of fun! One major milestone during the retreat was the launch of new campaign committees for our three youth-led campaigns: Youth Way on the MBTA, Food Justice and Asthma-Diesel. Thank you REEP members for your many contributions to the fight for environmental justice!

Youth Organizers and members at the first REEP member retreat.

October 2010–June 2011

Coalitions



ENVIRONMENTAL

► Don't Waste Massachusetts

is a coalition of equity and environmental groups committed to upholding Massachusetts' prohibition on increasing trash incineration and advocating for recycling and waste reduction.

► Healthy Air Coalition

is working to have the state and EPA adopt air quality standards that protect public health.

► Massachusetts Diesel Pollution Solution

builds constituencies to advocate for solutions to diesel pollution and provides technical and legal support to cut 75 percent of diesel pollution in priority fleets by 2010.

► Massachusetts Environmental Justice Alliance

brings together environmental justice groups and allies from around the state to work on environmental justice issues.

► Mystic River Collaborative

is a network of grassroots and environmental groups remediating the neglect, pollution and abandonment of the water bodies in the Mystic River watershed and ensuring that community residents are involved in the process.

FUNDRAISING

► Community Works

is a portfolio of 32 local social justice organizations providing Massachusetts residents an unique opportunity to invest in long-term systemic change. Contribute today at www.communityworks.com.



GREEN JOBS

► Green Justice Coalition

builds a broad-based constituency in support of a sustainable, equitable and clean energy economy statewide and advocates for green jobs and programs for residents of lower-income communities and communities of color.

ORGANIZING & DEVELOPMENT

► Action for Regional Equity (Action!)

is a coalition of Massachusetts organizations addressing issues of affordable housing, transportation investment and environmental justice.

► Coalition to Restore Civil Rights

is working to have the legislature pass a civil rights bill to prevent disparate impacts in government programs.

► Radical Organizing Conference (ROC)

brings together change-makers to build relationships, common understanding and united strategies to make radical social change for our communities.



“We’re making great advances as a coalition. It’s an exciting time to get together to make demands—having a national and local presence gives us a more powerful and clear picture.”

—Melonie Griffiths, CityLife/Vida Urbana, Right to the City Coalition



► Right to the City Alliance (RTTC)

is a nationwide coalition confronting displacement in lower-income communities of color and collectively building a national urban movement for housing, education, health, racial justice and democracy.

TRANSIT

► MBTA Riders’ Oversight Committee (TROC)

is a direct result of our work for transparency and accountability to riders. The committee oversees MBTA operations, sending recommendations for system improvements to the General Manager. TRU has a voting seat on TROC, which is comprised of voting advocacy groups, voting public members and non-voting MBTA representatives.

► On the Move: The Greater Boston Transportation Justice Coalition (OTM)

brings community-based organizations in greater Boston together to advocate for transit justice.

► Transit Riders for Public Transportation (TRPT)

is a national coalition of transit justice groups bringing environmental justice and civil rights priorities to federal transportation policy.

► Transportation for America (T4A)

is a national coalition working to shape federal transportation law to ensure affordable transportation options for all, fair access to quality transit jobs and healthy communities.

► Transportation for Massachusetts (T4MA)

is a network of organizations working to cut greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector and improve the sustainability and equity of our transit system at local, state and federal levels.

YOUTH

► **Boston Youth Environmental Network** is a group of organizations and professionals working to increase green youth jobs and environmental education opportunities.

► South End/Lower Roxbury Youth Workers Alliance

promotes collaboration across youth-serving agencies and supports youth workers to develop leadership and strengthen youth programs.

► Unnamed Group

is a newly forming alliance of Boston-based social justice youth groups building a foundation for youth movement.

► Youth Jobs Coalition

brings Boston youth and organizations together to end violence and create more opportunities for young people.

From left: May Day immigration rights march, speaking in DC for youth education and jobs, youth jobs rally at City Hall. Opposite: OTM Halloween action to save transit funding.

October 2010–June 2011

Who's at ACE

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REEP

Youth Organizers, Alum Committee, REEP Members

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Deandra Atherly
Indira Baez
Nechalye Bailey-Cribbs
Joel Balbuena
Franklin Boswel-Taylor
Mishon Browne
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Lena Rojas
Jamilah Ryan
Modesto Sanchez
Keara Sierra
Larissa Sloan
Ziquelle Smalls
Shakeen Stewart
Padraig Sullivan
Hakim Sutherland
Tyree Ware



Dudley Square Organizing Project

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Jonathan Bruce
Erik Cosgrove
Priscilla Cosgrove
Lisa Sadika Edwards
Michelle Green
Khari Nelson Bay
Tyree Ware
Scarletta Williams

TRU Committees

Campaign, Elections, Chelsea Leadership, Latino, Outreach, T Working Group

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Valerie Anderson
Judy Babikian
Louise Baxter
Chris Blackler
John Cappuccio
Nancy Chery
Burleane Cooley
Donna Dear
Marjorie Deloria
Rachel Fichtenbaum
Stephen Gaun
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Patricia Hayden
TJ Hellmann
Brenda Howard
Melvin Hubert
Trina Jackson
Jim Keane
Adam Machson-Carter
Rosa Mattias
Karen Narefsky
Taisha O'Bryant
Jolie Olivetti
Robert Palmer
Luis Perrone
Anthony Rivers
Latifa Smith
Stuart Spina
Brendan Thomas
Gwendolyn Vincent
Ralph Walton

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Indira Baez
Asha Carter
Josh Carver-Brown
Heather Catherwood
Rachel Freedman
Kristen Johnson
Meghna Marjadi
Markie McBryer
Quianna Mendez
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Diana Wu
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MEJAN Volunteers

Bethany A. Bartlett, Esq.
Christopher T. Bird, Esq.

“I am so happy to be a part of ACE. There is a unique culture of support and community that make it a place where people from all walks of life can feel comfortable. Everyone is passionate about their work and the results have a visible impact. It is exciting to see.”

—**Meghna Marjadi, ACE Volunteer and former Intern**



Volunteers

Angela Ackman
Ekene Agu
Tomas Aguilar
Kenny Bailey
Christina Billingsley
Gracie Brown
Erica Bushell
Doyle Canning
Ann Cheng
Kevin Crane
Nataka Crayton
Sam Davis
Terry Ding
Meaghan Doran
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E. Pine Dubois
Sadika Edwards
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Victor Flores
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Katelyn Homeyer
Meg Howard
Kriti Gongal
Chloe Green
Val Grimm
Winta Haile
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Colin Van Dyke, Esq.
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Douglas Wilkins, Esq.

Left: Members at a TRU Harvest Dinner.

Thank you members & donors!

Gifts from October 23, 2010 to June 30, 2011

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“For over a decade, I’ve given to ACE and the fight for environmental justice. ACE continues to foster local, regional, national and worldwide collaboration for the very future of our communities.”

—Sangita Nayak, ACE Member

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October 2010–June 2011

Building community

Jammin' for Justice

ACE members packed Hibernian Hall this May to raise funds and celebrate another year of environmental justice achievements. We enjoyed live music and great food, and honored people and groups who have made a tremendous impact in this movement.



Environmental Justice Awards

► Boston Workers Alliance

For their success in securing CORI reform and their organizing for social, economic and racial equality.

► Chuck Turner

For his extraordinary leadership, vision, guidance and dedication to achieving a just society, in Roxbury and beyond.



► Environmental Chelsea Creek Crew and Know What's Up

For their efforts to restore the Mystic River Watershed and for leading the campaign for bikes on the Blue Line.



► Mission Hill Summer Program

For their outstanding accomplishments in reducing diesel pollution in Boston.

From top: Guests fill Hibernian Hall, enjoying the event, the Boston Workers Alliance receives an EJ Award, TRU hits the dance floor.

Making decisions

Members gathered at our 2010 Annual Meeting to elect board members, share food and begin envisioning our future as an organization.



Thank you members for participating and helping to guide our work!



From top: Members enjoy the event, DJs and presenters share a moment on stage.

Engaging civically



In March, REEP and other youth groups held a candidates forum for the Special Election of Roxbury's District 7 City Council seat. This exchange provided a space for young people to hear directly from the candidates and engage in dialogue on issues like funding youth jobs and stopping the violence epidemic.

Youth speak with candidate Tito Jackson, who later won the District 7 Special Election.

Team building

Throughout the year, ACE staff, members and volunteers come together to strengthen relationships, meet new folks and enjoy each other's company. We thank everyone for contributing to this EJ community!



From top: TRU and REEP member camping trip in June, Member Game Night in April.

OUTTAKES



From top: Member outing, the “done cleaning up” dance after the Annual Meeting, REEPers in a fun moment, posing for the camera, having a good time.

Pictured on front cover: REEP Youth Organizers and members in Dudley Square.

► ACE sends a big thank you to the wonderful photographers whose work we are proud to share in this report. Props to **Jean Carpenter, Citizens Leading Environmental Action Network, Green Justice Coalition, Stuart Spina** and our many helpful shutterbugs.

Our budget

Fiscal year 7/1/10–6/30/11 (subject to audit)

REVENUES	Actual at 6/30/11
Foundations	\$703,975
Government	\$10,000
Contracts	\$354,387
Events	\$19,265
Major Donors	\$31,265
Membership and Appeals	\$24,790
Other Contributions	\$14,637
Workplace Giving	\$7,099
In-Kind Support	\$12,392
Fees	\$9,074
Interest	\$7,197
Carryover from previous year	\$(5,777)
Unrealized Gain/Loss	\$20,660
Miscellaneous	\$ (12)
Total Revenues:	\$1,208,951

EXPENSES	Actual at 6/30/11
Salaries	\$574,876
Interns	\$60,406
Payroll Taxes	\$47,889
Health Insurance	\$94,444
Transit Benefit	\$6,343
Retirement Benefit	\$28,208
Consultants	\$68,946
Payroll Service	\$3,408
Rent	\$62,416
Postage & Delivery	\$5,001
Telecommunications	\$7,371
Printing & Copying	\$37,888
Supplies	\$16,163
Travel & Transportation	\$25,899
Membership/Dues/Donations	\$5,763
Staff Development	\$957
Publications/Library	\$905
Insurance	\$18,542
Utilities	\$16,422
In-Kind Expenses	\$12,392
Events	\$39,728
Miscellaneous	\$66
Uncollectable debts	\$ -
Fiscal Passthrough	\$ -
Uncollectable Pledges	\$ -
Depreciation	\$ -
Total Expenses	\$1,134,036
Net Balance:	\$74,916

Environmental justice (EJ) is...



“Environmental injustice is created by the concentration of resources in only a few hands, that dispossess a large number of people from their own resources. In the global food system, companies like Monsanto and McDonald’s define what many communities in urban areas will eat and how much they will have as they control the food prices. EJ is closely connected to rights for food, water, land, transportation, education and jobs.”

—Saulo Araújo, ACE Board Member

“To me, environmental justice stands for taking back control of our surroundings and deciding as an inclusive community what we want and what works.”

—Cathy Chu, ACE Member



“Environmental is your community, where you’re living, right down to the simple things like air and food. Justice is fairness. We need that. Sometimes people have seen things this way for so long that they don’t even realize what’s wrong. Environmental justice is realizing we need to be the change we want to see in our community.”

—Dacia Jordan, REEP Youth Organizer

► Our mission

ACE builds the power of communities of color and lower-income communities in New England to eradicate environmental racism and classism and achieve environmental justice. We believe that everyone has the right to a healthy environment and to be decision-makers in issues affecting our communities.

Call us to receive this in Spanish. Para recibir este informe en español, favor de llamar a René a x239.



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