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You can help us achieve our mission by:

- **Becoming activity engaged** in the fight for environmental justice,
- **Supporting the environmental organizing and advocacy** in the state of Georgia by ECO-Action and its partner organizations,
- **Donating to ECO-Action** to allow us to continue providing assistance to communities facing environmental health threats.

: **To find out more, contact us at**

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Contributions Are Tax-Deductible

JULY 2011- DECEMBER 2012 HIGHLIGHTS

Since its inception in 1998, ECO-Action has assisted communities in 95 of the 156 counties of Georgia providing:

- Community Organizing Assistance,
- Training,
- Capacity Building, and
- Leadership Development

to members of vulnerable communities who are facing environmental threats. In addition to our past accomplishments, we are pleased to note the following major accomplishments which occurred between July 2011 and December 2012. ECO-Action:

- Engaged in the Tire Initiative to Reduce and Eliminate Dumping (TIREd) campaign which increased public awareness of dumping in metro Atlanta and removed more than 3600 illegally dumped tires from Atlanta stream banks,
- Sustained and strengthened our relationship with Georgia State University resulting in the development of a new program, Youth in Environmental Leadership and Learning (YELL),
- Established the Proctor Creek Stewardship Council which is helping to protect environmental assets at Proctor Creek.

WEST ATLANTA WATERSHED ALLIANCE AND COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

ECO-Action leveraged its expertise on community organizing, capacity building and application of the precautionary principle, cooperating with **West Atlanta Watershed Alliance** (WAWA) and **Community Improvement Association** (CIA) to train and mentor community leaders and residents on environmental health issues affecting the Proctor Creek Watershed. This led to the establishment of the Proctor Creek Stewardship Council, which is providing stewardship, and leadership in the caring for the Creek. During this reporting period, ECO-Action facilitated a five-workshop series, *Proctor Creek, Environment and Public Health*, which helped residents and community leaders engage in community organizing to protect and preserve the Creek.

PARTNERSHIP WITH GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY

ECO-Action was involved in partnerships with a number of Georgia State University departments over the past year. Details about some of these relationships appear below:

In partnership with the **Environmental Core of the Center of Excellence for Health Disparities Research, West Atlanta Watershed Alliance** and the **English Avenue/Vine City Community Improvement Association**, ECO-Action conducted community-based participatory research and training on sewer, sanitary sewer and combined sewer overflow, green infrastructure and hot spots in NPU-V and NPU-L.

The **Community Engagement Organizing Core** also supported ECO-Action in its work with young people through the Youth Environmental Leadership and Learning (YELL) Initiative. This program trains youth as environmental advocates/ambassadors to promote environmental protection in NPU-V community.

Georgia State University's **Department of Geosciences and Institute of Public Health** supported ECO-Action's Tire Initiative to Reduce and Eliminate Dumping (T.I.R.E.D.). As part of these activities, the team removed more than 3,500 illegally dumped tires from Atlanta neighborhoods while helping to organize community support for the passage of the City of Atlanta Scrap Tire Ordinance.

WORK WITH YOUTH

EPA Region 4 provided two interns Kayla Buchanan and Elyse Peters who worked with ECO-Action during the summer of 2012. Kayla and Elyse were involved in planning Community Forum III and sharing information about ECO-Action's activities through social media.

NEW PROGRAMS

In April 2012, ECO-Action incorporated a new program, **Atlanta Metro Food & Farm Network** (AM-FFN). It is a social enterprise program that provides urban agriculture planning, development and installation services for food projects in metro-Atlanta. In December 2012, AM-FFN received a \$20,000.00 grant to develop a Food Commons 2.0 prototype in the metro-Atlanta area.



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY ACTION INC.

**ANNUAL REPORT ON ACTIVITIES
July 2011- December 2012**



Environmental Community Action Inc. (ECO-Action) is a nonprofit organization working with Georgia communities as they confront environmental health threats. ECO-Action provides organizing assistance and training to people who remain locked out of the traditional circles of power and influence.

ASSISTANCE TO COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

ECO-Action works with communities to provide:

- information, education and strategic development to address environmental health threats, and
- leadership and organization development training to community groups.

ECO-Action's work in communities during this reporting period focused on toxic waste site, landfills, chemical, A sampling of assistance provided to communities between June 2011 and December 2012 appears below:

Whitesville Community Resource and Development Organization

ECO-Action provided community organizing and capacity building assistance to **Whitesville Community Resource and Development Organization** in their efforts to close an existing landfill. Working together, we have reduced the environmental health issues resulting from waste and water pollution onsite.

So Green Today

In July 2012, ECO-Action also planned a Green Awareness Series for the Athens/ Clarke area in collaboration with **So Green Today**. ECO-Action is continuing its efforts in rural NE Georgia particularly in the area of environmental health and toxic chemical safety in rural schools.

Georgia WAND

Georgia Women's Action for New Directions ECO-Action also partnered with Georgia WAND to organize and advocate towards halting the construction of two new nuclear power plants in Burke County. In December, 2012, ECO-Action Board President, Dr. Frank Bove and Executive Director, Dr Yomi Noibi provided testimony at the Public Service Commission hearing in opposition to the construction of the power plants.

Glenn Street Bridge Project

Two community members who completed ECO-Action's *Change Agent Training Program*, have moved from learning to action by forming the

Glenn Street Bridge Project. This concerted community effort addresses environmental and safety issues at a bridge/Norfolk Southern overpass located on Glenn Street between Humphries Street and Metropolitan Avenue in Atlanta.

Chemical Safety

ECO-Action prepared a chemical safety resolution for **State Senator Nan Orrock** for consideration by the State of Georgia General Assembly. This resolution is a pathway for Georgia to develop a Toxic Use Reduction Strategy that would provide incentives to industries and utilities to reduce toxics while facilitating the adoption of safer alternative products, processes, and technologies.



SOUTH ATLANTA FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND OTHER PARTNERSHIPS

In 2008, ECO-Action in partnership with the Dirty Truth Campaign convened the South Atlanta for the Environment (SAFE) Coalition through a Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE Level 1) grant from the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). SAFE is an environmental health collaborative. Under CARE, the SAFE Coalition brought stakeholders together to work collaboratively to identify and reduce exposure to toxics.

Although the project funding was officially expended in April 2011, Community Forum activities continued into 2012. ECO-Action conducted three SAFE Community Forums during this reporting period which continued to build on work done using the CARE grant funds.

SAFE partners and others continued to work with ECO-Action to form a base of support for organizing initiatives across the state. These partners include:

303 Community Coalition/Dirty Truth Campaign
Atlanta Metro Food and Farm Network
Annie E. Casey Foundation/Atlanta Civic Site
Center for Health, Environment, and Justice
The Center for Working Families
Clark Atlanta School of Education
City of Atlanta, Office of Planning
Community Action For A Renewed Environment
Environmental Health Alliance: Be SAFE Campaign
Fulton County, Department of Health and Wellness
Georgia Environmental Protection Agency
Georgia Rivers Network
Georgia Rural Urban Summit
Georgia State University, Institute of Public Health
Georgia Women's Action for New Directions (Georgia WAND)
Glynn Environmental Coalition
Health Care Without Harm
Jobs with Justice
Liberty Tire Recycling Inc.
Metropolitan Atlanta Urban Watershed Institute
Nuclear Watch South (formerly GANE)
One Consulting Group
Peopletown Revitalization Corp
Pirkle Scrap Metal Recycling /
Pittsburgh Community Improvement Association
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Project South: Institution for the Elimination of Sierra Club, Georgia Chapter
Sonoco Recycling
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
United States Environmental Protection Agency:
West Atlanta Watershed Alliance (WAWA)

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A special thanks to the following:

Our consultants, interns and volunteers, Environmental Protection Agency (National and Region IV offices), the Food Commons, Georgia State University, River Network, Sevananda Natural Foods Market. the Southern Partners Fund, West Atlanta Watershed Alliance and **donors like you!**

Thank you for your generosity!

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING

A partial list of conferences workshops and trainings provided during this reporting period appears below:

Georgia's Role in the New Green Economy for the Grassroots Nonprofits Conference in January 2012, sponsored by the Georgia Legal Services.

ECO-Action Community Forum I *Environmental Issues of NPU-V*, held at the Georgia Hills Neighborhood Center, Atlanta, GA., January 31, 2012.

ECO-Action Community Forum II launching the *Tire Initiative to Reduce and Eliminate Dumping (T.I.R.E.D.) Initiative*, held at the Georgia Hills Neighborhood Center, Atlanta, GA, April 24, 2012.

Series of *Strategic Workshops on the Precautionary Principle* for the Proctor Creek Watershed Community, June, July and August, 2012.

ECO-Action Community Forum III on *Air Quality, Monitoring and Your Health*, held at the Georgia Hills Neighborhood Center, Atlanta, GA., July 24, 2012.

Environmental Justice and Air Permitting Training, US EPA, August 15, 2012, Atlanta GA.

Partnership for Sustainable Communities, August 29, 2012 Atlanta, GA.

Environmental Justice and Precautionary Principle: Tools for Reducing Environmental Health Threats in Low Income and Communities of Color, Georgia Youth For Environmental Solutions, Fall 2012 Leadership Summit, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA. November 9-13, 2012.

Urban Health Disparities Summit: Shaping Action to Reduce Disparities at Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA, March 7, 2013.

Proctor North Avenue Community Workshop, hosted by The Conservation Fund, March 11th-12, 2013.