



# The Overbrook Foundation

## 2014 Annual Report on Grants

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\*\* Elected November 2014

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- Nikole LaVelle,  
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*The Overbrook Foundation is a progressive family foundation that supports organizations advancing human rights and conserving the natural environment.*

January 2015

The Annual Report on Grants provides a concise summary of all grants awarded in 2014 and offers a preview of program direction for the upcoming year.

The Environment Program continued to invest significant amounts in its Biodiversity Conservation in Latin America and its Sustainable/Consumption Production initiatives with new grants totaling \$732,500 and \$855,000 respectively. The new Movement Building initiative saw investments of \$566,013 in 2014 to support several efforts and organizations, including Building Equity & Alignment for Impact (BEA4Impact) and support for local organizers of the People's Climate March. \$75,000 was awarded to grantees falling in the category of Public TV, Radio, Other Media. Including \$717,500 in pledges from previous years, the Human Rights Program awarded \$435,000 in support of Domestic Human Rights, \$285,000 for advancing Marriage Equality, \$463,000 for Reproductive Justice work, \$225,000 for new grants in the Money and Politics initiative, \$145,000 for Media grantees and \$552,500 for International Human Rights including support of human rights defenders and women's rights.

Events in 2014 reinforced Overbrook's determination to join reform efforts around money in politics and to make movement building an element of its grantmaking across programs. The 2014 Supreme Court ruling in *McCutcheon v. FEC* opened the flood gates of money spent in elections even wider than its earlier decision in *Citizens United*. Nearly \$4 billion was spent on Congressional elections in 2014; once again setting a record and once again demonstrating the disproportionate impact that "big" and "dark" money now plays in our electoral process. The move to combat the corrosive impact of money in politics also grew in 2014 with a notable expansion in the number and breadth of organizations addressing the many facets of the problem. Overbrook awarded multi-year grants to the Collaborative Communications Initiative of the Piper Fund and United Republic Education Fund to continue building the Foundation's cohort of grantees working on money in politics. Projections for 2015 would build total grant support for the Money in Politics Initiative to between \$350,000 and \$400,000 as Staff continues to research potential grantees.

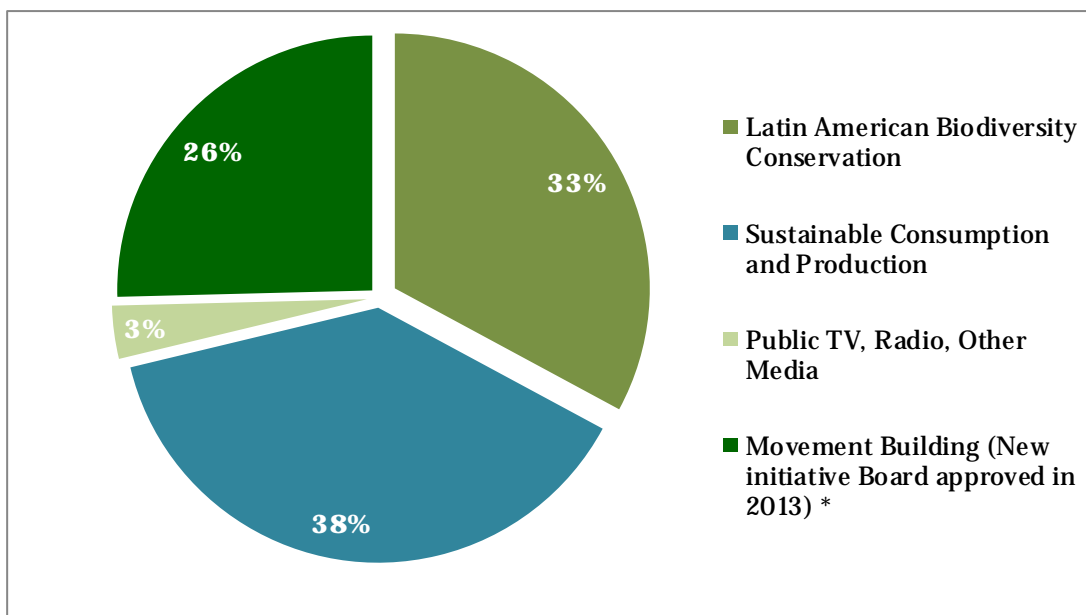
Building Equity & Alignment for Impact (BEA4Impact) continues as the central element of the Foundation's investment in movement building. With significant financial and staff support from Overbrook, BEA continued to grow, hosting several panel discussions, a full group strategy meeting, and planning sessions that supported cross-sector collaboration leading up to the People's Climate March. BEA4Impact is a grassroots-led initiative that builds equitable partnerships and funding structures among multiple sectors, all in the name of building a stronger movement for environmental and progressive change. In 2015, BEA will continue to work on re-envisioning strategies to achieve greater collective impact.

In 2014, our strategic planning review considered the changing landscape in which Overbrook operates, lessons learned since the last strategic review, the strategies that best respond to that changing landscape, and where emerging opportunities exist for Overbrook's grantmaking. In 2015, Staff will add to its already completed substantive program reviews by undertaking analyses of Overbrook's initiatives in biodiversity conservation and sustainable consumption practices in the U.S.; examining its role in advancing LGBT rights as the marriage equality campaign rapidly approaches completion; and considering possible roles for Foundation grantmaking around anti-trafficking and criminal justice/mass incarceration reform. The need to consider reform of the criminal justice system and to address mass incarceration as a possible Foundation program focus is made more urgent by events in 2014 such as the deaths of Michael Brown in Ferguson, MO and Eric Garner in Staten Island at the hands of the police. Activism inspired by these events is creating a strong challenge to the ongoing dehumanization and criminalization of communities of color, particularly African American communities, and connecting to other struggles for human rights and justice that intersect with current program areas and areas under exploration.

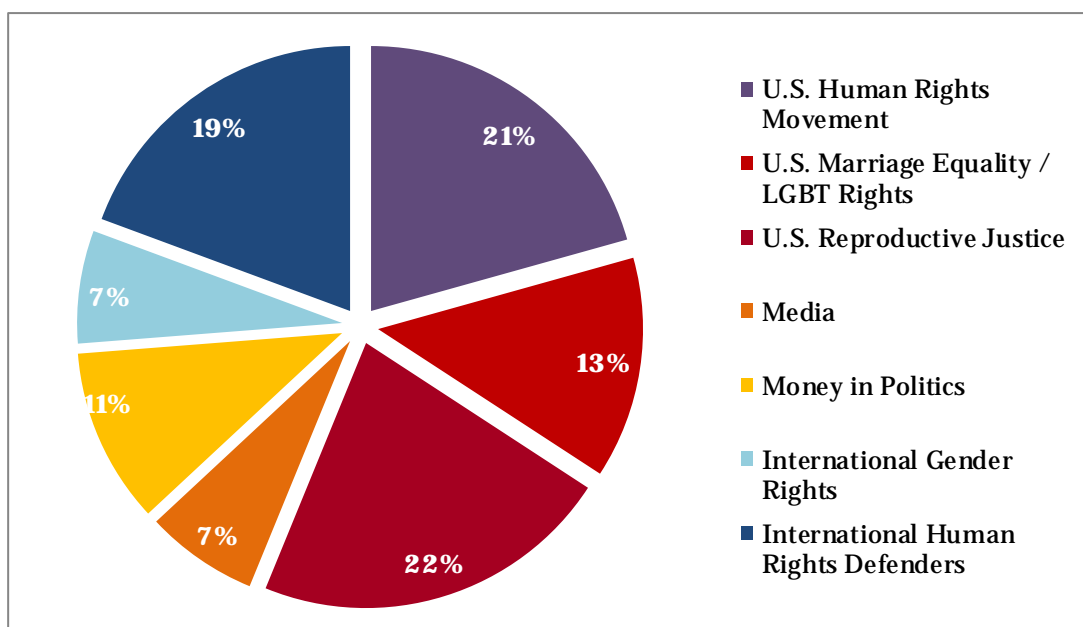
The goal is to have a discussion by Staff and Directors about how best to shape grantmaking programs moving forward and to announce those decisions after the Board's final meeting of the year next November.



## Environment Grants Awarded 2014



## Human Rights Grants Awarded 2014



***In 2014, The Overbrook Foundation's Environment and Human Rights Programs Awarded 93 Grants Totaling \$4,334,013.***

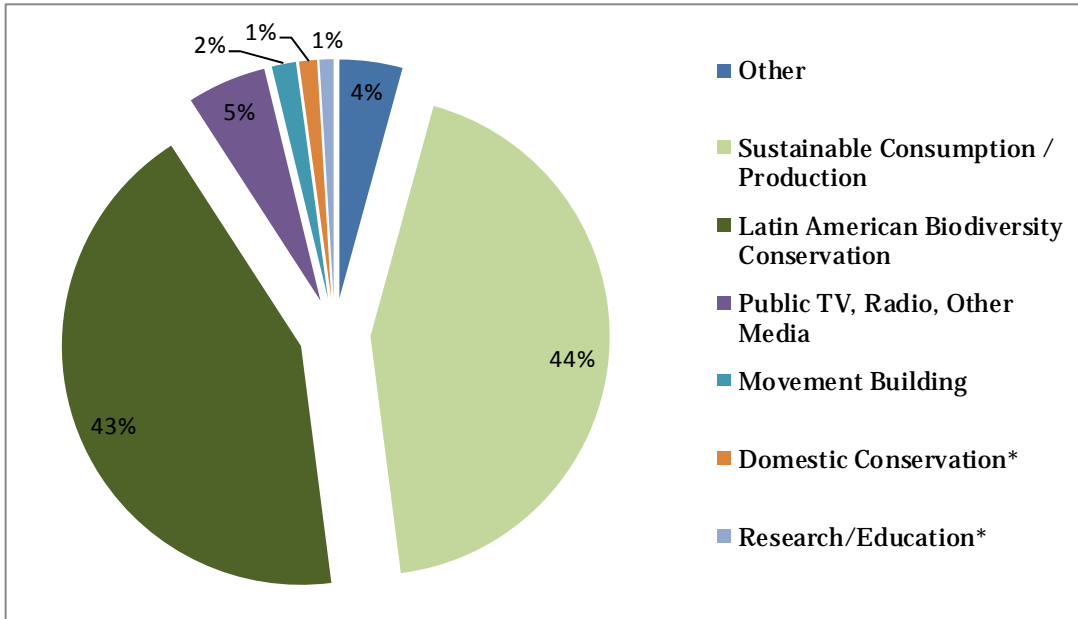
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***There were 50 grants awarded in the Environment Program, for a total of \$2,228,513.***

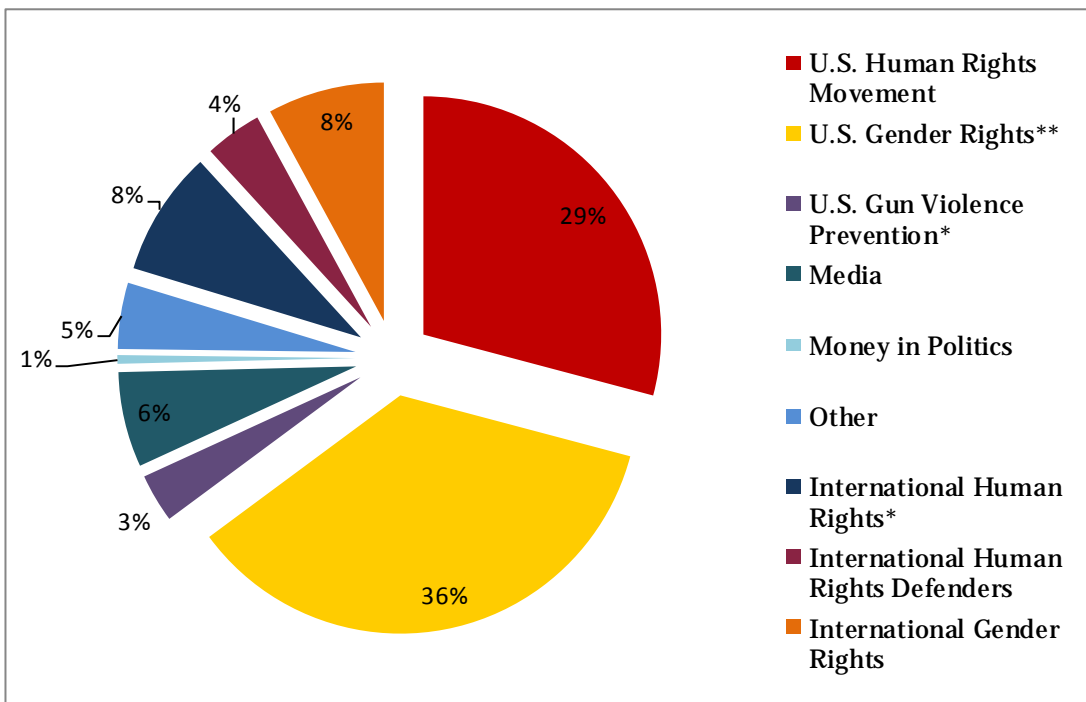
***There were 49 grants awarded in the Human Rights Program, for a total of \$2,105,500.***

*\* Includes \$200,000 of 2015 funding to the Building Equity & Alignment Initiative*

## Environment Grants Awarded: 2000-2014



## Human Rights Grants Awarded: 2000-2014



***Between 2000 and 2014, The Overbrook Foundation's Environment and Human Rights Programs Awarded Approximately \$65,813,613 in Grants.***

*\* Categories are currently Inactive*

*\*\* U.S. Gender Rights includes: Marriage Equality/LGBT Rights, Reproductive Justice, and HIV/AIDS*

# The Human Rights Program: Grants Awarded in 2014



The Foundation's Human Rights Program supports organizations committed to strengthening and growing a human rights movement and culture in the United States. Overbrook has played a leadership role funding this work since 2005. In addition, building on its long history of promoting gender rights in the U.S., the domestic program currently focuses both on organizations growing a movement for reproductive justice and those advancing marriage equality for same-sex couples. Media reform efforts and non-profit media continue to receive Foundation support, particularly those challenging the corrosive influence of money on the political landscape (formalized in 2013 as a new initiative by the Board of Directors). Internationally, the Foundation's Human Rights Program funds organizations that defend human rights defenders and promote gender rights in Latin America.

<p><b><u>Domestic Human Rights</u></b></p> <p><b><u>US Human Rights Movement</u></b></p> <p><b><u>American Civil Liberties Union Foundation</u></b> <i>ACLU Human Rights Program</i> \$60,000</p> <p><b><u>Innocence Project</u></b> <i>General Operating Support: Uniting Science and Law on Behalf of Justice</i> \$40,000</p> <p><b><u>Leadership Conference Education Fund</u></b> <i>Human Rights Policy and Education Project</i> \$40,000</p> <p><b><u>National Economic &amp; Social Rights Initiative</u></b> <i>General Operating Support</i> \$40,000</p> <p><b><u>NEO Philanthropy</u></b> <i>The Sunrise Initiative</i> \$150,000</p> <p><b><u>New York Civil Liberties Union Foundation</u></b> <i>Advancing New Yorkers' Human Rights</i> \$35,000</p> <p><b><u>Urban Justice Center</u></b> <i>General Operating Support for Human Rights Project</i> \$30,000</p> <p><b><u>US Human Rights Network</u></b> <i>General Operating Support</i> \$40,000</p>	<p><b><u>Gender Rights</u></b> <i>Marriage Equality/LGBT Rights</i></p> <p><b><u>Freedom to Marry</u></b> <i>General Operating Support</i> \$50,000</p> <p><b><u>Gay &amp; Lesbian Advocates &amp; Defenders</u></b> <i>National Marriage Work</i> \$25,000</p> <p><b><u>Lambda Legal Defense &amp; Education Fund</u></b> <i>General Operating Support</i> \$60,000</p> <p><b><u>National Gay and Lesbian Task Force</u></b> <i>Task Force Academy Power Summit in Oregon 2014</i> \$25,000</p> <p><b><u>Proteus Fund</u></b> <b><u>Civil Marriage Collaborative</u></b> \$125,000</p> <p>Total Amount in Active Grants for Marriage Equality/LGBT Rights: \$285,000</p> <p>Reproductive Justice</p> <p><b><u>Advocates for Youth</u></b> <i>Promoting the Reproductive Justice Perspective through Youth Mobilization and Engagement</i> \$40,000</p> <p><b><u>Barnard College</u></b> <i>Activist Research Conference - May 2015</i> \$10,000</p> <p><b><u>Center for Reproductive Rights</u></b> <i>U.S. Program</i> \$35,000</p> <p><b><u>Choice USA</u></b> <i>General Operating Support</i> \$25,000</p>	<p><b><u>Civil Liberties and Public Policy Program/Hampshire College</u></b> <i>General Operating Support</i> \$30,000</p> <p><b><u>CoreAlign</u></b> <i>General Operating Support</i> \$40,000</p> <p><b><u>Forward Together</u></b> <i>General Operating Support</i> \$35,000</p> <p><b><u>Groundswell Fund</u></b> <i>The Catalyst Fund: Resources for Women of Color in Reproductive Justice</i> \$75,000</p> <p><b><u>Human Rights Project for Girls</u></b> <i>General Operating Support</i> \$20,000</p> <p><b><u>National Advocates for Pregnant Women</u></b> <i>General Operating Support</i> \$40,000</p> <p><b><u>National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum</u></b> <i>General Operating Support</i> \$38,000</p> <p><b><u>The University of Oklahoma Women's and Gender Studies Program Center for Social Justice</u></b> <i>Take Root: Red State Perspectives on Reproductive Justice</i> \$10,000</p> <p><b><u>Third Wave Fund</u></b> <i>General Operating Support</i> \$30,000</p> <p><b><u>Western States Center</u></b> <i>Gender Justice Program</i> \$35,000</p> <p>Total Amount in Active Grants for Reproductive Justice: \$463,000</p>
<p>Total Amount in Active Grants for US Human Rights Movement: \$435,000</p>		



# The Human Rights Program: Grants Awarded in 2014

## Media

### Free Press

2013 Free Press Media Reform  
Activities: General Operating Support  
\$45,000

### New America Media (Pacific News Services)

General Support For Transition Plan  
& Implementation  
\$25,000

### The New Press

For Books Related to Money in Politics  
\$35,000

### WNYC

On the Media  
\$40,000

Total Amount in Active Grants for  
Media: \$145,000

## Money in Politics

### Brennan Center for Justice of NYU School of Law

Money in Politics  
\$75,000

### Proteus Fund, Inc.

Piper Fund's Collaborative  
Communications Initiative  
\$75,000

### United Republic Education Fund (UREF)

General Operating Support  
\$75,000

Total Amount in Active Grants for  
Money in Politics : \$225,000

**Total Amount in Active Grants  
for Domestic Human Rights Pro-  
gram: \$1,553,000**

## International Human Rights

### Human Rights Defenders

### Amazon Conservation Team

Linking Human Rights and  
Environmental Protection in  
Columbia: Designing a First Contact  
Contingency Plan with Isolated Tribes  
in the Amazon  
\$17,500

### American Jewish World Service (AJWS)

Promoting Human Rights for  
Marginalized People in Latin America  
\$50,000

### Center for Justice and International Law

General Operating Support  
\$25,000

### Committee to Protect Journalists

General Operating Support  
\$20,000

### Environmental Defender Law Center

General Operating Support  
\$50,000

### Human Rights Watch

Combating Human Rights Violations  
in Mexico  
\$45,000

### Indian Law Resource Center

Protecting Maya Q'eqchi' Lands and  
Resources in Guatemala  
\$35,000

### International Service for Human Rights

Promoting a Safe and Enabling  
Environment for Human Rights  
Defenders in Meso- and Latin  
America: Consultation on a Model  
Law for Human Rights Defenders  
\$25,000

### Just Associates, Inc.

Mesoamerican Women Human Rights  
Defenders Initiative  
\$25,000

### Peace Brigades International - USA

Protecting Human Rights Defenders  
in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and  
Colombia  
\$30,000

### Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights

General Operating Support  
\$40,000

### WITNESS

Promoting Human Rights in the  
Americas Through Video-f0r-Change  
\$45,000

Total Amount in Active Grants for In-  
ternational Human Rights Defenders:  
\$407,500

## Gender Rights

### Center for Reproductive Rights

Latin America and the Caribbean  
Program  
\$35,000

### Disability Rights International

Women's Rights Advocacy Initiative in  
Mexico and Guatemala  
\$45,000

### International Planned Parenthood Federation

General Operating Support  
\$40,000

### Women's Link Worldwide

General Operating Support  
\$25,000

Total Amount in Active Grants for  
International Reproductive Rights:  
\$145,000

**Total Amount in Active Grants  
for International Human Rights  
Program: \$552,500**

**Total Amount in Active Grants  
for the Human Rights Program:  
\$2,105,500**



# The Environment Program: Grants Awarded in 2014



The Foundation's Environment Program focuses on biodiversity conservation in Latin America and sustainable production and consumption in the United States. In Latin America, its geographic focus includes Brazil, Ecuador, Mexico and, in certain circumstances, the nations of Central America. The Environment Program seeks out efforts that support innovative ideas in sustainability, particularly around the production and consumption of materials. Criteria applied to potential projects include: potential impact, level of innovation, the opportunity represented in funded group/leadership to accomplish the work proposed.

## Latin American Biodiversity Conservation

### Amazon Conservation Team

*Linking Human Rights and Environmental Protection in Colombia: Designing a first contact contingency plan with isolated tribes of the Amazon*  
\$17,500

### Amazon Watch

*Sacred Headwaters Campaign*  
\$50,000

### Center for Responsible Travel (CREST)

*The Sinaloa Sur Initiative: Protecting Critical Ecosystems through Development of Sustainable Coastal Tourism, Phase 3*  
\$20,000

### EARTHWORKS

*Protecting Ecosystems and Communities from Dirty Mining*  
\$35,000

### Environmental Investigation Agency

*General Operating Support*  
\$55,000

### Fundacion Cordillera Tropical

*Incentivizing private land conservation and restoration in Sangay National Park, Ecuador including general operating support*  
\$35,000

### Grupo Ecologico Sierra Gorda, I.A.P

*Strategies to Conserve the Bio-Capacity of the Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve, Mexico*  
\$25,000

### IMAFLORA

*Valuation of the Extractive Production, as an Instrument for Consolidating Protected Areas in the Region of Terra do Meio / Pará.*  
\$45,000

### Mongabay Org Corp

*Special Reporting Initiative (SRI): Is Brazil's success displacing deforestation to other Amazon countries? General Operating Support*  
\$50,000

### New York Botanical Garden

*Professional Woodsmen for Managed Forests in Amazonian Brazil*  
\$50,000

### People and Plants International

*Community-based forest management in central Mexico*  
\$60,000

### Pronatura Noroeste A.C.

*Protection of the Cabo Pulmo National Park Region, Baja California Sur, México: Workplan for 20145*  
\$50,000

### Rainforest Action Network

*Rainforest Agribusiness Campaign*  
\$40,000

### Root Capital

*General Operating Support for activities in Ecuador, Mexico, and Nicaragua*  
\$75,000

### Sustainable Agriculture Network

*General Operating Support*  
\$60,000

### The Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice

*General Operating Support*  
\$15,000

### Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

*Improving Rural Livelihoods through Natural Resource Conservation in the Pantanal of Brazil and Yasuni National Park, Ecuador*  
\$50,000

Total Amount in Active Grants for Latin America Biodiversity Conservation: \$732,500

## Public TV, Radio, Other Media

### Grist.org

*General Operating Support*  
\$55,000

### Island Press

*General Operating Support*  
\$20,000

Total Amount in Active Grants for Public TV, Radio, Other Media: \$75,000

## Movement Building

### Building Equity & Alignment Initiative \*

*General Operating Support (2014)*  
\$200,000

### Building Equity & Alignment Initiative \*

*General Operating Support (2014)*  
\$46,013

### Building Equity & Alignment Initiative

*General Operating Support (2015)*  
\$200,000

### Climate Justice Alliance

*General Operating Support*  
\$50,000

### UPROSE

*People's March for Climate Justice*  
\$50,000

### The Wildfire Project

*General Operating Support*  
\$20,000

\* Reflects both the \$200,000 approved at the November 5, 2013 Board meeting and the \$46,013 remaining in the Foundation's separately maintained fiscal sponsor account on December 31, 2013.

Total Amount in Active Grants for Movement Building: \$566,013



# The Environment Program: Grants Awarded in 2014

## Sustainable Consumption and Production

### 350.org

General Operating Support  
\$40,000

### ALIGN

Transform Don't Trash Project  
\$30,000

### Alliance for Climate Education (ACE)

General Operating Support  
\$50,000

### American Sustainable Business Council

General Operating Support for Movement Building  
\$25,000

### As You Sow

Consumer Packaging and E-waste  
\$35,000

### Clean Production Action

General Operating Support  
\$30,000

### Corporate Accountability International

Real Food Media Project  
\$25,000

### Dogwood Alliance

The Paper Campaign/Carbon Canopy  
\$15,000

### Environmental Paper Network

General Operating Support  
\$20,000

### ForestEthics

ForestEthics: OilNet and Business Ethics Network  
\$55,000

### Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA)

\$30,000 for General Operating Support and \$20,000 for Ananda Tan's work with GAIA and BEA-I  
\$50,000

### Green Press Initiative

General Operating Support  
\$25,000

### Groundswell

General Operating Support  
\$40,000

### Health Care Without Harm

Healthier Hospitals Initiative  
\$50,000

### In Our Backyards (ioby.org)

General Operating Support  
\$50,000

### Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy

Don't Waste LA Campaign  
\$35,000

### Move NY

General Operating Support  
\$20,000

### Natural Resources Defense Council

Promoting Extended Producer Responsibility and Sustainable School Food and Packaging  
\$70,000

### New York Harbor Foundation

Billion Oyster Project  
\$35,000

### Product Stewardship Institute, Inc.

Extend Producer Responsibility for Batteries, Carpet, Packaging & Paint  
\$20,000

### Sustainable South Bronx

Recycling and Green Jobs: Taking it to the Next Level  
\$15,000

### The Food Tank

General Operating Support  
\$25,000

### The Story of Stuff

General Operating Support  
\$40,000

### U.S. Green Building - New York Chapter

General Operating Support  
\$40,000

### UPSTREAM

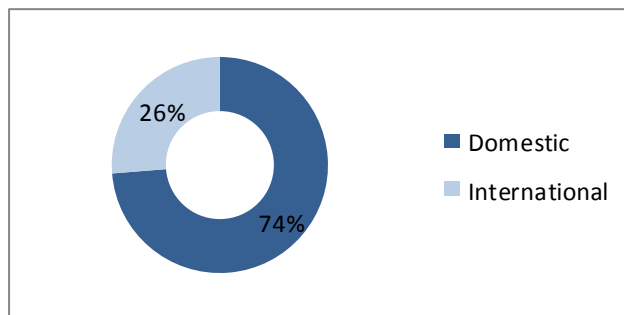
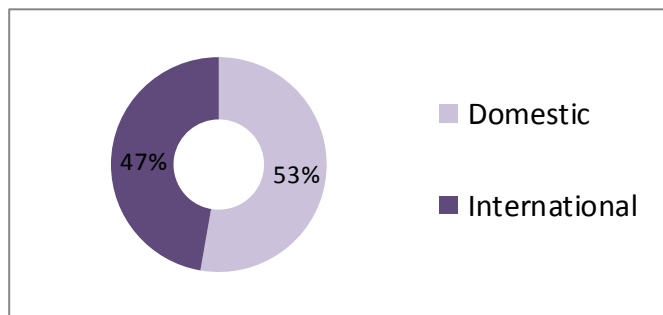
Campaign for Sustainable Products and Packaging  
\$15,000

Total Amount in Active Grants for Sustainable Consumption and Production: \$855,000

**Total Amount in Active Grants for the Environment Program: \$2,228,513**

## Environment Program

## Human Rights Program



# The Building Equity and Alignment Initiative An Update for 2014



## Equity + Alignment = Impact: A BEA-Initiative Update

*(BEA4Impact = Building Equity and Alignment for Impact)*

The ability of grassroots base-building organizations and big green groups to effectively collaborate to advance common goals has been a persistent obstacle within the environmental movement. In summer 2013, grassroots groups, large, national green groups and philanthropy launched a collaborative initiative, *Building Equity and Alignment for Impact*, to address this challenge, convening around a simple hypothesis—that to increase the collective impact of the environmental movement, we need to increase alignment and equity within the movement overall. In other words, grassroots organizations must be able to expand and contribute their base-building capacity in a meaningful way (equity) and various parts of the movement must be working with a common strategy and purpose (alignment).

Since launching and throughout the past year, *BEA4Impact* has grown and developed its multi-sector group of grassroots, green group and funder representatives, continuing to offer opportunities for diverse participants from across the movement to build together toward the initiative's long-term goals:

- Breaking down historic barriers among big green, grassroots and funding sectors, building authentic relationships toward greater alignment and solidarity;
- Supporting the culture within philanthropy toward a base-building, bottom-up, collaborative approach, and away from a top-down, funder-driven approach;
- Expanding the pool of resources available to the environment and overlapping progressive issues;
- Shifting that growing pool of available resources to more equitably service the grassroots organizing sector.

**November 2014** marked *BEA4Impact's* second full group convening with 55 participants, including new voices from all three sectors plus “mid-sized” greens, labor and civil rights groups. Part of the agenda included a preliminary review of on-the-ground case studies since the initiative's launch, proving the positive impact of authentic cross-sector relationship-building and partnership in the field. The group also developed a multi-year strategy plan that includes mapping resources and needs throughout the movement, expanding communications infrastructure for environmental justice work, and continuing to provide shared spaces for authentic relationship-building and equitably-partnered work among grassroots organizations, big green groups and funders. Participants are currently refining the strategy, approving timelines, and moving forward on workplans that will push the initiative to facilitate and track resource shifts and impacts, as well as expand its scope across sectors.

Generously, green group participants Greenpeace, NRDC and Sierra Club all came forward with financial and in-kind support for *BEA4Impact* in 2014. This support is not only symbolically significant, but builds on generous support from a variety of foundations over the past two years to ensure grassroots participants continue to lead the initiative's work, development and convenings.

The initiative remains committed to a process whereby every participant represents not her or himself, but a broader network or coalition, attending as that network/coalition's representative – ensuring the widest reach possible for the BEA across the movement. And critically, *BEA4Impact* remains committed to **supporting all grassroots participants with travel and work stipends**, ensuring it is just as easy for them to attend and participate fully as it is for representatives from foundations and larger green groups.

2014 also marked *BEA4Impact's* first year working with fiscal sponsor NEO Philanthropy, a collaboration which has helped immensely as the initiative's projects and leadership grow. Understanding the conflict between asking already over-loaded groups to take on one more project, and the critical importance of having leaders from historically under-resourced organizations lead this effort, NEO is helping *BEA4Impact* ensure it can continue acting as a leveraging tool for the movement – resourcing its grassroots participants to help engender a much larger cultural shift within the movement over time. Specifically, this means putting leadership in the hands of the grassroots groups themselves – with foundation allies shifting to a support role.



## The Building Equity and Alignment Initiative An Update for 2014



The Overbrook Foundation is modeling this shift; after BEA's launch in 2013, Overbrook's practice has been to take a supporting, accompanying role with grassroots leaders shaping BEA's development. And in late January 2015, Overbrook will participate as a founding member in a BEA4Impact-led "allied funder" meeting, in which funders will discuss winning strategies for the movement and ways in which philanthropy can contribute efficiently and effectively.

***Building Equity and Alignment for Impact*** is the first serious effort, possibly ever, to really take on the funding disparity and historic barriers that exist between the green groups and the environmental grassroots organizing sector. Success on both fronts can help us all achieve even more victories, raise the level of our work, and build the linkages that can make our movement a true force on the national level.