



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Amy Rutledge
(305) 667-6350 ext. 204
amy@fundersnetwork.org

INNOVATIVE MATCHING FUND ACCELERATES CITY SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS

Fund Awards \$245,000 to Six Community Partnerships

Coral Gables, Fla. —Defying common wisdom that gridlock rules the day, communities are quietly moving sustainability projects from concept to reality with the enthusiastic support of local foundations. The Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities and its partner, the Urban Sustainability Directors Network, are pleased to announce the second round of matching grants to community projects that are initiated by local government sustainability offices and place-based foundations.

Six projects were funded by the Local Sustainability Matching Fund, a project of the Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities. A total of \$245,000 was awarded. The communities, projects, and philanthropic partners are:

- **Binghamton, N.Y.:** \$50,000 to promote energy efficiency retrofits and to develop a task force to coordinate community engagement in the implementation of Binghamton's Energy and Climate Action Plan. (Stewart W. and Willma C. Hoyt Foundation)
- **Milwaukee, Wisc.:** \$45,000 to support Midwest BikeShare, Inc., as it implements the Milwaukee BikeShare Demonstration Project, which will show how the city, funders, and community partners can work together to identify, fund, and implement sustainability strategies. (*The Brico Fund)
- **Portland, Ore.:** \$25,000 to advance social equity by integrating equity metrics, criteria, and implementation into the 2013 revision to the Portland / Multnomah County Climate Action Plan. (*Bullitt Foundation)
- **Providence, R.I.:** \$50,000 to support the *Lots of Hope* program, which will transform vacant, city-owned lots into thriving centers of urban agriculture and pilot small-scale composting in Providence neighborhoods. (*Rhode Island Foundation)
- **St. Louis, Mo.:** \$50,000 to encourage and promote collaboration around local sustainability actions through the creation of a new sustainability funders network, development of a sustainable neighborhood toolkit of resources, and launch of a community awareness and engagement effort to promote implementation of the city's Sustainability Plan. (*William A. Kerr Foundation, *Incarnate Word Foundation, *Trio Foundation of St. Louis, *Greater St. Louis Community Foundation)
- **Yonkers and New Rochelle, N.Y.:** \$25,000 to support a joint project to create a training, marketing, and policy campaign for on-site leaf mulching that will reduce waste, cut greenhouse gas emissions, and generate cost-savings for property owners, landscapers, and taxpayers. (*Westchester Community Foundation)

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The Local Sustainability Matching Fund is a collaborative effort of the Funders' Network, the Urban Sustainability Directors Network, Kendeda Fund, New York Community Trust, Summit Foundation, and Surdna Foundation. The Fund is designed to catalyze partnerships between local governments and local, place-based foundations to advance community-based sustainability initiatives.

According Diane Ives, advisor, Kendeda Fund, "The Local Sustainability Matching Fund is advancing efforts of local communities to green their cities and counties. The local passion and dedication demonstrated in these projects will create new models for how to live sustainably. We are eager to see the impact of this work at the local level and how it gets replicated in other urban settings around the country."

To attract additional interest in urban sustainability projects, the Fund is housing an Idea Bank on the Funders' Network website to share summaries of the varied project applications submitted over the past year. "Local communities are leading the way when it comes to sustainability and there's a demand for knowledge," says Ben Starrett, executive director of the Funders' Network. "Sharing the ideas and projects being generated in communities across the country is an important part of the work of the Local Sustainability Matching Fund."

For more information about the Local Sustainability Matching Fund, please visit the Funders' Network website at <http://www.fundersnetwork.org/participate/green-building/local-sustainability-matching-fund>. Funders interested in becoming a part of the Local Sustainability Matching Fund should contact Ann Wallace at the Funders' Network.

[About the Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities](#) *The Funders' Network exists to inspire, strengthen and expand funding and philanthropic leadership that yield environmentally sustainable, socially equitable, and economically prosperous regions and communities.*

[About the Urban Sustainability Directors Network](#) *The Urban Sustainability Directors Network is a North American peer-to-peer network of 100 plus municipal sustainability directors who support each other in advancing the practice of urban sustainability.*

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**Pending board approval.*