ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTMAKING TAXONOMY

GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS

- INTERNATIONAL (all regions outside of the United States)
    - Africa (Eastern Africa, Middle Africa, Northern Africa, Southern Africa, Western Africa)
    - Antarctic
    - Arctic
    - Asia (Central Asia, Eastern Asia, Southeastern Asia, Southern Asia, Western Asia / Middle East)
    - Central America & Caribbean
    - Europe (Eastern Europe, Northern Europe, Southern Europe, Western Europe)
    - Global / multi-region (cross-regional international grants)
    - North America (all grants to Mexico, Canada, and cross-border grants to the United States)
    - Oceania (including Australia)
    - South America
- DOMESTIC (all regions within the United States)
    - Gulf Coast, Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, Northwest, Pacific Coast, Southwest
    - Federal Level / multi-region (all cross-regional domestic grants)

ISSUE AREAS

The following 17 categories have been used to analyze grants in this report and past *Tracking the Field* reports. Each grant is placed in the category in which it fits most closely. This categorization has been developed in discussion with other environmental funding networks internationally, allowing for easier comparison between research and publications on different continents. These issue descriptions were directly taken from the Environmental Funders Network (EFN) 2012 report *Where the Green Grants Went 5: Patterns of UK Funding for Environmental and Conservation Work*.

★ Starred issue areas were not included in the UK report.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE

Climate & Atmosphere
Most of the funding in this category is given to work on some aspect of climate change, with a much smaller amount to work on ozone depletion. Also included in this category are the issues of acid rain, air pollution, and local air quality.

Energy
This category includes alternative and renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and conservation, fossil fuels, hydro-electric schemes, the oil and gas industries, and nuclear power. It is often paired with "Climate & Atmosphere."

Transportation
Transportation includes all aspects of transportation systems, including public transport systems, transport planning, policy on aviation, freight, road-building, shipping, alternatives to car use and initiatives like car pools and car clubs, the promotion of cycling and walking, and work on vehicle fuel economy.

LAND

Biodiversity & Species Preservation
This is a broad category, focused on work that protects a particular species or set of species. It includes botanical gardens and arboretums; research on botany and zoology; protection of birds and their habitats; marine wildlife, such as whales, dolphins, and sharks; protection of endangered species, such as rhinoceros and elephants; protection of globally important biodiversity hotspots, including the use of refuges, reserves, and other habitat conservation projects; and wildlife trusts.

Terrestrial Ecosystems & Land Use
As with "Biodiversity & Species Preservation" preservation, this is a broad category encompassing land purchases and stewardship; national or regional parks; landscape restoration and landscape-scale conservation efforts; land use planning; tree planting, forestry, and reducing deforestation; and the impacts of mining.

WATER

Coastal & Marine Ecosystems
As the name suggests, this category includes both the open ocean and coastal wetland systems. These systems include fisheries; aquaculture; coastal lands, deltas, and estuaries; marine protected areas; and marine pollution (such as marine dumping).

Fresh Water & Inland Water Ecosystems
This category covers lakes and rivers; canals, reservoirs, and other inland water systems; groundwater contamination and water conservation; and wetlands.

SYSTEMS

Material Consumption & Waste Management
This category covers reducing consumption levels; redefining economic growth; waste reduction, sustainable design, and sustainable production; recycling and composting; and all aspects of waste disposal, including incinerators and landfills.

Population*
This category is for grants related to awareness and debate surrounding global population growth and lowering the rate of human population growth as it connects with protecting the environment.

Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems
This remains a very broad category. It includes organic and other forms of sustainable farming, training and research to help farmers in developing countries, control of the food chain, initiatives opposed to factory farming, horticultural organizations and projects, education on agriculture for children and adults (e.g., city farms), opposition to the use of genetically modified crops and food irradiation, food safety and the genetic diversity of agriculture (including seed banks), and soil conservation.

Sustainable Communities
Grants included in this category support urban green spaces and parks, community gardens, built environment projects, and community-based sustainability work.

Trade & Finance
The "Trade & Finance" category encompasses work on corporate-led globalization and international trade policy; efforts to reform public financial institutions (such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and Export Credit Agencies); similar work directed at the lending policies of private banks; initiatives surrounding the reduction of developing country debt; and local economic development projects and economic re-localization, such as micro-finance organizations.

HEALTH AND JUSTICE

Environmental Health*
Grants tagged "Environmental Health" encompass grants that work toward an environment that supports public health. While many of the other issue areas impact health, these grants are more specifically targeting environmental factors through a health-focused lens. "Environmental Health" may be related to improving environmental health through the food system (reduced toxics in food, healthier eating, etc.), through water quality, or through air quality.

Environmental Justice*
"Environmental Justice" grants are for the "fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies," as defined by the Environmental Protection Agency.[1]

Indigenous Populations / Communities*
"Indigenous Populations / Communities" grants focus on protecting the environment for indigenous populations, both within the United States and abroad. These grants include fighting for the rights of indigenous groups over their land, water, or minerals, or other community rights relating to the environment.

Toxics
This category covers all the main categories of toxics impacting the environment and human health, including hazardous waste, heavy metals, pesticides, herbicides, radioactive wastes, persistent organic pollutants, household chemicals, other industrial pollutants, and noise pollution.

OTHER

General Environment / Multi-Issue Work
There remain grants that are difficult to allocate to specific categories, generally because they take the form of core funding to an organization that works on a range of different issues (e.g., The Nature Conservancy, Natural Resources Defense Council, etc.), or because the grant supports environmental media titles (e.g., The Ecologist, Resurgence) or environmental education projects covering a wide range of issues. Some grants provided to generalist re-granting organizations are also included in this category, as it is not possible to identify which issues will be supported when the funds are re-granted.

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1. http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/.

STRATEGIES

Advocacy

This strategy is for grants to organizations or programs that promote public support for a cause or idea. This includes alliance / coalition building, raising public awareness, building or enhancing constituency, encouraging and catalyzing action toward broad scale change.

Grassroots Organizing

This is for grants that specifically help build the capacity of local communities to identify their own shared problems and take actions to solve those problems. This includes mobilizing and generating momentum, catalyzing action toward specific projects or building effective leadership within local communities.

Capacity Building / General Operating

This category is only for general support grants or grants that are given to strengthen the grantee as an organization. This can include supporting an existing or new staff member, purchasing supplies, or other general organization needs. Grants to enhance a specific program do not fall under this category.

Communications / Media

Grants that were tagged in this category cover work targeted specifically at generating or influencing media coverage. This can also include the organization of events and conferences. This strategy also includes the creation of a grantee's communication tools, such as webcasts or interactive websites.

Education / Youth Organizing

Education grants include environmental education for children inside and outside of the classroom. This category is for coaching or training services of educators, the public, etc. It also includes informational services and experiences for the public and youth specifically, such as science or environmental camps.

Litigation

Grants marked "Litigation" focus on legal support and assistance for expert legal counsel relating to environmental protection.

Public Policy

This category is primarily for grants aimed at the development of standards, improving policy management practices, reforming policy at any level, support for international agreements, and participation in regulatory processes. It is distinguished from "Advocacy / Organizing / Movement Building" in that this category implies the focus on a specific policy.

Research: Scientific / Environmental

This category is used for grants that build a base of knowledge or develop a device. This includes conducting a study, assessment, investigation, or developing information and jumps in technology. It also includes any activity relating to collecting data or monitoring environmental effects.

Stewardship / Acquisition / Preservation

This category is for the general protection or purchasing of space (land, estuaries, etc.) or rights of use to protect land, improve management, restore ecosystems, or eradicate invasive species. It is generally a broader category than "Research" and is not necessarily associated with on-the-ground protection or management.

ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY TAXONOMY

ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY programs contribute to the development of awareness, knowledge, and attitudes about nature and environmental issues that lead to positive personal and collective decisions and actions.

AUDIENCE

- Early Childhood (ages 0–5)
- School Age (grades K–12)
- University
- Adult

IMPACT AREAS

Conservation

Conservation outcomes include those that increase environmental knowledge, improve environmental awareness and attitudes, and inspire positive environmental actions that lead to improvements in environmental quality.

Education

Education outcomes encompass improved academic performance, broadly defined. Specific outcomes can include greater STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) literacy, higher standardized test scores, and increased school engagement for students. Education outcomes may be achieved through programs that support teacher professional development and improve school grounds and other outdoor learning spaces.

Health & Wellness

Health outcomes are improvements in physical, mental, emotional, and social health and wellness. Specific outcomes can include improved nutrition and physical fitness, reduced stress and anxiety, recovery from physical or psychological trauma, and greater awareness and understanding of personal and environmental health.

Social Justice

Social justice outcomes expand access and opportunity for underserved communities and underrepresented populations. These outcomes can include more equitable access to outdoor experiences, greater cultural relevancy of outdoor programs, improved parks and public spaces, and leadership development opportunities for individuals from underrepresented populations.

Youth Development

Youth development outcomes support young people as they grow into responsible, engaged community members who care for the environment and future generations. These outcomes may be achieved through professional or character development, outdoor experiences, and/or community service.

Health & Justice Sub-Issue Areas and Audiences Taxonomy

Health & Justice Sub-Issue Areas

Oil and Gas Development: This category encompasses grants related to oil and gas development and its ecological, health, and socioeconomic impacts.

Safer Chemicals and Materials: This category encompasses grants to reduce, eliminate, or prevent exposures to toxic or hazardous substances, through work to design, develop, and accelerate transitions to safer chemicals, materials, and processes.

Drinking water: This category includes grants focused on drinking water and related public health and equity issues, including focused on concerns about drinking water quality, quantity, access, affordability, and the right to water, as well as grants focused on improving drinking water or on ensuring everyone has access to safe, affordable drinking water.

Air quality: This category includes grants focused on air quality and its related public health, equity, and ecological impacts. This includes work focused on indoor air (e.g., mold, allergens, dust, toxins) as well as outdoor air quality (e.g., air pollution, sources of and impacts of air pollution), including work to monitor, evaluate impacts of, or improve air quality.

Healthy and Equitable Economy: This category encompasses grants focused on improving environmental, health, equity and/or other positive values through economic development and transitions work. Includes just transition, new economy, economic justice, and values-oriented economic development (e.g., sustainability, equitable and healthy development).

Undefined: any health & justice grants that do not fall under the above categories.

Health & Justice Audience Impacted (can choose multiple audiences)

Children & Young People
Women
Communities of Color
Low-Income Communities
Workers
Undefined