

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONTROL  
COMMUNITY OMBUDSMAN ANNUAL REPORT**

January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006

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**History:** The Community Involvement Advisory Committee (CIAC) was first organized by DNREC in September 1999 to develop a set of recommendations for DNREC to ensure that minority and low-income communities have access to public information and have the opportunity to effectively participate in the programs, services and public decision-making of the Department. The CIAC met for a year to identify environmentally affected communities, ascertain relevant communications and public involvement issues, and recommend a process for addressing them. In September 2000, the CIAC submitted a list of recommendations to the Department. Among the highest priority recommendations included establishment of a Community Ombudsman and the continuation of the CIAC. The recommendation to create and Community Ombudsman office and continue the Community Involvement Advisory Committee became part of Senate Bill No. 33 sponsored by Senator McBride and Representative Quillen and was signed into law in 2001 by Governor Ruth Ann Minner, making the committee an advisory council. (Source: The Community Involvement Advisory Committee report to DNREC by Global Environmental Resources, Inc. dated March 22, 2001).

The Governor hence appointed a council of eleven (11) members, representing communities, environmental organizations, health care providers, local government, academic institutions, and business/industry. The list of current members is attached.

The first Community Ombudsman, Franchon Roberts-Beeks was hired in March 2002 and left in April 2003. Lisa Diaz Riegel, was hired as her replacement in October 2003. The current Community Ombudsman, James A. Brunswick succeeded Lisa Diaz Riegel On May 31, 2005. This report will summarize activities that have taken place from January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006.

**Mission:** The mission of the Community Ombudsman is to enhance the flow of information between communities and the Department, to increase community participation, and to facilitate dialogue among all stakeholders during the Department's decision-making processes. The Community Ombudsman serves as a liaison between the Department and communities statewide. The Community Ombudsman's mission is to engage communities in identifying and understanding environmental issues, and in addressing or resolving environmental problems; to advocate for communities; to assist

communities in obtaining information on environmental issues; and to serve as a point of contact for the Department with communities and community organizations.

### **Collaborative Problem-Solving Partnerships**

The primary focus of the Community Ombudsman's work in 2006 was the development of collaborative problem-solving relationships involving community based organizations, government and industries throughout the state. The development of the collaborative problem-solving model to address local environmental and/or public health issues has been a special focus of the Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Environmental Justice. The EPA collaborative problem - solving relationships are characterized by:

- The development of multi-stakeholder partnerships
- Commitments from multiple agencies – community, industry, federal, state, and local government to work together on common concerns
- Involves stakeholders from the affected community in jointly identifying concerns and crystallizing issues
- Utilizes processes that promote progress on shared goals, and work plans
- Ensures tangible outcomes and improvements in community conditions
- Attempts to resolve conflicts through processes such as alternative dispute resolution

The partnerships are a result of the cooperative work between the Community Ombudsman and DNREC staff throughout the Department. Intensive outreach throughout 2006 has led to the development of seven collaborative problem-solving partnerships throughout the state:

- 1. Septic Initiative Partnership**
- 2. Wilmington Curbside Recycling Project**
- 3. Claymont Coalition, EPA Care Grant**
- 4. Claymont Industry Partnership**
- 5. Brownfields Job Training Program**
- 6. Southbridge Fugitive Dust**
- 7. Alternative Dispute Resolution Training**

The intended outcomes for these partnerships include, but are not limited to:

- Improvement in the Department's ability to collaborate with multiple stakeholders leading to solutions to local environmental issues
- Improvement in the community's awareness of their environmental concerns
- Greater understanding of the Department's legal and regulatory authority.
- Greater community capacity to understand and solve environmental and/or public health issues

### **Septic Initiative Partnership**

The Inland Bays which include the Indian River, Indian River Bay, Rehoboth Bay and Little Assawoman Bay and their tributaries all suffer from pollution despite 35 years of efforts to improve water quality. In 1998 DNREC adopted pollution load limits, i.e. Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), for these waters and began the process of working with a diverse group of Inland Bays residents to develop a Pollution Control Strategy (PCS). The strategy includes voluntary and regulatory components designed to reduce inputs of nitrogen and phosphorus in order to meet the pollution control limits.

The PCS calls for two new programs related to on-site wastewater disposal technologies (or septic systems). One is a Compliance and Inspection Program, and two is a requirement that all new and replacement systems use Nutrient Reducing Technologies. Each program will require residents and rental property owner to increase the amount they spend on wastewater disposal:

- The Pollution Control Strategy (PCS) will require homeowners to pay, \$350 - \$500 for mandatory Compliance Inspections every three years.
- The replacement of substandard systems with new Nutrient Reducing Technologies will cost homeowners an additional \$3,500 - \$6,000 to upgrade from the standard septic tank system to a system which incorporates an advanced treatment unit to meet the new standards for nutrient removal. There will also be an additional estimated annually cost of \$150 - \$250 for service contracts that provide routine maintenance of these units.

The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control is concerned with the financial impact of the proposed Pollution Control Strategy on the Inland Bays low and moderate income communities. Funds will be needed to provide grants to households that are unable to afford the cost to inspect, upgrade or replace failing septic systems. Cost share programs are needed to help residents who cannot bear the cost alone. The department is committed to work with federal, state and local agencies, nonprofit organizations and community leaders to find the needed funding.

In February 2007, DNREC in partnership with the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center began a series of meetings with community leaders to develop strategies for financing septic system maintenance, upgrade and replacement in low to moderate income communities in the Inland Bays.

### **Partners**

- DNREC Watershed Assessment Section
- DNREC Groundwater Discharges Section
- DNREC Financial Assistance Branch
- University of Maryland, Environmental Finance Center
- First State Community Action Agency
- Coverdale Community Council
- Lucas Development
- Coolsprings Civic Association
- Ellendale Civic Association
- PollyBranch Civic Association

- West Rehoboth Civic Association
- Pinetown Civic Association
- Sussex County CDBG Program
- Delaware State Housing Authority
- Southeast Rural Community Assistance Program

## **Project Goals:**

### **September 06 – November 06**

The project will be implemented over 12 months according to the following phases:

Phase 1: Develop and Convene Program Steering Committee The first step in the process is the development of a locally-based project steering committee. The purpose of the committee is to ensure effective local and state participation in the project. EFC will work directly with DNREC to identify appropriate committee members. Steering committee meetings will be conducted, either via teleconference or face-to-face, once a month.

### **November 06 - January 07**

Phase 2: Implement Leadership Dialogues In preparation for the financing charrettes, EFC, in partnership with the project steering committee, will conduct a series of dialogue sessions with essential community and state decision-makers. Each session will contain approximately 5 -6 community leaders and will take approximately 2 hours. The following activities will take place during this phase:

- In partnership with the project steering committee, identify 20 – 30 community leaders to be included in the dialogue sessions.
- Conduct dialogue sessions.
- Summarize results of the sessions and include in an update to DNREC staff

### **February 07 - June 07**

Phase 3: Conduct Community Financing Charrettes EFC staff will organize, develop, and implement two community finance charrettes. The financing charrettes will be developed based on the input and information gathered during the leadership dialogue events. The following activities will take place during this phase:

- Based on the results of the leadership dialogues, identify appropriate charrette panelists.
- Identify and secure charrette venues.
- Invite appropriate community members.
- Develop detailed background materials for charrette panelists.
- Conduct charrettes

### **July 07 – September 07**

Phase 4: Produce White Paper Report the final phase of the project will be to develop a white paper report summarizing the entire project. Included in the report will be a complete summary of the discussion during the charrette, as well as detailed next steps and recommendations for implementing and financing water quality programs.

## **Wilmington Curbside Recycling Project**

Due to Delaware's total dependence on landfills as the means for disposing of MSW, and because the state suffers from a chronically low residential recycling rate (less than 5% of residential waste), the Cherry Island landfill is filling up at an alarming rate. Many city residents, and, increasingly, many other Delawareans, have become dissatisfied with the low recycling rate and limited opportunities for residents to recycle.

The Community Involvement Advisory Council has supported this project from the outset. The DNREC Community Ombudsman and Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Branch staff planned an exploratory trip with the principal sponsors of the city's recycling program; At Large Councilman Charles "Bud" Freel and Finance and Economic Development Committee Chairman, Norman D. Griffiths. Wilmington labor union officers accompanied the Councilmen and toured the RecycleBank facility. They met with Philadelphia sanitation workers to view the operation of the program.

The RecycleBank program offers two unique features that have been instrumental in the eventual success of the program. Single stream recycling allows all recyclable material; glass plastic, paper, tin and aluminum to be placed in one bin without separation. The second is a financial rewards program, "RecycleBank Dollars". Participants can earn as much as \$35.00 each month, based on the amount of material recycled. RecycleBank Dollars can be redeemed at more than 100 local businesses which partner with the program. The city of Wilmington began a pilot curbside recycling project on June 19, 2006 involving approximately one fourth of the city's 32,000 households.

### **Partners**

- City of Wilmington
- RecycleBank
- Delaware ACORN
- AFSCME Local 320
- DNREC Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Branch

### **Project Goals**

1. The City of Wilmington will launch curbside recycling on a city-wide basis when it achieves a 50% participation rate.

### **Claymont Coalition, EPA Care Grant**

The Coalition proposed to create a committee whose sole purpose was to focus efforts on environmental concerns within the community. It partnered with local industries to submit an EPA CARE Grant application. The application was declined. However, the Partnership has remained intact. The Coalition and stakeholder groups are pursuing the development of the Claymont Industry Partnership (below).

### **Partners**

- Environmental Protection Agency
- DNREC Air Quality Management Section
- Honeywell
- Oceanport Industries Sunoco
- BOC Americas
- DuPont
- University of Delaware
- Sunoco
- American Lung Association
- Claymont Coalition

### **Project Goals**

1. Organize a study to investigate dust particles that coat residents' homes, automobiles and lawns
2. Investigate deposition of ambient material on plants and vegetation
3. Communicate the findings of the Delaware River Basin Commission study of PCB contaminants in the Delaware River
4. Organize a community study of respiratory problems including asthma and sinus irritations.
5. Further study the results of National Air Toxics Assessment data which indicates an increased likely incidence of cancer in the area
6. Explore opportunities to expand existing real time environmental notification systems to inform residents in the event of an accidental environmental release.

### **Claymont Industry Partnership**

Industry partnerships include communities, industries, and business working together in geographic areas which are at risk of high levels of hazardous air pollutants (HAPs). The Claymont Industry Partnership will challenge local business and industry to reduce emissions of toxic pollutants in cooperation with federal, state and regulatory agencies and other interested stakeholders.

### **Partners**

See Claymont Care Grant above

### **Project Goals**

The Partnership has held two organizational meetings to establish the partnership and to develop the following project goals:

1. Develop expanded stakeholder (company, community, agency) profiles to include information on facilities, community organizations/issues and agency roles
2. Gain understanding of chemicals of concern and potential associated health risks
3. Identify stakeholder concerns

### **Fugitive Dust**

In late October, 2006 Air Quality Management was invited to attend a meeting of the Hamilton/Eden Park community Association. At that meeting, AQM suggested that a series of meetings that addressed the fugitive dust concerns should be conducted. AQM began facilitating this set of meetings based on complaints received about fugitive dust. The Section had success in the mid-1990s in addressing a similar problem with an industrial community in the Minquadale area. As a result of those voluntary sessions, Air Permits for hot mix plants statewide have permit conditions addressing dust control measures, including paving of traveled roads within the site and wetting of non-paved areas. The Southbridge Communities will use the Odor Study practices as a model for the development of voluntary, negotiated agreements.

### **Partners**

- DNREC Air Quality Management Section
- Rep. Jimmie Johnson
- Hamilton Park Civic Association
- Eden Park Civic Association
- Southbridge Civic Association
- Rose Hill Community Center
- City of Wilmington
- Henrietta Johnson Medical Center
- Action Environmental
- Port Contractors
- Magellan Terminals
- Diamond Materials
- Mangiatore Monte, Inc.
- Clean Earth
- Material's Recovery, Inc.
- Greggo & Ferra
- Tilcon Delaware

### **Project Goals**

1. Identify the most cost effective best management practices to control fugitive dust.
2. Place practices in the air permits of facilities that have a permit.
3. When there is no air permit, the plan will be met voluntarily so the facility is in compliance with Air Regulation Number 6.

### **DNREC Brownfields Job Training Program**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) selected the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) to receive a grant in 2005 that provided job training funds for Wilmington's inner-city residents. The grant award of \$141,764 gave training needed to effectively gain employment in assessment and cleanup

activities associated with brownfield redevelopment and environmental remediation. The grant focused on the Southbridge and East Wilmington neighborhoods, where there are a disproportionate number of brownfields sites

Funding for the project expired in 2006. State Representative Jimmie Johnson convened a meeting with the DNREC Community Ombudsman to discuss the prospect of forming a partnership and pursuing additional state and federal funding to further develop and sustain the program. Initial meetings with the 2005 partners indicated a willingness to collaborate on the project. A National Institute of Health Environmental Services grant has been identified as a potential funding source for the project.

### **Partners**

- The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
- The City of Wilmington, Office of Economic Development
- Delaware Technical and Community College
- New Millennium Development Corporation
- Bethel Temple Community Development program

### **Project Goals**

- Formally establish the partnership
- Seek funding for program expansion

### **Alternative Dispute Resolution Training**

Obtained 7 training slots for representatives of community based organizations in New Castle, Kent, and Sussex County leadership to attend March 15 – 17 EPA “Using Environmental Laws and Alternative Dispute Resolution to Address Environmental Justice” Conference The conference addressed:

- Summary of non-litigation, environmental law tools that can be used to address pollution and how they can be used.
- Special focus on three environmental laws that are most commonly applied to communities experiencing environmental justice problems: Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.
- Overview of the range of alternative dispute resolution tools that are available to address environmental justice problems.
- Examples of successful efforts by grassroots organization leaders to achieve environmental justice in their communities.

### **Participants**

Anthony Bruce Wright  
Sandy Sample  
Evelyn Wilson  
Donald Scholfield  
Wayne Brown  
Deborah Duebert

### **Organization**

First State Community Action Agency  
First State Community Action Agency  
Coverdale Community Council  
Capitol Park Civic Association  
Mount Joy United Methodist Church  
Rose Hill Community Center

**Project Goals**

Environmental Law Institute commitment to assist Delaware groups with obtaining technical assistance for organizational capacity building:

1. Develop a technical assistance grant application to the Environmental Support Center
2. Conduct a strategic planning session
3. Acquire computers to facilitate communication between the groups.

**Community Involvement Advisory Council**

***Membership***

Jim Falk, CIAC chairperson since 2003 and member since 2002 completed his term of service. Mr. Bill Pelham, a member since April, 2005 was elected Chairman by the CIAC membership. Ms. LaVaida Owens - White was elected Vice Chairperson of the Council and heads the newly established Community Environmental Penalty Fund Grant Review Subcommittee.

Governor Ruth Ann Miller made three new appointments to the CIAC in 2006:

- Dr. Jay Julis is an adjunct faculty member of Wilmington College where he teaches a number of science courses including biology and environmental science. In addition to his teaching experience, Dr. Julis has significant knowledge and experience in environmental issues relating to agriculture, forestry, pesticides and chemical manufacturing
- Mrs. Jan Durham – Mrs. Durham is a member of the Nantioke-Lenni Lenape Tribe of New Jersey, and active in her community. She retired in 2005 from DNREC’s Division of Parks and Recreation and has returned in a new capacity as a part - time AmeriCorps position assigned to Delaware State Parks as an interpreter for the First State Heritage Park in Dover.
- Dr. Bruce Allison has served as a Professor of Environmental Studies at Wesley College since 1999. In addition to the CIAC his community service activities involve service outreach to public school teachers and high school student training in soils, land cover and hydrology.

<b>Expiring Terms/Resignation</b>	<b>Academic Affiliation</b>	<b>New Members</b>	<b>Academic Affiliation</b>
Dr. Kenneth Bell 7/25/06	Academic	Dr. Bruce Allison	Academic
James Falk 2/26/06	Academic	Dr. Jay Julis	Academic
Juana Fuentes Bowles Resignation 8/22/05	Community	Jan Durham	Community

The CIAC enjoyed a full quorum for each of its six annual meetings in 2006.

### **2006 Community Environmental Project Fund**

HB 192 established the Community Environmental Project Fund in February 2004. The Fund was created by the General Assembly with the intent of repairing harm to the environment by returning penalty funds to communities for restorative environmental projects. Monies for the fund are created by setting aside 25% of all penalty funds collected by the Department. The legislation has generated approximately \$1.8 million since its enactment in 2004.

Eligible projects must be based in the community where the infraction(s) or violation(s) occurred that resulted in the civil or administrative penalty. Funding supports projects which enhance the environment by:

1. Effecting pollution elimination
2. Minimization, or abatement, or improving conditions within the environment so as to eliminate or minimize risks to human health
3. Enhance natural resources for the purposes of improving indigenous habitats or the recreational opportunities of the citizens of Delaware.

Eligible applicants include Delaware's civic and community organizations, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, counties, municipal governments, state agencies and quasi-state agencies that represent the community where the infraction(s) or violation(s) occurred.

The Community Involvement Advisory Council serves in an advisory capacity to the DNREC Secretary in the selection of Community Environmental Fund Projects, and in determining the amount of funding awards. In 2006, The CIAC recommended significant changes in the funding decision - making process. The new procedures were undertaken to generate a deeper pool of CEPF projects from which to choose, and to establish more program and fiscal accountability. They include:

1. CEPF funding cycles were reduced from four to two each year. Deadlines were established for the week of June 1 and September 1 annually.
2. Established a Grant Review Subcommittee of the CIAC. The Subcommittee has the option of calling upon DNREC subject matter experts for technical evaluations of environmental projects. The Subcommittee evaluates CEPF applications, and submits its comments and recommendations for public review and decision making at the June and September meetings.
3. The CIAC has moved to require more applicant documentation. The revised CEPF application includes a checklist of required documents which are more indicative of the fiscal and programmatic health of applicant organizations. The checklist requires attachment of the following documents:

- An itemized organizational budget for the applicant’s current fiscal year
  - Audited financial statement or form 990
  - List of three largest funders in the last fiscal year and type of grant
  - Annual report or summary of the last year’s activities
  - Current board list and affiliations
  - One paragraph description of key staff and relevant qualifications
  - Report on previous CEPF or DNREC funding
  - Letters of agreement from any collaborating agencies
4. The budget format has been revised. The previous application only required documentation of project income and expenses. The revised budget format requires disclosure of organizational income and expenses. A Budget Detail worksheet requires an itemized breakout of expenses in the project budget.
  5. Require mid-point and final project reports on projects lasting one year or more. Final reports on projects lasting less than one year.
  6. The Ombudsman conducts a site visit before the release of the final allocation of funding to CEPF projects.

DNREC Secretary, John Hughes has approved \$1,755,406.00 for 11 CEPF projects recommended to him by the Community Involvement Advisory Council. The projects fall into five broad categories:

- I. Ecological Tourism
- II. Recycling
- III. Urban Forestry
- IV. Environmental Restoration
- V. Pollution Elimination

**I. Ecological Tourism - Total \$1,396,647**

**Delaware City Branch Canal Greenway Project (\$1,300,000)**

The largest single project in the history of the Community Environmental Project Fund has been the \$1.3 million, Delaware City Branch Canal Greenway Project. The objective of the Delaware City Branch Canal Greenway Connector Project is to restore an environmentally degraded wetland area within the city and to reestablish the historic pathway link between Delaware City and the C&D Canal for recreational and educational purposes. The major project elements include:

- Reconstruction of the berm along the Branch Canal.
- Construction of a new tidal control structure near the southern end of the berm.
- Restoration of approximately 13 acres of wetland.
- Reestablishment the original C&D Canal towpath route as a multi-purpose pathway
- Connecting the Delaware City Canal Promenade with the planned C&D Canal Recreation area and path.

- Creation of interpretive access to the African-Union Cemetery by constructing a boardwalk extension from the main greenway path.
- Protection of the African-Union Cemetery from further damage by flooding and poor drainage by constructing a berm around the perimeter of the cemetery to isolate it from the adjacent wetland area.

### **Delaware City Ecotourism Project (\$96,647.00)**

The Delaware City Ecotourism Project is a program to economically revitalize Delaware City through the development of tourism and attraction of ecology-related businesses that is based on understanding interpreting, preserving and enhancing the natural ecological resources of this coastal area.

The Objectives of the Main Street Delaware City, Inc., Eco-Tourism Project are to:

- Identify important ecological resources and critical habitat in the target area.
- Establish priorities to protect and restore the area’s ecological infrastructure.
- Develop and implement an eco-tourism program.
- Market the program to attract visitors and generate economic activity and revenue for the community.
- Attract private businesses that support eco-tourism.
- Inform and educate students, residents and visitors about the importance of ecological functions, values and services.
- Serve as a model for communities throughout the state in developing and implementing green infrastructure assessment and protection measures

## **II. Recycling - Total \$197,389.00**

### **Wilmington RecycleBank Curbside Recycling Project (\$102,000)**

Due to Delaware’s total dependence on landfills as the means for disposing of MSW, and because the state suffers from a chronically low residential recycling rate (less than 5% of residential waste), the Cherry Island landfill is filling up at an alarming rate. Many city residents, and, increasingly, many other Delawareans, have become dissatisfied with the low recycling rate and limited opportunities for residents to recycle.

The Community Involvement Advisory Council has supported this project from the outset. The DNREC Community Ombudsman and Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Branch staff planned an exploratory trip with the principal sponsors of the city’s recycling program; At Large Councilman Charles “Bud” Freel and Finance and Economic Development Committee Chairman, Norman D.Grffiths. Wilmington labor union officers accompanied the Councilmen and toured the RecycleBank facility. They met with Philadelphia sanitation workers to view the operation of the program.

The RecycleBank program offers two unique features that have been instrumental in the eventual success of the program. Single stream recycling, allows all recyclable material;

glass plastic, paper, tin and aluminum to be placed in one bin without separation. The second is a financial rewards program, "RecycleBank Dollars". Participants can earn as much as \$35.00 each month, based on the amount of material recycled. RecycleBank Dollars can be redeemed at more than 100 local businesses which partner with the program.

The city of Wilmington began a pilot curbside recycling project on June 19, 2006. involving approximately one fourth of the city's 32,000 households. The pilot achieved the following milestones. Wilmington Mayor James Baker announced the plan for citywide curbside recycling based on the following achievements:

- **6692** carts on the street as of 2/20/07
- 91% participation since program inception (excluding one-time only recyclers)
- **49%** Average weekly participation per route
- **34%** Land fill diversion rate per route
- **25** Average pounds per home, per route
- **\$1,248** Average RecycleBank Dollars spent per week, per route
- **\$159,996** Total RecycleBank Dollars

#### **Habitat for Humanity of New Castle County, ReStore (\$53,189)**

Habitat for Humanity of New Castle County submitted its proposal for funding to expand our recycling and reuse initiatives to support environmental protection from pollution through its innovative resale and salvage business, the Habitat ReStore. The Habitat ReStore is a not-for-profit venture, supporting the community through the recycle and resale of new used or unused construction items. Donations to the ReStore include new and used construction materials, basic household items such as paint, light fixtures, appliances, cabinets, windows and doors that would otherwise go to the Cherry Island landfill. Habitat provides customers with low-cost construction materials and supplies for home-repair at an affordable price (50-90% off retail).

The project was completed in July 2006 and achieved the following outcomes:

- Diverted 81,752 pounds of construction material from the Cherry Island Landfill.
- Open to the public one additional day per week
- Provide increased pick up service to donors of materials to be sold in the store
- Increased donations from 22,337 lbs over 13 weeks to 35,928 over 13 weeks
- Increased average monthly pick up from 1718 pounds in April 2005 to 2,763 pounds in July 2006

#### **Acorn Institute, Recycling Outreach and Education Project (\$42,200)**

The overall objective of this project was to increase awareness and use of the new recycling program in Wilmington, thereby minimizing the amount of solid waste and pollution going into landfills. ACORN Institute (AI) met this objective by doing intensive door-to-door outreach and education to households in targeted neighborhoods in Wilmington, utilizing a model that has been successful in similar projects around the country.

In late June, AI received a list of addresses of the households, in targeted neighborhoods, that are not participating in the new recycling program in the City of Wilmington. ACORN hired three part-time outreach staff who to go door-to-door, making six contacts with each household on the list.

Implementation:

- ACORN was provided a list of 1230 homes in which to contact along with literature and flyers to distribute.
- RecycleBank gave informational session on RecycleBank program in Wilmington and established the objectives for outreach
- ACORN then applied their action plan for outreach to these homes including door-knocking, flyers, and phone calls, with the intent that each home would receive three rounds of outreach.
- The results of ACORN's outreach were to be documented and communicated to RecycleBank for RecycleBank to review and follow up accordingly. Weekly phone calls between RecycleBank and ACORN were scheduled for this purpose.

The results of the project:

- ACORN was able to document outreach to 1020 homes
- 432 RCOMs (Commitments to Recycle) were collected
- 469 homes have recycled once or more since ACORN began outreach (44% of total homes)
- 1345 total pickups have been recorded since ACORN began outreach (out of the 1020 homes)

### **III. Urban Forestry - Total \$92,500**

#### **Urban Forestry Plan for Southbridge Neighborhood (\$56,500)**

The objective of the proposed project is to plan and implement wetland restoration, contaminant remediation, and stormwater management through the creation of the Southbridge Wetland Park, for the Southbridge Marsh located in the center of South Wilmington.

The marsh is a highly-degraded but jurisdictionally protected wetland in the 100 year flood plain. Restoration of this marsh; however, would provide a tremendous opportunity for the City of Wilmington and the Southbridge Community. A restored marsh would create a much needed open space public amenity and increase the property values of surrounding commercial and residential properties. Environmentally, a restored marsh would convert a large brownfield to a "greenfield" that improves soil and water quality, retains excess stormwater, filters polluted runoff, creates critical habitat, and provides the key ecological services, as part of the green infrastructure, needed for the revitalization of South Wilmington.

Project Outcomes:

- Funding for this project was provided in April 2005. Hazardous tree removal and pruning activities began on November 7, 2005 and were completed on January 6, 2006. During this time, 3 trees were removed and 13 trees were pruned. In addition, new trees were planted at 540 S. Heald St., 433 Bradford St., 504 S. Claymont St. and 610 S. Claymont St. Work was completed with the assistance of Delaware Center for Horticulture (DCH).
- Phase II of the project began during Fall of 2006. This phase removed and replaced 19 additional hazardous trees and pruned approximately 160 trees.

### **11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Area Community Tree Planting Project (\$18,000)**

The 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge area is located just outside of downtown Wilmington, between the 12<sup>th</sup> Street Exit off 495 and Northeast Blvd. This neighborhood is in close proximity to the DSWA (Cherry Island Landfill), Gander Hill Prison, Amtrak's high-speed train line, and the Brandywine River. The 12<sup>th</sup> Street exit serves as a major artery for commuters from North and South on Interstate 495, traveling to and from Wilmington. Frequent vehicles utilizing the interstate exit include large diesel trucks traveling to and from the Cherry Island Landfill

A lack of vegetation, trees, grass and good soil conditions contribute to soil erosion, with run-off deposited in the Brandywine River, running directly adjacent to this neighborhood. Formerly, there were many abandoned lots that became subject to disposing of personal trash, waste and debris.

This tree-planting and landscaping project will benefit sited environmental issues in several ways:

- Trees will create a filter for the exhaust from the highway commuters, attributing to better air quality by countering the carbon monoxide and diesel emissions.
- Trees will create a buffer to the noise from nearby highway and railways.
- Trees, shrubs and mulch will lessen the impact of soil erosion, capturing storm water, and preventing run-off, conserving both soil and water conditions.
- Trees planted appropriately placed contribute to conservation of energy and cost. When planted along south sides of buildings, they can reduce cooling costs by blocking the sun. Trees planted on the north sides of buildings can block northwest winter winds.
- Trees help to soften the industrial landscape in urban neighborhoods, contributing to a better quality of life.

### **Project Outcomes:**

In November, the first stage of tree planting was conducted in conjunction with a tree-care and maintenance workshop, open to community residents, Habitat homeowners, and volunteers who worked on the project. On this day, 22 trees and shrubs were planted in the areas surrounding Habitat sites Gardner Way and Lower Brandywine Village with

over 25 volunteers, including Habitat homeowners, community residents, and members from Delaware Center for Horticulture.

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, the final stage of tree planting commenced with the 8 remaining trees for the (9-house subdivision) Taylor Run, with approximately 15-20 (scheduled) volunteers; completing the project.

An additional outcome from this project was a wonderful collaboration between existing residents in the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Community, new Habitat homeowners, prospective homeowners, and organizations such as the Delaware Center for Horticulture and DNREC to transform a once industrial landscape, to a health, thriving community.

#### **Delaware Center for Horticulture Urban Tree Canopy Education and Promotion (\$18,000)**

In 2004, DCH embarked on a multi-phased study, using the Urban Forest Effects (UFORE) model to evaluate the effectiveness of Delaware's regional urban forest. The UFORE model, developed by the U.S. Forest Service, has been used to determine the effects of urban forests on environmental quality.

The results of the study have shown many potentially valuable benefits. For example, it is estimated that the urban forest of Wilmington removes approximately 295 tons of air pollutants each year

The Project Objectives are:

1. To promote the study's findings, as a way to produce policy outcomes that foster the preservation and expansion of the area's urban forest resources:

A. Develop a multi-media "tool box" which includes; the design and development of a flash-animated media instrument, which will be made available via a web site, CD, and DVD with updates on the progress of UFORE-related projects.

B. Host two workshops, to present the study and its recommendations to the technical and policy audiences.

#### **IV. Environmental Restoration (\$48,870)**

##### **Ham Run – Environmental Stream Restoration Project (\$43,250).**

The Historic Village of Marshalltown Civic Association will bring this section of Ham Run, feeding into the Red Clay Creek back to its natural habitat. The stream restoration would be in the neighborhood of about \$65,000.00. The Civic Association will approach DelDot and other agencies for additional funding.

## **Ardentown Forest Restoration (\$5,620)**

The Ardentown forests are inundated with alien “weeds gone wild”, reducing native flora and fauna. The project builds on extensive volunteer support. Volunteers have spent over 350 hours, hand-removing over 2800 Norway maple seedlings and saplings (mostly in Ardentown), and at least 800 other invasive shrubs, and have cut ivy from over 600 trees in the forests in all the Ardens.

The Project Objectives are:

### **1. Invasive Plant Removal**

Cut invasive plants that are too large for volunteers to remove by hand and treat the cut stumps with herbicide. Contractor will be responsible for cutting and removing large diameter Norway Maples. Cut trees are cut and stacked for firewood, chipped on site or cut and left to decay naturally, depending on the location.

### **2. Planting**

Purchase approximately 58 native trees and shrubs on the hillside just below Springhouse lane (A on Map) and hire a contractor to unload, place and plant, trees.

### **3. Botanic Studies**

Botanist Janet Ebert will be hired to conduct four comparative surveys as well as an overall forest quality assessment.

## **V. Pollution Elimination (\$20,000)**

### **Septic Initiative Project (\$20,000) - University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center**

The Proposed Inland Bays Pollution Control Strategy calls for two new programs that will profoundly affect the County’s low and fixed income residents. These initiatives are designed to improve the performance of septic systems being utilized in the Inland Bays watershed. As a result, there will be economic impact to residents including:

A. The Compliance and Inspection Program will cost property owners \$350 - \$500 for mandatory Compliance Inspections.

B. The replacement of substandard systems with new Nutrient Reducing Technologies will cost property owners \$3,500 - \$6,000 to upgrade an existing system, or \$7,000 to \$18,000 to replace systems which fail to meet the new standards for nutrient reduction

The project will focus on three core components;

- (1) A series of discussions with elected officials and local leaders on water quality programs and financing strategies;
- (2) Targeted community seminars, called financing charrettes, held regionally to address how best to overcome the barriers to achieving water quality goals and financing strategies; and
- (3) A white paper report discussing the outcome of our work in these communities, along with clearly articulated recommendations and next steps.