



CITY OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Mayor
Thomas M. Menino

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Mayor Announces Air Quality Grant Winners

Mayor Thomas M. today announced \$200,000 for Boston Air Quality Grants, a program funded through the City's Air Pollution Abatement Fund and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. The Transportation and Air Quality grants program is awarding six grants for demonstration, education, and research projects related to reducing air pollution emissions from on-road and off-road motor vehicles.

"My administration is committed to taking aggressive action to improve the air quality throughout our city," said Mayor Menino. "I look forward to working with our partners to reduce air pollution and improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods."

Winners are:

- ICLEI: *Boston Clean Air Cabs Project*, \$40,000
- Consensus Building Institute; Asthma Regional Council; Greater Boston Breathes Better; Health Care Without Harm, approx. \$18,000
- Harvard School of Public Health; Mission Hill Health Movement, approx \$45,000
- Dorchester Bay EDC, Codman Square NDC, Mattapan CDC, Southwest Boston CDC approx. \$45,000
- Alternatives for Community and Environment; BOLD Teens; Dorchester Environmental Health Coalition; Greater Four Corners Action Coalition; Neighborhood of Affordable Housing, \$40,000
- Consensus Building Institute, approx.\$10,000

"I am pleased to support these projects to identify and reduce transportation-related sources of air pollution in the City of Boston," said Massachusetts Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Ian Bowles. "Some of these projects will also provide training to students and other citizens to raise awareness about vehicle pollution, which will help the community, come up with local solutions these problems."

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Last month, Mayor Menino announced a series of actions and goals the City has to mitigate the effects of climate change. Among many things, he proposed that by the year 2012, the City of Boston will reduce our emissions 7 percent below 1990 levels. And by 2050, we will achieve 80 percent below 1990 levels. These six grants totaling 200 thousand dollars are being awarded to organizations committed to reducing air pollution and improving the air quality in Boston's neighborhoods.

Several city departments already are doing their part to improve air quality. The Boston Public Schools (BPS) only use environmentally-friendly cleaning products, which are better for the students, teachers and employees. The School Department has also retrofitted their fleet of buses with ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel and educates drivers about the dangers of idling. In fact, the BPS has received the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Purchasing and Sustainability Award in recognition of their efforts.

The Boston Public Health Commission's Asthma Prevention and Control Program is also award winning. Working with the Boston Housing Authority and other partners, the Commission has also used a \$2 million dollar Kellogg grant to support pest control and improve asthma awareness in public housing. A study from 2006 estimates that 30 percent of Boston's public school students have asthma related illnesses.

May is Asthma Awareness Month, and the City's actions are helping to reduce asthma rates. The Department of Neighborhood Development now requires "healthy homes" standards, including improved ventilation, pest control and limiting carpeting, for new private rental and homeownership housing development.

The Erie Street building, where today's event was held, is also an energy efficient development and the homes are asthma friendly, emitting 50 percent fewer air pollutants than comparable homes. The Transportation and Air Quality grants program is overseen by the City's Air Pollution Control Commission with participation by the EOEEA.

For more information on what Boston is doing to improve air quality, please visit www.cityofboston.gov/environment

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