43 Environmental Projects Receive TogetherGreen Innovation Grants

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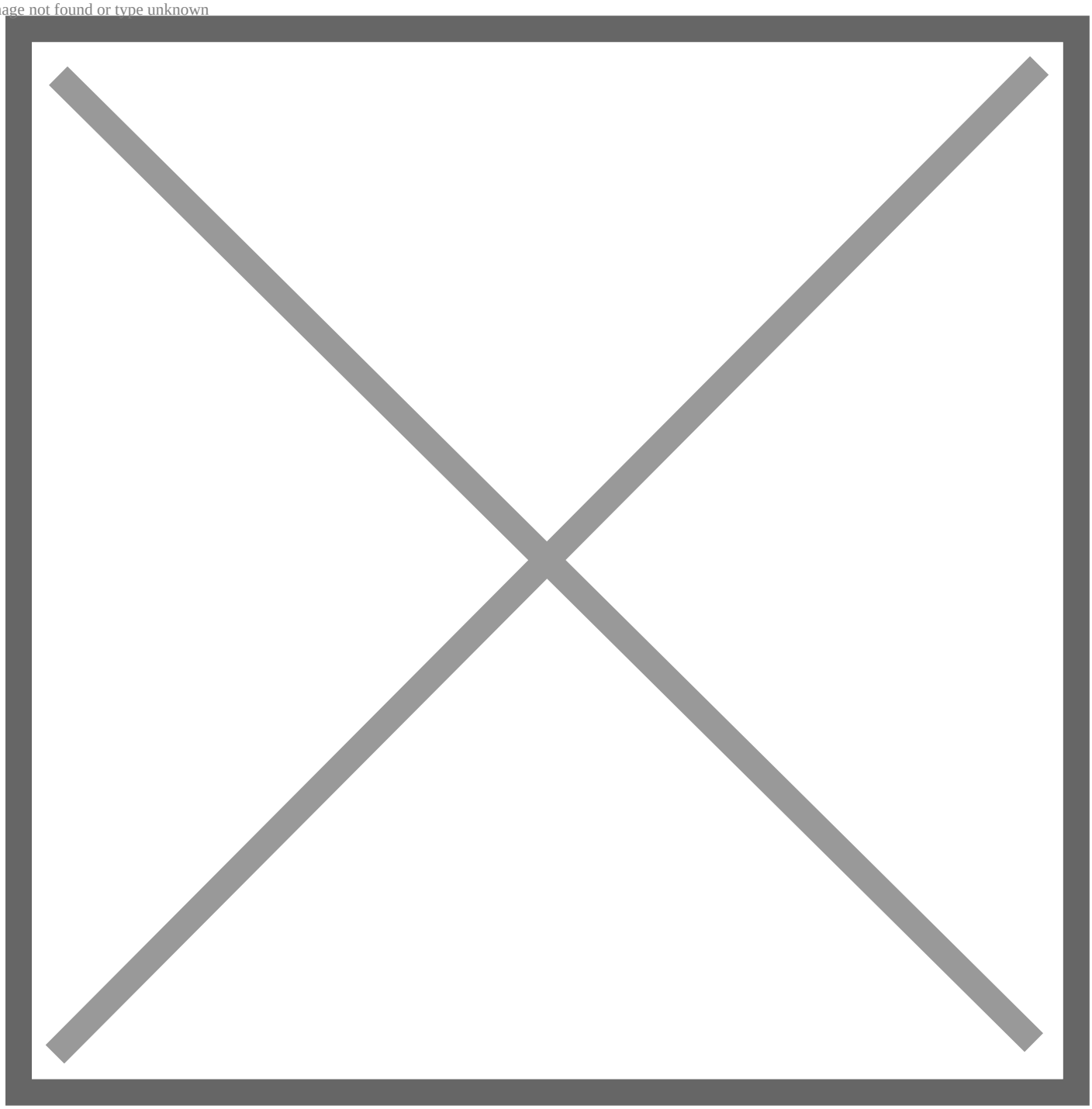

Audubon TG Logo

Nearly $1.1 Million in Funding from Audubon and Toyota's Conservation Initiative to Support Local, Solutions-based Environmental Projects Nationwide

New York, December 9, 2010 – Restoration of a wildlife sanctuary damaged by the Gulf oil spill, conservation internships for urban teenagers, and promotion of sustainable ranching are only three of the 43 projects in 27 states that will receive a total of nearly $1.1 million in the latest round of *TogetherGreen* Innovation Grants. This will mark the third year of *TogetherGreen* funding to facilitate people-powered conservation action in urban, suburban, and rural areas. Projects are selected for innovation, potential gains in habitat, water, and energy conservation, and opportunities to engage new audiences in helping the environment. *TogetherGreen* is funded by a $20 million grant from Toyota over five years.

TogetherGreen Innovation Grants provide seed money for projects that use innovative approaches and technologies to engage new and diverse audiences in conservation and tackle pressing conservation problems. Innovation Grants enable awardees and their partner organizations to inspire, equip, and engage people to tackle environmental concerns and improve the health of their communities.

"The conservation solutions pioneered by TogetherGreen Innovation Grant winners are inspiring models of both ingenuity and conservation commitment," said Audubon President David Yarnold. "Each project represents an investment in our shared environment and future – and an opportunity for many of our nation's most creative and dedicated individuals and communities to transform their dreams into effective conservation action. As our alliance with Toyota shows, when organizations work together, they can magnify conservation results."

Since 2008, the *TogetherGreen* Innovation Grants program has awarded over $3.5 million to more than 130 environmental projects nationwide. The 2010 awardees are receiving grants ranging from $5,000 – $66,100. Funds were awarded to partnerships between Audubon groups (local Chapters or programs of Audubon's large national network) and organizations in their communities – with more than 125 partner organizations involved in Innovation Grant projects in the coming year. Most of the projects involve audiences previously underserved or not engaged in environmental action, from urban youth to rural ranchers.

The Innovation Grants program not only supports innovation in communities across the country; it also strives to build the capacity of conservation professionals. In addition to financial support, grantees receive opportunities for professional development, including a multi-day workshop held at the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, and online trainings. Audubon staff provides further support, including communications assistance, which leads to more public recognition at the local, state, and national level, and grantees are networked with each other so that they can share best practices and learn from others.

Audubon's partner groups benefit considerably from Innovation Grants, too. As Teola Brady, Environmental Director for the Yomba Shoshone Tribe, said, "We are pleased to be partners with Audubon Nevada Important Bird Area Program in participating in the Sagebrush Celebration Project. We see this project as an excellent opportunity to help expand the way that tribal families experience, understand and participate in the conservation of sagebrush habitats. It will also expose them to the various ways that the Upper Reese River Valley – which is right in their backyard – is important to their lives and the fabric of their local community and culture."

2009 Innovation Grantees helped tens of thousands of people take conservation action in their communities, including Los Angeles kids who cultivated and planted native species in degraded coastal habitat, Denver students who assessed and reduced their schools' electricity bills, and Dayton businesses that improved water

quality in Ohio's rivers. Grant recipients leveraged their grants by over four million dollars through matching and in-kind support, allowing them to reach more people and deliver even greater conservation results.

"Toyota has a long history of utilizing technical innovation to preserve natural resources, reduce waste, and improve sustainability." said Patricia Salas Pineda, Toyota's group vice president of national philanthropy and the Toyota USA Foundation. "We are so proud of the TogetherGreen program and the incredible results it has produced in communities across the U.S. We know this latest group of Innovation Grants will continue to have a tremendous positive impact."

For complete details about the 2010 *TogetherGreen* Innovation Grants projects, please visit: www.togethergreen.org/grants. Below is a list of the 2010 Innovation Grants projects by state:

State	# of Projects Funded	Total Funding	Project Summaries
AL	1	$20,000.00	**Restoration of Dauphin Island,** a critical sanctuary for wildlife affe spill off the coast of Alabama. Volunteers will work to remove invas from the island so that native species can thrive and provide food an threatened wildlife.
AR	1	$25,000.00	Training college students in Science, Technology, Engineering and M **education** that focuses on conservation of habitat, water and energy, with the students during their internships to conduct projects with mi school students focused on energy reduction, habitat protection and r water quality improvement.
AZ	2	$20,000.00	1. Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy in a rural A community through six demonstration projects, an energy fair, educational programs. 2. Community development of a conservation project to protect t
CA	5	$88,000.00	1. Working with 650 students from underserved schools to restor critical lagoon habitat along the coast in **Monterey County**. 2. High school kids will restore five acres of critical riverside hab abutting the **Sacramento River**. 3. High school students propagating and planting native plants ar native habitat in **Debs Park.** 4. Restoring native marshland habitat and educating local kids in **Terrace.** 5. Providing students at **Dorsey High School in Los Angeles** wi and "restoration" internships, in which they learn how to propa plants and restore dwindling sagebrush habitat, then educate c members and younger students from **Leo Politi Elementary S** importance of conservation.

State	# of Projects Funded	Total Funding	Project Summaries
CO	3	$83,589.00	1. High school students from Denver and **rural schools in Weld** conduct energy audits of their schools and implementing energ programs. 2. Working with youth from the Southwest Conservation Corps a from the community to create trails that prevent further degrad important habitats in along the **Piedra River**. Educational prog be provided for all volunteers. 3. Creating wildlife habitat demonstration gardens with students underserved schools in Denver.
CT/VT	1	$60,990.00	Developing relationships with owners of large tracts of forest land, t manage their land for wildlife.
GA	1	$34,348.00	In partnership with the **Latin American Association of Atlanta**, pro environmental education programming to Latino kids through schoo school program for at-risk kids, a youth conference, and two camps.
ID	1	$7,000.00	Creating a wildlife management plan for a neglected nature preserve
IN	2	$47,725.00	1. Hands-on educational programs and the creation of nesting hab nighthawks and chimney swifts at Title 1 schools in Indianapo 2. Restoring habitat along a popular urban greenway in **Muncie-D County with** kids who attend youth organizations serving low neighborhoods.
KY	1	$20,000.00	Working with community-members to plant wild grasses to provide in **Goshen**, Kentucky's only public green space — a nature center.
MD	2	$38,628.00	1. Expanding the successful **GreenKids Schoolyard Habitat pr Montgomery County,** a program designed to build enduring e learning and stewardship experiences for students. 2. Working with doctors in the **Baltimore Medical System** to "p in nature (through programs at Patterson Park Audubon Center suffering from obesity, diabetes, asthma, and behavior problem Kids with prescriptions will be involved in activities like tree-p **Patterson Park.**
ME	2	$5,000.00	1. **Educating owners of very large tracts of land** around the sta they can manage it sustainably. 2. **Training educators from underserved schools** in service lea that address habitat, water and energy issues.
MN	2	$67,565.00	1. Hooking people on nature and conservation through creation o **swift towers,** educational programs, and monitoring of swifts parks outside the **Twin Cities and on tribal lands.** 2. Working with building owners, managers, designers and archi understanding about (and implementation of) **bird-safe design**

State	# of Projects Funded	Total Funding	Project Summaries
MO	2	$29,000.00	1. Continued funding for the highly successful summer program, which helps students from underserved rural communities in T take part in hands-on habitat restoration and learn scientific sk 2. Presenting on energy use and conservation to the roughly 8,00 the **annual Home Builders Association Fair; hosting an ene** Joplin for community-members.
MT	1	$25,000.00	Following on from a successful planning grant last year, **promoting sustainably managed ranch to nature-lovers**; demonstrating to oth a premium price can be sought for beef raised sustainably and encou change their ranching practices to be more sustainable.
ND	1	$5,000.00	Educating lawmakers and landowners about the **economic and envi benefits of using wetlands to mitigate floods** instead of structural " as levees, which cost a fortune and push the problem downstream.
NM	1	$22,000.00	Following on from a successful planning grant received last year, **co educational programs for Santa Clara Pueblo kids** and their fami the Rio Grande and its conservation. As part of the program, a local will be translated into Tewa to preserve cultural traditions and practi with the river.
NV	1	$35,231.00	Conducting a year-long series of hands-on and educational events **re sagebrush habitat on the Yomba-Shoshone reservation**.
NY	4	$177,828.00	1. Hands-on conservation internships, camps, and jobs training fo underserved schools in New York City. 2. Working with **members of faith communities** to clean-up bea monitor wildlife in New York City to demonstrate the impact 3. Working with **farmers and landowners in the St. Lawrence** improve wildlife habitat in an important migratory stopover ar 4. Working with dozens of partners across New York state to get and others to create, install, and monitor next boxes to **protect kestrels.**
OH	2	$100,000.00	1. College interns from a historically black college working with Audubon to **restore prairie in and around Dayton**. 2. Working with community members in **downtown Columbus invasive Amur honeysuckle** from their properties; training st community in GIS/GPS and habitat restoration techniques.
OR	1	$5,000.00	Based on the results of an "equity atlas," which highlights areas of P limited access to greenspace, working with community groups to **de create a park in their neighborhood.**
PA	1	$40,000.00	**Encouraging Pennsylvanian municipalities** to improve and conser (and, by extension, habitat for all kinds of wildlife) through a progra cities going the distance with a "**Bird City" designation.**
UT	1	$15,000.00	Restoring native habitat, reintroducing Columbian frogs, and protect vegetation from beavers in the **Jordan River Wildlife Refuge.**

State	# of Projects Funded	Total Funding	Project Summaries
WI	2	$36,700.00	1. Following on from a successful planning grant received last ye the new "**Bird City Wisconsin**" program. Cities will qualify a they meet certain criteria related to wildlife habitat, water use, herbicide use, feral cat presence, and so on. 2. Developing a plan to save energy and resources **by recycling the Appleton area.**
WV	1	$25,384.00	Working with community members in Ranson to **create a "natural' headwaters of Flowing Springs Run**, to protect water quality in the provide wildlife habitat; and provide community-members with an in space to spend time in.
WY	1	$45,000.00	Working to connect Wyoming landowners with **Natural Resources Service (NRCS)** funding to support conservation and restoration effo land.
	43	**$1,078,988.00**	

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About *TogetherGreen*
Audubon and Toyota launched the five-year *TogetherGreen* initiative in 2008 to fund conservation projects, train environmental leaders, and offer volunteer opportunities to significantly benefit the environment. To date, *TogetherGreen* has supported 130 Innovation Grants projects, 120 Conservation Fellows, and over 750 Volunteer Days events nationwide. For more information, visit www.togethergreen.org.

About Audubon
Now in its second century, Audubon connects people with birds, nature and the environment that supports us all. Our national network of community-based nature centers, chapters, scientific, education, and advocacy programs engages millions of people from all walks of life in conservation action to protect and restore the natural world. Visit Audubon online at www.audubon.org.

About Toyota
Toyota (NYSE: TM) established operations in the United States in 1957 and currently operates 10 manufacturing plants, including one under construction. Toyota directly employs nearly 30,000 in the U.S. and its investment here is currently valued at more than $18 billion, including sales and manufacturing operations, research and development, financial services and design.

Toyota is committed to being a good corporate citizen in the communities where it does business and believes in supporting programs with long-term sustainable results. Toyota supports numerous organizations across the country, focusing on education, the environment and safety. Since 1991, Toyota has contributed more than $500 million to philanthropic programs in the U.S.

For more information on Toyota's commitment to improving communities nationwide, visit http://www.toyota.com/community.

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