

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) REGION 7  
COMMUNITIES INFORMATION DIGEST**

**December 19, 2011**

**Questions?** Contact: Monica Espinosa at 913-551-7541, [espinosa.monica@epa.gov](mailto:espinosa.monica@epa.gov)  
or Tegan Vaughn at 913-551-7326, [vaughn.tegan@epa.gov](mailto:vaughn.tegan@epa.gov).

**Note:** New items are in green.

**NEWS**

---

**EPA Requests Proposals for Urban Waters Small Grants by January 23, 2012**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency expects to award between \$1.8 to \$3.8 million in funding for projects across the country to help restore urban waters by improving water quality and supporting community revitalization. The goal of the Urban Waters Small Grants program is to fund research, studies, training, and demonstration projects that will advance the restoration of urban waters by improving water quality through activities that also support community revitalization and other local priorities. These priorities could include public health, social and economic opportunities, general livability and environmental justice for residents. Examples of projects eligible for funding include:

- Education and training for water quality improvement or green infrastructure jobs
- Public education about ways to reduce water pollution
- Local water quality monitoring programs
- Engaging diverse stakeholders to develop local watershed plans
- Innovative projects that promote local water quality and community revitalization goals

Information about Urban Waters Small Grants including the Request for Proposal (RFP) and registration links for a January 5, 2012 webinar is available at <http://www.epa.gov/urbanwaters/funding>. EPA expects to award the grants in the summer of 2012.

Please submit questions in writing via email to [urbanwaters@epa.gov](mailto:urbanwaters@epa.gov) and must be received by the Agency Contact, Ji-Sun Yi, by January 16, 2012 and written responses will be posted on EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/urbanwaters/funding>. The deadline for submitting proposals is January 23, 2012.

For more information on EPA's Urban Waters program, visit <http://www.epa.gov/urbanwaters>.

**Secretary LaHood Announces Funding for 46 Innovative Transportation Projects Through Third Round of Popular TIGER Program**

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood recently announced that 46 transportation projects in 33 states and Puerto Rico will receive a total of \$511 million from the third round of the U.S. Department of Transportation's popular TIGER program. The announcement comes months ahead of schedule, and will allow communities to move forward with critical, job-creating infrastructure projects including road and bridge improvements; transit upgrades; freight, port and rail expansions; and new options for bicyclists and pedestrians. The Department of Transportation (DOT) received 848 project applications from all 50 states, Puerto Rico and Washington, DC, requesting a total of \$14.29 billion, far exceeding the \$511 million made available for grants under the TIGER III program.

The grants will fund a wide range of innovative transportation projects in urban and rural areas across the country:

- More than \$150 million will go to critical projects in rural areas.
- Roughly 48% of the funding will go to road and bridge projects, including more than \$64 million for Complete Streets projects that will spur small business growth and benefit motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians.
- 29% of funds will support projects like the Westside Multimodal Transit Center in San Antonio.
- 12% will help build port projects like the Port of New Orleans Rail Yard Improvements.
- 10% will go to freight rail projects like the Muldraugh Bridge Replacement in Kentucky.
- Three grants were also directed to tribal governments to create jobs and address critical transportation needs in Indian country.

- Three grants will provide better multimodal access to airports, including DFW in Texas.

The continuing demand for TIGER grants highlights the need for further investment in the nation's transportation infrastructure that could be provided by President Obama's American Jobs Act. The American Jobs Act would provide \$50 billion to improve 150,000 miles of road, replace 4,000 miles of track, and restore 150 miles of runways, creating jobs for American workers and building a safer, more efficient transportation network. It would also provide \$10 billion for the creation of a bipartisan National Infrastructure bank. A complete list of grant recipients can be viewed here:

<http://www.dot.gov/affairs/2011/FY2011TIGER.pdf>.

### **EPA Awards More Than \$1 Million in Environmental Justice Grants to Protect People's Health and is Seeking Applicants for 2012 Funding**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced it awarded more than \$1 million in grants to 46 non-profit and tribal organizations working to address environmental justice issues nationwide. EPA also announced it is seeking applicants for \$1 million in environmental justice small grants expected to be awarded in 2012. The grants enable non-profit organizations to conduct research, provide education, and develop solutions to local health and environmental issues in communities overburdened by harmful pollution.

"Community-based action and participation in environmental decision-making are critical to building healthy and sustainable communities," said Lisa Garcia, EPA's Senior Advisor to the Administrator for Environmental Justice. The 2011 grants support activities including projects to protect children in the Boston-area from lead poisoning and asthma, conduct research on air quality in a portside Philadelphia community, and provide support to residents on the Red Lake Reservation in Minnesota to repair failing septic systems and identify water that is unsafe to drink.

The 2012 grant solicitation is now open and will close on February 29, 2012. Applicants must be incorporated non-profits or tribal organizations working to educate, empower and enable their communities to understand and address local environmental and public health issues. EPA will host four pre-application teleconference calls on December 15, 2011, January 12, 2012, February 1, 2012 and February 15, 2012 to help applicants understand the requirements.

Environmental justice means the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race or income, in the environmental decision-making process. The grants represent EPA's commitment to expand the conversation on environmentalism and advance environmental justice in communities across the nation. For more information on the Environmental Justice Small Grants program and a list of grantees, please visit: <http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/grants/ej-smgrants.html>.

For Environment Justice Small Grants 2012 Request for Proposals and schedule of pre-application teleconference calls, please visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/resources/publications/grants/ej-smgrants-rfp-2012.pdf>.

### **Making it Real: New Study Shows Exactly Where EPA Regulations Create Jobs**

A study released by the Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Economies (CERES) shows where jobs will be and have been created by the EPA including information on "actual industries, involved in actual pollution abatement activities, with actual firms, hiring actual workers, in actual places across the US." "Regulation and compliance with pollution standards sustains an estimated 142,000 direct jobs (Brookings Institution Clean Economy Jobs Study, Table 1), which in turn sustain hundreds of thousands more (indirect) jobs throughout the supply chain (e.g. materials used to make pollution control equipment, such as steel). Both, in turn, support further employment, as the earned income spent by workers creates demand for other goods and services economy-wide."

For more information, please visit:

[http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/ljohnson/making\\_it\\_real\\_new\\_study\\_shows.html](http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/ljohnson/making_it_real_new_study_shows.html)

## **EPA Healthy Child Care Resource Directory Launched**

On December 1, EPA launched a new web-based resource directory on healthy child cares. We developed this website with three target audiences in mind: childcare providers, parents, and state and local agencies, and have arranged the information so that it would be easily accessible for these three distinct audiences. On the web site you will find links to a wealth of information (fact sheets, PPTs, trainings, assessment tools, reports, prevention and intervention guidance, etc.) on asthma, chemical hazards, environmental tobacco smoke, green cleaning, indoor air quality, lead, mercury, mold, pesticides and plastics. We hope CARE grantees find this website useful and welcome your suggestions on how it can be improved. (Comments should be directed to Kathy Seikel, the website editor). For more information, please visit: <http://epa.gov/childcare/>.

## **President Obama Announces \$4 Billion Investment to Make Buildings More Energy Efficient**

President Obama announced a \$4 billion effort to improve energy efficiency in building nationwide, part of his "We Can't Wait" campaign. The investments are "part of President Obama's Better Buildings Initiative, which set a goal of improving energy efficiency in commercial buildings by 20 percent by 2020. The initiative will reduce energy bills for businesses by \$40 billion per year, and one report found it could create up to 114,000 jobs." For more information, please visit:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2011/12/02/president-obama-announces-4-billion-investment-make-buildings-more-energy-efficient>

## **It's Time to Meet 21st Century Realities with 21st Century Rail**

Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood discusses high-speed rail in his DOT Fastlane blog and explains: "During the next six months, more than \$1.1 billion of new job-creating construction projects will begin. We've invested in increasing the Acela's speed from 135 to 186 miles per hour. We've invested in bringing 110 mile-per-hour service to the Midwest. We'll soon break ground on a new line between Portland and Seattle. We continue planning for a southwest network that connects Dallas to Houston and Oklahoma City." For more information, please visit: <http://fastlane.dot.gov/2011/12/hsr.html>

---

## **UPCOMING FUNDING DEADLINES**

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>December 22</b> | <b><u><a href="#">9th Annual P3 Awards: A National Student Design Competition for Sustainability Focusing on People, Prosperity and the Planet</a></u></b> |
| <b>January 6</b>   | <b><u><a href="#">FHWA Transportation, Community, and System Preservation Program (\$29 million)</a></u></b>   |
| <b>January 13</b>  | <b><u><a href="#">Siemens Sustainable Community Awards</a></u></b>   |
| <b>January 13</b>  | <b><u><a href="#">Cities Can Apply Now for Siemens' Sustainable Community Award to Win \$20,000 Worth of Trees</a></u></b>                                 |
| <b>January 18</b>  | <b><u><a href="#">Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Grant Program - Department of Housing and Urban Development</a></u></b>                                  |
| <b>January 18</b>  | <b><u><a href="#">Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration Grant Program - Department of Housing and Urban Development</a></u></b>                              |
| <b>January 18</b>  | <b><u><a href="#">CNCS AmeriCorps State and National Indian Tribes Planning Grants</a></u></b>   |

- January 19     **DOI WaterSMART: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for FY 2012 (\$18 million)**
- January 23     **EPA Urban Waters Small Grants (\$1.8 to \$3.8 million)**
- February 15    **Five Star Restoration Grant**
- March 1        **DOE Smart Grid Data Access Funding Opportunity (\$8 million)**
- March 1        **National Endowment for the Arts 2012 Our Town grants**  
http://arts.gov/grants/apply/OurTown/index.html
- March 31       **USDA 2012 Hazardous Fuels Woody Biomass Utilization Grant (\$3 million)**

Advance Notice: **Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Rural Innovation Fund Program**

Advance Notice: **HUD 2011 Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grants**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS, CONFERENCES & EVENTS**

---

- February 2-4, 2012    **11th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference: Building Safe, Healthy and Livable Communities—**  
San Diego, California - <http://www.newpartners.org/>
- March 6-8, 2012     **The Missouri Community Forestry Council MCFC conference, *The Art and Science of Trees*—** Blue Springs, Missouri - <http://www.mocommunitytrees.org/>
- March 27-29, 2012   **AridLID 2012: Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development in Arid Environments—**Tucson, Arizona - [http://www.aridlid.org/?page\\_id=277](http://www.aridlid.org/?page_id=277)
- April 10-11, 2012    **National Training Conference on the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) and Environmental Conditions in Communities—** Washington, D.C.-  
<http://www.chemicalright2know.com/events/past>
- May 4, 2012         **Sustainability by Design: Retrofitting our Cities, Communities and Neighborhoods—** Portland, Oregon -  
[http://sustain.uoregon.edu/workshops/course\\_desc.php?CourseKey=633659](http://sustain.uoregon.edu/workshops/course_desc.php?CourseKey=633659)
- June 7-8, 2012      **Promoting Intergenerational and Environmental Health Across the Lifespan—** New York City, New York -  
<http://www.healthandenvironment.org/news/conference/intergen2012>
- June 20-22, 2012    **Reclaiming Vacant Properties Conference—** New Orleans, Louisiana -  
<http://www.communityprogress.net/national-2012-conference-pages-119.php>

**UPCOMING WEBINARS & CONFERENCE CALLS**

---

**Five Star Restoration Grant Webinar, January 9, 2012, 1:00-3:00 pm (CST)**

This webinar is for those who may be interested in applying for a Five Star Restoration Grant.

Date: Monday -January 9, 2012

Time: 1pm -3pm Central

To register, please visit:

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/176461176>

## **Freight and Livability Webinar, March 15, 2012, 1:00-2:30 pm (EST)**

The purpose of the webinar is to explore linkages between freight movements and livability and highlight examples of transportation projects and programs underway to improve the quality of life for communities across the United States. Agenda: "Freight and Livability"- Chip Millard, FHWA Office of Freight Management (20 mins), "Reducing Diesel Idling Emissions in EJ Areas of Southern California near the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles"- Michelle Shultz Wood, California Air Resources Board (20 mins), "Transportation and Livability Case Studies"- Jason Bittner, University of South Florida Center for Urban Transportation Research (20 mins). To register for this webinar, visit:

[https://www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/resources/webconference/web\\_conf\\_learner\\_reg.aspx?webconfid=23933](https://www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/resources/webconference/web_conf_learner_reg.aspx?webconfid=23933)

## **Webinar Series: Improving Children's Health through Federal Collaboration 2nd Thursday of every month from 2:00 to 3:30 PM (MST)**

The Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8, and the Health Resources and Services Administration, Region VIII, have organized, in collaboration with other Federal partners, a one-year-long webinar series titled Improving Children's Health through Federal Collaboration. Protecting the health of children where they live, learn and play is fundamental to making the world a better place for future generations. The purpose of this webinar series is to encourage coordination, collaboration and information sharing across government agencies and organizations, health care providers, educators, and the general public in addressing children health issues. Please save these dates for the following FREE webinars. For additional information about each of the webinars, including registration information, please visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/region8/humanhealth/children/webinars.html>.

January 12, 2012 - Coordinated School Health: Clean, Green and Healthy Schools

February 9, 2012 - Obesity Prevention

March 8, 2012 - Affordable Care Act

April 12, 2012 - Communities Working Together for Better Health

May 10, 2012 - Successful Asthma Management

June 14, 2012 - Healthy Homes

July 2012 - No Webinar This Month

August 9, 2012 – Children's Environmental Health Research

September 13, 2012 - National Children Study

## **OTHER COMMUNITY-RELATED INFORMATION & EVENTS**

### **EPA Commissioned Papers on Environmental Justice Published**

The Office of Environmental Justice is pleased to announce the release of a special environmental justice issue of the American Journal of Public Health. This supplement includes 14 scientific reviewed papers commissioned by OEJ in collaboration with Office of Research and Development and Office of Children's Health Protection that reflect the state of scientific knowledge about some factors that likely contribute to disproportionate environmental health impacts among minority and low income communities. The supplement also features several scientific research papers focused on disproportionate environmental health impacts. Read the papers here:

<http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/multimedia/albums/epa/disproportionate-impacts-symposium.html>.

### **Encourage Your State Education Agencies to Nominate ENERGY STAR Schools for U.S. Dept. of Education's Green Ribbon Schools**

The U.S. Department of Education has announced the pilot year of Green Ribbon Schools, which will recognize schools for reducing environmental impact on their communities, promoting healthy school environments for their own students and staff, and offering high-quality environmental education. The Secretary of Education has invited Chief State School Officers (CSSOs), the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA),

and the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) to nominate schools that meet the criteria for recognition. One key measurement for the award is energy efficiency, which schools can demonstrate by benchmarking their energy and water consumption with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s ENERGY STAR measurement and tracking tool, Portfolio Manager. The Department of Education encourages states to nominate schools that meet the criteria for recognition – including schools that have earned the ENERGY STAR and those that demonstrate an improvement in energy and water efficiency. State nominating agencies can search [EPA's ENERGY STAR Certified Building Registry](#) for schools that have already earned the ENERGY STAR. More information on Green Ribbon Schools can be found at <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools/>. Additional questions on Green Ribbon Schools can be addressed to [green.ribbon.schools@ed.gov](mailto:green.ribbon.schools@ed.gov).

### **FHWA Fiscal Year 2012 Discretionary Program Grants – Applications due January 6, 2012**

As previously reported, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has announced the solicitation for its FY12 discretionary programs. Applications are due by January 6, 2012. These are funds which had traditionally been earmarked by Congress in the annual appropriations bills but are now subject to a competitive selection process. Each of the 12 programs has its own eligibility and selection criteria. Here are links to each program along with the approximate nationwide amount available:

[Interstate Maintenance](#), \$47.3 million  
[Transportation, Community, and System Preservation](#), \$29 million  
[Ferry Boats and Terminals](#), \$22.2 million  
[Rail Highway Crossing Hazard Elimination in High Speed Rail Corridors](#), \$7.1 million  
[Truck Parking Facilities](#), \$2.9 million  
[Public Lands Highways](#), \$45 million  
[National Scenic Byways](#), \$20.6 million  
[Highways for LIFE](#), \$9.5 million  
[Innovative Bridge Research and Deployment](#), \$4.2 million  
[National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation](#), \$4.7 million  
[Value Pricing Pilot Program](#), \$6.9 million  
[Delta Region Transportation Development](#), \$4.7 million

### **HUD Announces 2011 Sustainable Communities Awards**

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan recently announced the recipients of nearly \$96 million in 2011 Sustainable Communities grants. Twenty-seven communities and organizations will receive Community Challenge grants and 29 regional areas will receive Regional Planning grants. For more information, please visit: [http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press\\_releases\\_media\\_advisories/2011/HUDNo.11-274](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2011/HUDNo.11-274).

### **Supporting Sustainable Rural Communities**

This new report helps better coordinate federal programs for sustainable community and smart growth development for rural communities. The report was prepared by the HUD, DOT, and EPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities in cooperation with USDA. It presents sample funding mechanisms, technical assistance opportunities, and performance measures rural communities can use, and includes case studies showcasing rural accomplishments. For more information, please visit: <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/publications.htm#huddotepa>.

## Study Shows Organic Agriculture More Profitable

GREENFIELD, Iowa -- Organic crop systems can provide similar yields and much higher economic returns than a conventional corn-soybean rotation, according to 13 years of data from a side-by-side comparison at Iowa State University's Neely-Kinyon Research and Demonstration Farm. The Long-Term Agroecological Research Experiment (LTAR) began in 1998 with support from the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture. To sell a product as organic, the crop must be raised on land that has received no synthetic chemicals for three years prior to harvest. The LTAR experiment shows that organic crops can remain competitive with conventional crops even during the three-year transition. Averaged over 13 years, yields of organic corn, soybean and oats have been equivalent to or slightly greater than their conventional counterparts. Likewise, a 12-year average for alfalfa and an 8-year average for winter wheat show no significant difference between organic yields and the Adair County average. Organic crops fetch a premium price on the market and eliminate the need for expensive inputs like herbicides and synthetic fertilizers. As a result, they are far more profitable than conventional crops. Craig Chase, interim leader of the Leopold Center's Marketing and Food Systems Initiative and extension farm management specialist, calculated the returns to management - that is, the money left over for family living after deducting labor, land and production costs - for both systems. He based his calculations on actual LTAR data from 1998 to 2004, as well as scenarios modeled with enterprise budgets. Both methods gave the same result: On average, organic systems return roughly \$200 per acre more than conventional crops. For more information on this study, please visit: [http://www.sustainablecitynetwork.com/topic\\_channels/local\\_foods/article\\_c842a25c-210b-11e1-ac6c-0019bb30f31a.html?utm\\_source=SCN+InBox+e-Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=ba19b640cb-Newsletter\\_12-7-2011\\_PW&utm\\_medium=email](http://www.sustainablecitynetwork.com/topic_channels/local_foods/article_c842a25c-210b-11e1-ac6c-0019bb30f31a.html?utm_source=SCN+InBox+e-Newsletter&utm_campaign=ba19b640cb-Newsletter_12-7-2011_PW&utm_medium=email).

[Download a brochure about the LTAR project.](#) [Read the Rodale Institute report.](#)

## HUD, DOT, EPA Partnership Quarterly Report

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) joined together on June 16, 2009, to help communities nationwide improve access to affordable housing, increase transportation options, and lower transportation costs while protecting the environment. The Partnership for Sustainable Communities works to coordinate federal housing, transportation, water, and other infrastructure investments to make neighborhoods more prosperous, allow people to live closer to jobs, save households time and money, and reduce pollution. The partnership agencies incorporate six principles of livability into federal funding programs, policies, and future legislative proposals. Periodic updates on the Partnership for Sustainable Communities work. To view the latest Partnership Quarterly Report, please visit: <http://www.sustainablecommunities.gov> website, under Resources.

## EPA Annual Enforcement Results Highlights Commitment to Address Largest Pollution Problems with Greatest Community Impact

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently released its annual enforcement and compliance results. EPA's enforcement and compliance program enforces environmental laws that protect our nation's air, land and water by taking action to cut illegal pollution and protect people's health and communities. In fiscal year Fiscal Year 2011, EPA enforcement actions led to more than 1.8 billion pounds in pollution reduced, an estimated \$19 billion in required pollution controls and approximately \$168 million in civil penalties.

"Our annual results reflect the fact that a strong and effective enforcement program is good for responsible businesses, public health and communities across the country," said Cynthia Giles, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. "As we continue our focus on the most serious pollution problems, we expect to see better environmental performance and greater public health benefits." In FY 2011, EPA enforcement resulted in commitments to:

- Install pollution controls for a cleaner tomorrow: \$19 billion invested to improve environmental performance and compliance efforts, a record year, including \$3 billion dollars to clean up hazardous waste in communities.

-Protect people's health from dangerous pollution: 1.8 billion pounds of harmful air, water, and chemical pollution reduced and 3.6 billion pounds of hazardous waste reduced, properly disposed of or treated

-Deter illegal pollution through civil penalties: \$168 million in civil penalties assessed (\$152 million in federal penalties and \$16 million in actions taken jointly by EPA and state and local governments)

-Fight environmental crime: \$35 million in fines and restitution, \$2 million in court ordered environmental projects and 89.5 years of incarceration to deter future violations and hold violators accountable

-Invest additional resources in affected communities: \$25 million committed by companies through enforcement settlements to conduct supplemental environmental projects in communities

For more information on EPA's FY 2011 enforcement and compliance results, please visit: <http://epa.gov/compliance/resources/reports/endofyear/eoy2011/index.html>. For more information on EPA's national enforcement initiatives, please visit: <http://epa.gov/compliance/data/planning/initiatives/index.html>

### **Study finds that green spaces are linked to reduced crime rates**

A research team has found that distressed neighborhoods where vacant lots have been converted into small parks and community green spaces are associated with reduced crime when compared to neighborhoods with unimproved vacant lots. The study was conducted by a group from the University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine, using Philadelphia data compiled over the last decade. In some sections of the city, residents of neighborhoods with improved vacant lots also reported "significantly less stress and more exercise," suggesting that the improvements had an effect on residents' perceptions of safety outdoors.

Philadelphia has a major program to take advantage of vacant lots within the city to add 500 acres of additional neighborhood parks, gardens, and other green space by the end of 2015. In addition, according to a press release issued by the Perelman School, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society has had a program to green abandoned vacant lots in the city since 1999. Nearly 4,500 vacant lots totaling over 7.8 million square feet were greened from 1999 to 2008. The Horticultural Society's inventory of work formed the basis for the new study. For more information please visit: <http://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2011/11/how-small-community-parks-may-make-cities-safer-more-healthy/249017/>

## **Community Empowerment Manual**

The second edition of this popular manual by Partners for Livable Communities focuses on making the most of community resources. It is filled with information on leadership strategies, effective collaboration, creating regional partnerships, and developing and realizing a community vision. For more information, please visit: <http://livable.org/about-us/announcements/533-cem-blog-post>.