



**Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation**  
**Environment Program History, 2000 – 2016**

In the 1990's the EHTF Board identified two areas for the Environment Program to focus on:

- Consensus-building: To expand the use of collaborative decision-making through strategies to increase awareness of the benefit of diverse interests; and
- Market Transformation: To create and sustain models for how the market can support environmental priorities, including sustainable forestry and clean energy.

Beginning in 2000, EHTF supported focus group research and coordinated message development among three organizations (**Meridian**, **Sonoran** and **Northern Lights**) to strengthen the impact of their respective efforts and to model effective strategies that could be adopted by others in the field. Under the *Market Transformation* work, EHTF partnered with **Forest Stewardship Council**, **Forest Trends** and **Center for Resource Solutions** on a *Sustainable Forests and Markets Campaign*. EHTF also began exploration into energy markets.

In 2001, EHTF identified *Climate Change* and *Preserving Open Space* as topic areas for the Environment Program and defined the strategies for them as follows:

Climate Change – Connecticut Initiative: Through a five to ten year investment in the State of Connecticut, grantmaking provided by EHTF will increase public awareness of the problem and lead to changes in behavior that make a measurable reduction in state level greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Connecticut will be used as a model for what can be done regional and nationally.

Open Spaces – Greenprints: By popularizing the concept of greenprinting, help organize those in support of open space protection either at a state level, or through regional efforts around a specific resource. Once established, these states and local initiatives could be used as models for the nation.

In 2002, the EHTF made a first round of grants under these two focuses to organizations including **Environment Northeast (ENE)**, **Connecticut Innovations**, **World Resources Institute (WRI)**, **Mohonk Preserve**, **Trust for Public Land (TPL)**, **Connecticut Fund for the Environment (CFE)** and others.

EHTF continued to support *Climate Change* and *Open Space* work in 2003. The EHTF Environment Committee underscored the importance of Connecticut becoming a leading state on climate work in the Northeast and sustaining this role. The Committee also noted the importance of supporting proactive planning versus the reactionary strategy traditionally used in open space in order to be successful. Looking ahead, the Committee asked staff to explore options for broadening EHTF's climate work to other parts of the Northeast Region.

In 2004, EHTF expanded its geographic focus and made grants to **Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC)** and **Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture)** based on the Committee's recommendation to research opportunities in other Northeastern states. In 2004, EHTF also made grants to **ENE**, **Connecticut Clean Energy Fund (CCEF)**, **Clean Air-Cool Planet (CACP)** and others for their climate related work.

EHTF revised the Open Space program based on developments in the field in 2005. The concept of ecosystem function and protection was incorporated into the open space guidelines. Staff was directed to focus the program on a geographical region and to have EHTF serve as a convener of open space stakeholders in that region. Ultimately, the Board approved the Connecticut River Watershed: Communications Initiative as the focus for the Open Space work. On the Climate Change side, the Board decided to evaluate EHTF grantmaking to date and provide some insight into potential options for the future of EHTF's environment work. In the meantime, renewal grants were made to support **PEC, PennFuture, WRI, Mohonk, ENE and CACP**.

In late 2005, Ken Colburn, an evaluation consultant, presented the key findings of his evaluation on the *EHTF Climate Change Program*:

Connecticut has become a model for climate action. However, for Connecticut to continue as a model, effective and full implementation of the action plan will be key.

EHTF supported the engagement of an array of stakeholders on climate, an effective strategy that others may have perceived as too cumbersome.

After much discussion about the consultant's report, the Board approved the following plan for the *EHTF Climate Change Program*:

Continue grantmaking in Connecticut with measurable benchmarks; including some regional support.  
Continue grantmaking in Pennsylvania, mainly as a convener.

Begin some limited grantmaking in North Carolina, building partnerships with funders and leaders.

Further explore and define a Strategic Opportunities Fund for rapid responses to key climate opportunities.

In 2006, the Environment Committee approved the *Climate Change Strategic Opportunities Fund* with the following guidelines:

1. All proposals considered under the fund must be able to demonstrate a clear benefit to EHTF's overall state based climate change strategy.
2. The fund will be approximately \$100,000 annually; any remaining funds by September of the operating year will be used to fund other projects of the Environment Portfolio.
3. The fund will award grants in the amounts not below \$5,000 and not above \$50,000.
4. Any grant larger than \$15,000 will need the Committee to meet as a group to discuss the proposal and reach a decision.
5. For a grant equal to or smaller than \$15,000, the full Committee will not need to be convened for a discussion. The staff will email proposal to the Environment Committee. Three members of the Committee, including the Chair and a voting member, must respond with support of the proposal within 7 business days in order for the grant to be approved.

Under the revised frameworks, the Board approved the following key climate grants for 2006: **WRI, National Wildlife Federation (NWF), PEC, PennFuture, Environmental Defense (ED), Mohonk, CCEF, ENE, One Region**, a collaborative of grantmakers focused on transportation in the Tri-State Region (CT, NY and NJ), and others. For the Open Space Program, the Committee approved grants to **American Farmland Trust (AFT), Connecticut River Watershed Council (CRWC), The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Trust for Public Land (TPL)**.

In 2007, the Committee approved climate grants in the Northeast, Pennsylvania and the Southeast, including Florida. EHTF also continued work on the Open Space program's *Connecticut River Watershed Communications Initiative*.

Throughout 2008, the Environment Committee continued their support for climate work in the Northeast, Pennsylvania and the Southeast focusing on state level climate action with grants to key organizations including **CCEF**, **Ceres**, **The Climate Group (TCG)**, **South Carolina Coastal Conservation League (SCCCL)**, **Center for Climate Strategies (CCS)**, **National Governor's Association (NGA)** and **Center for Business and the Environment at Yale (CBEY)**. In June 2008, the Committee discussed evolving the Open Space program and redirected the funds to the climate change program. After discussion over the course of 2008, the Committee decided to amplify EHTF's role as a leader in gaining support for climate action at the state level and bring these successes to play a key part in federal level climate policy discussions. At the end of the year, the Committee and Board approved support for the creation of the **Georgetown Climate Center (GCC)**, a state-federal climate resource center, located in Washington DC.

In 2009, the Committee narrowed the focus of their climate grantmaking given the reduced program budget and the economic impacts of the last quarter of 2008. The Committee continued support for **ENE**, **One Region**, **CBEY** and **PennFuture**. In addition, the Committee approved a grant to support Southeast Climate Briefings in Washington DC highlighting successful stories of economic investments and job creation built around energy efficiency, adaptation, transportation and agriculture. The Committee also continued support for the **GCC** after a review of their successes and progress to date. At the end of 2009, the Environment Committee approved their first grant for 2010 for **SCCCL** for the South Carolina Energy Independence Public Education Campaign to leverage EHTF's existing state level climate and energy work and garner support for federal legislation.

In 2010, the Committee decided to take time to reevaluate the goals of the program and the strategy and tactics that were employed. As a result of many considerations, the Committee decided to focus grantmaking for 2010 – 2012 on continuing to spur state based climate action in Connecticut, Pennsylvania and South Carolina and to use the Georgetown Climate Center as the federal component of the portfolio. The Committee organized grantmaking under the four themes: Clean Energy Finance, Business Community Support, Communication of Community Engagement, and Climate and Energy Policies.

In 2011, renewal grants were made to **ENE** (CT state policy work), **Connecticut News Project** (Communication about Climate and Energy Issues), **Penn Future** (PA State Policy work), and **Ceres** (Business Community Engagement). In South Carolina, grants were made to **South Carolina Coastal Conservation League** (Climate and Energy Policies), **South Carolina Energy Office** (Communication of Community Engagement and Clean Energy Finance), and **Conservation Voters of South Carolina** (Communication of Community Engagement).

The Committee also approved a partnership with the **Connecticut Finance and Investment Authority** to launch an energy efficiency campaign targeting state and municipal facilities and providing examples of actions to be taken to reduce energy usage and reduce annual energy costs.

In 2012, EHTF recommitted to the focus of the environment program to support the implementation of climate change action plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Connecticut, Pennsylvania and South Carolina through the promotion of energy efficiency, particularly in public buildings (state, municipal, and school). As a part of this recommitment, EHTF supported the creation of award programs in the three states to recognize state, municipal and school leadership in energy efficiency.

**Connecticut: Power of Change Award**

To recognize leadership at the state and municipal level to reduce energy usage

**Pennsylvania: Moving to the Head of the Class**

To recognize schools that have demonstrated the greatest improvement in the energy efficiency of their facilities.

**South Carolina: Emily Hall Tremaine Milestone Recognition Award**

To recognize state agencies and school districts that have succeeded in reducing their energy usage by 20% from 2005 levels.

During 2012 - 2015, grants continued to be made in the three states including renewals to current organizations as well as new organizations including: **Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership/ Cater Communications** (to engage mainstream business leaders to advance Connecticut's energy efficiency policy portfolio); **Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance Energy Education Fund** (to engage Pennsylvania schools in energy efficiency initiatives); **South Carolina Association of Community Development Corporations** (to engage the Community Development Corporations in conversations on the benefits of financing energy efficiency technological investments in communities); **Center for Business and Environment at Yale** (to manage and grow the bi-monthly newsletter, the Clean Energy Finance Source); and **Young Conservatives for Energy Reform** (to educate conservative activists and remove the stigma that can surround climate and clean energy issues in conservative circles).

Starting in 2014, the Foundation reviewed the current program strategy and determined to shift from a focus on investment in top-down state and federal energy policy approach to addressing climate concerns. During a learning phase, EHTF investigated entrepreneurial approaches and environmental innovations that support community-level sustainability and resilience through investing at a community or district scale referred to as "small enough to innovate quickly and big enough to have a meaningful impact". Moving forward, the Foundation plans to seed community-scale energy and sustainability innovations connected to platforms or networks that can support opportunities for broader shared learning and scaling of the applied innovation.