

# MERCK FAMILY FUND

protecting the natural environment • strengthening the urban community

2016



**CONSERVING  
ECOLOGICALLY  
VALUABLE  
LAND**

**MAKING PAPER  
PRODUCTION  
SUSTAINABLE**



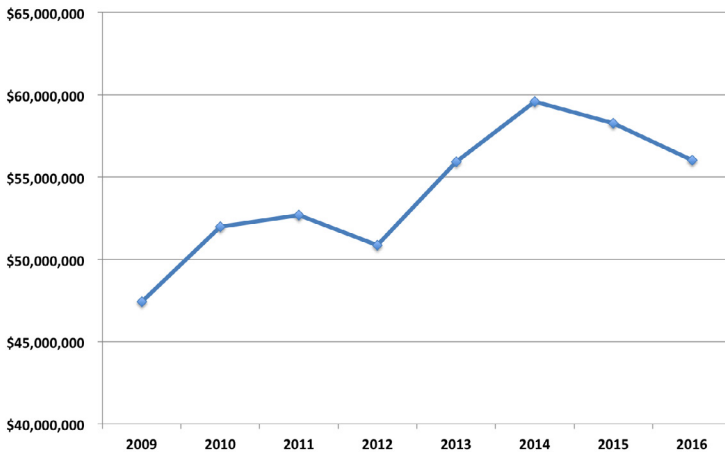
**PROMOTING  
ENERGY  
EFFICIENCY AND  
CARBON PRICING**

**URBAN FARMING  
AND YOUTH  
LEADERSHIP**

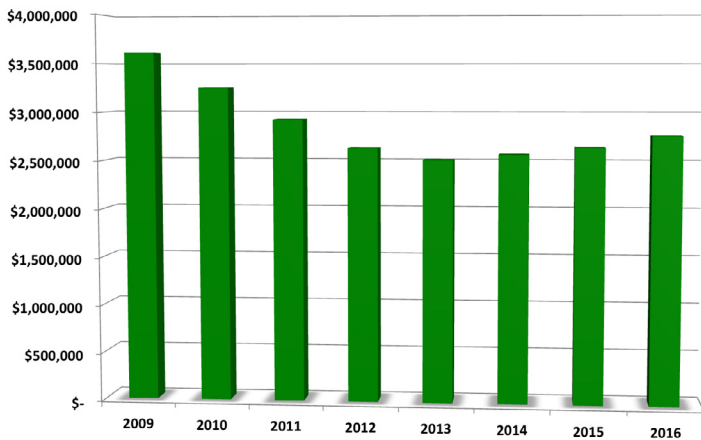


## MFF Assets, 2009 - 2016

Based on 12-month Average

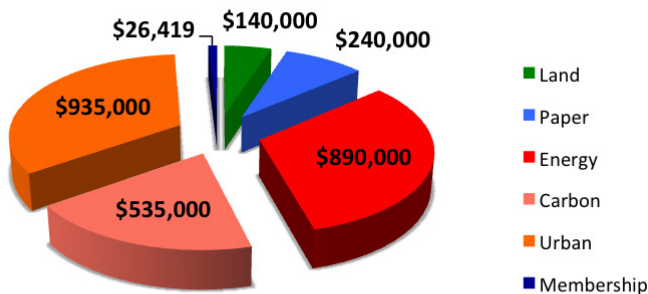


## Grants Paid, 2009 - 2016



## 2016 Grant Program Allocations

Total Disbursements: \$2,766,419



# Conserving Ecologically Valuable Land

*Urban sprawl, resource extraction, and poorly enforced environmental regulations place enormous pressures on natural resources. Natural areas need a combination of land protections and sustainable use policies to ensure clean air, clean water, and sustainability. The geographic focus of this area will be the southeastern United States, with priority given to the Southern Appalachians and the states of Tennessee, North Carolina, Kentucky, South Carolina, Georgia, and Virginia.*

### Blue Ridge Forever

Asheville, NC

\$25,000

First year of two-year \$50,000 grant to support partner land trust coordination and the protection of high priority land and water resources and resiliency to climate change.

*Fiscal Sponsor: Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy*

### Land Trust Alliance

Washington, DC

\$35,000

First year of a two-year \$70,000 grant to support land trusts in the Southeast and their ability to plan for climate change.

### North Carolina Coastal Land Trust

Wilmington, NC

\$30,000

To support the protection of a 3,000-acre parcel in the nationally significant freshwater habitats of the Waccamaw River.

### The Wilderness Society

Washington, DC

\$50,000

To support citizen engagement for a new Management Plan for the Nantahala-Pisgah National Forest.

# Making Paper Production Sustainable

*Paper production is a highly toxic, carbon-emitting, water-intensive, and forest-reliant industry. There are a number of ways to improve the environmental impact of the sector. The goal is to increase the rates of recycled paper in large paper sectors, reduce sourcing from endangered forests, and maximize clean production.*

## **As You Sow**

Oakland, CA  
\$30,000

To support increased recycled paper content in consumer goods packaging through increased curbside and in-store recycling of food and beverage cartons.

## **Canopy**

San Francisco, CA  
\$60,000

First year of two-year \$120,000 grant to support the creation and implementation of procurement policies of large corporate forest consumers to drive systemic change throughout the supply chain.

*Fiscal Sponsor: Tides Foundation*

## **Environmental Paper Network**

Asheville, NC  
\$35,000

To support collaboration amongst the environmental paper movement and accelerate transformation in the paper industry.

*Fiscal Sponsor: SEE Inc*

## **Green America**

Washington, DC  
\$20,000

To support the Better Paper Project's advocacy for sustainable paper consumption in the magazine industry.

## **Natural Resources Defense Council**

New York, NY  
\$40,000

First year of two-year \$80,000 grant to support the "Our Forests Aren't Fuel" campaign to reverse the rapid growth of biomass energy sourcing trees in the Southeast.

## **Product Stewardship Institute**

Boston, MA  
\$15,000

To support the reduction of unwanted phone books through resident opt-out programs.

## **Stand (Formerly ForestEthics)**

Bellingham, WA  
\$40,000

2nd year of two-year grant to support the campaigns to influence major corporations to adopt progressive practices for purchasing and using paper.

# Promoting Energy Efficiency and Carbon Pricing

*The cheapest and fastest way to reduce demand for electric power is through energy efficiency. In order to maximize the carbon and financial savings, a combination of motivational factors are needed for implementation including low cost, simplicity, accessibility, and regulatory oversight. Similarly, putting a price on carbon will incentivize a clean-energy economy. The goal is to support state and regional policies in the Northeast and Southeast that provide incentives and subsidies for energy efficiency and carbon pricing implementation.*

## **Energy Efficiency**

### **Acadia Center**

Rockport, ME  
\$100,000

First year of two-year \$200,000 grant to sustain investments in energy efficiency by electric and gas utilities and further advance energy efficiency at community, state, and regional forums.

### **Alliance for Affordable Energy**

New Orleans, LA  
\$20,000

To support energy efficiency programs in the city of New Orleans and state of Louisiana.

### **American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy**

Washington, DC  
\$65,000

To support coordination and technical assistance activities to advance energy efficiency in the Southeast.

### **Appalachian Voices**

*Boone, NC*

\$30,000

To support residential “on-bill” energy efficiency financing programs through rural electric membership cooperatives in Appalachia.

### **Ceres**

*Boston, MA*

\$60,000

To support the utility business model to advance investments in and deployment of energy efficiency resources.

### **Coastal Conservation League**

*Charleston, SC*

\$50,000

First year of two-year \$100,000 grant to support efficiency initiatives and the organization’s involvement with the SC State Energy Plan.

### **Conservation Law Foundation**

*Boston, MA*

\$50,000

2nd year of two-year grant to support implementation of energy efficiency technologies, strategies, and programs across the Northeast region.

### **Energy Foundation**

*San Francisco, CA*

\$20,000

To support a national meeting for energy efficiency advocates.

### **Environmental and Energy Study Institute**

*Washington, DC*

\$25,000

2nd year of two-year grant to support the scaling of on-bill financing for energy efficiency in the Southeast by co-ops and public utilities.

### **Georgetown Climate Center**

*Washington, DC*

\$60,000

2nd year of two-year grant to support the efforts in states to implement EPA’s Clean Power Plan.

*Fiscal Sponsor: Georgetown University*

### **Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions at Duke University**

*Durham, NC*

\$50,000

First year of a two-year \$100,000 grant to support the Southeast Energy and Environmental Leadership Forum for the two years beginning June 2016 and ending June 2018.

### **Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships**

*Lexington, MA*

\$75,000

First year of a two-year \$150,000 grant to support the next generation of energy efficiency policies and technologies in the Northeast to reduce regional carbon emissions by 80% by 2050.

### **Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance**

*Atlanta, GA*

\$35,000

To support Southeastern states active in energy efficiency planning, policy development and implementation.

### **Southern Alliance for Clean Energy**

*Knoxville, TN*

\$100,000

First year of a two-year \$200,000 grant to support advocacy for energy efficiency as a priority resource in the Southeast.

### **Southern Environmental Law Center**

*Charlottesville, VA*

\$150,000

2nd year of two-year grant to support efforts that advance utility investment in energy efficiency.

## **Carbon Pricing**

### **Clean Water Fund**

*Boston, MA*

\$50,000

To support the Massachusetts Campaign for a Clean Energy Future to work for state level carbon pricing policy.

*Fiscal Sponsor: Clean Water Fund*

### **Earth Economics**

*Tacoma, WA*

\$40,000

To support development and adoption of new carbon market accounting standards.

### **Energize Rhode Island**

*Providence, RI*

\$25,000

To support the implementation of a price on fossil fuels in the state of Rhode Island.

*Fiscal Sponsor: Environment Council of Rhode Island Education Fund*



### **Environmental Defense Fund**

New York, NY

\$75,000

To support a convening of select country representatives to discuss and plan for carbon pricing.

### **National Caucus of Environmental Legislators**

Washington, DC

\$40,000

To support a coordinated strategy among legislators, advocates, and business leaders working to implement carbon pricing structures in Northeast states.

### **Oregon Environmental Council**

Portland, OR

\$50,000

First year of a two-year \$100,000 grant to support Oregon's business, labor, communities of color and other key stakeholders to advance carbon pricing.

### **Resources For the Future**

Washington, DC

\$100,000

First year of a two-year \$200,000 grant to support a carbon pricing initiative including economic models, new analyses, and expanded communications around a federal carbon tax.

### **Sightline Institute**

Seattle, WA

\$40,000

To support the research and analysis around the design of carbon pricing policy in Oregon and Washington.

### **Union of Concerned Scientists**

Cambridge, MA

\$65,000

To support momentum for a national price on carbon through state-level leadership and federal policy opportunities.

### **Vermont Public Interest Research and Education Fund (VPIRG)**

Montpelier, VT

\$50,000

To support the Energy Independent Vermont campaign to price carbon pollution.

## **Urban Farming and Youth Leadership**

*Growing food in community is a collective and personal entry point to many systemic issues including: health and nutrition, job training, environmental sustainability, and the creation of social capital. The local cultivation and distribution of fresh, healthy, and affordable food which raises awareness about quality and access is lacking in low-income communities. This program will support programs in low-income urban areas in the Northeast that harness the power of young people to create urban farms and local markets.*

### **Added Value**

Brooklyn, NY

\$25,000

To support the Youth Empowerment Program, which builds the leadership capacity of Red Hook youth through urban farming and market programs.

### **Bed-Stuy Campaign Against Hunger**

Brooklyn, NY

\$25,000

To support the Green Teen urban agriculture and food justice program for youth in Bed Stuy and Far Rockaway.

### **Common Ground**

New Haven, CT

\$20,000

To support students at Common Ground High School to engage the community in local growing and food justice issues.

### **Community Food Funders**

New York, NY

\$7,500

To support the growth of an equitable, ecologically sound, and economically robust food system through funder networking and organizing.

### **Conservation Law Foundation**

Boston, MA

\$25,000

To support legal services, policy development and advocacy for the urban farming movement across New England and leadership of the MA Food Collaborative.

### **Cultivating Community**

Portland, ME

\$25,000

To educate 70 youth to grow food, support food justice activities and develop a state-wide network of teen farm and food leaders.

### **Federation of Neighborhood Centers**

Philadelphia, PA

\$25,000

To support teen leaders to increase access and consumption of healthy fresh food through urban agriculture, education, and community engagement.

### **Food Solutions New England**

Durham, NH

\$15,000

To support continued convening of an emerging leaders delegation at the 2016 New England Food Summit.

*Fiscal Sponsor: UNH Foundation*

### **FRESH New London**

New London, CT

\$20,000

To build a corps of youth food justice leaders who are inspired to take action in their communities and improve the local food system.

*Fiscal Sponsor: TSNE*

### **Friends of the High Line**

New York, NY

\$15,000

To support High Line Teens, a horticulture and green jobs training program for neighborhood teenagers.

### **Fund For Public Health in New York**

New York, NY

\$25,000

2nd year of two-year grant to support the Urban Agriculture Initiative of Building Healthy communities that will create five new farms on New York City Housing Authority property.

### **Gardening the Community**

Springfield, MA

\$25,000

To support youth leaders to address the Mason Square community's food security and healthy food access needs through urban farming and other initiatives.

*Fiscal Sponsor: Third Sector New England*

### **Gedakina**

Amherst, MA

\$20,000

To support and guide Native American youth across New England to develop and sustain community agricultural projects and learn about food sovereignty.

### **Green City Force**

Brooklyn, NY

\$25,000

To support youth job training and resident engagement at the NYCHA Farm in Red Hook, and the building of new farms at 3 developments in Canarsie, Brownsville, and East Harlem.

### **Green Guerillas**

New York, NY

\$25,000

To support the High School of Public Service Youth Farm, a center for youth empowerment and fresh food in Flatbush.

### **Green Village Initiative**

Bridgeport, CT

\$20,000

To support youth led food production and distribution on an urban farm and work for food justice.

### **Groundwork Lawrence**

Lawrence, MA

\$25,000

To support the Green Team and Lawrence High School students to cultivate, harvest, sell and donate produce from two urban farms.

### **Groundwork Somerville**

Somerville, MA

\$20,000

To support the Green Team youth job corps to grow affordable food, improve their career skills, and promote social and environmental justice in their community.

### **Hartford Food System, Inc**

Hartford, CT

\$25,000

To support Hartford teens to grow and distribute food and organize for change to the food service in the public schools.

### **Hattie Carthan Community Farmers Market**

Brooklyn, NY

\$20,000

To advance food justice and youth empowerment in Bedford Stuyvesant through markets, gardens and a farm.

*Fiscal Sponsor: Magnolia Tree Earth Center*

### **MA Food System Collaborative**

Greenfield, MA

\$25,000

To support the implementation of the Massachusetts Local Food Action Plan and specifically the urban agriculture recommendations.

*Fiscal Sponsor: Franklin County Community Development Corporation*

### **Mill City Grows**

Lowell, MA

\$20,000

To support the expansion of youth education, leadership development, and employment programs through two urban farms.

### **Norris Square Neighborhood Project**

Philadelphia, PA

\$25,000

To support the Roots of Change Youth Garden program that engages teen leaders in year-round food growing and food justice activities in the local community.

### **Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group**

Irvington, NY

\$10,000

To support the inclusion of a cohort of youth leaders from across the region at the annual conference.

*Fiscal Sponsor: The Tides Center*

### **NUBIA, Inc**

Roxbury, MA

\$20,000

To support the growing and equitable distribution by youth of local, fresh and culturally significant produce.

### **Nuestras Raices**

Holyoke, MA

\$25,000

To support 20 youth leaders to develop farming and community engagement skills and build an appetite for healthy, fresh, culturally appropriate food.

### **Organization for Refugee and Immigrant Success**

Manchester, NH

\$20,000

To support refugee and immigrant youth to develop leadership, employment, and farming skills through a multi-generational urban/rural agriculture project.

### **Pennsylvania Horticultural Society**

Philadelphia, PA

\$25,000

To support youth leadership development and community engagement at the Green Resource Center in Strawberry Mansion.

### **Philadelphia Food Policy Advisory Council**

Philadelphia, PA

\$17,500

To support policies and practices that improve food justice and strengthen urban agriculture.

*Fiscal Sponsor: Fund for Philadelphia*

### **Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia**

Philadelphia, PA

\$25,000

To partner with community gardens and market farms in low-income communities to secure legal land access and improve urban agriculture and open space policies.

### **Regional Environmental Council, Inc.**

Worcester, MA

\$25,000

To engage youth in a leadership development, urban farming, employment, and organizing program on two urban farms.

### **Rockaway Youth Task Force**

Far Rockaway, NY

\$20,000

To support a food justice and urban farming project in the Rockaway community.

*Fiscal Sponsor: Fund for the City of New York*

### **Rooted in Community**

Berkeley, CA

\$15,000

To support a 5-day professional development opportunity for adults working with youth in food system and environmental justice work.

*Fiscal Sponsor: Earth Island Institute*

### **Southside Community Land Trust**

Providence, RI

\$25,000

To support the Young Farmers program that provides leadership, growing and education experiences across the urban food system in Pawtucket and Providence.

### **St. Mary's Nutrition Center**

Lewiston, ME

\$25,000

To strengthen leadership opportunities for youth by engaging in food justice and urban agriculture projects, and resident engagement and education.

### **The Food Project**

*Lincoln, MA*

\$35,000

2nd year of two-year grant to support the Dirt Crews in Lynn and Boston as they catalyze urban food production.

### **The POINT Community Development Corporation**

*Bronx, NY*

\$20,000

To engage 80 youth leaders to improve food access in the neighborhood and organize residents for lasting policy change.

### **The Village of Arts and Humanities**

*Philadelphia, PA*

\$20,000

To support 100 teens to participate in growing food and other sustainability initiatives through the PhillyEarth Center for Youth Environmental Education.

### **United Community Centers**

*Brooklyn, NY*

\$40,000

To support East New York Farms! youth-development and sustainable agriculture programs and coordinate the Youth Food Justice Network

### **Urban Creators**

*Philadelphia, PA*

\$15,000

To empower at-risk and formerly incarcerated youth to transform vacant spaces into centers for urban agriculture, service-learning, and community celebration.

### **Urban Farming Institute**

*Roxbury, MA*

\$25,000

To support farmer training and the development of new urban farms in Boston, state advocacy on urban agriculture and the annual Urban Farming conference.

### **Urban Tree Connection**

*Philadelphia, PA*

\$25,000

To support urban youth in the development of a healthier neighborhood food system through urban farming, nutrition education, and food distribution.

## **Membership Grants**

### **Associated Grant Makers**

\$3,000

### **Confluence Philanthropy**

\$1,000

### **Consultative Group on Biodiversity**

\$4,550

### **Convergence Partnership**

\$5,000

### **Environmental Grantmakers Association**

\$7,869

### **Funders' Network for Smart Growth**

\$5,000