

<b><u>Name of Organization</u></b>	Earth Island Institute
<b><u>Tax Status</u></b>	501(c)3 public charity
<b><u>Purpose of Grant</u></b>	to support the Energy Action Coalition
<b><u>FPOS Grant Description</u></b>	Earth Island Institute seeks renewed support of \$500,000 for one year for the Energy Action Coalition (EAC). EAC, made up of more than 50 diverse environmental and social justice organizations from across the U.S. and Canada, was founded and is led by young people to serve as the core and coordinator of the U.S. youth climate movement. Its success has made it critical to the climate movement, and also as a model for other youth-led organizations.
<b><u>Previous OSI Support</u></b>	\$1,300,000 (U.S. Programs: Global Warming)
<b><u>Organization Budget</u></b>	\$14,854,326
<b><u>Project Budget</u></b>	\$3,890,606
<b><u>Source of Support</u></b>	Alliance for Climate Protection Children's Investment Fund Foundation Kendeda Fund Rockefeller Brothers Fund Surdna Foundation Town Creek Foundation
<b><u>Amount Requested</u></b>	\$500,000
<b><u>Amount Recommended</u></b>	\$500,000 (T1: 21085 - U.S. Programs Global Warming)
<b><u>Term</u></b>	1 year, Sept. 1, 2009 – Sept. 30, 2010, 1 installment

**Description of Organization**

Earth Island Institute (EII), a 501c3, is the fiscal sponsor for Energy Action and all collaboratively raised funds. EII, founded in 1982 by veteran environmentalist David Brower, specializes in fiscal sponsorship and administrative services and has incubated many successful organizations, including Rainforest Action Network and Bluewater Network. Energy Action, through EII, is responsible for disbursing funds to all Challenge partners, which are all also 501c3 non-profits. Energy Action staff prepare all funding reports and work closely with EII staff to ensure an efficient re-granting and reporting process.

## **Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought**

Energy Action Coalition is a group of more than 50 diverse environmental and social justice organizations from across the U.S. and Canada, founded and led by young people, to establish, support and strengthen the student and youth movement for clean energy in North America. Participating organizations work together to leverage their collective power in order to demand action on climate on and off campus, to educate the public, and to build a climate movement to achieve a clean, efficient, equitable and renewable energy future.

The one-year grant to Energy Action Coalition (EAC) recommended here will renew support for this coalition, which serves as the core and coordinator of the U.S. youth climate movement. A one-year project grant is recommended to allow EAC to spin off as an independent public charity from fiscal sponsorship by Earth Island Institute. U.S. Programs staff expect to resume multi-year funding in 2010 once EAC is established as an independent entity.

U.S. Programs has supported EAC's Campus Climate Challenge since it was launched in 2005 to empower campus leaders across North America to push college and university administrations to enact policies that cut greenhouse gas reductions and invest in renewable energy. The Challenge exceeded its original goals by every measure, ultimately reaching more than 3 million young people on and off more than 1,000 campuses, engaging 20,000 young people as volunteers, and securing 500+ clean energy victories. Through the Campus Climate Challenge, EAC learned that as students translated their passion and energy into campus victories, many of them became hungry for impact and influence beyond the borders of their campuses. This energy formed the basis for two large Power Shift summits (6,000 young people attended in 2007, and 12,000 in 2009), and Power Vote, a huge and successful non-partisan voter education campaign during the 2008 election season.

EAC's program for the coming year will take the networks and momentum built during these earlier campaigns and convert them into an ongoing Power Shift campaign. The campaign will engage over 500 local chapters and thousands of youth to pool their expertise and power to hold policymakers accountable for a clean, equitable and prosperous energy future. The campaign has two main goals:

- 1) making youth leaders highly visible and effective agents of change in the 2009-2010 public discussions about how to address global warming<sup>1</sup>; and
- 2) expanding the size of the youth movement, and enhancing the skills of its members.

Youth leaders will be visible through a "Get in the Game Obama" effort to pressure the President to exert strong, public leadership on climate and energy policies in the U.S. and

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<sup>1</sup> EAC plans to lobby on climate and energy legislation and has provided OSI with an allocated budget that segregates non-lobbying and lobbying activity, and that has been signed by an officer of its fiscal sponsor, Earth Island Institute.

in the international arena. Youth leaders will also work at the state level on their own and in partnership with organizations like OSI grantee The Alliance for Climate Protection, the Sierra Club, 1 Sky, the Blue-Green Alliance, National Wildlife Federation and others to build public pressure for strong policies. Ten state Power Shift summits are planned for October 2009, at which 1,000-2,000 students will receive public education and training on how to advance clean energy solutions in their communities and in the public policy arena. Previous gatherings in the states have proven essential to equip students with core organizing skills, give them the space to formulate regional and/or state-specific strategies and toolkits, and expand the numbers and network of young people who are engaged in the climate movement. Work at the state and local level has also enabled EAC to reach out to thousands of students of color and native youth to grow a broad and diverse youth climate movement that provides a stark contrast to the traditional environmental and climate movement. EAC will also be a key partner in international activities in conjunction with the UN General Assembly and other key moments leading up to the Copenhagen climate talks in December, partnering with OSI grantees Avaaz and 350.org.

The Washington, DC-based EAC is led by Jessy Tolkan, one of the most capable, indefatigable and inspiring young leaders USP staff have come across. Since EAC is a coalition, it has worked hard over the last few years to establish and enhance a flexible and fair governance structure made up of its member organizations that also provides strong leadership from the center. The coalition is completely youth-led. Its governing Council consists of one representative of each active member organization. Major decisions on direction are made by the Council. Budget decisions are made by a Budget Allocation Committee, whose membership includes allies from the field who have no loyalties to any of the groups in the coalition that will receive funds. To ensure a high level of accountability by the coalition partners who receive sub-grants from EAC, each member organization is required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as a condition of receiving funds. The MOU includes specific programmatic deliverables and reporting requirements, including: submission of a mid-year progress report, an end of the year deliverables and financial report, any other reporting as required by specific funders, and participation in in-person meetings and conference calls.

### **Rationale**

U.S. Programs' global warming desk and the Democracy and Power Fund recommend renewed support of the Energy Action Coalition for a fourth year, at a moment when the U.S. and the world are on the brink of taking decisive action to address global warming. With the twin goals of making youth leaders highly visible and effective agents of change and expanding the size and skills of the youth climate movement, this grant advances two key U.S. Programs interests: building the leadership capacity of young people and moving the U.S. toward ambitious action on global warming.

The climate movement desperately needs the passion, energy and vision of young people at this historical moment when the U.S. and the world stand at the precipice of taking action to address the climate crisis. Young people provide both moral authority and a

reality check for policy makers who may wish to take action but are likely to default to weak measures that don't match the magnitude of the problem. Young people have been critical to every successful social movement in the last half century. And after an historic presidential election, made possible in no small part by the youth vote, they are particularly well-positioned to press for progress on the issue of their lifetime. Young people have come of age with an understanding that climate change is happening and that they and their children will be left to deal with its consequences. They do not question the science or the multiple benefits of shifting the U.S. economy to sustainable sources of energy; they question why leaders, policymakers and the rest of their cohort aren't doing enough about the problem. The Energy Action Coalition was born from this concern and is fueled by the energy of young people who are determined get the U.S. and the world on a different path.

It is imperative for the climate change movement to develop a pipeline to produce a new generation of leaders. Today's youth will be tomorrow's scientists and engineers, organizational executives and business leaders, community and faith leaders, public officials and professional activists. It is essential to begin educating and training these future leaders about global warming, sustainability and globalization, as well as how to make change. There is no better way to ensure the long-term success of the global warming and related movements than by investing in their future leaders today.

In addition to representing a key component of the global warming movement, EAC has demonstrated that it is the vehicle for the job. The Coalition is entirely youth-led and has attracted an impressive array of member groups, ranging from large campus activism stalwarts like the Sierra Student Coalition to smaller environmental justice organizations like the Black Mesa Water Coalition. EAC has worked intentionally and assiduously on diversity from its beginning and has deepened its engagement in communities and at historically Black colleges and universities so as to change the face of what was and continues to be a largely white environmental movement. Coalitions of EAC's size and diversity are often rife with tensions over scarce resources and competing values and agendas, but EAC has mostly managed to avoid such pitfalls. This is in large part a testimony to the leadership provided by founder Billy Parish and EAC Executive Director Jessy Tolkan, who have demonstrated keen attention to process, deep buy-in from coalition partners, a well-crafted plan to build toward critical mass, and maturity beyond their years.

Billy and Jessy's leadership have also netted the coalition huge respect in climate activism circles. EAC is the go-to group for the Alliance for Climate Protection and many other major organizations when they want to tap into the energy of young people. EAC's Power Shift 2009 was an extraordinary recognition of the political significance of youth and the organizational significance of EAC. Everybody who is anybody in the climate movement (EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, John Podesta, Van Jones, Majora Carter, and the heads of every major environmental organization, etc.) addressed the 2009 Power Shift conference, where 12,000 young people from every state in the union and a dozen foreign countries attended hundreds of climate science seminars, political landscape briefings, sessions on the

international negotiations and state campaigns, and lobbying trainings. Youth networks around the world are copying the Power Shift playbook to build powerful youth climate movements around the globe.

This grant to EAC will allow it to capitalize on a critical moment for the climate issue, as well as the newfound political strength of the youth bloc, to allow young people to speak with unprecedented authority and effectiveness in the public dialogue about the American climate and energy future.