

NEW YORK STATE
EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (ESDC)
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE INTERAGENCY TASKFORCE
DRAFT ACTION AGENDA

I. General Recommendations and Agency Actions

Recommendation 1: Provide Increased Community representation and access

Action Agenda

- The Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC) is a public benefit corporation that engages in various types of economic development activities. It is authorized by law to issue bonds to finance these activities. It is also authorized to create subsidiary corporations to oversee and perform specific economic development activities throughout the state. The Corporation is governed by a nine-member Board of Directors comprising two ex-officio members and seven members appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Senate.

Recommendation 2: Continue Collaboration with the Environmental Justice Community

Action Agenda

- All ESD Board meetings are now held at various statewide locations as well as being broadcast live on the internet. ESD Board meetings are open to the public, and public comment is welcome. For some projects, such as Atlantic Yards, an ombudsperson was designated to serve as a full time liaison between ESD, elected officials, community representatives and the general public. Notice of Board meetings can be found on ESD's website at www.nylovesbiz.com.

Recommendation 4: Offer Technical Assistance Grant Programs

Action Agenda

- The Entrepreneurial Assistance Program (EAP) was created by the New York State Omnibus Economic Development Act of 1987. The EAP continues to help entrepreneurs create new businesses and has provided in-depth assistance to minorities, women and dislocated workers interested in starting a business. The EAP provides grants to not-for-profit corporations, community colleges and boards of cooperative educational services (BOCES) for the development of community-based EAP Centers.
- Centers are located in communities and provide instruction, training, technical assistance and support services to individuals who have recently started or are interested in starting a business. Currently there are 21 centers strategically located throughout the state. Centers are operated by community-based organizations with close ties to local residents, which enable them to adapt services to local needs and demands. Information on EAP Centers can be found at:
http://www.nylovesbiz.com/Small_and_Growing_Businesses/entr_assistance.asp

Recommendation 6: Give Priority to Environmental Justice Communities in Relevant RFP requirements, Scoring Systems for Funding, Assistance and Training Programs

Action Agenda

- Restore NY is a program designed to encourage economic development and neighborhood growth by providing municipalities with financial assistance for revitalization of commercial and residential properties. Priority for funding is given to those communities that exhibit economic distress, including high unemployment and poverty. In February 2009, Governor Paterson announced that ESD will accept applications for \$150 million in Restore NY program grants. Information and application materials can be found at: www.nylovesbiz.com/restoreny.

Recommendation 7: Prioritize Enforcement Actions and Pollution Reduction Programs and Resources in Environmental Justice Communities

Action Agenda

- Empire State Development (ESD) offers assistance to companies that want to substantially reduce costs and/or expand operations by reusing, remanufacturing, or recycling materials that are normally disposed; or by reducing the volume or toxicity of waste and/or by-products. Assistance includes:
 - Capital funding: invests in physical assets (such as plant, machinery and equipment and infrastructure) needed to achieve pollution prevention, recycling and waste reduction at manufacturing and other companies.
 - Technical assistance: available for NYS non-profit organizations or municipalities that directly assist New York State businesses to achieve pollution prevention, reuse, or recycling results.
 - Research, development and demonstration (RD&D) funds: available to test, evaluate or demonstrate the technical and/or economic feasibility of technologies or practices that prevent, reuse, remanufacture or recycle waste.
- Eligible applicants include qualified small and medium-sized New York State businesses, non-profit organizations and municipalities on behalf of New York State businesses. Funding requests are reviewed on a competitive basis throughout the year. The extent of private investment and the significance of expected economic and environmental benefits are evaluated to determine award amounts.

Recommendation 8: Diversify and Green the Workforce

Action Agenda

- New York State offers assistance to small and large businesses attempting to meet the challenges of creating new products, entering new markets and improving production. ESD helps to elevate the workforce to meet the highest standards. ESD can also assist with training newly hired employees, linking companies with job seekers who possess the required skills, and partnering with various organizations to promote New York State as a leader in developing a well-trained workforce.