



Environmental Leadership Program

FACT SHEET

ELP's Mission

Since 1999, the Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) has prepared visionary, action-oriented and diverse leadership for a just and sustainable future. ELP is developing a national community of emerging leaders who can advance innovative, equitable solutions to our environmental challenges.

Who are ELP Fellows?

Through regional networks currently in the East, New England, Mid-Atlantic, and Southeast, along with national programming, ELP has created a dynamic network of over 400 of the country's top emerging environmental leaders. Each regional network annually selects a class of approximately 20 talented individuals, with three to ten years experience, to participate in our year-long fellowship program. Recognizing that every sector plays a critical role in environmental progress, ELP recruits from nonprofits, academia, government, and private sectors. ELP believes that future environmental leaders must reflect the increasingly diverse demographics of the American public, and that the environmental community must strengthen its ties with groups that have been historically underrepresented in the environmental field, including civil rights, faith, labor, community-based, and public health organizations. ELP aims to recruit people of color as roughly fifty percent of its program participants.

Biographies of all current and Senior ELP Fellows are available on our website at www.elpnet.org.

Regional Network Program

ELP Regional Networks provide emerging leaders with the skills, networks and support needed to work toward a just and sustainable future. Through ELP's Regional Fellowship Program up-and-coming leaders engage in a series of trainings that build their shared sense of community, increase their public communication and leadership skills, and further their knowledge of the environmental field.

"The experiences of my fellowship group inform my work and broaden my perspective in a way that traditional education and casual networking simply cannot."

-Heather McCall

New Jersey Office of Smart Growth

Regional Fellowship Program

The regional fellowship program offers intensive leadership and skill training, regional networking opportunities, and time for personal and professional reflection. Consisting of three multi-day retreats and additional optional trainings, the fellowship curriculum includes opportunities to explore personal leadership styles utilizing a "leadership compass" model, and learn new skills related to conflict resolution, strategic communications, and diversity. ELP diversity training equips participants with tools to frankly address issues of race, ethnicity, class, and gender as they appear in the environmental field and broader society. Workshops on visioning and movement-building help ELP Fellows situate their work in broad context and see how it relates to long-term social change.



Optional Trainings

In addition to the training provided through the Fellowship, current and Senior Fellows have the opportunity to participate in additional, optional learning opportunities. Recent examples include New England Fellows working with a media consultant on message development and working with the press, and a Delaware Valley workshop on effective networking and collaboration.

(Continued on back)



Engaging the Public

ELP Fellows also take public leadership by coordinating and participating in ELP Networking Events and Issue Forums. These public events convene environmental professionals, academics, activists, and other individuals to share ideas and resources and raise awareness about regional and national environmental challenges. Sample events include an October 2006 conference organized by New England Regional Fellows on Environmental Justice and Resource Rights, an annual Green Family Picnic in the Delaware Valley, and a May

Celebration of Leadership in Boston featuring David Gergen of Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. ELP first's national conference, held in July 2007 in Newark, NJ, brought new and established leaders together to discuss innovative climate strategies, leadership and solutions.

"The ELP program is an energizing experience because it acknowledges all the challenges of leadership while nurturing and instructing new leaders to meet them."

-Takkeem Morgan

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
2006 Delaware Valley Fellow

ELP Achievements

ELP's training and support yields significant personal growth and substantive change by the talented individuals selected for the fellowship program. Suzanne Leta Liou, 2006 fellow and Global Warming and Clean Air Advocate for Environment New Jersey, used her ELP experience to advocate for New Jersey's recently passed carbon emission reduction law. Suzanne was featured prominently in Governor Corzine's press release announcing his executive order on climate change, and in the *New York Times* article reporting the legislature's recent passage of the Global Warming Response Act. Pegeen Hanrahan, a participant in ELP's first fellowship class, used her personal leadership plan in achieving her goal of becoming Mayor of Gainesville, Florida. First elected in 2004, Pegeen has been recognized as a "Progressive City Leader" by *The Nation*. As Mayor, Pegeen has championed initiatives on smart growth, water conservation, and creating incentives for consumers and businesses to reduce energy consumption. In March 2007, Pegeen was elected to a second term.

"The fellowship gave me something that was completely missing from my professional life: a safe space to talk about the struggles each of us face doing both diversity and environmental work. For a long time, I felt alone in this and now I have people I can turn to when I need to have these difficult discussions."

-Melissa Bailey

Tufts University
2006 New England Fellow

New Strategic Vision

One of the greatest questions facing the field of environmental leadership development is how to achieve a scale and scope more commensurate with our nation's challenges. Many leadership and fellowship programs never reach the critical mass necessary for substantial

social impact. At their June 2007 meeting, ELP's Board of Trustees voted unanimously to extend our regional fellowship programs across the nation in the coming years, multiplying the number of participants annually entering our community and dramatically increasing our impact. This new strategic vision will set ELP on course to become the nation's preeminent environmental leadership organization. Regional fellowship programs provide a year of localized training and programming to new ELP Fellows, and act as a gateway to the networking and collaborative opportunities presented by our national Senior Fellow community. Through national programming, including conferences, Senior Fellow projects and gatherings, and distance learning and collaboration, ELP Senior Fellows are creating one visionary, action-oriented and diverse national community.

