



# Environmental Leadership Program

[www.elpnet.org](http://www.elpnet.org)

## 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 and innovative leaders who can advance equitable solutions to our environmental challenges.

## Who are ELP Fellows?

Through its Eastern Regional Network (DE, NJ, NY and PA), New England Regional Network and national programming, ELP has created a dynamic network of over 400 of the country's top emerging environmental and social change leaders. Each regional network annually selects a class of approximately 15-20 talented individuals, with three to ten years experience, to participate in our leadership development 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.

## Regional Network Program

ELP Regional Networks provide emerging leaders with the professional 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.

## 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 high engagement leadership, creating effective and dynamic partnerships and coalitions, effective communication, and working across difference 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 high engagement leadership provide the skills needed to create agile and high functioning work groups that build off individuals strengths and talents.

***"I was looking to develop professionally when I joined ELP and was surprised to also have grown personally as well. By talking at length with everyone in my class I have gained new insight, perspective and world view which will ultimately impact my long term goals of driving policy."***

Renee Della Fave, ELP Senior Fellow



## Optional Trainings

In addition to the training provided through the Fellowship, current and Senior Fellows have the opportunity to participate in other optional learning opportunities. Recent examples include New England Fellows working with a media consultant on message development and an Eastern Regional Network workshop on Agile Project Management.

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### 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 a public issue forum in Los Angeles, Ca on Climate Change and Water which examined the scale of the problem and environmental leadership solutions at global, national and local scales; and the screening of *No Family History* a documentary created by ELP Senior

Fellow Sabrina McCormick which investigates the environments impact on breast cancer.

***"There are a lot of leadership programs out there, but the Fellows in my class are unlike any I could have found anywhere else"***

Daniel Husserl, ELP Senior Fellow

### ELP Achievements

ELP's training and support yields significant personal growth and substantive change by the talented individuals selected for the fellowship program. Through the development of their ELP Personal Leadership Plans, Fellows create roadmaps for their own success and have a talented and accomplished peer network to provide them with honest feedback, challenging their ideas and pushing them towards greater success.

A Few of the achievements of ELP Senior Fellows in In 2009 include:

- Chip Giller, CEO of Grist Magazine was awarded the prestigious Heinz Award;
- Viraj Puri launched Gotham Greens the first commercial scale hydroponic rooftop farm in New York City;
- Sacoby Wilson became the American Public Health Association's Environmental Health Chair;
- Kenneth Smith became the Senior Analyst at the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO); and
- Stephanie Gripne became the Director of the Initiative for Sustainable Development at the University of Colorado's Leeds School of Business.

***"I've never been in a room with this type of personal and professional commitment, passion or intellectual capital"***

Brian Salazar, ELP Senior Fellow

### New Strategic Process

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. In 2009 the Board of Trustees embarked on a new strategic process which would allow the organization to be more agile in its ability to meet the current economic challenges head on while engaging the talents and strengths of the Fellowship Community it has spent 10 years building. As ELP moves into its second decade, the focus of the organization will be on both replicating the regional model on a national scale which will multiply the number of participants entering our community and dramatically increasing out impact; and increasing the capacity of the ELP Community to work together to create broad changes in the environmental and social change arenas nationally, regionally and at the local level.

