

Audubon/Toyota Alliance Seeks Applications for Leadership Development and Innovative Community-Based Conservation Projects

March 03, 2011

New York, NY, March 3, 2011— TogetherGreen, a conservation alliance between the National Audubon Society and Toyota, is now accepting applications for its 2011 class of Fellows and Innovation Grantees.

Through ***TogetherGreen Conservation Fellowships***, 40 promising individuals will be chosen for their demonstrated leadership, as well as leadership potential, skills, and commitment to engaging people of diverse backgrounds in conservation action. Fellows receive a \$10,000 grant to conduct a conservation action project in their community, as well as specialized training and support to help shape and implement their projects. They also become part of a dynamic alumni network of conservation professionals from across the country.

TogetherGreen Innovation Grants annually provide essential funding that enables Audubon groups and their partners to inspire, equip, and support activities that engage new and diverse audiences in conservation action and create healthier communities. A minimum of 40 projects will receive funding, totaling more than \$1 million dollars of support—with grants ranging from \$5,000-\$80,000. Grants will be reviewed by an expert advisory panel, and the average grant awarded will be around \$25,000.

“Through TogetherGreen Fellowships and Innovation Grants, we have an opportunity to create a vibrant network of conservation entrepreneurs,” said David Yarnold, National Audubon Society President. “Audubon and Toyota care about empowering people and creating conservation results in communities across the country. We look forward to selecting another stellar group of people and projects that will engage thousands of Americans in local conservation action.”

Since the program’s inception in 2008, more than 135,000 individuals have participated in community-based *TogetherGreen* projects in 49 states and more than 150 cities around the country. More than 130 environmental projects have received Innovation Grants totaling more than \$3.5 million, which was then matched 100%. The inaugural class of 40 *TogetherGreen* Fellows recruited more than 3,400 individuals who spent 37,000 hours on conservation activities.

Candidates for the *TogetherGreen* Fellows program must have at least six years experience in some aspect of the environment, a passion for conservation, the desire to learn and grow, and an interest and ability to reach diverse and previously underrepresented audiences.

Innovation Grants funding will be awarded to groups in Audubon’s national network, including state programs, Centers, and local Chapters— working in partnership with one or more external organizations. Recipients will be chosen for innovative ideas that achieve conservation results focused on habitat, water, and energy. Applicants will also need to demonstrate how their project will reach new and diverse communities and directly engage people in conservation action.

Selection of the *TogetherGreen* Fellows and Grants will be made upon the recommendation of a national advisory board of conservation leaders, with expertise in education, evaluation, diversity, conservation biology, and other disciplines.

To apply for a 2011 *TogetherGreen* Fellowship, visit www.togethergreen.org/fellows. The site includes application guidelines, selection criteria, eligibility, benefits, and an online application. If you require additional information, contact Eddie Gonzalez at fellows@togethergreen.org or 202-861-2242, x3065.

To apply for a 2011 *TogetherGreen* Innovation Grant, visit www.togethergreen.org/grants. The site includes application guidelines, selection criteria, benefits, and an online application. Interested organizations not affiliated with Audubon should contact Florence Miller at grants@togethergreen.org or 802-505-0839 to learn about partnership possibilities.

The deadline to apply for both the *TogetherGreen* Fellowship program and the Innovation Grants program is 11:59 p.m. PDT on May 2, 2011. Fellows and Grant applicants will be notified in July 2011 and August 2011 respectively.