

Latinos Leading in the Green Economy *and Partnering for the Future*

CHCI is excited to provide a sampling of the depth and breadth of new green technologies, approaches, and initiatives that are underway in our community today. More than 30 companies are represented—with initiatives from nine states—New York, New Jersey, Florida, Illinois, Wisconsin, Louisiana, Colorado, New Mexico, and California—plus submissions from the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Latinos are well represented in exciting engineering breakthroughs to advance the science and technology applied to solving the challenge of climate change, energy independence, and a green, healthy environment. We're providing funding for critical projects through private equity funds. We are ensuring that all Latinos can enjoy the bounty our green future through efforts to reach and educate Latinos about these issues. We're educating Latinos how to be healthier and live in a healthier environment through bi-lingual environmental education using weekly radio shows, video blogs, magazines, media tours, and forums. We're providing greener, healthier affordable housing for lower-income Americans in urban areas with environmentally efficient design features. Our small businesses are leading the way through their own green initiatives. We're ensuring the next generation of Latinos will be prepared to benefit from this bounty. We're leading in environmental justice—working to increase quality jobs and opportunities in the green industry and funding and job training to guarantee broad access to clean energy jobs.

These exciting initiatives are talking place all around our great nation. Please join with us in recognizing those Latinos listed here who are leading the way in the green economy.

Alicia Abella, Ph.D.

*Murray Hill, NJ
Nominated by Susan Santana and Jerry Fuentes, AT&T*

Alicia Abella, Ph.D., leads a group of researchers in developing collaboration tools and technology to allow people to work on projects at a distance and over time. This significantly reduces costly and environmentally damaging travel, with the

added social benefit of improving lifestyle. The projects are a powerful teleconferencing system used by most of AT&T; a web-based framework for collaborative problem solving that allows people to collect all their documents, discussions, conference calls, and contact information for each project in a single place; a collaborative video sharing tool that allows businesses to comment and mark up video content for distance education and training; and an iPhone application for on-demand audio conferences that can bring people together spontaneously wherever they are for urgent meetings.

The large teleconferencing project has had tremendous success at AT&T where it handles more than 70 million minutes of conferencing per month. The system is about to double in size to meet even greater demand, and with a new planned capability from Abella's team, it will be able to support conferences of 10,000 people or more.



Bickerdike Redevelopment Corporation

*Chicago, IL
Nominated by Yianice Hernandez, Senior Program Director, Green Communities, Enterprise Community Partners*

Founded in 1967 by local residents and institutions, Bickerdike Redevelopment Corporation builds vital and diverse communities in Chicago through affordable housing and economic development, award-winning property management, grassroots organizing and youth engagement. Led by its executive director, Joy Aruguete, Bickerdike's work benefits thousands of residents annually, through:

- Innovative affordable housing development and property management with 1,036 units developed to date providing homes for more than 2,500 low- and moderate- income residents;
- Employment and training for local residents through nearly 100 job opportunities each year; and
- Grassroots leadership development involving an active corps of 80 volunteers

and nearly 1,000 neighborhood residents in meetings, events, and actions throughout the year.

Bickerdike is currently developing its first comprehensively planned and designed green development, Rosa Parks Apartments, which will feature environmentally friendly, energy-efficient components and building practices in all properties. On development will also include and a vegetated roof, solar paneling and geothermal systems.



Bridge Street Cleaners

*Brooklyn, NY
Nominated by Andrew Kimball, President, Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation*

Bridge Cleaners and its president, Victoria Aviles, are leaders in our nation's efforts to provide the highest quality dry cleaning services while employing sustainable methods. As a member of the Green Cleaners Council, Aviles is helping to redefine the process locally and across our nation, using traditional and alternative cleaning methods in a responsible manner. A Merit Award winner in American Drycleaner's Plant Design Awards, Bridge Cleaners has made significant strides towards greening its production process, employing wet cleaning, an environmentally safe alternative to dry cleaning that utilizes computer-controlled washing machines and biodegradable soaps and conditioners. Bridge Cleaners also uses water retrievers to re-circulate excess liquids from its boilers and heaters for the cleaning and steaming of its clothes and invests in green products including biodegradable cleaning agents and hydrocarbon dryers. Additionally, Aviles has been a key player in the National Cleaners Association (NCA) and on its Board of Directors for more than 30 years, helping to bridge the gap between customer and business

and serving as a pro-bono translator of the association's material into Spanish.



Caribbean Renewable Technologies (CRT)

San Juan, Puerto Rico

Nominated by Juan Carlos Iturregui, Esq., Class of 1987, CHCI Fellow

During 2008, Walter Pedreira Perez galvanized various sectors in Puerto Rico, co-founded the local Association of Contractors and Suppliers of Renewable Energies, and was pro-active in the adoption of landmark legislation in the commonwealth that promotes the deployment of green energy. Perez is a professional engineer with 20 years of experience in manufacturing, project management, and sales. He has developed the emerging local renewable energies (RE) market in Puerto Rico. In the past three years, CRT has become a leading supplier of RE components. CRT designs and installs residential and commercial/industrial photovoltaic systems with sales having tripled in its fourth year. CRT also installs micro wind turbines and eco-water pumps for farmers. He began his career in 1989 with Solarex in Maryland (now BP Solar), a company that was then producing the next generation solar cell/panels in the United States. Perez has designed and installed more than 1.2MW of solar projects in Puerto Rico. His projects and alliances have generated more than 95 well paid direct and indirect jobs during the past few months.



CeleBritAy New York Inc.

Brooklyn, NY

Submitted by Stefan Doering, Owner, BEST Coaches

CeleBritAy New York Inc. is an award-winning, eco-friendly skin care company, located in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Its mission is to create green, natural, and organic skin care products. All raw materials used are fresh, natural, organic, and earth friendly. Established in 1998, CeleBritAy offers natural health and beauty care products for men and women in an environmentally friendly fashion. More than the science degrees and the certification in herbology from the Herbal Bear School of Botanical Medicine that she has earned, CeleBritAy's founder, Elizabeth Santiago, takes great pride in the time she devotes to developing both her handmade natural goods and the trust and respect of her customers.



for Latinos to play an important role in an indispensable green economy transition. They also provide training to local business owners and employees on better green business practices and encourage the creation of green businesses.

Real and Gomez have helped Latinos understand the true connections, linkages, and interdependencies between the environment, our energy sources, and the economy—educating the public to implement changes in business and personal practices.

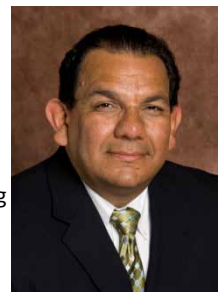
Craton Equity Partners

Los Angeles, CA

Nominated by Monika Mantilla, President & CEO, Altura Capital Group

Craton Equity Partners, a private equity fund firm, is a leading authority in the public regulatory and policy arena and has substantial investments that are reducing carbon by thousands of tons per year per company. Shifting its expertise to small growth companies in certain sectors of the clean tech sector, Craton Equity Partners now invests in water remediation, waste conversion, and green building materials. The company has developed a labor-sensitive fund with a long-term effect of ensuring high-

wage, high-skill jobs are developed in a non-carbon economy. These global trends include independence from foreign oil, urbanization and the necessity to replace worn-out existing infrastructure, and climate change. Tom Soto, co-founder and managing partner, has been an environmental activist and leads a number of efforts to reform regulatory policy to help improve air and water quality. Serving as an advisor to the Clinton Administration and most recently co-leading the White House Transition Team for the White House Council on Environmental Quality has made Tom an effective advocate for green jobs and clean technology while generating superior returns and good jobs.



Common Ground for Conservation

Miami, FL

Nominated by Adrianna Quintero, Natural Resources Defense Council

Mildred Real and Carlos Gomez founded Common Ground for Conservation in 2005 to target Florida's large Hispanic community and deliver programs to protect human health and the environment through leadership, education, experience, and volunteerism. Their programs are geared to breaking down the language barriers of the Hispanic community by providing environmental literacy in Spanish.

Through environmental education programs such as the "Cuidar es Vivir" weekly radio show, video blogs, and their *Terra-Mater* magazine, media tours, and forums in Spanish held throughout Florida, Real and Gomez have educated thousands of Latino constituents and businesses about the importance of green jobs, what they can do to be a part of the green economy, and why it's important

Direct Environment Corp/ DEC Green

Bronx, NY

Nominated by Congressman José E. Serrano
(NY-16)

DEC Green is a 100 percent Latino-owned South Bronx business that specializes in green waste solutions. The company is one of only two in the world to manufacture the BigBelly Compaction System, an automatic, solar powered compacting trash receptacle that reduces truck trips, associated tailpipe emissions, and litter in public places. By eliminating at least three out of every four trash collection trips, it dramatically reduces collection costs at parks and other outdoor areas where the public disposes of high volumes of trash. Solar panels mounted atop each BigBelly unit power an internal compactor blade and a wireless communication system, which sends an e-mail to service personnel when the unit is approaching capacity. The company has already sold 150 units eliminating hundreds of truck trips by waste haulers, saving municipalities tens of thousands of dollars, and freeing up parks workers and other personnel for more pressing tasks. Reducing the frequency of trash collection improves local air quality and eliminates emissions from the atmosphere. It also reduces the likelihood of rodent infestations and minimizes the impacts of bacterial vectors emanating from trash.

EKO Asset Management Partners

San Francisco, CA

Nominated by Catalina Castaño, Director, Small Business Development Center, New York City College of Technology

Ricardo Bayon is a partner and co-founder of EKO Asset Management Partners. Previously, he helped found and served as the managing director of the "Ecosystem Marketplace," a Web site and information/analysis service covering these emerging environmental markets. In that capacity he co-authored a number of publications on voluntary carbon markets, including *The State of Voluntary Carbon Markets 2007: Picking up Steam and Voluntary Carbon Markets: An International Business Guide to What They Are and How They Work*. His most recent publication on markets for biodiversity, entitled *Conservation and Biodiversity Banking: A Guide to Setting Up and Running Biodiversity Credit Trading System* has just been published by Earthscan in London. For more than a decade he has specialized on issues related to finance, banking, and the environment. He consulted for a number of organizations, including Insight Investments, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) of the World Bank, IUCN, The Nature Conservancy, Domini Social Investment, among others. He has also written numerous publications and

chapters on mitigation banking, biodiversity markets, markets for water quality, and other environmental markets.

Entergy Corporation

New Orleans, LA

Submitted by Patricia Riddlebarger, Director
Corporate Social Responsibility

The Make An Impact program is a partnership between Entergy Corporation and the Pew Center on Global Climate Change. The program educates employees and customers about climate change and encourages them to make an impact by reducing their personal carbon footprint. Key elements of the program include a custom carbon/greenhouse gas (GHG) footprint calculator, and an integrated resources Web site (www.entergy.pewclimate.org) with tips on reducing GHG emissions. Participants sign up, complete the online carbon footprint calculator, and receive a menu of personalized recommendations of potential annual GHG reductions and cost savings. Participants then select recommendations to implement. Beginning in 2010, participants who wish to further reduce their footprint will be able to purchase high-quality carbon offsets directly from the site. Entergy Corporation will match those purchases (up to a pre-determined annual limit) dollar-for-dollar, ton-for-ton in a first-of-its-kind matching program for carbon offsets. Since the July 2009 launch, more than 2,500 visitors logged on to the site. Collectively, the visitors logged 450,000 lbs. of potential annual CO₂ emissions and energy savings of \$52,000. Most importantly, the visitors committed to 36,000 lbs. of annual CO₂ reductions and savings of \$3,400.



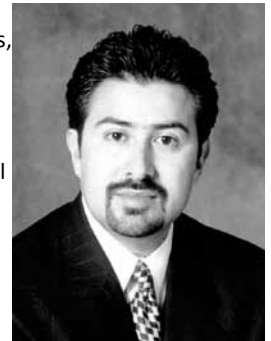
Evergreen Solar Solutions, LLC

City of Industry, CA

Luis Rojas, President Evergreen Solar Solutions

Evergreen Solar Solutions, LLC (Evergreen) is a 100 percent Latino owned company certified by the California Energy Commission. Evergreen is a full-service Solar Technology developer and owner of Solar Energy Systems, owned and operated by Luis D. Rojas, President and CEO. Evergreen Solar Solutions provides solar energy to public agencies such as school districts, municipalities and utility agencies. evergreen assists its clients to reduce their carbon footprint and convert their existing electrical needs of their facilities (school buildings, administration buildings,

computer and science lab buildings, gymnasiums, city halls, utility generating plants, libraries, etc.) to a more environmental sensitive and cost saving operation, solar energy. Evergreen Solar Solutions provides its clients with all the necessary engineering, solar panels, installation, maintenance, and operations of the solar energy systems and can facilitate complete project financing. Many projects are no cost to their clients; this is achieved through power purchase agreements (PPAs) with Evergreen providing all necessary federal grant writing services. Evergreen provides student internships for young students and job training and journeyman work opportunities.



Green For All

Oakland, CA

Nominated by Congressman Ben Ray Luján
(NM-3)

Green For All is a national organization working to build an inclusive green economy strong enough to lift people out of poverty. It works in collaboration with business, government, labor, and grassroots communities to create and implement programs that increase quality jobs and opportunities in green industry, holding the most vulnerable people at the center of their agenda. Most recently, Green For All led a civil rights coalition that successfully lobbied for two significant improvements to the American Clean Energy and Security Act, which passed in the U.S. House of Representatives in June of 2009. These provisions secured funding for job training and guaranteed broad access to clean energy jobs. Green For All has also won major legislative victories in Washington State and New Mexico. With GFA's help, both states are pioneering state-level green jobs and energy efficiency programs. It recently launched its Capital Access Program to create, sustain, and scale green jobs in the United States by building the capacity of key businesses and nonprofit organizations. The program includes a green entrepreneurship educational center, small business incubator, and deal sourcing and packaging support.



GreenSpace Developments, LLC

New York, NY

Nominated by Pilar Avila, Vice President,
Palladium Equity Partners

Marjorie Torres is the managing principal of GreenSpace Developments, LLC (GSD), a green real estate fund that partners with nonprofits and other tax-exempt entities such as charities, social welfare organizations, foundations, hospitals, and universities to buy commercial real estate, convert the assets into LEED certified green spaces, and reposition the spaces so they can be owner-occupied. GSD's goal is to create value-added nonprofit green properties in core and urban in-fill markets. It hopes to capture 2 percent of the 100 million square feet nonprofit market opportunity. The creation of 2 million square feet of nonprofit space could serve more than 11 million people annually in the communities where the spaces are located. The development of these centers also creates green jobs in design, engineering, construction, property management and clean tech/energy conservation and should become stable, economic engines for the communities served. GSD's track record includes various successful projects, such as the Thoreau Center (San Francisco) and The Nonprofit and Philanthropy Center (Financial District, New York).



Hispanic Family Center of Southern New Jersey

Camden, NJ

Nominated by Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ)

The Hispanic Family Center of Southern New Jersey (HFC) is one of four New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (LWD) grantees that operate the Green Jobs Training Program. As such, HFC is responsible for recruiting, preparing, and training qualified candidates to fill green jobs in the New Jersey area. Men and women are trained to perform energy-efficiency audits, air-seal buildings and inspect weatherization, install insulation, and be familiar with the basic thermodynamics of a home. The training program includes classroom instruction, team building, and workplace readiness—as well as safety training and hands-on exposure to real-work occupational settings. Workers are also equipped with the skills necessary to obtain occupations with meaningful career growth tracks. This initiative was designed to assist the energy industry expand in New Jersey and compete globally by providing the

industry with qualified skilled employees to meet its workforce needs. Specifically, this program affects New Jersey's workforce by creating skilled and qualified workers to fill the energy sector jobs in demand and lead to the reduction of carbon pollution, both sought-after returns on investment.



IES Solutions

Brooklyn, NY

Submitted by Stefan Doering, owner, BEST Coaches

IES Solutions helps clients make innovative, sustainable, and substantial improvements in building performance. IES leads architects, designers, consultants, and engineers throughout the design, construction, and operation of its green systems and practices to ensure the integration is seamless and transparent. IES provides turnkey solutions for residential, commercial, and industrial properties including solar heating, radiant heat, insulation, geothermal, and wind turbine. IES is unique in its approach to the renewable and sustainable energy. By leveraging more than 40 years in all facets of construction management, building, and development, combined with more than 20 years of financial services experience, IES is able to provide a complete suite of products and services that address all aspects of its clients' needs from design and construction to financial and energy analysis. Whether it is the development and building of multi-million dollar homes and commercial projects or structuring and providing financial guidance to Fortune 500 companies, the IES management team is proven and well equipped to deliver a high level of excellence in the renewable and sustainable energy space.



Ice Energy

Windsor, CO

Nominated by Therese Wells, Ice Energy

Ice Energy is a leading provider of distributed energy storage and smart grid solutions for optimizing energy system efficiency and improving grid reliability. Its distributed energy storage and certified smart grid solutions help utilities transition to a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable energy system by permanently leveling system demand and more effectively integrating renewable resources like wind and solar. Ice Energy's Ice Bear, a distributed energy storage system, changes how—and, more importantly, when—energy is consumed for air conditioning. The system uses thermally efficient nighttime power to produce and store energy for use by air conditioners the following day, thus reducing air conditioning energy demand by as much as 95 percent. Ice Energy systems provide utilities with the unprecedented ability to intelligently shape peak demand by managing the load profile of a single building, a feeder, a substation, a region, or their entire grid through an advanced smart grid infrastructure and intelligent, two-way control. This technology has the potential to create thousands of locally sourced installation, maintenance, and manufacturing jobs for mechanical and electrical designers, HVAC installers and technicians, construction contractors, electricians, and general laborers.



La Casa De Esperanza

Waukesha, WI

Nominated by Leticia Miranda, NCLR

La Casa de Esperanza is a community-based organization serving the low-income and Latino communities in Waukesha County Wisconsin in the Greater Milwaukee area. Over the years, La Casa has grown to be the largest provider of weatherization services in the state of Wisconsin. La Casa recently signed a contract with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to provide \$65 million in low-income weatherization services to the community through the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. La Casa's weatherization services reduce energy usage

for low-income households by increasing the energy efficiency of their homes. It also provides training and employment to low-income individuals hired to perform the weatherization services. Weatherization reduces energy bills, which are a large burden for low-income families. In Wisconsin the typical utility bill is approximately \$210 per month before weatherization services. After La Casa weatherizes a home, the bill drops by 32 percent—a reduction of \$67 per month—a significant relief to low-income families. DOE studies have shown that for every \$1 invested in the program, weatherization returns \$2.73 in energy and non-energy benefits.



La Onda Verde de NRDC

San Francisco, CA
Nominated by Serena Ingre, National Resource Defense Council

La Onda Verde (LOV) is an initiative of the NRDC founded in 2004 to inform and involve the growing and influential Latino community in environmental issues. La Onda Verde is managed by Adrianna Quintero, with the critical support of NRDC's Latino staff. LOV was launched in 2004 with the report, *Hidden Danger, Environmental Health Threats in the Latino Community*, which highlighted impacts on Latinos from environmental contamination. LOV has since provided environmental information to Spanish-dominant Latinos and has evolved into a program with global reach, supported by many Spanish-language eco-activists, celebrities, and other prominent Latinos. LOV's Web site, www.laondaverde.org, includes a blog, Pulso Verde (www.pulsoverde.nrdc.org), and e-newsletter, *Notiverdes*, and is widely recognized by Spanish language media as the go-to resource on environmental issues. Some 2,000 Spanish-dominant Latinos visit LOV each day looking for constructive solutions to the environmental problems. LOV has been focusing a significant amount of work on green jobs and ensuring Latinos have equal access to



this great opportunity. Through media tours, government outreach, blogs and policy papers, LOV has called on government and business leaders to recognize the need to provide bilingual training for green jobs to Latinos at all skill levels or risk having Spanish dominant Latinos, a significant portion of our community, be left behind.

Loop

Brooklyn, NY
Submitted by Stefan Doering, owner, BEST Coaches

Loop produces and sells fine organic cotton bed and bath linens that are pure, good for the environment, and manufactured with ethical treatment of employees. LOOP is owned and operated by Carmel Campos, whose 15 years of marketing experience includes research, communications, and brand strategy. In her research she learned that chemicals are stored in the body and are one of the leading causes of cancer. Traditional cotton crops use some of the most toxic chemical pesticides in great volume, which then make their way into our food and drinking water. While there were some lovely products being made from organic cotton, they were not readily available. Loop makes bed and bath linens in a pure way without chemicals.



Los Angeles Trade Technical College Partnership with Southern California Gas Company and the City of Los Angeles to Train Young Workers in Green Jobs

Los Angeles, CA
Nominated by John Guerra, Sr. Regional Public Affairs Manager, Southern California Gas Company

Leticia Barajas helped cultivate the Los Angeles Trade Technical College into a model center for green technologies in construction design, and manufacturing by developing workforce education programs in allied health, utilities, and construction, transportation, and green industries. She is also piloting innovative programs to bridge at-risk students, immigrants, and women into high-demand

industries. Her work with the Green College Initiative has resulted in numerous degree and certificate programs that address the green workforce development needs of the region. The continuing workforce partnership with the Southern California Gas Company will create a pipeline to employ trained students and skilled laborers through its contractor network. Under her direction, Los Angeles Trade Technical College (LATTC) partnered with Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) during summer 2009 to support meaningful green jobs workforce education and training. The program employed more than 100 low-income youth in jobs with organizations working in energy efficiency, green construction, and other facets of the green economy. In addition LATTC and SoCalGas worked together to increase students' knowledge of applied math, green technologies, and financial literacy, and to encourage students to pursue a related college certificate or degree program.



Millennium Remanufactured Toner Inc. (MRTI)

Bronx, NY
Nominated by Bill Drewes, Law Offices of William H. Drewes

MRTI's Green Initiative encourages the nation to use green (recycled) products. Operating in a HUB zone in the New York area, the company offers high-quality compatible remanufactured, green products. Cartridges are filled to the maximum, and all parts are recycled, never discarded. In addition, MRTI sponsors a mentorship program with the Wildcat Academy in New York, a school for troubled youths. The program provides job training skills ranging from distribution of flyers to help in production and some secretarial and clerical tasks. A percentage of every toner cartridge sale goes to the program—One cartridge, One kid, One life. Major customers include Columbia University, Hostos College in New York, Colgate/Palmolive, NBC Universal Inc., The New York Department of Correction, The Sanitation Department on New York City, and in the past, Black Enterprise International, and in a few months, Sams Club. MRTI has also established working relations with local and regional distributors, such as Office Depot.

Natural Renewables Development

Bellerose, NY
Submitted by Stefan Doering, Owner, BEST Coaches

Natural Renewables Development Energy and Water LLC combined the dreams and experiences of three Latino engineers with more than 25 years of professional experience

in the application of clean and renewable sources of energy such as solar energy and wind power in combination with systems, technologies, and methods to save energy and the environment in residential, commercial, and industrial installations. They are also researching clean, green water resources to optimize drinking water and waste treatment management. They are interested in increasing the care in the handling and preservation of the present water resources through the use of an efficient systems for water treatment and offering solutions to critical problems in flow of fluids and heat transfer, which lead to excessive cost and wasted of energy. The company provides simple and effective solutions for families, communities, businesses, and entities concerned about climate change and environmental degradation as well as those affected by the high cost of fuels.



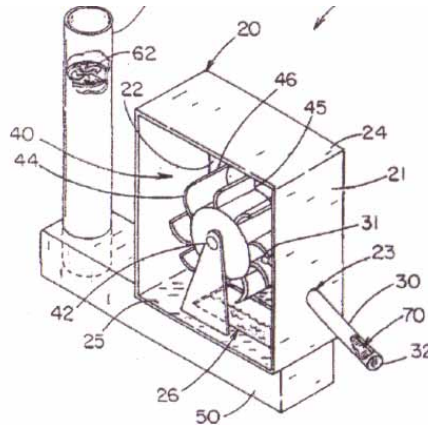
New Energy Technology & Development, Inc.

Newark, NJ

Submitted by Stefan Doering, owner, BEST Coaches

New Energy Technology & Development, Inc. owns two U.S. patents for clean tech/energy development that will enhance solar, wind, electric car battery systems, and hydro-electricity, among other technologies through its magnetic turbine engine device. It also has a patent for a clean power plant technology using waste coal, designed to save lives and provide a good replacement for nuclear plants. The company was awarded its U.S. patents in 2003. Since then it has been conducting R&D development in producing prototypes to demonstrate how these models can work. Currently it is in the process of producing a

working prototype fourth generation model for its magnetic rotation system and its first generation model for the solid fuel turbine drive system.



National Latino Coalition on Climate Change (NLCCC)

Washington, DC

Nominated by Rafael Fantauzzi, Chair, NLCCC

Through research, policy, and educational outreach, the recently formed National Latino Coalition on Climate Change (NLCCC) is establishing a solid foundation for Latino Leaders and communities to become an integral part of a sensible and inclusive national dialogue on climate change and significantly influence the resulting legislative solution. Since its inception, the NLCCC has gathered several national Latino policy, advocacy, and civil rights organizations to educate Latinos about the challenges that climate change poses for national security, health, and the social and economic wellbeing of Latino communities. NLCCC's primary goal is to increase awareness and educate the Latino community about the correlations between global warming and environmental justice, health problems, quality of life issues, and the economy. Earlier this year the NLCCC was invited to present its work to the Green Groups Coalition. The NLCCC also engaged the Sierra Club in a dialogue that resulted in the co-sponsorship of the first national survey of Latino attitudes about the environment and the co-authorship the first Latino factsheet entitled "Latinos & Global Warming: How Latinos Will be Affected and How to Take Action." The coalition's Web site features general information and education tools.



National Latino Coalition
on Climate Change

Pedro Albizu Campos High School

Chicago, IL

Nominated by Carlos R. DeJesús, Assistant Principal, Dean of Academic Affairs, Director of Urban Agriculture and Green Technology, Pedro Albizu Campos High School

The Pedro Albizu Campos Charter High School (PACCHS) has developed a comprehensive initiative in urban agriculture and green technology designed to address a highly significant health, social, and economic issue in their community—the community's designation as a "food desert." Students are engaged in the development of the necessary systems to transform the desert into a fertile oasis, thereby addressing the excessively high prevalence of diabetes, obesity, hypertension, and coronary disease that have resulted from the desert. The program also helps to address the high drop-out rate of students of color in the community. Students complete their high school education while learning invaluable skill sets in urban farming and green technology and construction. They learn to build a home or completely rehab a distressed housing property and develop competence in designing, building, installing, and maintaining renewable energy systems in solar (photovoltaic), wind, and recycled rainwater, as well as the construction and maintenance of greenhouses and hydroponic systems. The program's intended impact is for the community to become a model in healthy sustainable living fully engaged in growing its own food in community and back yard gardens, transformed parkland, and on student-designed and constructed rooftop greenhouses.



Students harvesting ají dulce in El Coquí Community Garden

re:char

Brooklyn, NY

Submitted by Stefan Doering, owner, BEST Coaches

About one-third of the solid waste produced in the United States—350 million tons per year—is generated from agricultural operations. About half a ton of this waste has roughly the same energy content as one barrel of diesel fuel. This means that the equivalent of 700 million barrels of fuel is being sold cheaply as animal feed or being allowed to decompose into harmful methane gas. re:char has developed an innovative, patent-pending biomass pyrolysis technology to cleanly and efficiently convert these wastes into fuel for power generation and biochar. This technology will allow for true energy independence in rural areas traditionally underserved by grid-based power. re:char's biomass converter does not require a specific fuel crop and can handle a wide variety of waste biomass. This flexibility coupled with the process' high-efficiency, allows for energy production at less than 70 percent of the cost per kilowatt hour of competing technologies. In addition to liquid fuel, re:char's process also generates biochar. Similar in composition to charcoal, biochar is a highly efficient soil conditioner and means of carbon sequestration. Using re:char's pyrolysis technology, farms and producers can process their wastes into energy and a valuable soil amendment while reducing concentrations of atmospheric carbon.



San Bernardino National Forest Association—Urban Youth Conservation Program

San Bernardino, CA

Nominated by Rep. Joe Baca (CA-43)

The Urban Youth Conservation Corps's mission is to increase the skills and competencies of at-risk, underserved youth ages 14 to 23 to better prepare them to enter into the workforce successfully, become self-sufficient, and choose crime-free lifestyles. Program participants work in conjunction with the U.S.

Forest Service and assist in the San Bernardino National Forest with critical wildlife recovery and forest restoration efforts. Under the program, young people build workforce skills by participating in meaningful conservation projects that promote greater stewardship for our natural world. In addition to increasing job readiness, these young people also help the Forest Association in its work to create a healthier forest. In its three years of service, the corps has provided more than 50,000 hours of conservation and environmental services and changed the lives of more than 200 young people.



Typical on-the-job duties include:

Natural Resource Enhancement: Tree planting, stream clearance, erosion control, timber stand improvement, trail construction and maintenance, seed cone collection, and wildlife habitat improvement

Landscaping: Plant identification and propagation, planting, sprinkler and irrigation installation, and nursery operations



In addition the Tostobueno is engineered to last a lifetime, providing additional green value. Feeding our families is one of the many attributes that define the Latino family. This eco-friendly tostonera can make this world greener and economically so as well.



Toltecalli High School Sustainability Project

New York, NY

Nominated by Jason Ott, Community Relations State Director - AZ & NM, Citi

The Toltecalli High School Sustainability Project is a multi-year, job skills, and college preparatory program that integrates academics, career exploration, and community service. Students successfully conduct action-based research related to social and environmental sustainability. This intense academic work and service learning project is done through expeditionary learning where students interact with relevant text, field experts, fieldwork, and presentations. They explore career opportunities through interaction with professionals in the field and by participating in hands-on skill building activities. The program also links academic research and investigation with community service. Through the combination of these efforts students have collectively researched, designed, and created a model for sustainability on campus by transforming the existing landscape into a demonstration site for rainwater harvesting, desert native planting, traditional agricultural food production, and overall environmental stewardship. In addition to the on campus green development, the students also successfully participated in a \$10,000 co-op program to develop 10 sustainable landscapes at residential sites for low- and moderate-income families. During the past three years, the students have collectively accumulated a total of 2,000 hours of community service that have had a direct impact on their lives, family, school, and community.

Tostobueno LLC

New York, NY

Nominated by Annette E Alvarez, Tostobueno LLC

Tostobueno LLC is the first company to manufacture quality ethnic kitchenware in eco-friendly bamboo. Its signature product, Tostobueno, a tostonera (plantain masher) molds up to six plantain cups for rellenos on one side, and on the other, smashes up to six rounded tostones. Its dual action eliminates the need to harvest more trees because the one device performs the functions of two.

The United Puerto Rican Organization of Sunset Park (UPROSE)

Brooklyn, NY

Nominated by Krystal Gonzales, New York University

The United Puerto Rican Organization of Sunset Park (UPROSE) helps address the urgency of adopting a green lifestyle to the communities most affected by environmental burdens. By empowering the youth and engaging community members, UPROSE has been monumental in ensuring the rights and protecting the interest of the inhabitants of the Sunset Park area of Brooklyn, NY. UPROSE is an active member of the EJ Leadership Forum on Climate Change and is advocating for climate justice policy that recognizes and addresses the burdens placed on communities of color and low-income communities by the rapidly changing climate. This has enabled UPROSE to purchase four hybrid shuttle buses for community partners to provide clean-fuel transportation throughout the community and conduct "Toxic Tours" informing the community of their current environmental burdens. UPROSE has also advocated for a tunnel alternative to the dangerous and environmentally burdensome Gowanus Expressway and has facilitated the creation of a community "Greenway-Blueway" design for Sunset Park. Over the course of more than 2 miles, the greenway will add approximately 25 much-needed acres of green space to the community, and its design facilitates access to the waterfront park.



The Verde Consulting Group, LLC Sacramento, CA

Nominated by Orson Aguilar, Executive Director, The Greenlining Institute, Berkeley, CA

The Verde Group, co-founded by Rafael Aguilera in 2007, was the first Latino owned and operated Sacramento-based consulting and lobbying firm specializing in clean technology, climate change, environmental justice, sustainable economics, and Latino policy. Aguilera is a trailblazer for Latinos seeking climate justice. By collaborating with another Latino environmental leader,

California Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, Aguilera persuaded legislators and community groups that global warming was real and that now was the time for California to take action. Aguilera helped negotiate the first economy-wide carbon cap in the world with community and public health protections, provisions that call for an equitable share of investments in disadvantaged communities, and a standing environmental justice advisory committee. Aguilera has created a robust environmental legacy at a young age. Working with state-wide policy, advocacy groups like the Greenlining Institute's Green Assets Program, Aguilera has brought about legislation (AB1405) that will set aside potentially billions of dollars from carbon mechanisms for climate mitigation, weatherization, workforce development, and innovative projects that create jobs in disadvantaged communities.



We Can Do It!

Brooklyn, NY

Submitted by Stefan Doering, owner, BEST Coaches

We Can Do It! Women's Cooperative (Si Se Puede!) was founded in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, in August, 2006, to bring together immigrant women to create a women-run, women-owned, eco-friendly housecleaning business. The cooperative is designed to create living wage jobs in a safe and healthy environment, as well as to provide social supports and educational opportunities for its members. We Can Do It! provides 100 percent of the fee to the member doing the work, in contrast to most other agencies, which take a large percentage of the fee. All coop members have an equal vote in policy and operations decisions, work together to promote the business, and meet bi-weekly for on-going training and support. We Can Do It! receives support and guidance from the Center for Family Life in Sunset Park, a nonprofit community-based organization providing social services for children, youth, and families in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, since 1978.



iYouthWorks!

Santa Fe, NM

Nominated by Melynn Schuyler, Executive Director, YouthWorks

iYouthWorks! is a nonprofit organization, formed in 2001 to serve disadvantaged and at-risk youth in Santa Fe and Northern New Mexico. It specializes in a full spectrum of culturally appropriate programs that assist high-risk youth—predominantly Hispanic and Native American—to develop job skill training, build educational skills, and develop healthy attitudes and behaviors necessary to ensure a successful future. Counseling is an integral part of all iYouthWorks! programs. YW operates a paid, youth-employment-training program that offers at-risk youth the opportunity to learn responsible work habits, earn a living wage and a regular paycheck, attend on-site GED coursework, and become leaders in their community. Youth are working in the Santa Fe mountains and river basin to improve water quality, enhance bio-diversity, improve habitat, create limitations for current ATV access, install natural erosion control structures for riverbank stabilization, remove debris, and remove invasive species and plant native trees, grasses, and herbaceous species. They are also installing xeriscaped landscapes into designated schoolyards by planting native and drought tolerant species. iYouthWorks! currently serves more than 3,000 children, youth, and young adults.

