

Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision  
 Take Action on Air Quality  
 Mini-Grant Program  
**2022/2023 APPLICATION**

**APPLICANT AND PROJECT INFORMATION**

Applicant	Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision		
Street Address	P.O. Box 442012		
City:	Detroit	Zip Code: 48209	
Phone	313-595-6492	Website:	www.sdevweb.org
Project Contact (Name, Title):		Raquel Garcia, Executive Director	
Phone (if different from above):	313-595-649 2	E-Mail:	raquel@sdevweb.org

Project Name: <b>SDEV Air Quality Fellows Project: Anti-Idling in Schools</b>
Total Project Cost \$ 5,000
Proposed Project Start and End Dates: <b>May 1, 2023-October 31, 2023</b>



Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision Anti-Idling in School 1  
 May we share your contact information and project description with other grantees? X Yes  No

### **Point Source Controls**

- Recommendation 1-1. Improve emissions controls and monitoring at point sources.
- Recommendation 1-2. Require quantitative and qualitative health impact assessments (HIAs) and equity assessments when developing air quality management strategies.
- Recommendation 1-3. Improve safety and awareness of industrial facilities and air emissions.

### **Renewable Energy**

- Recommendation 2-1. Increase the use of renewable energy sources (e.g. wind and solar) and transition away from polluting sources.
- Recommendation 2-2. Use renewable energy and green and sustainable practices for new and renovated buildings and infrastructure. (e.g. solar panels, rooftop garden)

### **Diesel Engine Retrofits**

- Recommendation 3-1. Expand diesel retrofit and fleet and engine replacement efforts.

### **Idling Controls**

X Recommendation 4-1. Increase awareness of existing anti-idling efforts through an education and outreach campaign.

X Recommendation 4-2. Increase enforcement of existing anti-idling ordinances.

Recommendation 4-3. Encourage and incentivize trucking, delivery and bus companies and their drivers to minimize idling.

### **Clean Fuels**

- Recommendation 5-1. Increase use of the clean fuels best suited for Detroit and Michigan by (1) increasing use of clean fuels in vehicles (e.g., cars, buses, trucks, ships), construction equipment and industry; (2) converting transit vehicles operated by DDOT, SMART, QLINE and schools to clean fuels; and (3) improving the electric vehicle and clean fuels infrastructure.
- Recommendation 5-2. Increase local production of second generation clean fuels, particularly advanced biofuels and biodiesel from waste oil.

### **Transportation Controls Measures**

- Recommendation 6-1. Increase public transit ridership by improving regional transit systems (e.g. buses and trains) and incentivizing their use across southeast Michigan.
- Recommendation 6-2. Encourage higher vehicle occupancy (carpooling, buses), expand existing roads capacity where needed, and improve traffic flow.
- Recommendation 6-3. Encourage active transit (walking and cycling) and mixed-use ("20-minute") neighborhoods by improving planning and the built environment.

### **Indoor Air Filters**

- Recommendation 7-1. Install, use and maintain enhanced filters in schools.
- X Recommendation 7-2. Use filters in homes and businesses.

### **Buffers and Barriers**

- Recommendation 8-1. Adopt regulations to create consistent and appropriate minimum setbacks between sensitive land uses and pollution sources - such as a wooded area or park between a highway and a school.
- Recommendation 8-2. Plant vegetative buffers and/or install sound walls where current minimum setbacks are not met
- Recommendation 8-3. Increase tree canopy throughout the City of Detroit.

Recommendation 9-1. Increase the coverage, transparency, timeliness and stringency of facility inspections and enforcement activities, and assure compliance with existing permits and regulations.

Recommendation 9-2. Require the use of qualitative and quantitative health impact assessments (HIAs) and cumulative impact assessments as part of the air quality management process, including enforcement actions, state implementation plan (SIP) development and permitting.

Recommendation 9-3. Increase public input in air quality management, including the development of regulations, permitting and enforcement activities (e.g. Invite residents to take part in decisions at each step, have longer periods for public comment).

### **Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring**

Recommendation 10-1. Increase the number of monitoring sites, and use mobile and transportable monitors.

Recommendation 10-2. Identify and implement targeted air quality monitoring projects, such as installing air monitors in neighborhoods where residents are concerned about air quality. These projects can investigate exposures, air quality trends, health risks, pollutant hot-spots, fugitive emissions, source apportionment, monitoring system adequacy, efficacy of controls, epidemiology, health impact analyses, health interventions, and/or other public health concerns.

Recommendation 10-3. Increase public engagement with air quality monitoring activities.

**NARRATIVE RESPONSE:** Respond to the following questions in 300 words or less per question:

- 1. Project Description.** Describe what you plan to do to improve air quality in Detroit and how your proposed project connects to recommendations in the CAPHE Public Health Action Plan.

Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision (SDEV) is currently operating its Anti-Idling in Schools Project in four Detroit/Dearborn private schools and has diligently worked for the past two years to build relationships that would allow us to expand this project into the Detroit Public School (DPS) system. DPS is heavily guarded and has created barriers to working with students that need air quality information the most, particularly those living in Southwest Detroit. The cumulative impact of water quality, mobile sources and industrial emissions, coupled with lead and other pollution, puts young people living in Southwest Detroit at the highest risk. SDEV has been invited to work with buildOn Detroit, an after school program that empowers youth to engage in direct action. This partnership will allow SDEV to expand its Anti-Idling in Schools Project to an additional four public schools. The Anti-Idling in Schools project entails a series of six meetings and workshops with students to discuss air quality and how to co-create a school project to address this issue in their own neighborhoods. Workshops are designed to introduce students them to air quality concepts, connect them to tools like EGLE EJ Screen, AIRNOW.Net, the Purple Air Monitor Maps, and resources like workshops with the Asthma and Allergy Foundation which focuses on indoor air quality, and individuals like Theresa Holtrop who demonstrate how to make Do-It-Yourself (DIY) Indoor Air Filters. This program will offer stipends for students and also pay for DIY Indoor Air Filters Materials. At Holy Redeemer Grade School, the students requested an art competition and pizza party with their parents with prizes for the top 10 voted air quality artwork. After the initial workshops, SDEV will work with about 20 students at each school to co-create an air quality project that will take place in the student's home with their parent's assistance. Students will document their learning through posts on the social media platforms of buildOn Detroit, and participating high schools' social media platforms, and their personal accounts bring air quality awareness to their peers, family members and neighbors. This project will also include efforts to explore the potential for additional relationships in the target schools with relevant instructors, administrators and parents.

**2. Project goals.** Describe your project goals and outcomes you want to achieve.

1. Expand outreach to students in new locations
  - a. Engage up to 80 new students at the four buildOn Detroit school sites
2. Conduct outreach to develop relationships with school administrators and teachers
  - a. Establish baseline relationships with school administrators and teachers at Renaissance, Osborn, East English Village, and Western International high schools.
3. Deliver air quality content to youth
  - a. Deliver four to six workshops with students at the four buildOn school sites
  - b. Engage youth in the planting of 50 trees, if applicable
  - c. Provide air quality resources and programs to students
  - d. Support an air quality project in each high school
  - e. Work with students in developing air quality documentation for social media

**3. Applicant capacity.**

- 1) Please describe your and/or your organization's qualifications for completing the proposed project, including any previous work to improve air quality in Detroit. If you are new to working on air quality issues, please describe how this project would improve your ability to address air quality issues.

For more than 30 years, SDEV has worked with and for the community, on community priorities related to environmental issues. SDEV works with businesses, residents, and public agencies to reach desirable outcomes. The broader project team brings expertise to help us understand the authorities and regulations that impact the PoD and DIFT facilities/operations (GLELC), the existing body of research on environmental and public health issues associated with PoD and DIFT operations (Dr. Batterman), and to engage the community meaningfully (SWDCBC, OUCSD, SDEV). All project team organizations and individuals are experienced in community-based participatory research. SWDCBC and OUCDC directly engage community members to address concerns with results including the development of community benefits agreements with multiple partners at all levels of government (SWDCBC) and community projects and attention to environmental justice issues from the State of Michigan by speaking truth to power.

- 2) Indicate who will carry out or manage the project and why they are qualified for this role.

Raquel Garcia, executive director for SDEV, will be responsible for reviewing and approving financial transaction requests and reports. Ms. Garcia is the individual authorized to commit SDEV to grant projects, contracts and agreements.

Nina Wimberley, project coordinator for SDEV, has X years of experience working with students in the field. Wimberley has organizing experience and has coordinated outreach teams for the Michigan League of Conservation Voters. Nina will be responsible for XXX. In addition, Nina holds a bachelor of science degree in environmental studies from XX university.

- 3) Describe any individuals or groups you will collaborate with, and their role in the project. If needed, please let us know what technical support our team can provide to you. a) SDEV will draw from partners to deliver the air quality workshops. Partners are not confirmed. Suggested workshops are:

- i) Raquel Garcia: History of Air Quality in Southwest Detroit
- ii) City of Detroit and Decision Makers Overview
- iii) Theresa Holtrop: DIY Indoor Air Filters
- iv) Kathleen Slonager from the Asthma and Allergy Foundation

- v) Darren Riley: Overview of the Air Monitor Collaborative, locations and how to access the monitor data
- vi) Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning
- vii) Theresa Landrum: Organizing 48217 Around Air Quality

**4. Project Impact and Sustainability.** Describe the community or communities that would benefit from your project. How might you support this work or its impacts after the funds are spent?

If awarded, a CAPHE mini-grant of \$5,000 would allow SDEV to expand its Anti-Idling in Schools Project to additional high schools in order to develop essential relationships and increase understanding on how to effectively address poor air quality in Southwest Detroit. According to the 2005 National-Scale Air Toxics Assessment, the Detroiters are exposed to more than 2.0 µg/m<sup>3</sup> of diesel particulate matter emissions. This statistic is especially relevant for Southwest Detroit families living near the DIFT Livernois Junction yard, major rail interlockers, PoD terminals, and the busiest commercial border crossing to Canada. In addition to air pollution, Southwest Detroiters experience disproportionate noise pollution, multiple respiratory health conditions, and other concerns related to health and well-being.

Data from a 2019 Health Impact Assessment done on Southwest Detroit through the Detroit Health Department revealed that residents have more than double and triple the asthma rate of Michigan depending on the age group, with higher rates seen in communities that are closer to roadways with heavy truck traffic. Two thirds of residents suffer from noise impacts, and many have multiple chronic health conditions that are exacerbated by this pollution.

SDEV sees the Anti-Idling as a long range project into 2028 and so, would pursue funding to support the project. We anticipate learning from this pilot project, documenting outcomes and evolving the project and growing the school partners so that we can continue to work with the incoming students. We also anticipate tracking students to see if learning about air quality and having hands on experience inspire students' interest in public health or science.

**5. Evaluation.** Describe how you will know you met your goals for the project.

SDEV will conduct a pre- and post-assessment on air quality knowledge by collecting student, parent, teacher, and administrator data to utilize as a metric to measure any increases in stakeholder awareness and growth. SDEV will also reshare all social media posts by students to track engagement and demonstrate the ways in which youth have elevated their voices to bring awareness of poor air quality and how to address it in Southwest Detroit.

## LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Include 1-2 letters of support with your application. Letters should be written to support this specific project and application. **Letters should explain why you and your team are well-prepared to successfully carry out this project.** Letters should not come from personal contacts, participants involved in the proposed project, or from members of the applicant's organization.

## OPTIONAL - SUPPORT MATERIALS

We encourage you to submit up to three more attachments that could help reviewers understand your project. Materials might include, but are not limited to: brochures, annual reports, critical reviews,

newspaper clippings, promotional materials. (Please do not send your originals; these support materials will not be returned.)

**MINI-GRANT REQUIREMENTS:**

- Any changes to budgets must be approved in advance. Please contact Alison Walding, CAPHE Project Manager at [walison@umich.edu](mailto:walison@umich.edu) with budget changes.
- Projects should be completed between May 1, 2023 and October 31, 2023.**
- Final reports are due 2 weeks before project completion. For the final report, In 1-2 pages, describe project outcomes, any project highlights, and include photos or other documentation of your work, as useful.
- Please acknowledge CAPHE support in all project publicity and media materials. This is a requirement of CAPHE's funder, the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences. Please use this language ~ Support for this collaboration was provided by Community Action to Promote Healthy Environments, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (#R01ES032389).

Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision Anti-Idling in School 7

**ASSURANCE SIGNATURE:**

By signing this application form, you understand that, if a grant is awarded to you,

- 1) grant funds will be managed by you,
- 2) funds received under this grant will be used only for approved mini-grant activities, and
- 3) you have read the mini-grant requirements and will work to meet them.

Assurance Signature:     *Raquel Ancoñ*     Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
    1/27/2023    

**SUBMISSION DIRECTIONS:**

**Application deadline is January 27, 2023.** No application will be accepted after the deadline. Incomplete applications will be less likely to receive funding.

Include with your submission:

- 1) A fully completed application form,
- 2) At least one letter of support
- 3) Up to 3 optional support materials
  - a) Submitted are classroom materials for our work in Holy Redeemer.

We strongly encourage applicants to type applications. Please contact us if you need support accessing a computer to complete the application.

**Mail or email your application packet to:**

ATTENTION: Alison Walding  
Community Action to Promote Healthy Environments  
University of Michigan  
1415 Washington Heights  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109  
Email: [walison@umich.edu](mailto:walison@umich.edu)  
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