

News Room
April 23, 2012

ECCDI Wins a \$6,000 Grant for Construction of a Rainwater Harvesting Irrigation System for a Community Garden

Jacksonville, NC - East Carolina Community Development, Inc. (ECCDI) is proud to announce that they are the recipients of a grant of \$6,000 from the Resourceful Communities' Creating New Economies Fund (CNEF) program with generous support this year from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation and Burt's Bees' Greater Good Foundation. The grant will be used to **construct a rainwater harvesting irrigation system** for an already established community garden at **Longbourne Apartments** in Jacksonville NC. Longbourne Apartments is a 44-unit affordable senior housing development, which opened in June 2008. A couple years after completion of the development, the residents formed a community garden club and ECCDI offered gardening space and raised beds, however irrigation to the spaces was laborious and costly. The new rainwater harvesting irrigation system will provide water directly to the gardening areas.



Two 550 gallon above ground cisterns will be placed beneath the roof the building for rainwater collection. A piping system will be constructed beneath the road and the rainwater will be pumped to a yard hydrant near the garden areas. In addition to the \$6,000 grant from the CNEF, ECCDI will be contributing \$2,500 to make this project a complete success. This project will have a direct benefit to all the residents of Longbourne Apartments by providing an additional source of water for irrigating the community vegetable garden other than the use of the municipal water supply.

A similar rainwater harvesting system was created at another of ECCDI's senior housing developments in Jacksonville, Glenstal Apartments. That project has been a resounding success and the innovative concept has garnered much attention throughout the State. ECCDI has received recognition from the North Carolina Coastal Federation by winning the "Pelican Award". The Pelican Award annually recognizes the effective work of people, businesses, non-profit groups, local and state governments and educators to improve, protect and preserve environmental quality on the North Carolina's coast.

ECCDI is honored to receive recognition of its innovative endeavors. It must thank the Resourceful Communities' Creating New Economies Fund (CNEF) for their support in the past two years particularly for their recognition of ECCDI's efforts to meet a "triple bottom line" concept with the rainwater harvesting systems: sustainable community economic development, social justice and environmental stewardship.

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