

News Room
May 18, 2011

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 the receipt 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, the Appalachian Regional Commission and Burt's Bees' Greater Good Foundation, to construct a **Rainwater Harvesting Irrigation System for a Community Garden at Glenstal Apartments** in Jacksonville NC. This project will be incorporated into the 56-unit development, which is currently under construction and is anticipated to be completed in December 2011.

The project design incorporates several successful models currently in use in North Carolina. In addition, technical assistance will be provided by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension through NC State University.

The project answers the "triple bottom line" concept established by grantor and included in the grant's requirement. These include **sustainable community economic development**: the project supports the very nature of ECCDI's housing development to provide safe and affordable living to assist individuals and families rise above the poverty level in their community. The concept of poverty reduction allows individuals to stretch their hard-earned dollars and divert more money to the improvement of themselves and their families, **social justice**: this project engages low-wealth individuals and families in fresh food production at the neighborhood level. In doing this, participants will increase their social interaction skills, learn how to cooperatively work with others, produce fresh food at affordable prices, provide opportunities for exercise, and foster community awareness, development, and support. **Environmental stewardship**: this system is part of the development's storm water management system utilizing uncontaminated rainwater before it enters local waterways.

This project will have a direct benefit to all the residents of the Glenstal Apartments by providing an additional source for irrigating the community vegetable garden other than the use of municipal water supply. The construction of the rainwater harvesting cistern is a compatible addition to the enhanced stormwater management plan at the Glenstal Apartments site, which features a variety of Low Impact Development components to treat stormwater above and beyond standard methodology. Further, ECCDI will gain the ability that will enable us to develop an efficient and manageable model whereby a "Rainwater Harvesting Irrigation System for a Community Garden" can be included in our future senior and multifamily developments. Our special thanks go to The Conservation Fund, Resourceful Communities' Creating New Economies Fund (CNEF) program, the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, the Appalachian Regional Commission and Burt's Bees' Greater Good Foundation for their generous support for this concept and project!

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