

Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment 2006-2007 Annual Report

Welcome

We are pleased to report on another outstanding year for Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (ACE). In January, we launched a new campaign, the Green Living Challenge. This program promotes household activities that reduce carbon emissions, increase habitat, and improve air and water quality.

ACE continues to promote community sustainability, to reduce litter and pollution, and to preserve our watersheds and natural resources. We emphasize volunteer engagement to protect Arlington's environment, environmental education of Arlington's students and the general community, and advocating for sustainable local policies.

Volunteers Improving the Environment

In the last year, our enthusiastic ACE volunteers provided more than 3,100 hours of service. Special focus was on engaging new community organization partners and expanding involvement by young adults



Alison, Sally, Aidan, Eleanor, and Jamie from Taylor Elementary School marched with ACE in the May 2007 Neighborhood Day Parade to promote the Green Living Challenge.

thanks to a spring internship funded by the Arlington Community Foundation. Through the tireless effort of ACE volunteers, we:

- **Launched seven new water stewardship teams.** The water stewardship program is in its fifth year, with ACE working in partnership with Arlington County and the Cities of Alexandria and Falls Church, with funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. New partners include Fairfax County and the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District. To date, 264 households have taken part in the program, completing 1,229 actions and saving close to three million gallons of water per year.
- **Removed invasive plants from two parks.** Three truckloads of vines and other non-native plants were removed by ACE from Barcroft and Bluemont Parks. This activity helps prevent trees from being strangled and maintains native habitat for the wildlife that depends on it.
- **Marked more than 200 storm drains with "Don't Dump" signs.** These signs make the connection between storm drains, our local streams, and the Chesapeake Bay. Any pollution entering a storm drain travels through local streams and into the bay. The storm drain markers help to prevent illegal dumping and improve Arlington's water quality.
- **Removed 448 bags of garbage from streams, rivers, and highways.** Volunteers rolled up their sleeves to get rid of litter and other debris in the community, creating a healthier habitat for local wildlife and restoring Arlington's natural beauty. ACE cleanup areas included various spots along Four Mile Run, the Potomac River, Route 50, and East Falls Church.





Hank, Regan, and Tammi make a rain barrel during the April 2007 workshops.

Educating the Community

ACE staff continued its environmental outreach efforts in the community, participating in a range of festivals and forums to reach the public. Among the highlights, we:

- **Launched the Green Living Challenge.** ACE's 2007 campaign is engaging Arlington residents in a contest promoting green lifestyle actions to protect the environment. Hundreds of participants registered for the program, which included special seminars such as an alternative transportation expo, a cooking class featuring organic and local foods, and a swap to exchange green cleaning products for toxic cleaners.
- **Hosted make-your-own rain barrel workshops.** ACE organized three workshops attended by 85 people who converted a pickle barrel into a rain barrel. Rain barrels reduce stormwater runoff by collecting rain from the rooftop for use on lawns and in gardens.
- **Organized a Step It Up rally in Gateway Park.** ACE worked in partnership with the Sierra Club to participate in the nationwide day of action

to call for local solutions to global warming. The rally's message was to ask government officials to cut carbon dioxide emissions 80% by 2050.

- **Published the Green Home Building and Remodeling and Resource Directory.** This 45-page online guide contains information on companies selling green products as well as firms with expertise in green construction.
- **Developed a tour of watershed-friendly gardens.** For the fifth annual tour, about 100 people braved the rain to visit 20 sites in Northern Virginia. The tour emphasized landscaping practices that provide habitat for wildlife and protect water quality.
- **Reached more than 375 community members** through educational events including a screening of "On the Edge - The Dyke River Marsh," organic beer and wine tasting programs, a bird walk in Huntley Meadows, and a tour of Teddy Roosevelt Island highlighting its invasive plants.
- **Organized the Living Green in Arlington Annual Meeting.** ACE's 2007 annual meeting was quite successful with more than 100 participants. Wendy Rieger from NBC4 headlined the event which featured panelists from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Center for a New American Dream, and the Stella Group, a local renewable energy company. The program also included 19 exhibits with products and programs for sustainable gifts and food, green landscaping, and home remodeling.
- **Delivered educational programs to 2,060 students.** ACE visited 109 Arlington classrooms covering topics including climate change, recycling, habitat protection, and watersheds.

Thanks to all our friends and supporters! We look forward to continued partnerships within the Arlington community to improve and protect our natural resources.^a



Become an ACE Member

Our environmental outreach work is dependent on donations from individuals and businesses. ACE's current priorities include watershed protection, creating wildlife habitat, and promoting green living.

Please consider becoming an ACE member at one of the following levels:

- Student/Friend of ACE - volunteer five hours per year at ACE events
- Individual/Household - \$35.00
- Sustaining - \$50.00
- Contributing - \$100.00
- Potomac River Club - \$500.00

To join, return a check made out to ACE in the enclosed envelope to 2700 S. Taylor Street, Arlington, VA 22206. Or donate online at www.arlingtonenvironment.org.

Fiscal Year 2007 Financial Report

Revenue Received

| | |
|---------------|-----------|
| Grant Support | \$ 83,083 |
| Contributions | \$ 46,629 |
| Other Income | \$ 6,607 |

Total: \$136,319

Revenue Spent

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| Program Services | \$116,541 |
| Support Services | \$ 18,496 |

Total: \$135,037

Note - ACE fiscal year was July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007

