



2014 PROGRESS REPORT

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REFLECTIONS: THE LAST TWO YEARS

PUSH Green, PUSH Buffalo's energy efficiency division, has been hard at work over the last two years, recruiting home and business owners, contractors and job seekers to participate in energy efficiency programs that benefit our community. It's important to know, however, that PUSH's work began several years before, when our members' needs and demands, combined with those of stakeholders across New York State, led to the creation of a white paper and subsequent passage of legislation called Green Jobs Green New York (GJGNY). The goal of GJGNY is to broaden access to energy efficiency services, and to increase the number of local jobs in the field. Thanks to GJGNY, PUSH Green is one group of many across the state that has been leading the way in community-driven energy efficiency solutions over the last two years.

Since our launch in January 2012, we've built a full-time staff to lead the program. Before PUSH Green launched, staff attended the Building Performance Institute (BPI) certification training, giving them the same credentials as energy auditors in the field and leveling the playing field between contractors and the community. PUSH Green actively develops relationships with local contractors who are committed to our region's sustainability and to building an equitable workforce. In June 2012, we launched our Friends and Neighbors Program, a way for homeowners to connect to contractors who have signed up-front agreements to provide high quality service while creating jobs in the community.

Our partnerships aren't limited to contractors, however; state and local officials and organizations



PUSH Green staff members advertising Free Weatherization in Green Development Zone.



Community Energy Advocates partner with Assemblyman Sean Ryan for event in Hamburg, NY



A packed house at the launch of the Green Building Retrofit Program.

have helped promote the benefits of PUSH Green to their constituencies and enabled us to reach new communities. Looking back on these collaborations and the last two years of PUSH Green, we can really see how everyone benefits when we come together to reduce our collective carbon footprint while keeping community at the center of our work.

I invite you to review our progress report to see the work we are so thrilled to have accomplished and for a glimpse into the strides we will continue to make going forward to green our region.

In Solidarity,
 Aaron Bartley
 Executive Director

MAY 2009

Center for Working Families publishes Green Jobs Green Homes NY Policy Blueprint

NOVEMBER 2009

Governor David Paterson signs the Green Jobs – Green New York Act into law

JANUARY 2010

PUSH Buffalo is appointed to the statewide GJGNY Advisory Council

AUGUST 2011

Governor Andrew Cuomo signs the Power New York Act, which authorizes the New York State Energy and Research Development Authority (NYSERDA) and the Public Service Commission (PSC) to implement an On-Bill Recovery financing program as part of GJGNY

JANUARY 2012

PUSH Buffalo launches PUSH Green

2009

2010

2011

2012

PUSH Green launches Friends and Neighbors Program

The Friends and Neighbors Program rewards customers and contractors for making commitments to our community. Limited to underserved and high energy-burdened neighborhoods in Buffalo and the inner-ring suburbs, Friends and Neighbors customers bundle together in groups of 5 to 10 and work with a single contractor to make their energy efficiency upgrades. In exchange, the contractor agrees to provide a discount to customers, pay family sustaining wages and benefits, and hire local workers.

JUNE 2012

October 2012 – PUSH Green partners with nonprofit contractor New Buffalo Impact to launch a weatherization pilot for low-income homes concentrated in PUSH's Green Development Zone

From fall 2012 - 2013, PUSH employed neighborhood outreach workers to connect over 70 families to no-cost energy upgrades like insulation and furnaces. The pilot demonstrated that community groups are invaluable to the weatherization industry by opening doors to neighborhoods that have been underserved by traditional programs.

OCTOBER 2012

MARCH 2013

PUSH Green launches the Green Building Retrofit Program

The Green Building Retrofit Program enables participating small businesses and nonprofits to make energy efficiency improvements while simultaneously addressing foundation, roofing or other building repairs. PUSH received \$800,000 from the Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) to provide reimbursable grants to businesses making both energy efficiency upgrades and building repairs. The program aims for a 4:1 leverage, bringing needed investment to our area's commercial building stock.

OCTOBER 2013

PUSH Green and Healthy Homes Demonstration Project launches

The project brings together several partners including the Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO), a nationally recognized transitional employment program for formerly incarcerated returning citizens. PUSH and CEO provide OSHA 10-hour certification and hands-on construction training to 80 participants as part of a deep green affordable housing retrofit in the heart of PUSH's Green Development Zone. PUSH is also using the project to build capacity among a network of community-based minority and women-owned contracting firms.

2013

DECEMBER 2013

PUSH Green completes two-year contract as GJGNY outreach contractor, one of the highest performing programs across the state

APRIL 2013

PUSH Green begins referring Buffalo homeowners into the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI)

GHHI is an innovative national program that brings together key stakeholders in select cities to collaborate on solutions to health hazards and energy burdens in our homes. Buffalo's GHHI program provided matching funds for energy efficiency work in low-income households. PUSH served as a unique bridge between the program and NYSERDA contractors. Due to PUSH's involvement, 63 homeowners received comprehensive energy, health and safety upgrades that would have otherwise been out of reach.

PUSH GREEN PROGRESS BY THE NUMBERS

472

Residential Audits

190

Residential Retrofits
Contracted

132

Residential Retrofits
Completed

52%

Conversion Rate

38

Green Building
(small business/nonprofit) Audits

77

Local Residents
referred to training

20

Local Residents
referred to employment

\$739,742.81

Total \$ amount for all installed
NYSERDA projects

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Buffalo State College Small Business Development Center
- Center for Working Families
- Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo
- Delaware District Common Council Member Michael J. LoCurto
- Green and Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI)
- John R. Oishei Foundation
- Kresge Foundation
- New York State Assemblymember Michael P. Kearns
- New York State Assemblymember Sean Ryan
- New York State Energy Research Development Authority (NYSERDA)
- New York State Senator Timothy M. Kennedy
- PUSH Green Friends and Neighbors Contractors
- Surdna Foundation
- The Rockefeller Foundation
- Western New York Regional Economic Development Council

.....And all the homeowners and business owners who completed energy assessments and upgrades with PUSH Green.



Green Building Retrofit Grant Recipient (left) with Commercial Energy Advocate

“IN 2008, ERIE COUNTY HOMEOWNERS WITH INCOME AT OR BELOW 80% OF THE ANNUAL MEDIAN INCOME PAID **\$267,516,827 MORE THAN THEY COULD AFFORD FOR THEIR ENERGY BILLS.”**



“ We never felt like we were getting a “sales pitch” and in the end we reduced our air leakage by 30% through the new insulation. That’s a big impact on our carbon footprint!”

- Wayne & Mary Ann Tahara, Friends & Neighbors Program Participants