

The Environmental Finance Collaborative

An Innovative Shared Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Pilot Program



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Four Environmental Nonprofits Pilot a Shared CFO Program

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The Environmental Finance Collaborative (EFC), comprised of four local nonprofits: Construction Junction, GTECH Strategies, Nine Mile Run Watershed Association, and Tree Pittsburgh, is happy to announce the establishment of an innovative Shared Chief Financial Officer (CFO) pilot program that will allow the EFC partners to share costs while maximizing the benefits of high-level financial expertise.

“In September 2009, this diverse group of environmentally-focused organizations met to discuss how we could partner to create operational efficiency and new opportunities,” said Brenda Smith, Executive Director of Nine Mile Run Watershed Association. “We determined that based on the individual challenges facing our organizations, the most needed collaboration with the greatest potential impact would be for us to share a CFO.”

By sharing a CFO, the EFC partners hope to increase their organizational efficiency, gain financial management and strategy skills, improve their groups’ operational performance, and receive support for enhancing unique social enterprise activities.

The long-term goals of this collaborative pilot program include:

- Improved strategic financial management for all participating environmental organizations,
- Increased financial stability and transparency among organizations,
- Identification of other opportunities for collaboration between participating organizations, and
- Long-term development of standardized practices, metrics, and financial reporting methods.

With support from The Richard King Mellon Foundation and Dewey & Kaye Consultants, the planning phase of the pilot program culminated in the hiring of Kevin Gieder, former Finance Group Leader at The H.J. Heinz Company, in December 2011 to act as their shared CFO. Kevin has a diverse background in finance and accounting including prior experience as an auditor with a public accounting firm, and expertise in nonprofit financial management and social enterprise business practices.

“I am extremely excited to be working with this group of exceptional organizations,” said Kevin. “Our shared agenda is focused on using the best practices in financial management and oversight to make each organization not only more efficient, but also to provide the time for them to be strategic and forward-looking. Our goal is to find opportunities that can help to make each organization fiscally sustainable over the long-term.”

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