Funds Distribution Report



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Tulalip, WA 98271

TulalipCares.org

Recipient Organization:

ECOSS

Address:

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Organization's General Goals:

Formerly known as the Environmental Coalition of South Seattle, ECOSS delivers environmental education, resources and technical assistance in the areas of stormwater permit compliance, recycling and food waste, electrical vehicles and solar energy, brownfields, green stormwater infrastructure and outreach to multicultural communities and businesses.

Date of Award: Level:

2018 Q3 \$2,501 to \$5,000

For more information, please read the attached report from ECOSS.

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Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund Report by ECOSS Code: Q3 2018 14.2

ECOSS greatly appreciates the support from the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund for its Q3 2018 grant in the sum of \$ ______. Thank you for the opportunity expand our Puget Sound Spill Kit program work within our Sustainable Business Outreach Program. ECOSS staff help small and medium-sized business owners develop better practices to increase their understanding and knowledge of pollution prevention and response.

Washington State Department of Ecology considers stormwater (also known as polluted rainwater runoff) to be the biggest water pollution problem in urban areas of Puget Sound. Small spills of hazardous materials and waste, leaks from vehicles, equipment and machinery, and other types of pollutants from business activities, mix with rainwater and travel across paved surfaces. These toxicants then enter private and public storm systems via storm drains and eventually end up in local waterways and Puget Sound. This polluted runoff has environmental impacts that affect both wildlife and human health. According to the U.S. E.P.A.'s "Urban Storm Water Preliminary Data Summary," the impacts range from the



Free Spill Kits give businesses everything needed to manage a small spill.

proliferation of bacteria- and disease-causing organisms and contamination of drinking water supplies, to beach closures and high rates of pre-spawn mortality in salmonid populations.



After training, 84% of businesses report that they have adopted spill prevention practices.

The ECOSS Puget Sound Spill Kit program provides technical assistance to business owners regarding waste compliance, with a special focus on businesses that are owned and managed by immigrants and refugees. Training includes education and information on a range of environmental topics like waste reduction and management, toxic hazards present in homes and businesses, local, state and federal regulations, and natural conservation – all provided by our multilingual program staff.

Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund and other generous funders enabled ECOSS staff to provide technical assistance and onsite education and access to city and state resources to businesses that previously ECOSS was unable to serve. We provide a range of options to businesses to make their workflow more sustainable. Our outreach staff took this opportunity to talk to business owners and learn how ECOSS can better support their transition to more sustainable practices. This includes listening to their requests and working to create new services that address their needs.



Spill Kit training and materials are delivered in six languages.

As a result of this funding:

- In 2019, ECOSS delivered 524 complementary spill kits and training to help small businesses comply with regulations while protecting local water quality.
- Targeted multilingual outreach to over 40 businesses in South Seattle including White Center, Othello, Skyway area, Rainier and Glendale.
- Key staff received continuing education in Fats, Oils and Grease (F.O.G) best practices, Environmental Risks and Worker Safety, and Pollution Prevention management practices, including spill plans and in-language training materials.
- Businesses expanded their knowledge of stormwater pollution and prevention strategies, as well as raised awareness of their responsibility to cleanup and prevent spills.

Goals and Next steps

In 2020 ECOSS seeks to expand its Sustainable Business Outreach Program and close gaps in the overall business outreach that our organization provides. We have assisted businesses with their spill kit preparedness and training, waste management, hazardous waste disposal, energy efficient lighting, and grease trap management. All these actions together help keep our water clean and businesses compliant with Local and State laws.

- Increase outreach to Seattle area businesses that haven't previously received ECOSS services.
- Offer equipment, like faucet aerators and energy efficient bulbs, to businesses to help demonstrate that sustainable actions can be budget friendly.
- Work with small businesses that are central to the community to make them 'sustainability champions' to inspire the neighborhood around them.
- Install GSI on business properties to manage stormwater, increase permeable paving and beautify the area.
- Continue to support and engage Indigenous, Black, and People of Color-owned businesses in decision-making to improve human health and the environment.
- Rea h out to dive se communities in the Puget Sound region and build internal capacity to address their needs.

