

# Red, White & Green!



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CONTACTS: Christina Wessell  
Youth Service America  
202-296-2992 x 28  
[cwessell@ysa.org](mailto:cwessell@ysa.org)

Ailis Aaron Wolf  
Civil Society Institute  
703-276-3265  
[aaaron@hastingsgroup.com](mailto:aaaron@hastingsgroup.com)

## NEW CLIMATE CHANGE AWARDEES ANNOUNCED FOR RED, WHITE & GREEN YOUTH ACTION CAMPAIGN

WASHINGTON (October 18, 2006) – The Civil Society Institute and Youth Service America announced today the grant winners of the Red, White & Green Youth Action Campaign. A total of 23 grants were awarded for young people, ages 15-25, to create community service projects that address climate change. The \$500 grants support younger Americans as they develop their voice and impact public policy on the critical issue of climate change.

The Red, White & Green Youth Action Campaign is intended to encourage widespread youth engagement on the issue of climate change leading up to the 2008 national presidential election. Select grantees will bring their project results and their public policy recommendations to Washington, DC in 2007.

Here is a selection of the Red, White & Green Youth Action Campaign grant winners:

- OHIO. Youth in Columbus, Ohio will create a rain garden, to hold rain water until it can soak into the ground and return to the water table, rather than become run off into the river. The rain garden is part of a larger project to build an energy efficient, sustainable, and affordable house that meets/exceeds the requirements for LEEDS certification. Youth will research each candidate's public statements and platform regarding climate change and prepare a bullet point summary. They will send this summary to each candidate and invite them to address the class and learn about the project. This is part of the Green Building Initiative, started by Mayor Coleman.
- WASHINGTON, D.C. A group of 20 students at American University in Washington, DC will work to resist the political influence of big oil. They will arrange meetings at the DC offices of representatives from their home states. They will gather volunteers from each area and present facts about global warming to their respective politicians, and tell them that it is their responsibility to withstand the pressures of the oil industry and take a stand to curb global warming to protect the health and well-being of their constituents. They will visit candidates running for office and request that they stop taking contributions from oil companies.
- CALIFORNIA. A total of 11 youths from two Bay Area, California middle college high schools will create chapters of Climate Change Committees at 7 Middle College High Schools around the nation. They will create a tool kit that includes a PowerPoint presentation, fliers, and posters that notify student leaders

about upcoming Global Climate Change events. Youth will publish their views on "The Green News," a national youth environment newsletter, and be featured on the Green Screen on public access TV. They will invite candidates running for office in Nov. 2006 to speak at several forums hosted by students, the talks will be videotaped and will appear on local TV with the focus being on the candidates' comments on climate change. The youth aim to reach 1,500 people.

For the full list of grant winners, go to: <http://www.ysa.org/Awards/rwgwinners.cfm>. To learn more about the CSI Red, White and Green campaign go to <http://www.RedWhiteandGreen.org>.

The nonprofit and nonpartisan **Civil Society Institute** is a think tank that serves as a catalyst for change by creating problem-solving interactions among people, and between communities, government and business that can help to improve society. Find CSI on the Web at <http://www.CivilSocietyInstitute.org>,

**Youth Service America (YSA)** is a resource center that partners with thousands of organizations committed to increasing the quality and quantity of volunteer opportunities for young people, ages 5-25, to serve locally, nationally, and globally. Founded in 1986, YSA's mission is to expand the impact of the youth service movement with communities, schools, corporations, and governments. YSA envisions a global culture of engaged youth who are committed to a lifetime of service, learning, leadership, and achievement. For more information, visit <http://www.YSA.org>.

In addition to National & Global Youth Service Day, which take place concurrently each April, YSA also hosts SERVENet ([www.SERVENet.org](http://www.SERVENet.org)), providing the largest database of volunteer opportunities in America. For more information, visit: [www.YSA.org](http://www.YSA.org).

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