



THE LEAGUE LINE

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF BLUE RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE LEAGUE

BEAST UNIT DEPLOYED

The BREDL Environmental Air Sampling Trailer (BEAST) has been delivered to our first location and will be deployed to other sites in the Southeast over the next three years. (page 4)



BREDL INTRODUCES NEW LOGOS

You may have noticed that BREDL has a new logo...or two! Read to learn more about how the new logos came to be! (page 2)



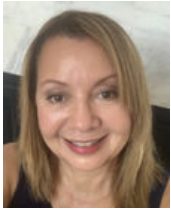
Director's Report
(p. 2)

Visioning a Resilient Local Economy
(p. 5)

The Perilous Dust Story
(p. 3)

THE PRESERVATION OF WILD SPACES

BY: KATHY ANDREWS, BREDL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As a child, I often wondered about the fate of Snow's Island. Snow's Island is an area of swampy lowlands along the Great Pee Dee River in Florence County, SC. It's historically significant as the headquarters for Revolutionary War hero Francis Marion's numerous raids on British outposts. The site was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1974. No longer do I fear Snow's Island succumbing to gas pipelines, or developers building homes on fragile habitat. 7,600 acres of the pristine wilderness will be preserved. It's the largest conservation project in Florence County made possible by Open Space Institute, South Carolina Office of Resilience, the SC Conservation Bank, and the Darla Moore Foundation.

The conservation preserves habitat for wildlife and species like the spotted turtles and swallow.

Snow's Island will now be preserved for generations to come. It comes at a time when BREDL is fighting Dominion Energy over a gas pipeline along the Great Pee Dee River that will not only destroy wetlands and endangered species, but impact the surrounding communities made up mainly of heirs' property and residents who live below the poverty level.

What's happened to Snow's Island is the reason BREDL works hard to help communities across the Southeast.



BREDL INTRODUCES NEW LOGOS

By: Scott Lineberger



You may have noticed that BREDL has a new logo. In fact, depending on where you might be reading or watching a video, you may see two different yet similar logos. But more on that a bit later. BREDL has just celebrated its 40th anniversary and in recognition of that we wanted to refresh our logo without losing the identifiable qualities of the most recent version. We approached three different graphic artists who specialize in logo creation and presented our situation. We required they stick with our color scheme (blue and green) and preserve what is identifiable about the current logo. The third artist readily grasped our goals and immediately began coming up with some great ideas.



We found that she had generated two slightly different logos, both with characteristics we liked. We put it to a vote and everyone reached the same conclusion – they were both attractive and stylish but there was no clear winner. After checking with the artist we found that both versions could be used for the same fee. We began to release both versions and discovered that there are situations where the horizontal logo gives better results and, likewise, situations where the circular logo works best. Either way we're excited to be able to present them both to you – and we hope you will enjoy them as much as we do.

THE PERILOUS DUST STORY

By: Renee Cail



Living across the street from Metro Green, a recycling/materials recovery center, has been a devastating experience for hundreds of residents in a southeast DeKalb county neighborhood in Georgia. This facility sits in a predominantly African American residential area.

A material recovery center is a solid waste management plant that processes recyclable materials to sell to manufacturers for new products. Metro Green recycles construction and demolition debris such as concrete, cardboard, wood, and metal.

One of the most common complaints from residents living near Metro Green is dust. We often hear about dust but we don't see much data referencing the problems associated with dust. Nor are the health impacts clearly defined publicly. NASA research has found that a combination of wind-blown dust and human caused particle pollution was associated with nearly 3 million premature deaths in 2019. Research led by a team of atmospheric scientists based by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center indicates that the health burden associated with PM 2.5 is somewhat lower than previous estimates suggest and sheds light on the role of dust.

The researchers, including Hongbin Yu and Alexander Yang, calculated the global effects of PM 2.5 by analyzing exposure over a period of time using a NASA atmospheric modeling system integrated with medical data from University of Washington's Global Burden of Disease Study. Aerodynamic size incorporates important information about the shape and density of dust particles that is relevant to how readily the particles fall out the atmosphere and move into the respiratory system. Canadian studies have documented evidence of emissions from dust, which disrupts endocrine functions in humans and causes organ injury, thus increasing vulnerability to stress and disease. Canadian researchers further concluded that the most harmful particulates such as heavy metals and respirable crystalline silica top the list as the most harmful emissions for the health of humans, flora and fauna.

Metro Green's facility endangers the community due to their heavy duty diesel truck emissions, the silica dust and heavy metals which are a constant threat to the residents and a motivation for the community to continue the struggle to stop them from operating.

UNITED NATIONS WORK ON CLIMATE CHANGE



Episode 70: This week's podcast episode is out with Younju Lee who is from South Korea and based in Paris, France. She is a Masters student for Environmental Policy as well as an intern with the Stakeholder Engagement team at United Nations Climate Change.

The United Nations is working around the world to cut emissions, pursue nature-based solutions, extend sustainable energy and invest in resilient cities, among many other initiatives.

One of the most pressing initiatives is The Paris Agreement, which is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. It was adopted by 196 Parties at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris, France, on

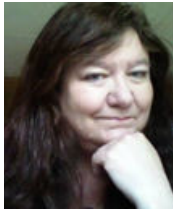
December 12, 2015. It then, entered into force on November 4, 2016. Its overarching goal is to hold "the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels" and pursue efforts "to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels." However, in recent years, world leaders have stressed the need to limit global warming to 1.5°C by the end of this century.

With Younjun we talk about her experience working with the UN, the Paris Agreement, her contributions, challenges of working with an international organization, and COP29.

Search for "In Our Backyard Podcast" on your podcast app or go to <https://anchor.fm/bredl>

BREDL ANNOUNCES DEPLOYMENT OF THE B.E.A.S.T.

By: Therese Vick



BREDL has launched our community air monitoring project featuring the BEAST utility trailer equipped with high-end air monitoring equipment. BEAST is the acronym for BREDL Environmental Air Sampling Trailer.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded a grant to BREDL on July 30, 2023 for the CARE-4-AIR project. The grant funded a mobile air monitoring trailer that will be taken to communities throughout the Southeast who are concerned about air pollution in their neighborhoods. Said Kathy Andrews, BREDL Executive Director, "This is a great opportunity to provide air pollution data to the general public and target

areas where protection is needed due to bad air quality. We're grateful to the EPA for providing us funding for this important project."

BREDL's contractor, Wilbur Technical Services, outfitted the trailer with monitors for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), Nitrogen Dioxide, and Particulate Matter (PM). These pollutants can impact human health and the environment. The BEAST is also equipped with a weather station. Data from the monitors will be obtained online and subjected to EPA approved quality assurance and quality control checks.

The BEAST has been taken to its first community host site. We will provide the results of the air sampling and meet with impacted communities. In addition, BREDL staff will employ various educational tools—for example infographics and fact sheets—to inform the public about air pollution sources in their neighborhoods, and to encourage engagement on environmental issues that they are concerned about.

The \$432,854 project includes \$365,368 provided by the EPA grant and \$67,486 in a BREDL cost-share commitment. We appreciate this opportunity provided by EPA's Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities grant.



"We are excited to be able to provide state-of-the-art air monitoring for underserved communities, communities that don't have access to nearby government agency air monitoring," said Mark Barker, Project Operations Manager.



THE BEAST UNLEASHED : BREDL's Environmental Air Sampling Trailer has now been placed at its first location.

VISIONING A RESILIENT LOCAL ECONOMY

By: Jason Torian



I have an idea, and I'll share a part of that. What if we knew that our food supply was secure no matter what happened outside of here? That's a part of my vision, but I want to hear other people's visions too. I challenge you to give us 6 months for us Personians to come up with our own plan for the county and see if we can meet it and come up with something that provides economic development that really serves Person County. Let's see if we're any good at this!

Those words were spoken by Person County, NC resident Michael Savino at last year's public hearing on rezoning for the proposed Moriah Energy Center. Inspired by Michael's comments, BREDL and other nonprofits began weekly discussions on economic resilience in rural communities like Person County. On December 9, this coalition of groups held a listening session entitled Visioning a Resilient Local Economy.

Person County is one of several rural communities currently at the center of a massive natural gas build out, as large energy companies transition away from coal. The county is also home to a regional landfill and a coal-fired power plant.

Approximately 40 Person County residents attended the session. Those in attendance, including clergy, community organizers, farmers, business owners, and ordinary citizens, brought a range of lived experiences to the table. Residents shared their frustrations with the lack of opportunities in their community and the environmental impacts of past and current projects. They also shared ideas for how to make changes. The group plans to hold follow-up sessions throughout 2025, which will focus on creating solutions that lead to economic development that is less extractive and more in harmony with the wishes of the community.



LISTENING SESSION: Many residents in attendance expressed frustration with previous economic development efforts which have left the county burdened with environmental challenges.



BREDL Grassroots Mini Grant Program

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

By: Ann Rogers

Description of grant

The BREDL Grassroots Mini Grant Program is a grant being offered by BREDL to its chapter organizations and other grassroots groups who need cash for the purpose of developing, expanding, enhancing, promoting, or otherwise improving their campaigns to protect the environment in the communities where they live. The BREDL Grassroots Mini Grant Program will be offered in amounts ranging from \$500 to \$2,500. BREDL has a total of \$20,000 available to give for grants through this program. We will accept applications on an ongoing basis while the funding lasts.

Who is eligible to apply?

Chapters of BREDL and other grassroots environmental organizations are eligible to apply for the Grassroots Mini Grant. Eligibility is based on the following criteria:

- the applicant's active status as a chapter of BREDL or as a non-chapter grassroots environmental organization
- the applicant's current engagement in a campaign to protect the local environment
- the applicant's submission of a written application to BREDL providing all information requested in Application Instructions, below.

Application Instructions

Please submit an email to BREDL's Executive Director, Kathy Andrews (kandrews@BREDL.org). Please attach your proposal to this email. Please title the email, "Grassroots Mini Grant proposal". Please include the following information in your proposal:

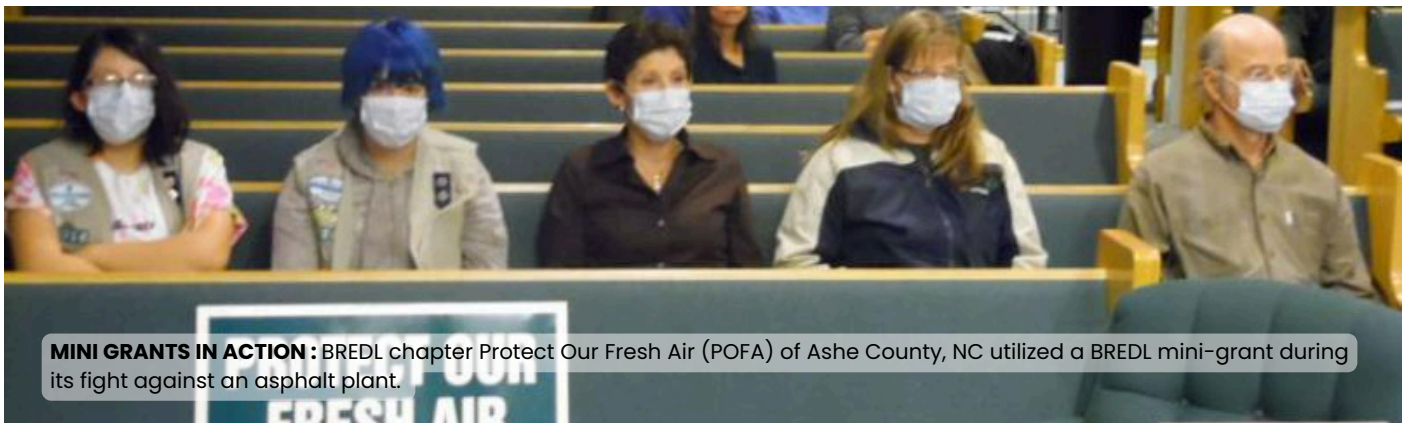
1. Proposal format maximum five (5) pages in length, single-spaced, 1 inch margins, no smaller than 12 point font.
2. Introduction to applicant describe the organization submitting the application, including:
 - a. name, mailing address, and phone number of person submitting the application
 - b. date the group was formed
 - c. number of members
 - d. environmental issue you are working on
 - e. description of recent activities and achievements
 - f. description of your goals during the upcoming 12 months
 - g. how you plan to spend the GMGP grant
3. Amount of grant funds requested any amount from \$500 to \$2,500

Deadline

Applications for the BREDL Grassroots Mini Grant are accepted year round.

Questions?

If you have questions about your organization's eligibility for this funding, the grant application process, timeline for receipt of funding, or any other aspect of the BREDL Grassroots Mini Grant, please contact BREDL's Executive Director, Kathy Andrews (kandrews@BREDL.org), or BREDL's Grant Writer, Ann Rogers (amelvin3@verizon.net). We look forward to hearing from you!



BREDL: WHO AND WHAT WE ARE

In March 1984, fifty citizens of Ashe and Watauga Counties met in the Mission House of Holy Trinity Church in Glendale Springs, North Carolina. Teachers and farmers, home-makers and merchants listened to the report of the Episcopal Church Women on the US Department of Energy's siting search for a high-level nuclear waste dump in the rain-rich east. Recognizing that the North Carolina mountains were a region at risk, the assembled group organized the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL) to protect their own backyard and those of other threatened communities.

Since then, the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League has grown to be a regional community-based, nonprofit environmental organization. Our founding principles - earth stewardship, environmental democracy, social justice and community empowerment - still guide our work for social change. Our staff and volunteers put into practice the ideals of love of community and love of neighbor, which help us to serve the movement for environmental protection and progressive social change in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee.

THE LEAGUE LINE: A quarterly publication of
Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL)

P.O. Box 2168

Boone, NC 28607

Tel: 336-982-2691

editors: Jason Torian and Ann Rogers

Staff/Contributing Writers:

Kathy Andrews, Executive Director

Rev. Charles Utley, Associate Director

Mark Barker, Executive Assistant

Therese Vick, Sustainable Economic Development Coordinator

Ann Rogers, Grant Writer/Community Organizer

Renee Cail, Community Organizer

Jenn Galler, Community Organizer

Jason Torian, Community Organizer

Louis A. Zeller, Strategic Advisor

**Does your chapter have a story to share in the League Line?
Submit your article to bredl@bredl.org!**

View archived newsletters at www.theleagueline.org

BREDL Credo

We believe in the practice of earth stewardship, not only by our league members, but by our government and the public as well. To foster stewardship, BREDL encourages government and citizen responsibility in conserving and protecting our natural resources. BREDL advocates grassroots involvement in order to empower whole communities in environmental issues. BREDL functions as a "watchdog" of the environment, monitoring issues and holding government officials accountable for their actions. BREDL networks with citizen groups and agencies, collecting and disseminating accurate, timely information. BREDL sets standards for environmental quality, and awards individuals and agencies who uphold these standards in practice

Grassroots Campaigns

Nothing creates hopefulness out of helplessness like a successful grassroots campaign -and our chapters have a history of winning. For over three decades Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League chapters have protected their communities by stopping dangerous facilities and promoting safe alternatives. In the 1980's and 1990's, BREDL prevented a multi-state ThermalKEM hazardous waste incinerator, a southeastern nuclear waste dump and a national nuclear waste dump. In the 2000's, our coordinated grassroots citizens' campaigns have had further victories. We won a legislative victory with the passage of the NC Solid Waste Act, effectively blocking at least four multi-state mega-dumps. Our Person County chapter convinced their Board of Commissioners to reject expansion of the Republic Services landfill. Our Cascade, Virginia, chapter shut down a huge hazardous waste incinerator. Our chapter in Roanoke and Franklin Counties, Virginia stopped an Interstate Highway. We eliminated mercury waste from the Stericycle incinerator, shut down a tire incinerator in Martinsville, won the landmark environmental justice court decision in Greene County, North Carolina. Further, with our chapters we have protected air quality by blocking scores of asphalt plants, four medical waste incinerators, a PVC plant and a lead smelter, and passage by local governments of eight polluting industries ordinances. Our work on nuclear power and coal plants laid the groundwork for our new Safe Energy Campaign. Victories over twenty-four mega-dumps have resulted in our affirmative Zero Waste Campaign. Guided by the principles of earth stewardship and environmental justice, we have learned that empowering whole communities with effective grassroots campaigns is the most effective strategy for lasting change.

BREDL
c/o Virginia Staton, CPA
PO Box 2168
Boone, NC 28607

Annual Membership is only \$20

Thank you for supporting Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League
It's easier than ever to **join, renew** and **donate** online.

Check out our secure online donation form and use your credit card at
www.BREDL.org

Or send your check to: BREDL, c/o Virginia Staton, CPA, PO Box 2168,
Boone, NC 28607

All donations are tax deductible.

Name _____

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Chapter _____

Membership Amount: \$ _____

JMZ Fund Donation: \$ _____

**Janet Marsh Zeller
Honorary Fund**

The BREDL Board
of Directors
established this
fund to honor the
work of Janet



Marsh Zeller, who founded the Blue Ridge
Environmental Defense League and
served as its executive director for over
two decades.

**The honorary fund supports BREDL's
endowment and our long-term ability to
serve communities.** Individual gifts are
accepted throughout the year. All
donations to BREDL are tax deductible.
Contributions to the fund will benefit the
organization and honor the woman who
gave so much to make our world better,
one community at a time.