

Sustainable Success Stories

Historic Green New Orleans

Goal:

The goal of the KC-based event organizers was to create a meaningful volunteer opportunity which would synthesize green-building and historic preservation strategies, a combination rarely explored in the U.S.

Project Description:

The organizing group partnered directly with the community's neighborhood association, which had created the goal of making the neighborhood carbon neutral by 2020 and climate neutral by 2030. Projects included green improvements to historic homes, deconstruction of damaged historic buildings for materials salvage, reconstruction of damaged historic buildings using the previously salvaged materials, clearing lots which had gone unattended since 2005 and reinstalling a historic bell in the neighborhood association's host church.

Community Benefits and Lessons Learned:

This project included providing green-collar job training to residents and volunteers alike, creating a lecture series featuring internationally recognized green building and preservation professionals, building demonstration rain gardens and site-drainage improvements to public streets, providing hundreds of new tools for a community toolshed, and much more. The estimated dollar value of the efforts which directly benefitted the local community was over \$250,000 in donated construction services.

Funding Sources and Partnerships:

Lower 9th Ward Center for Sustainable Engagement & Development, US Green Building Council, Alliance for Affordable Energy, Green Light NOLA, World Monuments Fund, Preservation Trades Network, National Trust for Preservation, Sierra Club Gulf Coast Recovery, Mercy Corps, Global Green, Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Preservation Resource Center

Funding was provided through private donations.

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Volunteers work to restore homes in the 9th Ward.



Volunteers reinstalling a historic bell in the Neighborhood Association's host church.



Volunteers plant a garden.