

# Democratic Grant Making and Grassroots Trend Reports

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## Background: Guiding Values

- ❖ Just Transition
- ❖ Shifting Power: Transparency, Accountability, Democracy
- ❖ Lowering Barriers to Funding
- ❖ Flexibility & Risk-taking
- ❖ Change vs. Charity
- ❖ Community-based Fundraising
- ❖ Process is the Product

## Approach

### Trend Reports

I researched New England Energy & Climate and Food groups, analyzed 2017 survey responses, updated and distributed 2018 surveys, interviewed innovative organizations for deeper conversations, and created 2018 Energy & Climate and Food trend reports with partner input.

### Catalyst Conversation

I convened diverse New Hampshire environmental justice stakeholders to be part of a Planning Committee, facilitated participatory planning meetings, and coordinated event logistics including date, venue, and bilingual invitations.

“We leverage existing social capital.” -Interviewee

## Results

### Energy & Climate and Food Trend Reports

- ❖ Common challenges across regions and issue-areas include funding restrictions and limited organizer capacity.
- ❖ Leveraging existing social capital and utilizing established areas of community are key to successful grassroots outreach.
- ❖ Many groups are treating symptoms rather than addressing root causes, leading to issue fragmentation.

### New Hampshire Catalyst Conversation

- ❖ Holding events in the summer should be avoided.
- ❖ Much of New Hampshire’s attention is centered on the seacoast; it is important to draw resources to other regions.
- ❖ Equitable, participatory processes take substantial time and coordination but must be prioritized for community buy-in.

## Objectives

1. Revise and release Energy & Climate and Food **issue area surveys** to glean trends, barriers, and opportunities in grassroots organizing
2. Create 2018 Energy & Climate and Food **Grassroots Trend Reports** using qualitative and quantitative data gathered from a variety of sources
3. Coordinate the planning of a participatory **Catalyst Conversation** event in New Hampshire

**New Hampshire Grassroots Sustainability Gathering**  
Catalyzing Collaboration through Stories, Tools, & Funding

Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum  
18 Highlawn Road, Warner, NH

**Wed. September 5th**  
Optional Museum Tour: 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.  
Catalyst Conversation Program: 3:30 - 7 p.m.  
Friends & Donors Reception: 7 - 8 p.m.

### NH Catalyst Conversation Invitation

Coordinated through a participatory planning committee of relevant stakeholders

## Moving Forward

### The Grassroots Fund

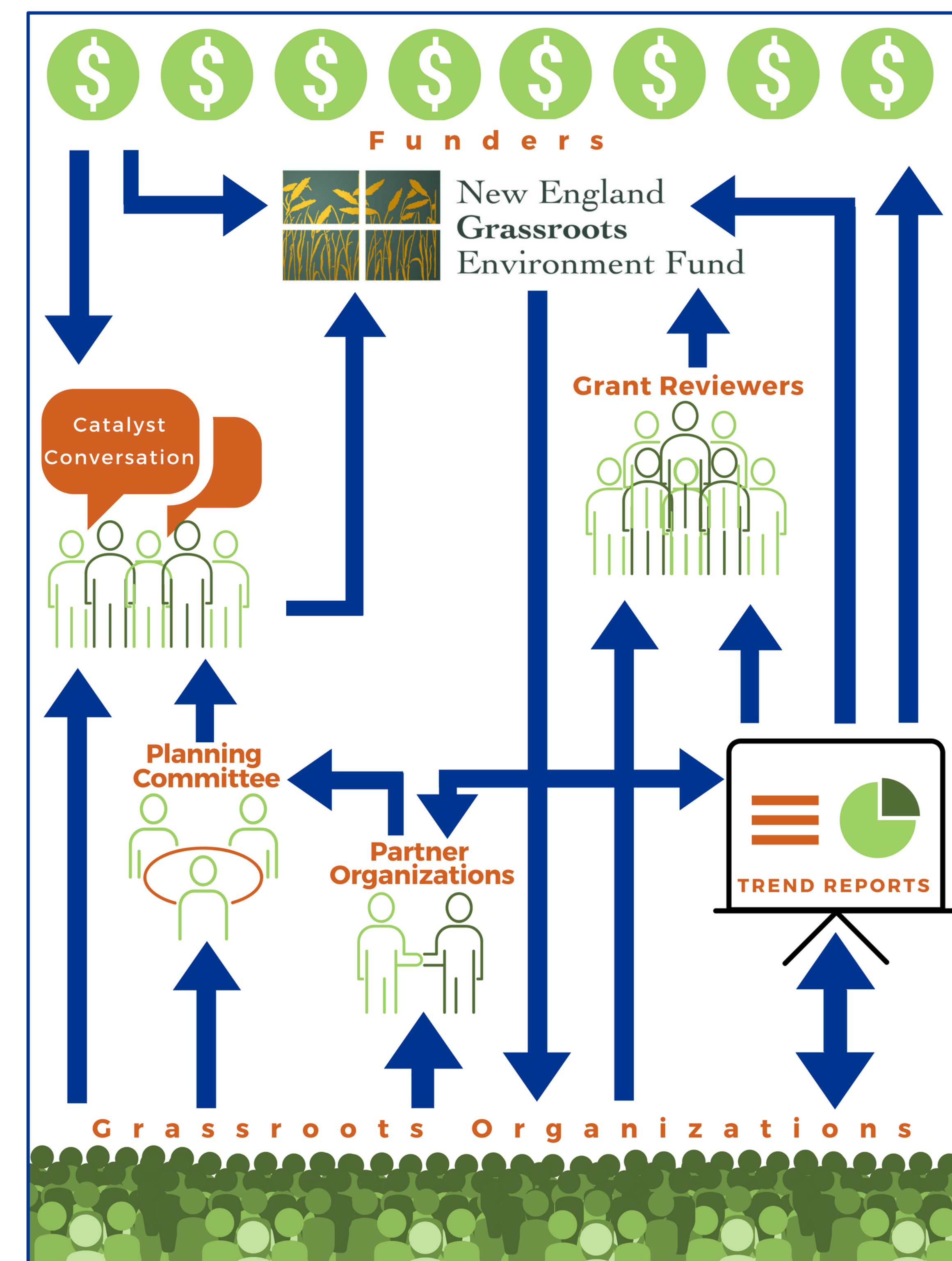
- ❖ Surveys may be institutionalized as part of the grant reporting process so trends can be more readily tracked
- ❖ Trend reports are more accessible and engaging
- ❖ Grassroots groups need more resources on diversity and root causes

### Philanthropic Organizations

- ❖ Offer funding for multi-year costs, changing & experimental projects, and operational costs including staff time
- ❖ Consider implementing participatory processes to help inform decisions and drive resources deeper into communities that most need them

### My work

- ❖ Process really is the product! To facilitate the transition from an exploitative to a just socioeconomic system, we must first transform our own processes, even if they take more time and effort



### The Bigger Picture

A flow chart providing a snapshot of how my projects fit into the Grassroots Fund’s work and interact with key stakeholders.



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