

CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES – ATLANTA (CSC-ATL)

ADVANCED ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH AND MONITORING STATION (AARMS)

Dear Contributor/Interested Parties/Donor

Center for Sustainable Communities (CSC-ATL) is a non-profit organization that began in 2013 in Atlanta, Georgia. Since that time, the Center for Sustainable Communities, has initiated and completed several projects designed to make metro Atlanta communities more livable, prosper us, mobile and eco friendly. The mission of CSC-ATL is to provide communities with the resources and education to make their living environments more environmentally just and friendly, cleaner, healthier, and safer and more climate resilient. With over two decades of experience, the CSC-ATL also promotes STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education with both Pre-K and K-12 public schools and agencies. . The CSC works closely with local colleges, universities and agencies and also has developed partnerships to help address health disparities in environmental health for vulnerable communities. The CSC also works with advocacy and policy organizations for the proper development of energy and environmental policy.

In 2014 the Center for Sustainable Communities conducted nearly 30 community based projects reaching nearly 3 million residents. Some more notable projects included efforts to help establish an EcoDistrict in West Atlanta which provide comprehensive community regeneration for degraded communities. Since 2012, CSC-ATL has partnered with Residents, Resources and Communities to help low income residents live in healthier and more energy efficient homes in Reynoldstown. We also work with the Emory Urban Health Initiative to build and operate urban agriculture and community garden projects on the West Side of Atlanta to help eliminate food deserts, and reduce health disparities. In addition, we are working on issues of climate resiliency, adaptation and mitigation through association with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and its Weather Ready Nation initiative and FEMA and others by providing training, readiness drills, and instruction on disaster mitigation in vulnerable communities. At B.E.S.T. Academy, CSC-ATL conducts STEM education classes to build a "maker" laboratory and programs in energy, environmental science, and urban gardening to help the school obtain STEM certification.

CSC-ATL for nearly five years has worked extensively with many stakeholders including government agencies, universities and colleges, local agencies, professional associations, national laboratories to launch the Advanced Atmospheric Research and Monitoring Station (AARMS) project. The approach of the AARMS project is to design, integrate and install advanced instrumentation and equipment on a 140-ft tall tower located in the Fernbank Forest to collect long-term meteorological and atmospheric data. The AARMS project aims to support academic atmospheric and meteorological research by adopting rigorous standard operating procedures for instrument deployment, maintenance, and data collection. The project consists of five components; (1) a research station; (2) earth science laboratory, (3) stem education, (4) urban outreach and (5) community engagement. The unique location of the tower in an urban old-growth forest in the Southeast U.S. and the capability to install instrumentation at different heights above and below the tree canopy make the AARMS project applicable to a variety of research topics, such as atmospheric chemistry, weather and climate change, air quality, and environmental epidemiology etc..

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CSC -ATL has developed numerous stakeholders to help make the project a reality. For example, recently, CSC-ATL, as part of its Earth Science Laboratory and Climate Research initiative partnered with the University of Georgia, Fulton County Schools, and Fernbank Museum of Natural History to help lead an effort to conduct on a tree survey project to calculate the carbon sequestration impact of the adjacent, a 65-acre undisturbed, old-growth hardwood urban forest centrally located in metropolitan Atlanta.

As a nonprofit organization we rely on donations of equipment and volunteer hours in order to successfully operate the AARMS project. Currently we are seeking additional partnerships with the academic research community to bring the AARMS project to operational status. Specifically, we are seeking in-kind support of (1) technical assistance or research partnership; (2) specific instrumentation and equipment to support the AARMS climate and weather research, earth science laboratory and education mission; and /or (3) financial donations of \$500.00 to \$5,000 to build, support and sustain AARMS operations. Any donations you can make would be greatly appreciated.

The goal of the AARMS project is to build a world class laboratory for atmospheric and earth science research. Your support will help build a facility that collects long-term high-quality, research-grade atmospheric data to be used by academic professionals to conduct important research, as well as a STEM education platform for urban youths to learn environmental science.

CSC-ALT is supported by a 501(c) (3) non-profit fiscal agent. Your donation is tax deductible. If you need a donation receipt for your contribution we will provide you with one.

Thank you for taking the time to consider contributing to our program. We very much appreciate all of your efforts in the community.

If you have any questions about our program or your donation, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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