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# Editors' Introduction - 21st Century Public Management: Environmentalism and E-government

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# 21st Century Public Management: Environmentalism and E-Government

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The *Journal of Public Management and Social Policy*, in completing its sixteenth volume, looks to continue bringing together a collection of articles and research that review polices and cases underscoring the area of public management and social policy throughout the United States and around the world. This issue's contributors provide contemporary analyses of public management and social policies in areas ranging from the fiscal benefits of developing "green" buildings to the organizational life cycle of environmental justice groups. Topics covered in this issue also include the areas of e-government and public contracting. Overall, the issue brings together four general articles in the second issue of this sixteenth volume of *JPMSP*.

The opening article, "The Fiscal Return of Green Building Incentives to Local Government: Early Evidence," is co-authored by Tricia L. Petras and Andy Hultquist and examines the role of the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program. The program – a leader in developing "green" building standards is explored as an endeavor with incentives which potentially add value to building projects. Utilizing data for Seattle, Washington, results indicate that properties participating in Seattle's LEED incentive program exhibit significantly higher appraised values than comparable properties not receiving incentives.

Richard W. Schwester looks at e-government in the next article, "Socio-Demographic Determinants of E-government Adoption: An Examination of Major U.S. Cities." Specifically, Schwester reviews the socio-demographic factors that may drive citizen demand for e-government, and thus drive the level of its complexity. Specifically, Schwester discusses the findings in which a city's African-American and Hispanic populations are inversely related to e-government sophistication. That is, cities with higher proportions of African-Americans

and Hispanic residents are less likely to have comprehensive e-government websites.

In the third article, “Public Contracting, Political Barriers and the Role of Political Capital in the Growth of Black Entrepreneurship,” Vincent E. Mangum reviews whether Black elected officials have some authority over the distribution of public contracts and policies that can discourage anti-competitive and discriminatory practices in credit and capital markets. Mangum’s results reveal that Black elected officials, through public policy, do create a market environment that has a significant and positive effect on the entry of Black-owned firms.

In the final article, “The Changing Organizational Face of Environmental Justice: From Grassroots to 502c(3) Nonprofits,” Jo Marie Rios, Joseph F. Jozwiak, Jr., Daniel Jorgensen, and Pamela Meyer – using an organizational life cycle approach, which categorizes organizations into stages (inception, growth, maturity, institutionalization) – investigated the structure, decision making process, budget process, resources, and sources of funding of environmental justice groups. Through data gathered from online survey asking questions about the organizational goals, history, structure and administrative practices of environmental justice groups, they argue that age and nonprofit status of an environmental justice group determine its organizational life cycle stage.

As always, we would like to offer sincere thanks to our committed editorial board members, reviewers, and staff for their continued work. Lastly, we would like to thank our contributors for considering *JPMSP* as an outlet for their research.