



Equitable Landscaping Training Program



About the Program

The Equitable Landscaping – Green Infrastructure Training Program is a pilot Spanish-language, culturally appropriate, green infrastructure and maintenance training program developed by ecoLatinos. Funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), the program was developed to target underrepresented and under-resourced Latino landscape professionals in the Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia (DMV) area.

We partnered with several regional experts, including the Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council (CCLC), to help implement this unique program.

Program Overview

In October and November of 2024, a 3-day training was created for two cohorts. On the first two days, participants participated in a series of lectures, videos, and field exercises. While on the third day, they applied their knowledge in a hands-on experience. At the end of the program, participants received two certificates: a certificate of participation and a certificate of completion of the CBLP-A (Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional-Associate) program. They also received a stipend at the end of the training.

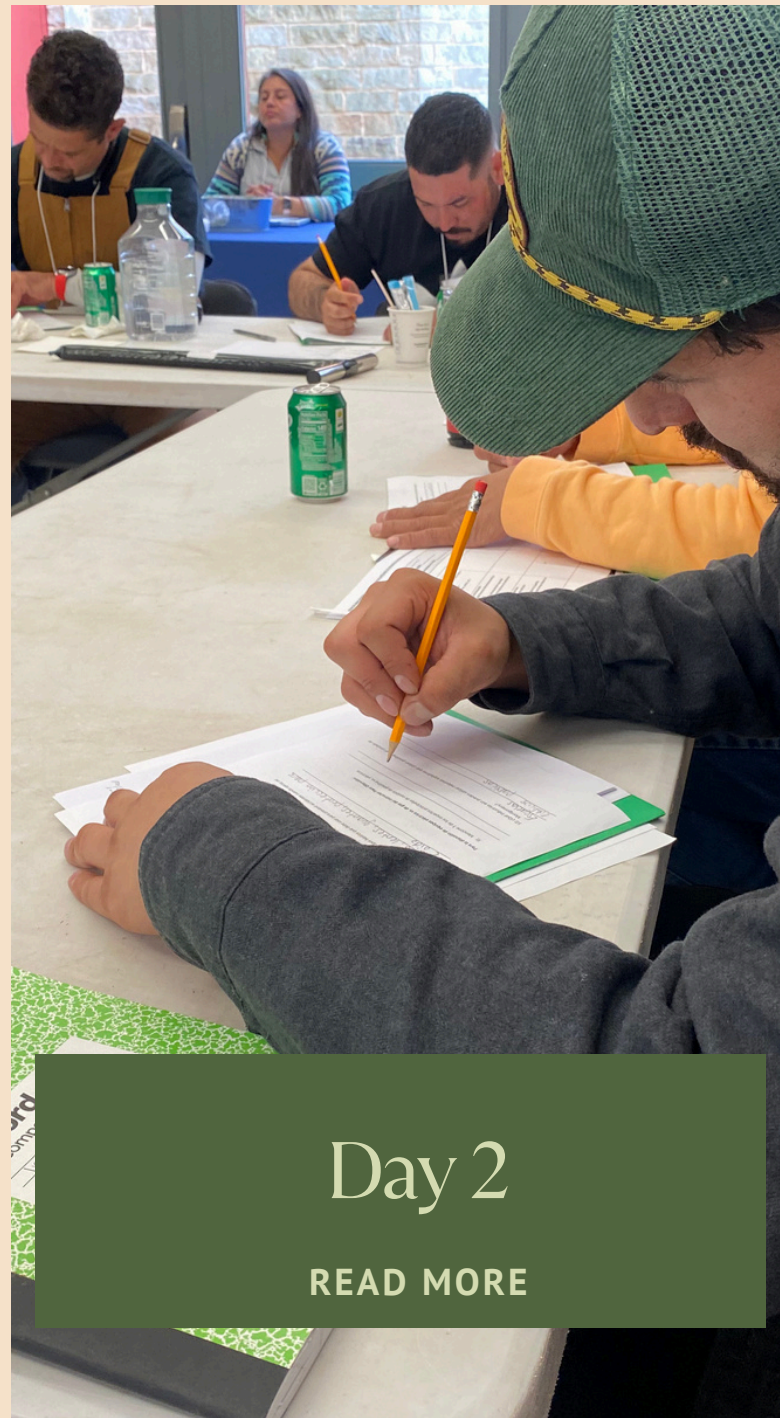
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Day 1

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Day 2

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Day 3

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Day 1

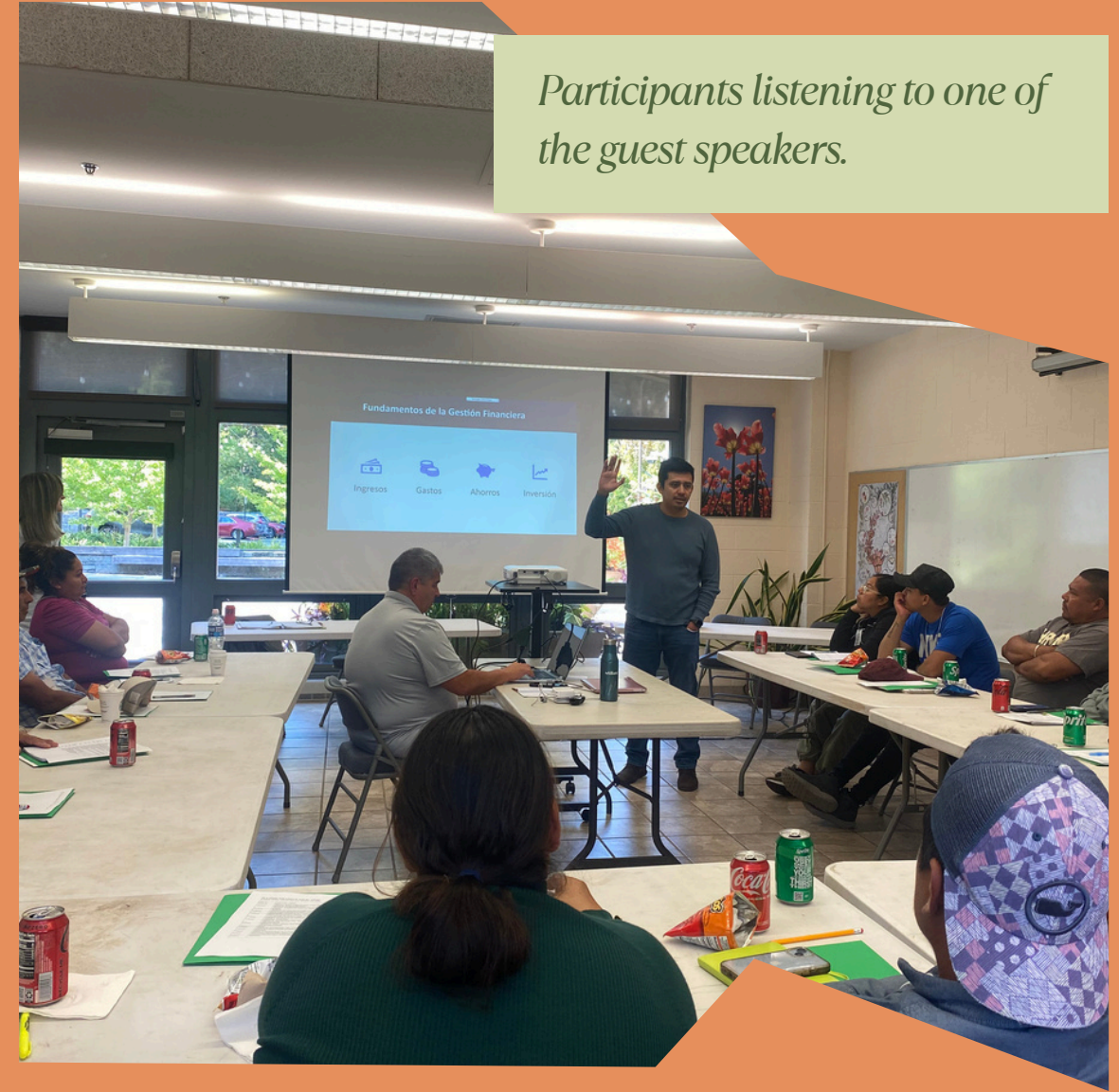
On the first day of the program, participants heard lectures and watched videos on different topics, such as the Chesapeake Bay watershed, Best Management Practices (BMPs), rain gardens, conservation landscaping, plant identification, and green infrastructure careers. They also had field exercises that allowed them to see and learn of BMPs at the locations where the trainings were held – the Hyattsville and Bladensburg libraries in Prince George's County.



Participants working together on an activity led by an instructor.

Day 2

On the second day of the program, participants continued to hear lectures on worker safety, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), safe handling of gas and electric equipment, stormwater BMPs, and rebate programs. Special guests gave presentations on Integrated Pest Management (IPM), launching green businesses, and sustainable industries. Again, participants had the opportunity to see BMPs and field demonstrations at the location where the trainings were held – Brookside Gardens in Montgomery County.



Day 3

Finally, on the third day of the program, participants from both cohorts came together for a hands-on experience. They had the opportunity to choose between creating a rain garden or planting trees, installing 2 rain barrels, and a cistern at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Hyattsville, Maryland. Participants were guided by experts, connected with one another, and worked together to install these BMPs that will help reduce runoff around the property. At the end, they received their stipends and certificates: a certificate of participation from ecoLatinos and a certificate of Associate from CBLP-A.

Participants digging to create a rain garden.



Program Highlights



34 participants!

A total of 34 participants, with varying backgrounds, attended all sessions.



Two Certificates!

Participants received two certificates to assist in their future endeavors.



Desire for more!

Post-survey results indicated that participants wanted more landscaping-related trainings.

What's next?

Given the enthusiasm and success of the program, we hope to keep the momentum going! Get in touch, follow ecoLatinos on social media, or provide a donation to support extending this program in the near future!

Thank you to everyone for your unwavering support!

