Emerging Tools for Local Problem-Solving



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

3rd Edition

Office of Environmental Justice
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

PREFACE

The Environmental Justice Small Grants Program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) fosters collaborative and cooperative efforts directed at addressing and/or resolving real life environmental justice issues. EPA has provided 1,010 small grants since July 1994 when the program began.

This report describes 60 programs and projects funded under the Small Grants Program from 2000 to 2005 that have made a difference. These success stories demonstrate how diverse communities can come together in different ways to solve local problems. The groups represented in this report encompass the diversity of problems found in neighborhoods and communities across the country. As with all recipients of the small grants, the projects described here place a premium on community and family health. Some of the environmental issues and problems addressed by these specific projects include:

Brownfields—The Chelsea Creek Restoration Partnership developed a how-to guide for brownfield remediation and recommended ways to overcome policy barriers that prevent the acquisition, cleanup, and redevelopment of brownfields.

Lead-based paint in older homes—Isles, Inc. worked with community members and health educators to produce a Healthy Homes briefing paper and information sheet, as well as a report analyzing the results of lead-based paint sampling conducted in local homes.

Water contamination—The Greenbriar Watershed Association analyzed potential water pollution sources in the area and held educational workshops and training sessions for local residents about the problems associated with agricultural runoff and leaking septic systems.

Illegal dumping and littering—The Bond Community Environmental Partnership trained residents to prevent illegal dumping and to protect themselves from associated health impacts. The project also established valuable connections among community leaders, churches, businesses, government officials, and schools.

Green cleaning—Generation Green Fund published *Green Cleaning Guidance* and *The Action and Resource Guide for Healthy Schools*. The fund's efforts resulted in the Chicago Board of Education adopting a district policy that emphasizes green cleaning goals and the Chicago Public Schools adopting a purchasing initiative to include "Green Seal" certified products.

Energy efficiency—The Metropolitan Energy Center established 14 demonstration homes open to the public that reduced energy use by 25 percent. The center also held an energy efficiency training program that led to jobs for some participants.

These are just a few examples of some of the emerging tools that communities use to address local public health and environmental problems. In addition to improving conditions in the communities described in the report, several of the projects can serve as models of success that can be applied in similar situations across the country. We find these programs and projects innovative and inspiring, and we hope that by highlighting these projects we will help others to find ways to solve their local problems and to think creatively and collaboratively about environmental justice issues in their communities.

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Introduction

This publication is a compilation of information about 60 of the hundreds of grants that have been awarded through EPA's Small Grants Program from 2000 through 2005. EPA has supported communities through partnerships, research, communication, and public participation to help ensure a more just and fair distribution of environmental benefits and burdens. This document describes community projects representing several focus areas, such as air quality, children's health, farmworker safety, hazardous waste disposal, lead-based paint and carbon dioxide education, contamination, perchloroethylene (perc) education, pollution prevention, radon, water quality, and environmental stewardship.

Our purpose is to: 1) inform communities and show them how to implement similar projects and programs; 2) reduce duplication of efforts; 3) strengthen the networking of organizations; 4) improve the quality of future projects; and 5) provide lessons learned from completed projects.

What Is Environmental Justice?

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, culture, education, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment means that no one group of people, including racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic groups, should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local, and tribal environmental programs and policies. Meaningful involvement means that: 1) potentially affected community residents have an appropriate opportunity to participate in decisions about a proposed activity that will affect their environment and/or health; 2) the public's contribution can influence the regulatory agency's decision; 3) the concerns of all participants involved will be considered in the decision-making process; and 4) the decision-makers seek out and facilitate the participation of those potentially affected.

EPA's Role in Environmental Justice

On February 11, l994, the President issued Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations," which identified three goals:

- To focus federal agency action on the environment and human health conditions in minority and low-income communities.
- To promote nondiscrimination in federal programs that substantially affect human health and the environment.
- To provide minority and low-income communities greater access to information on, and opportunities for public participation in, matters relating to human health and the environment.

The President encouraged federal agencies to reinvent the way the nation approaches environmental justice so that our day-to-day efforts would be more effective in protecting the public health and environment. EPA has a leadership role in helping federal agencies implement this executive order.

About the Small Grants Program

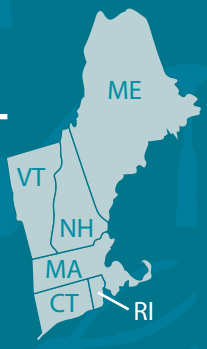
EPA recognized that community involvement was critical to environmental decision-making and made a commitment to invest resources in projects that would financially benefit affected communities. In fiscal year 1994, the Office of Environmental Justice established the Small Grants Program to provide financial assistance to eligible community groups (e.g., community-based grassroots organizations, churches, other nonprofit organizations, tribal governments) to address local environmental problems.

Each year, approximately $1 million are made available for the Environmental Justice Small Grants Program. These funds are divided equally among the 10 EPA regions, where the actual grants are awarded and managed. Awards range from $10,000 to $25,000 each. The amount awarded in a given year can vary depending on the availability of funds.

Grant proposals submitted for the Environmental Justice Small Grants Program are evaluated within the EPA region where the project is located through competitive review and evaluation. Award decisions are made based on established criteria, which include geographic balance, diversity of project recipients, and sustainability of benefits of projects after the grant is completed. The review criteria also require the applicant to demonstrate strong community involvement.

Environmental Justice Small Grants Program Summary

Fiscal Year	$ Amount	Awards
1994	500,000	71
1995	3,000,000	175
1996	2,800,000	152
1997	2,700,000	139
1998	2,500,000	123
1999	2,000,000	95
2000	899,000	61
2001	1,300,000	88
2002	1,113,000	74
2003	930,000	55
2004	423,545	17
2005	625,000	25
2007	1,000,000	20



Region 1 Projects

Connecticut (CT), Maine (ME), Massachusetts (MA), New Hampshire (NH), Rhode Island (RI), and Vermont (VT)



Project Descriptions

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Harnessing the Power of Student Participation

Target Audience

Students at the New Haven Ecology Project's Common Ground High School; New Haven residents; the greater New Haven community, including policymakers, public health agencies, and environmental organizations. The New Haven Ecology Project (NHEP) is physically located in the West Rock neighborhood, one of six environmentally distressed neighborhoods in the city of New Haven. New Haven County is a nonattainment area for ozone and particulate matter, two major air pollutants. New Haven also has the highest asthma hospitalization rate in the state, with 13 out of every 1000 children hospitalized for asthma in 1997.

Purpose

New Haven residents are concerned about local air and water pollution, and they are particularly concerned about the link between pollution and public health. Residents fear that poor air quality is responsible for the high incidence of respiratory illness in their community, an issue that public health agencies are currently researching. NHEP was designed to involve local youth in the investigation of environmental problems in the New Haven community. The high school students who participated in the project researched local environmental problems, conducted environmental monitoring, and presented the results to local residents and policymakers.

Goals

- Engage and educate urban high school students in the science and social science of local environmental justice issues related to air and water quality.
- Collect data related to air quality, water quality, and local environmental health engagement levels.
- Present findings to community groups, officials, and area schools, to educate residents and expand the body of data previously collected on local air and water quality.
- Create a replicable model of community-based participatory research on local environmental justice concerns to share with area schools.

Grant Number	EQ97129101-0
EPA Funding	$25,000 | FY 2005
Focus	Environmental Education, Water, Pollution, and Air Quality

Project Coordinator

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www.nhep.com

Methods

- Taught the students the scientific context of air and water issues and helped them to design investigations, complete mobile particulate and water quality testing, survey residents on environmental health engagement, analyze data, and make presentations on their findings.
- Mapped environmental data using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and used the maps in student presentations to community groups, officials, and area schools.
- Offered a summer workshop for New Haven Public School teachers to teach them how to replicate the project.

Products/Results

Students used particulate monitors to gather air quality data from six local sites. Students also collected water quality data from seven sites in the West River watershed. This water quality data included pH, dissolved oxygen, air temperature, water temperature, turbidity, conductivity, phosphate, chloride, mercury, and E. coli. Students used the air and water quality data they gathered to create a one-hour PowerPoint presentation incorporating GIS maps and analysis. They presented their final product at the Common Ground High School, City Hall, and the Fair Haven Middle School, where audiences consisted of other students, community members, policymakers, academics, and advocates. The students also recorded their presentation at a Citizens Television, Inc. studio, and it aired on the local public access channel eight times.

Successes/Strengths

This project has been successful because it has enabled New Ecology students to cultivate their scientific and communication skills. Thirty high school students conducted community-based research and collected environmental data. The same students gave presentations to hundreds of their classmates; community residents; reporters; and local, state and federal officials. One of the students won first place at a city-wide science fair for his part of the research. The students jointly won a photography contest sponsored by the makers of one of the monitoring devices they used.

Reducing Truck Traffic to Improve Respiratory Health

Target Audience

Residents of Chelsea, Massachusetts, one of the most environmentally overburdened towns in the state. Most of Chelsea's residents are low-income, and 50 percent are Latino. The town has a high volume of truck traffic, and the exhaust from this traffic may be part of the reason why more than twice as many patients are hospitalized for asthma in Chelsea than the state average.

Purpose

The Chelsea Green Space and Recreation Committee, a subgroup of the Chelsea Human Services Collaborative, engaged residents in an education, outreach, and critical-thinking campaign to reduce the burden of truck traffic in Chelsea.

Goals

- Involve Chelsea community members and youth in all stages of the project, including research, analysis, and action.
- Educate community members about the health hazards of diesel exhaust.
- Collect and analyze data to characterize Chelsea's truck traffic and air quality; present results to stakeholders.
- Involve stakeholders in planning ways to reduce truck traffic and related emissions; achieve city commitment to implement these plans.

Methods

- Conducted door-to-door outreach, distributed flyers, and held neighborhood meetings to educate residents about the health hazards of diesel exhaust and to rouse community interest in exploring the connection between Chelsea's truck traffic and their respiratory health.
- Surveyed traffic, counted trucks, measured black carbon levels, and inventoried truck needs among Chelsea businesses. Presented data and analysis at a community forum.
- Brought city planners, elected officials, and community residents together in several critical-thinking sessions to begin devising and implementing plans to reduce truck traffic and related emissions.

Grant Number	EQ981522010
EPA Funding	$15,000 | FY 2001
Focus	Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction

Project Coordinator

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Products/Results

In the community meetings Green Space held, the residents most affected by Chelsea's truck traffic identified many of their specific concerns. During the collection of traffic data, Green Space's Youth Environmental Crew observed a significantly high volume of truck traffic at several major intersections in Chelsea. The youth also identified local businesses that draw the bulk of truck traffic and mapped the spread of traffic impacts across area

neighborhoods. In addition to presenting their findings at a community forum, the youth led a local education campaign about the health hazards of diesel exhaust.

Successes/Strengths

This project resulted in the formation of diverse, productive partnerships. Green Space Chelsea residents collaborated with EPA and the Worchester Polytechnic Institute, a local university, to conduct traffic research; networked with a local environmental justice advocacy group to train community educators about the health hazards of diesel exhaust; and met frequently with city planners and elected officials to develop a viable truck traffic reduction plan for Chelsea.

This project is also commendable because of the tremendous involvement of local youth. The youths' active role in research, analysis, and critical thinking provided them with an invaluable education in environmental stewardship.

Partnering to Restore Chelsea Creek

Target Audience

Chelsea and East Boston, two densely-populated urban areas located across the Chelsea Creek from each other in Massachusetts. Chelsea and East Boston share similar socioeconomic backgrounds—both areas are low-income, and nearly half of the residents in both communities are Latino. Chelsea Creek is the region's shipping and transport hub and as such, the river's banks are lined with industrial facilities. The two towns combined have 398 state-designated hazardous waste sites, five oil tank farms, a large salt pile, and a tannery.

Grant Number	EQ97109701-0
EPA Funding	$25,000 | FY 2004
Focus	Brownfields, Open Space, and Water Quality

Project Coordinator

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Purpose

Chelsea and East Boston both have a shortage of green open space for residents to participate in recreational outdoor activities. A number of abandoned commercial and industrial sites are located along the banks of Chelsea Creek in both communities. Many of these sites are suspected to be contaminated, and might in turn be contaminating Chelsea Creek. Residents would like to see some of these sites, known as brownfields, redeveloped into more open space.

This project provided local youth with an opportunity to inventory potential contamination at several key sites along the river in Chelsea and East Boston. These data will inform the community's efforts to redevelop some of these sites into open space. The Neighborhood of Affordable Housing (NOAH), the Chelsea Green Space and Recreation Committee, and the Urban Ecology Institute, formed the Chelsea Creek Restoration Partnership (CCRP), which worked on this project. NOAH is a community development corporation, and the Chelsea Green Space and Recreation Committee is a broad-based community organization focused on increasing open space and public access to Chelsea Creek. The Urban Ecology Institute, which is based out of the Boston College Law School, helps communities build healthy, safe, and vibrant cities by improving science and civic education for middle and high school youth.

Goals

- Train and involve the two youth groups interested in the environment to research and categorize potential contamination levels at several key sites, and to determine possible liability issues.
- Work with the youth to identify best practices for remediating sites based on likely contamination.
- Research the policy barriers in Massachusetts preventing the transfer of control of specific sites to either public or nonprofit partners wishing to develop public open space on previously contaminated land.

Methods

- The Urban Ecology Institute trained the youth crews and other community members to better understand brownfields cleanup, development, and liability issues.

- NOAH and Chelsea Green Space selected four sites to research contamination and potential cleanup options.
- The Urban Ecology Institute developed research models based on other states' brownfields decisions and development.
- The youth crews researched the site histories.
- Community members and the CCRP outlined plans for future redevelopment of the sites, with increased open space and water access.

Products/Results

The project resulted in a "how-to" guide for remediating common pollutants from brownfields, as well as recommendations for overcoming the policy barriers that prevent public and nonprofit entities from acquiring, cleaning up, and redeveloping brownfields. Additionally, the study yielded a law review article on the topic of brownfields and issues surrounding their redevelopment.

Successes/Strengths

The project is an excellent example of diverse stakeholders collaborating to research increasing open space, improving public access to a body of water, and remediating potential brownfields. Groups came together to help local teens become leaders by learning and educating their communities about the clean up and redevelopment of polluted sites, long-term scientific field studies, and the development of programs related to ecological, environmental, recreational, and health issues associated with Chelsea Creek.

Promoting Sustainable Urban Agriculture

Target Audience

Youth from the Dudley Street neighborhood, which is located in Roxbury and Dorchester, two of Boston's lowest-income areas; 32 percent of the neighborhood's population lives below the poverty line. Approximately 40 percent of the neighborhood's residents are Cape Verdean, 20 percent are African American, and 20 percent are Hispanic.

Purpose

The Food Project sought to involve minority and low-income youth in sustainable urban agriculture and to promote a healthier diet among the members of the community.

Goals

- Build community capacity by teaching youth and other members of the community how to grow and harvest produce, prepare food, and plan nutritious meals.
- Enhance the community's understanding of environmental systems and pollution.

Methods

- Educated peer organizations and participants at local and regional conferences about the connections between healthy food, healthy land, and healthy communities.
- Developed business partnerships to increase awareness of and support for safe local food systems.
- Hosted community lunches in which Boston chefs led youth in preparing meals using organic produce harvested from city lots.
- Increased organic food production at the West Cottage Street lot.
- Implemented site perimeter renovations to increase productive acreage and prevent vandalism at the West Cottage Street lot.

Grant Number EQ98152101

EPA Funding $15,000 | FY 2001

Focus Environmental Stewardship

Project Coordinator

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Products/Results

The Food Project reached and educated an estimated 1,800 people during the year, and 300 people participated in information sessions and community tours related to pesticide reduction, sustainable agriculture methods, lead-based paint hazards, and the history of abandoned lots.

Signs with site descriptions and lessons about sustainable agriculture were also installed in the West Cottage Street lot, impacting approximately 360 youth, neighbors, and visitors. Increasing food production from 10,000 to 15,000 pounds expanded the organization's capacity to make fresh organic vegetables available to people in the Boston area. Additionally, youth and professionals worked together to prepare five community lunches from freshly harvested vegetables, attracting more than 50 people per lunch.

Successes/Strengths

All of the events coordinated through The Food Project were well-received in the community. Many people, including residents, city councilors, and university students, attended the events. The project empowered youth by enabling them to run farmers' markets and reclaim vacant land for food production. The youth also worked with their communities on issues of environmental justice, land remediation, and food-related enterprise.

Using Peer Education As a Model for Environmental Justice

Target Audience

Ethnically and linguistically diverse low-income tenants, landlords, and city housing code enforcement officials in Manchester, New Hampshire.

Purpose

The purpose of this project was to use a peer educator model to facilitate cooperation among landlords, tenants, and officials from the City of Manchester's Health and Building Departments to protect children from environmental health hazards in the home.

Grant Number	EQ981330-01-0
EPA Funding	$15,000 | FY 2000
Focus	Education and Coalition Building

Project Coordinator

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Goals

- Conduct home visits with families, based on the peer educator model developed in EPA's *Child Health Champion Pilot Project*.
- Use participants from problem-solving sessions on landlord-tenant communication as peer educators for other landlords.
- Partner Health Department inspectors with Building Department inspectors as peers, to promote enforcement of housing codes related to environmental health hazards.
- Strengthen participation of tenant and landlord leaders and Health and Building Department inspectors in Health Department-sponsored community coalitions on lead.
- Employ GIS mapping to educate tenants, landlords, city officials, and others on the relationship between home environmental hazards and children's health.

Methods

- Showed tenants how to reduce in-home environmental health hazards and provided access to cleaning supplies that can be used to improve the home environment.
- Distributed housing safety pamphlets and demonstrated lead-safe in-house maintenance practices to landlords.
- Met individually with landlords who needed to address environment-related housing code violations and connected them with pertinent local and public resources.

- Set up meetings between health and building inspectors to discuss enforcement improvements and involved them in emerging community coalitions.
- Sought the participation of more low-income and minority parents in community coalitions.

Products/Results

Educators conducted 65 home visits, 26 of which targeted non-English-speaking families. Telephone surveys at the conclusion of the project revealed that five property management companies carried out lead reduction activities, in a total of 1,300 apartments, as a result of education received from Healthy Home Services. These companies' lead reduction activities are estimated to have benefited 350 children under the age of 6 in Manchester. Additionally, the team created two GIS maps to illustrate the landscape of childhood lead poisoning. These showed the location of Manchester housing built before 1950 and before 1980, respectively.

Successes/Strengths

Tenant educators visited 15 more homes than expected. The project manager brought key stakeholders together in developing a strategic plan to end lead poisoning in Manchester by 2010. This project also laid the groundwork for a second project, focused on creating affordable lead-safe housing.

Building Environmental Education Outreach Capacity

Target Audience

Residents of the West End neighborhood of Providence, Rhode Island. One in three West End families lives below the poverty level. Thirty-three percent of the neighborhood's residents are Hispanic, 30 percent are African American, and 14 percent are Asian.

Purpose

To organize and build capacity among West End residents and community groups by helping them to identify, understand, and address environmental health risks within their community.

Grant Number	EQ98155601-0
EPA Funding	$15,000 | FY 2001
Focus	Environmental Education and Empowerment

Project Coordinator

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Goals

- Create a forum for residents and community groups to identify and assess environmental risks and pollution sources in their community.
- Provide education and training on crucial environmental and public health issues.
- Facilitate the development of strategies for environmental improvements among residents and community groups.

Methods

- Established an executive committee with representatives from partner community organizations.
- Helped all partners improve the organization of monthly community meetings and increase residents' attendance.
- Facilitated educational and training workshops and created corresponding printed brochures on environmental issues.
- Helped partners to plan and organize two West End cleanups.
- Offered all partners environmental expertise and the use of a landscape architect to ensure that neighborhood development projects were completed in an environmentally sensitive fashion.

Products/Results

Residents and staff from four partner community organizations comprised the executive committee. Groundwork Providence and the executive committee collaborated to design monthly educational workshops and printed brochures on the environmental issues of greatest concern in the West End: recycling, rats, lead, litter, gardening, brownfields, nutrition, and air quality. The brochures were translated into Spanish and Cambodian and distributed to accessible local and public locations. In addition to these educational efforts, two cleanups were held in the West End. With advisory support from Groundwork Providence, one community partner also initiated plans to turn a vacant lot adjacent to a housing project into a wildflower garden.

Successes/Strengths

Groundwork Providence was able to help already-established community groups identify and respond to environmental risks. The partner organizations benefitted from the direct services of Groundwork Providence staff as well as the support of each other. For example, when one partner was unable to adequately publicize project events to its constituents, another partner stepped in to provide assistance. One group planned the distribution and address-tracking of 150 trash receptacles without assistance from Groundwork Providence, a testament to its own ability to take initiative and achieve results.

Developing Environmental Policy on School Siting on Brownfields

Target Audience

The communities comprising Rhode Island's older urban core, which includes Providence, Pawtucket, Central Falls, Woonsocket, and West Warwick. These cities have the highest concentration of low-income and minority residents in the area, as well as a large number of brownfields. Because developable land is sparse in these areas, schools are increasingly located on formerly contaminated property, giving rise to environmental and health concerns among residents. Since 1998, a number of new schools built in Providence have required a site cleanup plan approved by the state.

Grant Number	EQ98197001
EPA Funding	$20,000 | FY 2003
Focus	Community Involvement, Site Contamination, and School Siting on Hazardous Waste Sites

Project Coordinator

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Purpose

To give recommendations to improve Rhode Island environmental policy on school siting by researching and developing a best practices report.

Goals

- Create best practices reports on state environmental justice policies and school siting policies.
- Organize a community stakeholder process.

Methods

- Identified the potential neurodevelopment and reproductive effects that exposure to hazardous substances commonly found on formerly contaminated sites can have on children.
- Surveyed exposure standards for commonly found contaminants such as lead and arsenic.
- Developed a school siting policy guide, including recommendations for remediation and site assessment exclusion (categorical exclusion) requirements.
- Surveyed best practices employed by federal and state agencies to incorporate environmental justice assessments in the investigation and remediation of contaminated sites.

- Developed guidance for local policymakers for the assessment of environmental equity issues associated with contaminated sites.
- Engaged residents who are interested in environmental equity in Providence in the community stakeholder process through outreach to local community-based organizations.
- Attended a series of workshops at Brown University and engaged attendees in the community stakeholder process.

Products/Results

The final products of this project were two best practices reports on state environmental justice policies and school siting policies. The reports were published as articles in the *Clearinghouse Review* (a poverty law journal) and *Humans Rights Magazine*. *The Clearinghouse* article was titled "School Location Matters: Preventing School Siting Disasters" and the report in *Human Rights Magazine* was titled "Schools on Toxic Sites: An Environmental Injustice for School Children."

Successes/Strengths

One measure of the project's success is the number of hits on a Web site where the "School Location Matters: Preventing School Siting Disasters" report was posted; the Web site, <www.childproofing.org>, receives approximately 1,000 hits per month. This information suggests that the research is being widely disseminated. The reports informed a local policy debate, which resulted in the Rhode Island General Assembly passing a bill to increase chances for public involvement in cases where contaminated sites are proposed for school use.



Region 2 Projects

New Jersey (NJ), New York (NY), Puerto Rico (PR), and the Virgin Islands (VI)



Project Descriptions

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Educating the Camden Community About Risks

Target Audience

African American and Hispanic residents of the city of Camden, New Jersey.

Purpose

To increase the awareness of residents in Camden, New Jersey, concerning potentially harmful environmental contaminants found in their drinking water, homes, and air. Additionally, to educate residents about the health effects associated with contaminant exposure.

Goals

- Educate city of Camden residents about drinking water and lead contamination in their homes, air and soil, and the health effects of these contaminants.
- Build new partnerships and collaborations with local and regional institutions that would improve communication, coordinate efforts, and bring needed technical resources to community-based groups.
- Empower residents and other community organizations by providing trainings/seminars and leadership development trainings.

Methods

- Educated Camden residents through local seminars about safe drinking water practices, including applicable regulations and how they are enforced.
- Educated residents about the health risks resulting from the exposure to contaminants found in Camden's water (e.g., lead and volatile organic compounds) and how to protect themselves against such exposures.
- Coordinated with other agencies and partners to assist with outreach to conduct testing for lead and other health-related services.
- Conducted training seminars, workshops, and community events to build capacity of other local community-based organizations.

Grant Number	EQ9829101
EPA Funding	$15,000 | FY 2003
Focus	Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and Lead

Project Coordinator

Roy Jones
Camden Community Recovery Coalition
Camden, NJ 08102

Products/Results

This project resulted in the production of a GIS map and a catalog of contaminated sites in Camden, New Jersey. It also led to the creation of the Camden City Environmental Action Strategic Plan. Additionally, it resulted in the Camden Community Recovery Coalition Photo Report.

Successes/Strengths

The GIS map and catalog of contaminated sites developed by the Camden Community Recovery Coalition helped to illuminate potential pollution sources in the area. The catalog included a list of potential pollution sources, the types of pollution those sources discharge, and their history of environmental compliance with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, including sanctions, fines, and/or disposition of site cleanups. The coalition also collaborated with other local environmental and health organizations to hold a Neighborhood Environmental Health Fair and Community Festival. Approximately 400 residents came to this festival. Festival attendees received fact sheets and participated in a Q&A session, which enabled them to better understand the potential effects environmental contaminants can have on their health.

Improving Substandard Housing

Target Audience

Residents located in the community of Canal Banks Redevelopment Area in Trenton, New Jersey.

Purpose

To improve housing conditions of the housing stock located in the city of Trenton, New Jersey, and to educate the residents of the multiple exposures of contaminants found in older housing units.

Goals

- Improve substandard housing by partnering with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey School of Public Health and Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute to research and report the extent of multiple exposures and contaminants found in Trenton's substandard homes.
- Increase community capacity to address problems by training community members to collect samples from homes to be analyzed and work with residents as healthy home counselors.

Methods

- Trained community members as Healthy Homes Assessors to collect samples.
- Worked with experienced health educators to help Healthy Home Assessors and other staff members interpret sampling results and to effectively communicate results to household members and other stakeholders.
- Conducted outreach meetings with local residents.

Grant Number	EQ97284901
EPA Funding	$25,000 | FY 2004
Focus	Clean Air Act, Solid Waste Disposal Act, and Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act

Project Coordinator

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Products/Results

- Healthy Homes Briefing Paper on current lead-related regulations
- Healthy Homes Program Information Sheet
- Healthy Homes Program Results Report

Successes/Strengths

As a result of the outreach and partnerships with various city government agencies, local community members, and health and faith-based organizations, 74 homes were tested and analyzed in the Canal Bank area of Trenton. In addition to the tenant residents, the individual sampling results were disseminated to respective building owners and to regulatory agencies.

Taking Action in West Harlem

Target Audience

Residents located in Northern Manhattan and the South Bronx.

Purpose

To provide training workshops to Northern Manhattan and South Bronx residents as well as community leaders on potentially harmful exposure to indoor air pollutants and associated environmental health effects on infants and children.

Goals

- Train individuals and organizations in methods to minimize the exposure of children and infants to harmful indoor air pollutants.
- Create Housing and Health Leadership Council to identify and pursue needed changes in housing policies and/or practices.

Methods

- Mailed outreach materials to community-based organizations; local housing, health, and environmental justice groups; tenant associations; and health service providers to educate and gather support for the project.
- Trained community-based organizations and community residents to increase their awareness of environmental exposures associated with health risks, as well as deficiencies in current policies.

Products/Result

The project formed the Health and Housing Leadership Council, consisting of 20 members from various health, housing, labor, faith-based, research and environmental justice organizations. The main goal of the council was to focus its resources to empower residents, enabling them to respond to (and take action on) potential health risks induced by environmental factors. In addition, the project created a Healthy Homes Street Team, responsible for documenting poor housing conditions and solid waste (trash) problems in the community.

Grant Number	EQ98294201
EPA Funding	$24,988 | FY 2005
Focus	Solid Waste Disposal Act, Clean Air Act, and Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act

Project Coordinator

Yolande Cadore
West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc.
271 West 125th Street, Suite 308
New York, NY 10027
www.weact.org

Successes/Strengths

The project conducted 20 community workshop sessions titled "Mold Is Taking Hold: Let's Take Control" and "Creating Healthier Homes: Safer Ways to Eliminate Pests," with an average audience size of 20 participants, at various locations in northern Manhattan and the South Bronx. In addition, the project conducted a bilingual training workshop with 75 residents and community-based organizations of Hispanic origin.

The Street Team met with supervisors of the New York City Department of Sanitation (DOS). The basis of the meeting was to learn about the various challenges faced by DOS in dealing with solid waste issues, to discuss and share investigative findings, and to share the major complaints residents had about trash in their communities.

Apoyo Empresarial para la Península de Cantera

Target Audience

Residents located in the community of Cantera Península in Puerto Rico.

Purpose

To educate local residents about the potential health impacts related to work activities involving a rehabilitation project in the community and to empower residents in finding solutions to serious problems concerning the environmental deterioration of the local canal and lagoons. Residents were educated on economical and alternative solid waste management practices.

Goals

- To increase awareness among residents and educate families in the Cantera Peninsula regarding the threats posed by the pollution of the water in the lagoons.
- To educate residents about the threats posed by the improper disposal of waste and alternatives for waste disposal.

Methods

- Conducted two workshops: "Recycling" and "The Quality & Consumption of Water," for community leaders and health promoters.
- Educated the community through awareness campaigns and workshops.
- Disseminated flyers, fact sheets, and posters.
- Conducted a forum to educate the community on water pollution and improper garbage disposal.

Products/Results

During the project period, project leaders developed and distributed informational materials (flyers, fact sheets, and posters) to community residents at workshops and community events.

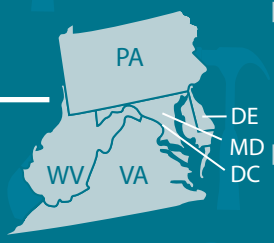
Grant Number	EQ98294201
EPA Funding	$15,000 | FY 2003
Focus	Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Solid Waste Disposal Act

Project Coordinator

Sandra Fuente
Apoyo Empresarial para la Península de Cantera
P.O. Box 7187
San Juan, PR 00916

Successes/Strengths

This project created the Community Conscience Group, consisting of members from government organizations, community groups of the Península de Cantera, and communities surrounding the Caño Martín Peña. The Conscience Group established the Caño Theatre of the Arts Museum of Puerto Rico, where 200 students from five different elementary schools and middle schools performed a play about the environment, including topics such as estuaries, swamps, endangered species, and environmental contamination. Also, in collaboration with the Town Council of San Juan, project leaders organized three cleanup activities that resulted in the removal of 7 tons of trash from a parcel of unoccupied land previously used as an unauthorized dump site.



Region 3 Projects

Delaware (DE), District of Columbia (DC), Maryland (MD), Pennsylvania (PA), Virginia (VA), and West Virginia (WV)



Project Descriptions

PA Educating About Household Hazardous Waste 22
WV Improving the Greenbrier River Watershed 23

Environmental Justice Small Grant Coordinators
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Educating About Household Hazardous Waste

Target Audience

The low-income and/or minority residents of McKeesport (Allegheny County), Pennsylvania. The grantee developed an educational program model for household hazardous waste collections in southwestern Pennsylvania that can be easily replicated in other parts of the United States. The grantee also created strong lines of communication among environmental justice stakeholders and community leaders.

Purpose

To educate residents in this environmental justice community about household hazardous waste in conjunction with the efforts of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Household Hazardous Waste Task Force.

Goals

- Disseminate information about household hazardous waste including its proper collection and disposal.
- Host demonstrations to illustrate alternatives to purchasing toxic household items and also perform presentations that better inform the general public about household hazardous waste issues.
- Identify necessary improvements in communication and coordination among all local stakeholders and government officials.

Methods

- Held a variety of educational workshops and demonstrations on household hazardous waste for the public in the targeted community.
- Developed and distributed printed materials in the selected environmental justice community.
- Facilitated communication and information exchange and created partnerships among local stakeholders. Completed a number of interviews on both local radio and television stations to supplement the educational program. Distributed press releases designed for the print media.

Grant Number	EQ-983843-01
EPA Funding	$5,030 | FY 2003
Focus	Household Hazardous Waste

Project Coordinator

David Mazza
Pennsylvania Resources Council, Inc.
64 South 14th Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15203-1548
www.prc.org

Products/Results

The Pennsylvania Resources Council utilized this grant to greatly increase the public's awareness and knowledge about household hazardous waste, especially regarding its proper disposal. The grantee also developed a presentation model that can be utilized in other communities that are interested in increasing understanding of household hazardous waste.

Successes/Strengths

This project enhanced community understanding of the environmental and health issues associated with household hazardous waste. It also improved communication and information exchange between residents of the targeted community and local officials, which will help to promote safety, cleanliness, and other civic objectives in the future.

Improving the Greenbrier River Watershed

Target Audience

The residents, farmers, and sewage treatment plant operators living in the Greenbrier River watershed in rural West Virginia. This community has historically had problems with contamination of drinking water wells from both leaking septic systems and animal feedlots. The grantee held a number of public seminars and meetings to educate the public about the major sources of water pollution in their community.

Purpose

To educate all the local residents and farmers about water pollution sources in order to attempt to improve the quality of the local water supply.

Goals

- Analyze the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits that significantly impact the quality of the Greenbrier River and provide technical assistance to sewage treatment plant operators in that watershed.
- Conduct educational workshops and training sessions for residents with septic systems and/or drinking water wells on their properties.
- Develop and deliver presentations to farmers about the impact of various farming practices on the quality of ground water and nearby springs.
- Reduce the number of farmers who allow cattle to openly graze in the watershed's rivers and streams.

Methods

- Held a variety of educational workshops for the public in the targeted community.
- Conducted research, including NPDES permit analysis, to investigate the significant sources of water pollution in this rural watershed.
- Provided awards to local residents who participated in the workshops at a community water celebration.

Grant Number	EQ-983841-01-0
EPA Funding	$15,000 | FY 2003
Focus	Water Quality in a Rural Community

Project Coordinator

Leslee McCarty
Greenbrier River Watershed Association
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Lewisburg, WV 24901
www.greenbrierriver.org

Products/Results

The Greenbrier River Watershed Association (GRWA) forwarded press releases about the study's results to local and regional media outlets. In addition, the GRWA developed a PowerPoint presentation to use with community, school, and farm groups to raise awareness of the problem of contaminated runoff from feedlots and fields.

Successes/Strengths

This project established GRWA as a local group that can have a positive impact on the water quality of the Greenbrier watershed. Community stakeholders and local officials developed a number of new partnerships. Additionally, the overall knowledge of water pollution within the community greatly improved as a result of this project.



Region 4 Projects

Alabama (AL), Florida (FL), Georgia (GA), Kentucky (KY), Mississippi (MS), North Carolina (NC), South Carolina (SC), and Tennessee (TN)



Project Descriptions

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Environmental Justice Small Grant Coordinators
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Improving Water Quality

Target Audience

Vulnerable residents (senior citizens, pregnant women, and sick infants) of Sumter County. Eighty-five percent of Sumter County's population is African American.

Purpose

To provide up-to-date scientific information and research on how dioxins affect human health.

Goals

- Develop a coordinated, comprehensive, and practical program to promote awareness of environmental health issues such as preventing disease and eliminating unsafe drinking water.

Methods

- Developed, expanded, and carried out programs to address the public health aspects of providing safe drinking water.
- Proposed conservation strategies to maximize pollution prevention and created a resource center in local schools.
- Tested surface water and informed citizens about water quality, content, and health aspects.
- Monitored streams and rivers to study the turbidity and quality of the drinking water, and reported findings to citizens.
- Held public meetings and forums.

Grant Number EQ974032-00-0
EPA Funding $20,000 | FY 2000
Focus Water Quality

Project Coordinator

Daisy Carter
Project Awake
Route 2, P.O. Box 282
Coatopa, AL 35470

Products/Results

Project Awake involved young minority persons in its efforts. The project developed task force teams to monitor watersheds and tap water sources in West Alabama. Local universities and other state departments formed partnerships for water testing and monitoring.

Successes/Strengths

Project Awake has played a major role in improving water quality in its community.

Providing Access to Information

Target Audience

Residents of the North Greenwood neighborhood in Clearwater, Florida. The area of Clearwater in which the North Greenwood neighborhood is located has been an EPA Regional Brownfields Pilot site since 1996.

Purpose

To develop communication tools, including workshops, newsletters, and a Web site, to enable North Greenwood residents to better understand environmental issues prevalent in their community, in particular those related to water quality, solid waste, and health.

Grant Number EQ97423201-1
EPA Funding $15,000 | FY 2001
Focus Information Access

Project Coordinator

Laron Barber
Le'Azon Technology Institute, Inc.
P.O. Box 4097
Clearwater, FL 33758-4097
www.leazon.com

Goals

- Compile information about environmental justice, redevelopment, and public health issues associated with Stevenson Creek.
- Use this information to develop outreach materials, including a Web site, newsletters, and workshops, that encourage the exchange of ideas and information about environmental issues among residents, organizations, businesses, developers, and other interested parties.

Methods

- Developed a specialized Web site that presents and provides access to different perspectives on environmental, community, and public health issues.
- Conducted workshops to inform and market the new Web site to the community.
- Installed a computer with Internet access in the community room of the Greenwood Community Health Resource Center. Raised funds to place three additional computers at key sites.
- Developed a newsletter for quarterly distribution to residents, businesses, organizations, and other interested parties.

Products/Results

The project involved developing and publishing quarterly newsletters sharing environmental information. The newsletters featured comments from residents who live on Stevenson Creek, highlighted community events, and included articles from the U.S. Corps of Engineers about the progress of cleanup plans for Stevenson Creek. The project also developed a Web site (www.Clearwater-Environmental.com) that includes information on local and national environmental issues. Le'Azon Technology Institute also presented two workshops on environmental issues, sponsored by the city of Clearwater. Participants included representatives from the community and throughout the state.

Successes/Strengths

The project established cooperative relationships between community groups and federal and state agencies, up to and including the Governor's office. Le'Azon Technology Institute, the Clearwater Community-Based Development Organization, and other partners jointly established a job training program that will educate program participants about environmental justice. A partnership linking several community organizations continues to address environmental justice issues in the Greenwood community.

Establishing Partnerships and Educating the Community

Target Audience

The residents of the Bond Community in Tallahassee, the capital of Florida. The Bond Community is composed of several African American neighborhoods, with a combined population of approximately 10,000. The community is one of the oldest minority communities in Tallahassee.

Purpose

To develop the Bond Community Environmental Partnership to establish a community-based environmental awareness and education program.

Goals

- Educate residents about the health risks associated with littering and the illegal dumping of trash and garbage in the community.

Grant Number	EQ-97423401
EPA Funding	$15,000 | FY 2001
Focus	Pollution Prevention and Solid Waste Disposal

Project Coordinator

Queen E. Bruton
Smith-Williams Service Center Foundation
2295 Pasco Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301
www.talgov.com/dncs/smith.cfm

- Demonstrate the project's success to encourage local officials to establish and support community-based environmental partnerships in other affected communities.

Methods

- Fostered and promoted the community's capacity to address its own environmental concerns, through the education and training of community members.
- Built good working relationships with participating governments, enforcement officials, and other key agencies to develop a strong network in the community.
- Developed publications, such as brochures, and conducted project activities, including canvassing and neighborhood volunteer cleanups.
- Conducted training workshops on: 1) the relationship between pollution and the adverse health effects of illegal dumping and stormwater runoff; 2) the importance of various disease prevention approaches; and 3) pollution prevention and the reduction or elimination of illegal dumping.
- Established baseline data for existing dumping problems; compared these data with data collected at the end of the grant period to determine the overall impact and effectiveness of community programs.

Products/Results

Project leaders trained more than 200 adults and children to spot environmental inequities and to routinely care for their immediate environment through the eradication of solid and organic wastes. Additionally, the community secured promises from the city of Tallahassee that the city would repair roads, increase code enforcement, place barriers in high-risk ditches and other areas vulnerable to illegal dumping, place fixtures around stormwater drains and other depositors, replace drain covers, and build sidewalks to place a buffer between residents' front yards and the street.

Success/Strengths

The Smith-Williams Service Center Foundation was able to successfully identify, solicit support from, and form partnerships with community leaders, local churches, businesses, local government officials, neighboring schools, and the Florida A&M University to address the Bond Community's critical environmental needs. As a result of this project, the community felt empowered and revitalized with a renewed focus and goal of cleaning up their community.

Addressing Concerns About the Proctor Creek Watershed

Target Audience

Citizens, schools, businesses, neighborhood community groups, and faith-based organizations in the Proctor Creek Watershed.

Purpose

To address community-identified environmental and health issues in the Proctor Creek Watershed.

Goals

- Build community capacity to identify health and environmental issues in the watershed.
- Facilitate and involve the community in developing problem-solving strategies to address local concerns.
- Train community members to use the Internet and other computer resources to access information about industrial pollution and to understand that information.

Grant Number	EQ984983-00
EPA Funding	$30,030 | FY 2000
Focus	Health and Environmental Issues

Project Coordinator

Na'Taki Osborne
National Wildlife Federation
1330 W Peachtree Street, Suite 475
Atlanta, GA 30309

- Provide factual information to illustrate how daily household operations can affect the environment and health.

Methods

- Held workshops on watershed issues of concern, including sewer overflows, industrial stormwater pollution, toxic chemicals, and environmental justice health issues.
- Taught environmental health lessons in the schools.
- Developed environmental health fact sheets.
- Held forums with environmental health professionals and a community environmental health fair.

Products/Results

The project provided technical assistance and tools to identify and characterize pollution, the effects of pollution, and possible solutions. Partner school students presented activities and demonstrations based on what they had learned during the school year.

Successes/Strengths

The project established contact with and obtained resources from a variety of governmental agencies and private environmental and health organizations. It also provided awareness training regarding potential pollution exposure at home and in the community. Additionally, the project provided the attendees of the community environmental health fair with free health testing services and information from a variety of health care providers.

Making Schools Clean, Green, and Healthy

Target Audience

Third through fifth grade teachers and students at participating public schools in Mississippi. Participating schools are nearly 100 percent African American.

Purpose

To develop an educational process that involves students in helping their schools to achieve and maintain a "clean, green, and healthy" school standard, for their benefit and the benefit of the greater community.

Goals

- Transform participating school campuses into models of health and safety.
- Foster cooperation between students and the low-income community.
- Motivate students to become "organizers" of health and safety in their homes and neighborhoods.

Methods

- Brought Parent Teacher Associations, church leaders, neighborhood associations, and medical professionals together to address school health and safety.
- Researched, designed, and developed a manual ("Clean Green Healthy Schools") to assist schools in improving environmental health conditions.

Grant Number	EQ97423301
EPA Funding	$14,800 | FY 2001
Focus	Environmental Stewardship

Project Coordinator

Bob Kochtitzky
Mississippi 2020 Network, Inc.
350 West Woodrow Wilson Avenue, Suite 3140
Jackson, MS 39213
www.mississippi2020.org

- Selected pilot schools and conducted a workshop for teachers.

Products/Results

This project resulted in the creation of the "Clean Green Healthy Schools" manual. The manual perfectly compliments and is partnered with the Green Flag Awards Program administered by the Center for Health, Environment and Justice. "Clean Green Healthy Schools" has been distributed to schools throughout Mississippi that are interested in piloting the program, and the manual is being implemented in Jackson County public schools. "Clean Green Healthy Schools" is also being used and distributed over the Internet.

Successes/Strengths

This project helped communities make their schools healthier places to learn and fostered environmental leadership in the process. Participating students and adults investigated environmental issues, identified problems, developed solutions, and promoted positive environmental programs in their schools. As a result of this project, one of Jackson County's public schools, French Elementary School, was the first school in the South to receive the Green Flag Award. The project's benefits extend beyond the South, however; for instance, two schools in Wisconsin are participating in the program through the Internet. They are able to download lesson plans and information from the "Clean Green Healthy Schools" manual.

Educating Residents About Environmental Issues

Target Audience

Low-income, minority residents of southeast Raleigh, North Carolina.

Purpose

To address the disproportionate share of negative environmental consequences affecting the southeast Raleigh community.

Goals

- Educate and engage elementary- through college-level students.
- Assist Raleigh residents in understanding the environmental issues that affect them.

Methods

- Published newsletters to educate residents about environmental health hazards.
- Held a lecture/seminar series every other month that brought in speakers from across the nation to train students.
- Used the Internet to input data and to search for health-related data.

Products/Results

Through this project, students researched, assessed, and evaluated how hazardous substances affect and pose risks to human health. Students investigated drinking water quality and the impacts of airborne contaminants in the communities. The Center for Environmental Justice Education and Research disseminated its findings to the public through a variety of media sources.

Grant Number	EQ974237-01
EPA Funding	$20,000 | FY 2001
Focus	Environmental Health

Project Coordinator

Dr. Ademola L. Ejire
Environmental Justice Education and Research Center
Shaw University
118 East South Street
Raleigh, NC 27601

Successes/Strengths

The center successfully educated southeast Raleigh residents about environmental issues that may adversely affect their health and helped develop collaborative relationships with community residents and organizations to identify environmental issues of concern in the community. This project also introduced more students to the field of environmental justice. Additionally, the project trained 40 high school students to analyze and monitor air, water, and soil quality. These students learned how to take air, water, and soil samples and to conduct relevant scientific experiments.

Addressing Failing Septic Systems and Lack of Sewer or Safe Water Services

Target Audience

The residents and homeowners of five low-income, African American communities just beyond Mebane's city limits. These communities were settled by former slaves shortly after the Civil War. Only a small part of these communities has been annexed into the city of Mebane. The rest falls in the city of Mebane's extraterritorial jurisdiction, in Alamance County, or in Orange County. As such, many of the communities' needs and concerns have been overlooked or ignored. Outdated septic systems, for instance, have not been replaced, making septic system failures commonplace. Furthermore, residents in three of the five communities—West End, White Level, and Buckhorn Road/Perry Hill—lack access to sewer and safe water services.

Purpose

To engage all stakeholders (residents of the city of Mebane, Alamance County, and Orange County, and public health officials) in identifying viable solutions and remedies to the community's environmental problems.

Goals

- Improve the quality of life for low-income and minority residents by identifying viable ways to upgrade their communities' water and sewer services.
- Conduct educational workshops and training sessions for affected residents.
- Obtain the cooperative involvement of federal, state, and local officials and community stakeholders.

Methods

- Held educational workshops for residents in the targeted communities with assistance from EPA and the state.
- Conducted research, including surveys, to investigate the effects of leaching septic systems and contaminated drinking water sources on human health and the environment.

Grant Number	EQ9974238-01
EPA Funding	$15,000 | FY 2001
Focus	Water Quality

Project Coordinator

Omega Wilson
West End Revitalization Association
206 Moore Street
Mebane, NC 27302-0661
www.wera-nc.org

- Conveyed research results to affected communities and public health officials at the federal, state, and local levels.

Products/Results

The West End Revitalization Association (WERA) forwarded press releases about the study's results to local and regional media outlets. WERA also provided local libraries in the Alamance and Orange counties with copies of the study's results and exhibits for public viewing.

WERA will utilize the results of its study as the basis for: 1) urging state and local officials to comply with EPA guidelines; 2) developing and funding an emergency plan to eliminate public health risks in affected communities; and 3) seeking additional financial assistance and technical support from federal, state, and local governments.

Successes/Strengths

This project established WERA as the primary research agent, monitor/evaluator, and project coordinator for fostering dialogue and partnerships between community stakeholders and local officials. Additionally, as a result of this project, a series of community leadership training sessions were developed.

Researching Contaminated Sites

Target Audience

Residents of the Arkwright and Forest Park neighborhoods, located on the south side of Spartanburg, South Carolina. These communities are predominately African American. Arkwright and Forest Park are located in close proximity to two Superfund sites—the Arkwright Dump (an abandoned municipal landfill) and the former International Minerals and Chemical Company (IMC) fertilizer plant. An abandoned textile mill, an active textile mill, an operating chemical plant, two additional dumps, and several suspected illegal disposal sites in the area also plague this area. Arkwright and Forest Park residents face serious health issues including a high incidence of cancer and respiratory illnesses, high death and infant mortality rates, and a prevalence of miscarriages and birth defects. Residents are also concerned about public safety and their economy.

Purpose

To support three research projects, on the Arkwright Dump and IMC fertilizer plant sites, that will continue and expand existing research on a health survey of residents, former employees, and their families.

Goals

- Empower residents, through education and capacity building, to have a greater role in the environmental and economic decisions that affect their communities.
- Establish relationships with other stakeholders, such as municipalities, community groups, and other environmental justice organizations, along with state and federal environmental agencies.
- Raise awareness about policy and advocacy, by helping residents to understand environmental statutes and the Right-to-Know Act.

Methods

- Distribute evaluation forms at every meeting.
- Conduct pre-session and post-session personal assessments to determine participants' knowledge of environmental justice, community organizing, National Priorities List/Superfund and brownfield redevelopment environmental statutes, and air and water concerns.

Grant Number EQ984793-00-0

EPA Funding $20,000 | FY 2000

Focus Toxic Chemicals

Project Coordinator

Harold Mitchell
ReGenesis, Inc.
505 North Street
Spartanburg, SC 29306
www.regenesisproject.org

Products/Results

ReGenesis has become a powerful voice for the community. ReGenesis was able to organize community residents and empower them to take an active role in the clean up of their community. As a result, the abandoned IMC fertilizer plant facility, landfill, and textile mill were cleaned up. The brownfield will be redeveloped, and the landfill will be donated to ReGenesis.

Successes/Strengths

ReGenesis was selected as one of 15 demonstration projects for the Federal Interagency Work Group on Environmental Justice. In 2002, ReGenesis was the first ever community-based organization to receive the Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Award from the Spartanburg Human Relations Commission. In 2000, ReGenesis received the African American Environmental Justice Trailblazer Award from the African American Environmental Justice Action Network, for state impact on environmental justice.

Bringing Youth and Leaders Together to Address Problems

Target Audience

Middle-school youth and educators in the Neck area of Charleston and rural areas of South Carolina's Lowcountry. The Neck, which encompasses the city of Charleston's federal Enterprise Community, is a mostly commercial and industrial area located between the Ashley and Cooper rivers. The Neck's residential communities are predominately African American. Approximately 40 percent of the residents in this area live at or below the poverty level. The unemployment rate is also high. More than 100 brownfields have been identified in the Neck.

Grant Number EQ984985-00-0

EPA Funding $14,190 | FY 2000

Focus Toxic Chemicals

Project Coordinator

Jennifer Rezeli
Youth Services Charleston, Inc.
P.O. Box 22583
Charleston, SC 29413
www.earthforce.org/section/offices/lowcountry

Purpose

To bring middle school youth and adult leaders together to address local environmental problems, as well as to strengthen their capacity to improve their community, through the Earth Force Community Action and Problem Solving (CAPS) program. The CAPS process includes six steps: 1) community environmental inventory; 2) issue selection; 3) policy and community practice research; 4) options for influencing policy and practice; 5) planning and taking civil action; 6) and looking back and ahead.

Goals

- Train educators about environmental justice concerns, the CAPS process, and how to guide students' exploration of environmental justice issues in their communities.
- Fund educators to facilitate the CAPS process, and assist groups of youth in working on environmental justice issues.
- Purchase CAPS materials and expenses for youth projects.

Methods

- Trained educators and adult leaders.
- Held an environmental justice seminar through the Environmental Biosciences Program at the Medical University of South Carolina.
- Conducted follow-up sessions.
- Scheduled site visits and planning sessions to occur three to four times annually.

Products/Results

Participants in the CAPS program learned:

- How to access information about their environment, with a focus on environmental justice issues.
- Who makes decisions about environmental and community issues.
- How to have a voice in the future of the community.

Successes/Strengths

Middle school youth became leaders in revitalizing Charleston. Additionally, by expanding the Earth Force CAPS program to include low-income and minority areas, Youth Services Charleston, Inc. increased and strengthened communication between CAPS sites, community agencies, environmental organizations, and neighborhood groups.



Region 5 Projects

Illinois (IL), Indiana (IN), Michigan (MI), Minnesota (MN), Ohio (OH), and Wisconsin (WI)



Project Descriptions

IL Promoting the Healthy Schools Campaign 36
MI Involving Tribal and Faith Groups in Environmental Justice 37
Involving Students in Creating Toxin-Free Homes and Gardens 38

Environmental Justice Small Grant Coordinators
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Promoting the Healthy Schools Campaign

Target Audience

More than 430,000 students from 600 schools from predominantly low-income families, and more than 2,600 janitorial workers, composed mainly of African American and Hispanic women, many of childbearing age. Eighty-four percent of students are from families who are at or below the poverty level. Eighty-seven percent of students are African American or Latino.

Purpose

To reduce occupational and environmental exposures for disadvantaged and minority Chicago Public School janitors and students and to facilitate the adoption and implementation of a Chicago Board of Education "Green Cleaning" policy.

Grant Number	EQ98539101-0
EPA Funding	$9,901 | 2003
Focus	Toxics Reduction, Pollution Prevention, Environmental Education, Indoor Air, and Mercury

Project Coordinator

Rochelle Davis
Generation Green/Healthy Schools Campaign
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Chicago, IL 60606
www.healthyschoolscampaign.org

Goals

- Reduce the exposure of school janitors to toxins and create healthier school environments for students at Chicago Public Schools (CPS) through the Chicago Board of Education's (CBE's) adoption and implementation of a green cleaning policy.
- Empower janitors to have greater control over their workplace conditions.
- Encourage and aid parents and local school councils to implement policies that promote healthier school environments.

Methods

- Developed a partnership with CPS and CBE to adopt policies that promote green cleaning.
- Worked with the CPS Office of Purchasing to develop and adopt a single-source purchasing initiative to include Green Seal certified products.
- Hosted a Green Flag introductory workshop to increase community knowledge and support green cleaning by working with community members to implement Green Flag in their schools; attendees included community groups and schools representing the minority communities of Englewood, Pilsen, Little Village, Humboldt Park, and West Town.
- Developed *Green Cleaning Guidance*, a document for principals and building engineers, written by Steve Ashkin, a nationally recognized leader on green cleaning, and the Chicago Department of the Environment, and distributed to every CPS principal and building manager.
- Developed and published the *Action and Resource Guide for Healthy Schools*, which includes a foreword from Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan.

Products/Results

CBE adopted a formal district policy that emphasizes green cleaning goals. Additionally, the CPS Office of Purchasing adopted a single-source purchasing initiative to include Green Seal-certified products. Green Seal-certified products do not contain carcinogens or reproductive toxins; are not combustible or corrosive to skin and eyes; limit ingredients that contribute to photochemical smog, tropospheric ozone, and poor indoor air quality; and are readily biodegradable. Cleaners that are Green Seal certified do not contain mercury, lead, arsenic, cadmium, cobalt, chromium, nickel, selenium, alkphenol ethoxylates, dibutyl phthalate, or ozone-depleting compounds. The project team also published *Green Cleaning Guidance*, a document for principals and building engineers, and the *Action and Resource Guide for Healthy Schools*, which required a second printing due to high demand. Furthermore, the project led to Green Flag programs being implemented in the schools. Green Flag is an environmental leadership program that rewards schools for taking steps to improve school environments, such as implementing green cleaning.

Successes/Strengths

Generation Green, the Healthy Schools Campaign (HSC), CPS, and CBE formed strong partnerships for this project. These partnerships facilitated toxics reduction for a large, diverse group of workers and students. The project's success generated interest in other communities and school districts for adopting similar measures. HSC has shared knowledge it gained from working on this project with these parties through community forums held outside of Chicago. HSC is also working with the Center for a New American Dream, a national organization that promotes green cleaning, to share its experience of working on this project with CPS with other school districts and nonprofit organizations across the country. The project's success contributed to HSC being awarded a grant from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to address high incidences of asthma and obesity in Latino school populations, including the CPS and Latino community partners who participated in this project.

Involving Tribal and Faith Groups in Environmental Justice

Target Audience

Tribal and economically disadvantaged citizens of the large rural area of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, dubbed America's "Second Appalachia" by economists. Household income in this area is the lowest in the state. Five out of the state's seven Native American Indian reservations are located here, and unemployment rates in each of its 15 counties have consistently been twice those of state and national averages.

Grant Number	EQ96539201-0
EPA Funding	$15,000 | 2003
Focus	Air, Household Hazardous Waste, Mercury, and Great Lakes

Project Coordinator

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Cedar Tree Institute
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www.cedartreeinstitute.com

Purpose

To involve tribal, economically disadvantaged people and seven faith congregations in local environmental justice issues that directly affect air quality, waste reduction, and health risks.

Goals

- Initiate a community burn barrel education program emphasizing the environmental impacts and human health risks associated with dioxins and backyard burning.
- Conduct a clean sweep household hazardous waste collection and increase public education on household hazardous waste.
- Raise awareness about regional mercury impacts from municipal and commercial coal-fired electric power facilities, including local impacts from air emissions trading, long-range transport, and the Deer Lake Area of Concern.
- Provide information about the Lake Superior Binational Program to stakeholders, including tribal and economically disadvantaged people in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Methods

- Built a partnership with representatives of nine different faiths to develop and sign an "Earth Keeper Covenant," which made a commitment to work in partnership with tribes, government, and citizen organizations for the stewardship and protection of the environment of the Great Lakes Basin. Annual clean sweep collections are among the commitments made in the Earth Keeper Covenant. Developed and shared an electronic directory of cooperating organizations.
- Educated stakeholders about the impacts of household hazardous waste; burn barrels and the airborne deposition of toxins; and mercury emissions from a

local power plant. Also educated stakeholders about the goals of the Lake Superior Binational Program.

- Implemented a household hazardous waste clean sweep collection event.

Products/Results

A household hazardous waste clean sweep collection collected more than 47 tons of materials (including mercury) in one day. This amount exceeded the amount collected by the Delta County Waste Facility over the last seven years. Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm issued a Certificate of Tribute recognizing the important environmental benefits the project provided to the citizens of Michigan. Nine different faith leaders signed the Earth Keeper Covenant. This unprecedented agreement commits more than 200 congregations, reaching approximately 150,000 people (almost two-thirds of the population of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan), to educate and incorporate environmental projects regionally. A newsletter that included an article on the environmental impacts of burn barrels and airborne deposition of toxins was sent to 30,000 Upper Peninsula residents. The project had several press releases, including seven newspaper articles, one magazine feature, three television spots, and several public presentations. It also raised awareness about the goals and objectives of the Lake Superior Binational Program and included working with the Binational Program as one of four pledges on the Earth Keeper Covenant. The project supported the new mercury emissions reduction project at the Wisconsin Electric coal-powered Presque Isle power plant in Marquette, Michigan. When completed, this project will reduce airborne mercury emissions by 95 percent.

Successes/Strengths

The project received both local and national acclaim. By utilizing established faith networks, the project directly reached more than half of the population of a 15-county region. The response was tremendous; 47 tons of hazardous waste were collected in one weekend. The Earth Keeper Covenant and partnerships built under this project will continue into the future through concrete environmental commitments. The Cedar Tree Institute is also planning to use this growing faith network to relay other environmental and conservation information regarding land use, invasive species, and other nonpoint source pollution.

Involving Students in Creating Toxin-Free Homes and Gardens

Target Audience

Youth attending an alternative public school for pregnant teens and mothers and the surrounding community of residents near the west side of Detroit. This community is located in one of the poorest sections of Detroit, within the federally designated "empowerment zone," and is 85 percent African American.

Purpose

To increase public awareness of the hidden toxins in homes and gardens and to facilitate a community-based collaborative partnership to facilitate soil reclamation and reduce exposure to contaminants.

Grant Number	EQ97598301
EPA Funding	$19,300 | 2002
Focus	Land Reclamation, Lead, Education, Home Toxins, and Children's Health

Project Coordinator

Sharon Howell
Detroit Summer
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www.detroitsummer.org

Goals

- Increase public awareness of the hidden toxins in homes and gardens.
- Encourage the use of safer waste disposal, cleaning, and home maintenance methods.
- Gave youth experience in neighborhood organizing, soil testing, and land reclamation.
- Taught youth how to create a toxin-free home environment for mothers and children.

Methods

- Trained and educated 40 students through two existing classes, Earth Science and Geometry, and a new after-school extra credit class, Soil and Environmental Science.
- Conducted a mapping project to depict the land use patterns in the area and likely pollutants.
- Obtained assistance in assessing the scope of remediation and planting from the University of Michigan's Landscape Architecture class. The Landscape Architecture class also helped students develop a community design for a toxin-free neighborhood.
- Conducted community outreach. Students created a flyer and a short letter to their neighbors. They then went to every house within four blocks of the school to inform and solicit input from their neighbors on the project.
- Trained students to collect soil samples. Under the supervision of Detroit Summer, these students then collected soil samples from all homes within four blocks of their school.
- Students returned to the homes they obtained soil samples from to share the results of their soil analyses and offered advice to residents' on how to deal with the problem of lead contaminated soil.
- Students planted a garden on school property to demonstrate lead-safe methods and how to plant to reduce lead levels already existing in the soil.
- Students organized and conducted a media campaign on soil testing and environmental justice, attracting press coverage for this issue (Detroit Free Press, May 29, 2003).

Products/Results

Student testing of soil showed high lead levels in yard soil. Approximately 20 students tested 25 yards for lead and found lead levels of 670, 1,900, 2,600 and even 3,400 parts per million, the latter being eight times the EPA guidelines for child safety. Students returned to the homes they tested and shared advice on how to deal with the problem of lead contaminated soil.

The students reached beyond their school and neighborhood by conducting a media campaign. This endeavor involved sharing information about contaminated soil and how to address this problem in residents' yards with a wider audience in Detroit. Because of the Detroit Free Press article, Wayne County Commissioner Kwame Kenyatta asked the students who participated in the project to give a presentation to the Wayne County Subcommittee on Lead Poisoning.

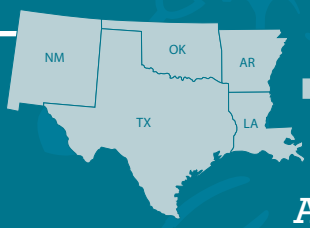
Additionally, two film students from the University of Michigan documented the project in a video, teaching the students a variety of media skills, including video recording, editing, and interviewing. The students used these skills to compile oral histories from the neighborhood residents about their lives and experiences in the community. These oral histories were included in the video documentary and presented to the county.

This project also resulted in the planting of a garden that demonstrated the four remediation strategies learned in the project on school property. This garden is an ongoing educational tool for the local residents. Community members were invited to participate in the garden's design and implementation. The garden is divided into areas to exhibit permaculture, composting, phytoremediation, and plants that can detoxify the body. The composting area of the garden includes a compost bin the students built themselves. Workshops on composting and gardening were held for the community, and those who wanted to utilize phytoremediation in their own gardens or lawns were given seedlings.

Collaboration between Detroit Summer and the school is continuing. Projects planned for the future include rebuilding and designating two homes as toxin-free zones.

Successes/Strengths

This project received local acclaim and was featured in a newspaper article appearing in the Detroit Free Press. The garden provides an ongoing sustainable environmental education tool for the community. The project resulted in education on contaminated soil, environmental justice, and concrete solutions for remediation that reached a wider audience. A community event, "Teen Mothers Celebrate Mother Earth," brought more than 100 people from the neighborhood and surrounding areas together to discuss environmental issues. Wayne County Commissioner Kwame Kenyatta presented students with certificates of honor for their leadership and dedication to the community. Four graduating seniors were recognized at their commencement ceremony for being honored by the county. Students from the project continued to be interested in environmental science and environmental justice, conducting additional projects, including one on lead contamination near playground structures. Two of the project students also finished first and second place in the Detroit city-wide science fair.



Region 6 Projects

Arkansas (AR), Louisiana (LA), New Mexico (NM), Oklahoma (OK), and Texas (TX)



Project Descriptions

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Educating the Community About Hazards of the Poultry Industry

Target Audience

Latinos, people of color, and rural whites.

Purpose

To educate the target audience on the hazards of the poultry industry as it relates to water pollution, solid waste disposal, and health of the workers.

Goals

- Educate the poultry workers about their environment and their own personal health as it relates to the poultry industry.
- Help poultry workers locate resources within their communities and find methods of civic participation.

Methods

- October 2002 to January 2003: Compiled, reviewed, and selected information. Developed bilingual curriculum and created visual aids. Developed bilingual surveys. Contacted committed partner organizations and developed others. Began dialogue for joint tasks and scheduled presentations at community centers and with community groups. Advertised presentations in the community.
- February 2002 to April 2003: Conducted presentations—one in each community center in the towns of Fayetteville, Springdale, and Rogers. Gave three other presentations for smaller community groups. Gave a presentation to youth at a local rural alternative school. Handed out surveys at presentations.
- May to June 2003: Compiled information received from surveys. Followed up on calls received from participants requiring further information. Made final bilingual report on information obtained through presentation discussions and surveys and submitted it to EPA.
- July to September 2003: Mailed out reports to all participants and partner groups. Evaluated benefits/challenges of the work.

Grant Number	EQ97620001-0
EPA Funding	$10,000 | FY 2002
Focus	Education

Project Coordinator

Miguela Borges
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Products/Results

- Anticipated 80 people would be reached with the program. Sixty-two were reached. Made contacts with other organizations.
- Anticipated 50 percent of attendees would be poultry workers or relatives of poultry workers, but the percentage was larger—90 percent.
- Anticipated 75 percent of participants (43 out of 62 people) would complete surveys, and they did.

Successes/Strengths

The project organized volunteers successfully, advertised forums in the community using flyers and public service announcements; got attendees to fill out a three-page survey; and presented information in an informative and attractive way.

This project was a first step in a collaborative effort to address both environmental and human needs. There is enough interest to continue the work under the right local leadership. As a result of this project, many people throughout northwest Arkansas, not just those who attended the sessions, now know that the environmental justice issue exists and is a concern.

Empowering Residents to Learn About Clean Water

Target Audience

Five low-income African American communities along the industrial corridor between Baton Rouge and New Orleans, Louisiana, also called "Cancer Alley."

Purpose

To address issues of water quality, information sharing, and improved communication among these communities and with government agencies and regional environmental groups.

Goals

- Create an organized network of communities working together on regional water quality issues.
- Develop a multi-party information exchange network to serve as a liaison among all the groups and agencies.
- Form partnerships between all stakeholders.
- Empower the residents through organization and education so they can better address water quality health concerns.

Methods

- Partner organizations provided information and assistance to the communities.
- Formed coalition of all affected parties to teach residents in the contaminated communities to use technical resources in their fight against poor water quality.
- A cartographer taught the project director how to access information contained in watershed maps and to make it accessible to the local residents.
- Published a monthly newsletter to provide communities with information regarding training workshops, issues related to water quality.
- Held a series of meetings in the communities and with water experts.
- Conducted training sessions to provide up-to-date information on watershed maps and other water-related information.
- Concluded project with a Clean Water Conference.

Grant Number	EQ986603
EPA Funding	$15,000 | FY 2000
Focus	Communication and Information Sharing

Project Coordinator

Albertha Hasten
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Products/Results

The monthly newsletters succeeded in providing needed information to the communities, and in creating a much-needed sense of joint purpose. Residents of all the affected communities attended workshops and learned a great deal about water pollution. Representatives of each community, EPA, and Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality officials attended the Clean Water Conference.

Successes/Strengths

The Clean Water Conference provided an opportunity for the residents to ask officials questions and to have those questions answered.

The participants in this project are now very knowledgeable about water-related environmental issues, as well as in techniques to make their voices heard. This project provided needed training and information to underserved communities, and it raised Louisiana Environmental Action Network's status in the affected communities. The residents now know that they have important advocates in Louisiana and in federal and state agencies.

Providing Training to Reduce Lead Poisoning

Target Audience

Members of the Eighth Ward (African American), the New Orleans' Far East Vietnamese Community, and the New Orleans' Carrolton/Mid-City neighborhood (Hispanic).

Purpose

To inform the communities and local government about the lead poisoning within the targeted communities.

Goals

- Identify necessary improvements in communication by coordinating a coalition of organizations to assist the community in developing and implementing the project. The coalition included Louisiana Environmental Justice Project, Louisiana Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, New Orleans Office of Environmental Affairs, the city of New Orleans Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, and the Center for Applied Environmental Public Health at the Tulane University Medical Center.
- Emphasize community input and participation. Empower residents to evaluate, develop, and present programs for lead poisoning prevention that reflect their needs, rather than that of government or academia, thus building capacity.

Methods

First month—Reached out to Eighth Ward of New Orleans through door-to-door canvassing. Developed a training team and met twice a month.

Second month—Restructured lead poisoning and prevention information to be culturally relevant to the community.

Third month—Implemented NO LEAD training teams in the community.

Fourth month—NO LEAD teams finished community training and finalized the evaluation process. Consolidated information gathered.

Grant Number	EQ97619701-0
EPA Funding	$17,285 | FY 2002
Focus	Capacity Building

Project Coordinator

Stephen Bradberry
Louisiana Environmental Justice Project
New Orleans, LA

Months 5 through 8—Targeted Vietnamese community and used procedures for 1 to 4 months.

Months 9 through 12—Targeted Hispanic community and used procedures for 1 to 4 months.

Products/Results

As a result of the education and outreach performed during the NO LEAD project, the Louisiana Environmental Justice Project has significantly increased the number of partners who are willing to work toward making New Orleans a lead-safe city. Included in the new partnerships are a local bank and the local carpenter's union.

Successes/Strengths

This project developed a mechanism for working with the community on environmental issues. The city of New Orleans committed $300,000 for remediation and abatement in one of the target neighborhoods.

The project also raised the awareness of lead poisoning hazards in the target communities. Community residents utilized the information to demand and win funding from their city council representative to carry out lead poisoning remediation on their homes.

Participating in Refinery Redevelopment

Target Audience

Cherokee and Creek tribal members living near the Basin Refinery Superfund site. In 1998, Phillips Petroleum began cleanup of the site, and soon after, some of the land became available for commercial use. Although Native Americans would be impacted by the site's redevelopment and needed to have a say in the redevelopment plans, tribal members had not yet attended meetings where redevelopment was discussed.

Purpose

To facilitate involvement between tribal members and other citizens in the redevelopment of the refinery site.

Goals

- Survey the tribe on environmental concerns, understanding of the cleanup process, and concerns about the redevelopment.
- Conduct community outreach to provide the tribe with access to appropriate information.
- Conduct discussion forums to introduce the survey and, later, to discuss the survey's results.

Methods

- Distributed surveys door to door.
- Forwarded results to redevelopment personnel.
- Held discussion forums to provide input to decision-makers.
- Used additional outreach mechanisms to get the word out to the residents.

Products/Results

Project leaders conducted surveys of the entire area near Okmulgee, compiled results, and forwarded them to the Redevelopment Council and to the media for publication in the local newspaper. At the end of the project, the public attended a local meeting to express opinions and ask questions of redevelopment personnel. An information booth was set up at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation festival and at the local rodeo. Approximately 50 people attended two outreach meetings.

Grant Number	EQ986629
EPA Funding	$16,000 | FY 2000
Focus	Information Sharing and Capacity Building

Project Coordinator

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Successes/Strengths

Project leaders distributed more than 1,000 surveys to tribal members and other citizens, and more than 70 percent of people replied—a success. Attendance varied at the discussion forums, but those who attended expressed good ideas. The information booths at the Muscogee Nation festival and at the rodeo were well attended.

This project allowed all the tribal members to participate in decisions affecting their future. The project showed the residents that they could get together to discuss issues affecting their lives. The tribal members and local citizens became aware of environmental issues as a result of this project, and they now feel more empowered to address the issues directly. Many of the ideas for redevelopment of the refinery expressed by the participants in the forums and surveys are seriously being considered by those in charge of the redevelopment of the area. The tribal members have made it clear that as many jobs as possible should be created, provided that the work is environmentally friendly. They want the environment to be restored as much as possible.

Researching Effects of the Tar Creek Superfund Site

Target Audience

Low-income Native American and Hispanic residents of Miami, North Miami, Commerce, Quapaw, Picher and Cardin, and the nine tribes present by treaty. The Tar Creek community is in Ottawa County, the poorest county in the state of Oklahoma (which is the third poorest state in the nation). As one of the largest Superfund sites in the nation, this community has a long history of unfair environmental impacts. Many of the residents depend on fishing, hunting, and gardening for subsistence. The polluted stream of Tar Creek runs through five communities before it spills its contaminants into the Neosho River. The Spring River and the Neosho River bring toxic runoff and mine water discharges, loaded with heavy metals, downstream to the Grand Lake O' the Cherokees. Tar Creek residents are faced with children's blood lead levels significantly higher than the national average; countless yards and public areas contaminated with heavy metals; and high levels of lead, manganese, cadmium, and arsenic. Determining the potential health impacts from exposures of heavy metals that are present at the site, particularly through air, water, fish, and other local food that are consumed, is of vital importance.

Local Environmental Action Demanded (LEAD) Agency, Inc. is a nonprofit environmental organization, organized under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code. The agency is composed of citizens whose purpose is to meet the environmental needs of area residents. LEAD has been at the forefront of environmental issues in northeast Oklahoma since its origination in 1997, thus leading the way for progress in environmental justice.

Purpose

To conduct research to identify the prevalent diseases of the residents of Ottawa County.

Methods

- Conducted door-to-door community surveys to determine the prevalence of disease in the community near the Tar Creek Superfund site. LEAD designed the surveys with assistance from consultants in the field of public health.

Grant Number	EQ97621501-0
EPA Funding	$20,000 | FY 2003
Focus	Heavy Metals and Capacity Building

Project Coordinator

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Demanded Agency, Inc.
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www.leadagency.org

Products/Results

Project leaders presented survey results to EPA and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry to prioritize the research needs in the community. This project also established a model that other environmental justice community groups can follow.

Successes/Strengths

This collaborative community effort enhanced resident involvement in the community and developed awareness of exposure pathways, health issues related to the site, and remedial activities that will minimize exposure to maximum extent. In developing, conducting, and analyzing a survey of the community, local residents gained experience in gathering health trends data. They learned the importance of consistency in data collection and how to word survey questions carefully. The project led to remediation, followed by buyouts.

Developing Plans of Action to Clean Up Environmental Problems

Target Audience

Low-income, primarily Hispanic communities in El Paso, a city that is 70 percent Hispanic and has a median income of $12,000. These communities experience a variety of environmental challenges.

Purpose

To increase knowledge and capacity in these low-income communities for effective problem-solving and involvement in environmental issues impacting their neighborhoods.

Goals

- Train 130 residents from 65 grassroots Neighborhood Improvement Associations (NIA) on environmental issues and statutes.
- Empower the residents, particularly the young people, with the skills to participate in public debates on environmental issues.
- Participate in committees, task forces, and/or boards overseeing such issues.
- Provide residents with the skills to seek redress on environmental issues concerning their communities.

Methods

- Each NIA developed an Environmental Plan of Action and identified the issues and solutions to these problems in their community.
- Ensured youth participation by selecting two to five students from each of the 27 high schools and middle schools in El Paso County to serve on a Youth Council on the Environment.
- Held four environmental workshops about various issues.
- Invited students to attend the four workshops and to participate in debate of issues, critical thinking, and problem-solving.

Products/Results

Project leaders produced and distributed bilingual flyers to attract the residents of the neighborhoods to the workshops and mailed out bilingual letters to the various neighborhood associations regarding the workshops and the training. The attendees at the workshops filled out forms detailing the worst environmental problems in their neighborhoods, in their opinion. This action enabled them to develop the Environmental Plan of Action for each neighborhood.

Grant Number	EQ986936
EPA Funding	$15,000 | FY 2001
Focus	Capacity Building and Environmental Problem-Solving

Project Coordinator

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Successes/Strengths

Two representatives of each of the 65 NIAs attended the workshops, and 39 students participated. They now form the Youth Council on the Environment. The participants in the workshops were somewhat timid at first, but they gained confidence, along with their new environmental knowledge and understanding.

The participants in this project are now very knowledgeable about environmental issues, as well as in techniques to make their voices heard. The Environmental Plan of Action that each NIA developed will be beneficial to the communities in the future and to the city in general. The experience acquired by the residents in regard to public participation has given them the incentive to apply these skills in every aspect of their lives. Improvements in good citizenship and environmental stewardship can already be seen. The neighborhoods are cleaner, and people are conserving more and contaminating less. They are also now more proactive in neighborhood and city life.

Fostering Contaminated Ground Water Awareness

Target Audience

Low-income, primarily Hispanic, residents in the environs of the newly closed Kelly Air Force Base (KAFB) in San Antonio, Texas.

Purpose

Studies from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry have shown that households located over a plume of contaminated ground water near KAFB have had an increased number of deaths attributed to liver and kidney cancer and leukemia, as well as an elevated number of low-birth-weight babies and an excess of reported cases of heart and circulatory system defects.

Health screenings were offered to those who have worked at or lived near KAFB to help determine risks for illness from possible environmental toxins. The people living in houses over the most contaminated area of the ground water plume, however, were not seeking these screenings, yet they tended to be households below the poverty level, uninsured for medical treatment, and undereducated. This project seeks to find out more about risks and these residents. In addition, a community health profile will be taken of the residents to determine their attitudes about the relationship between the contaminated ground water plume and their perceived illnesses.

Goals

- Share information about the contaminants at KAFB and those in the plume, including the environmental and health effects of these substances.
- Research why the most affected households did not seek the free health screenings offered previously.
- Determine residents' attitudes about the relationship between the contaminated ground water plume and their perceived illnesses by means of a community health profile to be taken of the residents at the same time.

Methods

- Volunteers went door to door, distributing bilingual flyers concerning the free medical screenings.
- Discussed with the residents why they had not participated in the previous health screenings.
- Screened 100 community members for environment-related health problems.

Grant Number	EQ986895
EPA Funding	$20,000 | FY 2001
Focus	Environmental Health

Project Coordinator

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Wesley Community Center
1406 Fitch Street
San Antonio, TX 78211

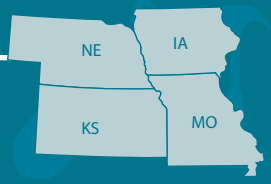
- Produced a bilingual brochure detailing the health effects of the contaminants in the underground plume and the soil near the base.
- Conducted workshops on the findings of the investigation.

Products/Results

Volunteers distributed excellent bilingual flyers advertising the screenings in the neighborhood. Using the results of the door-to-door discussions in the neighborhood, the volunteers of the Wesley Community Centers produced a bilingual pamphlet to share the information and to address the reasons the people were not asking for the screenings. The pamphlet also explained the details of the screenings and urged the people to be screened.

Successes/Strengths

Rather than screening only 100 residents, the volunteers were able to attract 700. They were able to compile heath profiles and determine some of the reasons residents didn't go to the screenings, such as work schedules, transportation, and childcare issues. Other factors included lack of knowledge of environmental health impacts of the contaminants in the plume, and the impression that such health impacts would affect others rather than themselves. The community has become more knowledgeable about contaminants and health issues. People also appear to be more concerned about their health now. The volunteers in the community have inspired the residents to take more interest in their communities and quality of life. They are now more assertive and proactive, and less fatalistic.



Region 7 Projects

Iowa (IA), Kansas (KS), Missouri (MO), and Nebraska (NE)



Project Descriptions

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Empower Residents to Take Action and Make a Difference

Target Audience

Residents of the low-income portion of the northeast corner (zip code 50317) of Des Moines, Iowa.

Purpose

To identify and research sources of pollution that potentially threaten the health and quality of life of local residents and to involve area residents in addressing this pollution.

Goals

- Educate residents about environmental issues that might impact their health.
- Show residents how they can use government policies to address these environmental concerns.
- Cultivate leadership skills in 10 residents. Train these residents how to hold meetings, write agendas, and educate other residents.
- Recruit 20 residents for the Citizens for Community Improvement (CCI) Environmental Task Force.

Methods

- Conducted a health survey of residents, using mailings and door-to-door contact.
- Compiled and analyzed the results of the health survey, as well as research related to area businesses.
- Used these results to create educational materials.

Products/Results

Through this project, CCI and the community developed health surveys that enabled them to compare residents' symptoms with the symptoms that arise due to exposure to airborne toxins. CCI also created a chart of chemicals that the local EMCO Chemical Distributors, Inc. facility releases to the air, with definitions and information about the potential health effects of these chemicals. CCI used this chart as an educational tool for residents at a public meeting. Finally, CCI held a meeting with EMCO's officials to discuss residents' concerns about odor and air pollution and potential solutions to these problems.

Grant Number	EQ987033-01
EPA Funding	$15,000 | FY 2001
Focus	Water and Air Pollution

Project Coordinator

Felipe Gallardo
Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement
2005 Forest Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50311
www.iowacci.org

Successes/Strengths

As a result of CCI and the community's efforts, EMCO agreed to stop painting steel doors in its facility, which had been causing odor and air pollution. The community has become more active and aware of environmental issues in the area. The community's last report indicated that residents were trying to close a biosolid waste facility in their area that had failed to comply with state laws and regulations.

Educating the Community About Toxins and Children

Target Audience

Key community members and their families.

Purpose

To educate key community members about the dangers environmental toxins pose to their children, as well as which children are the most likely to acquire developmental difficulties as a result of exposure to environmental toxins. Armed with this information, key community members could lead efforts to improve the environment where their children live, learn, and play.

Goals

- Improve communication and coordination efforts among stakeholders.
- Educate key community members about environmental toxins and their potential effects on children's health.
- Teach key community members to disperse this information in the community.

Methods

- Facilitated workshops on the characteristics and potential health effects of environmental toxins.
- Addressed two key environmental statutes: the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Clean Air Act.

Grant Number	EQ98703401
EPA Funding	$14,825 | FY 2001
Focus	Environmental Training

Project Coordinator

Bonnie Garrison
Heart of America Family Services (now Family Conservancy)
626 Minnesota Avenue
Kansas City, KS 66101
www.thefamilyconservancy.org

- Passed knowledge through basic community informational chains.

Products/Results

Project leaders held nine workshops, called "Stay Smart, Stay Safe: Stay Away from Toxins," for parents, childcare directors, and other key community members. A total of 150 community members participated in the training.

Successes/Strengths

The National Early Head Start Resource Center requested that the group conduct a "Stay Smart, Stay Safe" training in Washington, D.C.

Revitalizing John Garland Park

Target Audience

The neighborhood area surrounding John Garland Park in Northeast Kansas City, Kansas, and the Associate Youth Services (AYS) program.

Purpose

AYS initially planned to locate a greenhouse on the former John Garland Park landfill site to provide living-wage jobs and training for urban youth, create a source of revenue to help sustain the power plant as well as other AYS programs, and establish a national model for

Grant Number	EQ987037-01
EPA Funding	$15,000 | FY 2001
Focus	Community Development

Project Coordinator

Dennis Vanderpool
Associate Youth Services
1620 South 37th Street
Kansas City, KS 66106

quality greenhouse employment and training for youth. However, unforeseen economic burdens and perceived environmental and human health risks associated with the former landfill site changed the direction of the project.

The new purpose became to involve the community in planning the revitalization of John Garland Park.

Goals

- Meaningfully involve and engage the community in planning the redevelopment and reopening of John Garland Park.
- Build partnerships among community stakeholders through which environmental and other community issues concerning the former landfill site can be addressed.
- Ultimately, convert John Garland Park back into a useful community asset.

Methods

- Held six community-wide meetings per year, through which the community learned about landfill and hazardous substance issues.
- Held meetings with individuals, associations, churches, and others twice per week.
- Held a stakeholder committee meeting once per month.
- Employed the expertise and resources of partners and stakeholders to plan the redevelopment and reopening of John Garland Park.

Products/Results

AYS, in collaboration with the Oak Grove Neighborhood Association, worked together to form a partnership to establish a foundation from which the revitalization and redevelopment of John Garland Park could be realized. The group is working closely with interested stakeholders and partners to create and implement the vision for the park through collaborative mechanisms.

Educating About Lead Poisoning and Asthma Prevention

Target Audience

Low-income communities and people of color in Wichita, Kansas.

Purpose

To educate low-income people and their landlords about the hazards associated with lead-based paint and indoor air quality problems.

Goals

- Enhance the community's understanding of environmental and public health information systems.
- Generate information about pollution in the community.
- Build community capacity for identifying local environmental justice problems.
- Involve the community in designing and implementing activities to address these concerns.

Grant Number	EQ987041-01
EPA Funding	$15,000 | FY 2001
Focus	Lead Poisoning

Project Coordinator

Laura Dungan
Sunflower Community Action
1528 North Broadway
Wichita, KS 67214
www.sunfloweract.com

Methods

- Identify 20 grassroots leaders and train them to conduct public meetings that address neighborhood issues, including lead hazards and poor indoor air quality.
- Connect state and local public health professionals with public school leadership to educate low-income parents of kindergarten and preschool children.

- Teach landlords and building inspectors about lead hazards and poor indoor air quality.

Products/Results

This project involved holding house meetings, distributing lead poisoning literature, showing a health department video to members of the neighborhood, and educating and testing at two local schools. Through testing, a total of 350 children learned about the hazards associated with lead, and 221 children received blood-lead levels testing. Additionally, the project leaders distributed information about problems associated with lead paint used in older houses to five landlords.

Successes/Strengths

Project leaders held three public meetings and reached 467 people. The project was also successful in that two health stations, a neighborhood resource center, and two schools forged partnerships. These partnerships will be helpful for the future organization of low-income areas of Wichita.

Encouraging Energy Efficiency Improvements

Target Audience

Residents in the neighborhoods between Troost and Prospect in Kansas City, Missouri. These are low-income communities of color. Housing in these neighborhoods is so energy inefficient that families often spend more than 30 percent of their income on utilities.

Purpose

To empower the community to improve the energy efficiency of their homes.

Goals

- Educate and train residents and youth to implement energy efficiency improvements in their neighborhoods.

Methods

- Designed an energy efficiency training program, recruited trainees, had the trainees complete classroom course and field work, and placed the trainees in jobs.
- Surveyed the neighborhood regarding the levels of energy use.
- Held neighborhood awareness workshops.
- Acquired and renovated 14 training houses; documented a 25 percent reduction of energy use in those houses.
- Opened training houses to the neighborhood.
- Held neighborhood promotional meetings, established a baseline for level of energy reduction, and analyzed the energy use of participating homes.

Grant Number	EQ98703901
EPA Funding	$14,954 | FY 2001
Focus	Energy Efficiency

Project Coordinator

Robert H. Housh
Metropolitan Energy Center
3803 Paseo Boulevard
Kansas City, MO 64109
www.kcenergy.org

Products/Results

Target milestones of the project included conducting neighborhood meetings, establishing a baseline level for energy reduction, and analyzing the energy use of participating homes after renovation.

Successes/Strengths

The Metropolitan Energy Center (MEC) is centrally located in the heart of the community, allowing neighborhoods easy access to the services provided through the project. MEC worked to improve the quality of life in the Kansas City urban core through energy efficiency improvements and education.

Controlling Lead Hazards

Target Audience

Low-income families in Barton County, Missouri, who have or are planning to have young children. Special emphasis was placed on families with children who have tested positive for lead poisoning. This project also addresses landlords, realtors, renovation contractors, and Master Gardeners of Barton County.

Purpose

To educate Barton County residents, especially low-income families, about lead poisoning. Lead poisoning is most prevalent in low-income families as these families tend to occupy older homes.

Goals

- Facilitate information exchange among those who are affected by lead poisoning.
- Allow for the formation of an important partnership with Master Gardeners.
- Build community capacity to address environmental justice concerns by enabling community members to implement solutions to correct a local problem.

Methods

- Distributed educational materials to parents in homes with elevated lead levels, stressing personal hygiene to prevent lead ingestion.
- Provided parents with meal-planning guidelines and customized cleaning guidelines.
- Took soil samples from each yard and analyzed them for high lead content.

Grant Number	EQ987035-01
EPA Funding	$14,298 | FY 2001
Focus	Lead Poisoning Education

Project Coordinator

Gary Hastings
Barton County Health Department
1301 East 12th Street
Lamar, MO 64759

- Conducted a public educational campaign that addresses the hazards associated with lead poisoning.
- Held a series of individualized training sessions targeting different stakeholders.

Products/Results

The Barton County Health Department provided families with free do-it-yourself home lead hazard screening kits. These kits were available at local lumberyards, paint stores, and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) clinics. The department distributed a total of 80 kits as well as 400 lead awareness baby bibs at the WIC clinic.

Successes/Strengths

This project increased Barton County residents' awareness about lead poisoning, which led to a 44 percent increase in the number of children tested for lead poisoning.

Mobilizing Community Involvement With Environmental Justice

Target Audience

African American and low-income youth (7 to 17 years old), as well as adult volunteer advisors and/or parents, community-based grassroots organizations, and stakeholders.

Purpose

To broaden community focus to work on ways to fully integrate environmental justice issues in environmental planning solutions.

Goals

- Employ an environmental justice specialist to initiate community/grassroots/government interaction.
- Build capacity among youth to identify environmental justice problems, enhance problem-solving, and actively participate in solutions for affected communities.
- Hold the first Environmental Justice Youth Awareness Conference in 2003.

Methods

- Worked from within the organization to mobilize community involvement with environmental justice issues.

Products/Results

The project employed Erica Garry, who developed a curriculum and tool kit to guide the youth in identifying environmental justice concerns and solutions. The project also initiated the Team Sweep Model Citizens program, in which youth led service projects such as cleaning up the community. The inaugural Environmental Justice Youth Awareness Conference held three workshops to teach youth about environmental justice, issues, and actions. The workshops focused on teaching the youth how to become active citizens. The workshops also emphasized that what young people do affects not only their environment, but others' environments as well.

Grant Number	EQ98703801
EPA Funding	$15,000 | FY 2001
Focus	Environmental Education

Project Coordinator

Velma A. Bell
Operation SafeStreet, Inc. (now closed)
1200 Market Street, Room 422
St. Louis, MO 63103

Successes/Strengths

The inaugural Environmental Justice Youth Awareness Conference, held at the St. Louis Community College–Forest Park on May 10, 2003, was attended by slightly more than 100 youth. Two Missouri State Senators and a political representative from the Office of the Mayor also attended the conference.

Training Neighborhoods to Lead Themselves in Medical Waste Incineration

Target Audience

Residents of the second ward of North St. Louis, a lower income community with less formal education and a large minority population.

Purpose

To educate the neighborhood surrounding the incinerator on the medical waste process.

Goals

- Train a core of neighborhood outreach leaders who live near the incinerator in the science and law of medical incineration, environmental networking, and grassroots organizing.
- Through these leaders, create a partnership between the community and the industry.

Methods

- Held community meetings and public hearings to continue to increase community support and the database of volunteers.
- Trained neighborhood leaders on Clean Air Act and Solid Waste Disposal Act issues.
- Prepared for neighborhood-led community meeting with door-to-door outreach, phone banks, and more.
- Held a meeting with neighborhood leaders, new community organizations, city government officials, and health care administration and workers.

Grant Number	EQ987040-01
EPA Funding	$14,500 | FY 2001
Focus	Medical Waste Incineration

Project Coordinator

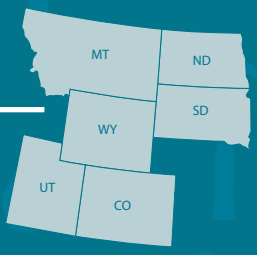
Edy Y. Kim
St. Louis Medical Waste Incinerator Group (now Health and Environmental Justice)
2717 Ann Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63104-2223

Products/Results

Created an Environmental Justice Training Source Book to use at the Environmental Justice Training workshop, where 14 leaders received training. Held a Health Care Provider Roundtable where stakeholders discussed medical waste management, reduction, recycling, and alternatives to incineration. This event helped to link officials, regulators, hospitals, and neighborhood activists.

Successes/Strengths

During this project, the number of active citizens listed in the Medical Waste Incinerator Group database increased from 300 to 560 citizens. Furthermore, the members' effectiveness in advocating for incineration alternatives resulted in Stericycle Inc. announcing the closure of its St. Louis incinerator.



Region 8 Projects

Colorado (CO), Montana (MT), North Dakota (ND), South Dakota (SD), Utah (UT), and Wyoming (WY)



Project Descriptions

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Improving the White Horse Creek Watershed Through Tribal Empowerment

Target Audience

Tribal members of the Oglala Lakota Sioux Tribe in Pine Ridge, South Dakota, in particular, members of the Wahancaka Yapi tiospaye. A tiospaye is a traditional Indian family clan, a traditional organizing model. This project involved both young people and adults and encouraged interaction between the two sometimes divided groups.

Purpose

The Great Plains Restoration Council's (GPRC's) model of local people developing positive social health and environmental leadership in themselves and their communities as to make ecological improvements in their landscape proved to be an effective and exciting new foray into environmental protection. Through this project, some of the most impacted people targeted some of the most destructive environmental problems. In addition to helping tribal people bloom with newfound confidence in their ability to make catalytic changes, the project improved the ecological health of the White Horse Creek Watershed.

Goals

- Clean up trash, refuse, and other impacts to water quality in the White Horse Creek Watershed.
- Identify wildlife and plants that grow in the White Horse Creek Watershed.
- Identify riparian areas and possibly map these areas in the White Horse Creek Watershed.
- Grow and develop relationships with tribal members and tribal entities such as the Oglala Sioux Tribe Natural and Water Resource Program, the Oglala Sioux Tribe Environmental Protection Program, the Wounded Knee School District, and the Oglala Tribal Solid Waste Program.

Methods

- Held meetings and educational sessions through various tribal programs to educate people on the project.
- Constructed and disseminated a watershed survey to gauge community awareness of problems.
- Met with local rancher whose cattle were harming White Horse Creek Watershed to explain the project and the goals of the project.

Grant Number	EQ988922-01
EPA Funding	$15,000 | FY 2004
Focus	Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act

Project Coordinator

Jarid Manos, Executive Director
GPRC
P.O. Box 46216
Denver, CO 80201
www.gprc.org

- Met with other agencies to find methods to teach about sustainable living practices for wildlife in the watershed.
- Held a community roundtable on setting cleanup priorities for the White Horse Creek watershed.
- Educated those working on the project on GIS mapping tools by working with the local Oglala Lakota Community College.
- Volunteers cleaned up watershed.
- Volunteers identified wildlife and plants in the White Horse Creek Watershed.
- Volunteers identified and mapped riparian areas of the White Horse Creek Watershed.

Products/Results

- Twenty youth and adult volunteers cleaned up the White Horse Creek watershed on an intensive activity day that coincided with the national Earth Day. The group collected 25 30-gallon bags of trash, more than 20 abandoned tires, and more than a truck load of wood and tree limbs that had clogged up the creek. The wood was recycled or given to those who could use it for cooking or warmth. A car body abandoned in the creek will be removed when conditions allow.
- Families that are a part of the Wahancaka Yapi tiospaye completed a survey to create a database of youth volunteers to collaborate with tribal programs on the areas of concern with education, cleanup,

and protection of watersheds as a cultural issue, as well as to identify a need for more ecological education within the schools and community. The survey also assisted in raising awareness and engaging action.

- The owner of the cattle pen along the banks of the White Horse Creek that was damaging the Creek and the watershed took the pen down, voluntarily ceased operations, and cleaned the area up.
- Tribal agencies and schools established relationships and began collaborating.
- Many local youth learned how a watershed works and the ties that it creates within a community.
- Community members learned about the need for a community recycling program, and the youth involved are exploring first steps in developing such a program.

Successes/Strengths

GPRC's model of local people producing ecological health improvements on the landscape while producing positive social health and environmental leadership in themselves and their communities has proven to be an effective method of environmental protection. Through this work, people become rooted to where they live, and experience a new awareness and sense of belonging to their ecosystem. This feeling breeds greater personal responsibility. When the volunteers worked together to remove trash, learned how the White Horse Creek Watershed folds down over the landscape, encompassing them, and worked to educate others about the watershed, they sought to find solutions to problems where they start (at the front end, rather than at the back end). They came to see that the back-end approach is always reactive, rather than proactive, and root solution efforts are much more effective.

Researching Effects of Vehicular Exhaust on Human Health

Target Audience

The communities of Swansea, Elyria, and Globeville in northeast Denver. The population of these neighborhoods is made up of 10,162 people living in 2,894 households. Of these, 4,000 are children under 18 years of age. One third of the population lives at or below the poverty level, 81 percent are Latino, 12 percent are white, and 4 percent are African American.

Purpose

The purpose of this grant is to conduct research on the effects of vehicle exhaust on human health and quality of life. This exhaust includes, but is not limited to, known toxins such as lead, acetyl benzene, and formaldehyde. The communities involved in this grant are traversed by six state and federal highways.

Goals

- Learn more precisely the health and quality of life issues raised by living near freeways.
- Learn about air quality and mechanisms to protect the community from airborne toxins.
- Quantify, translate, and present the knowledge gained to the public in order to promote increased participation in environmental decision-making.

Grant Number	EQ988923-01
EPA Funding	$19,600 | FY 2003
Focus	Air Quality

Project Coordinator

Amanda Champany
Colorado People's Environmental and Economic Network/Cross Community Coalition
2332 East 46th Avenue
Denver, CO 80216

- Evaluate project success based on the breadth of knowledge attained by the group of stakeholders and the quality of the dissemination of the results.

Methods

- Thoroughly researched the health and quality of life issues associated with living near freeways, in peer-reviewed publications and government Web sites. The project's steering committee ensured that project participants carried out a comprehensive evaluation of all of the materials, even including those with conflicting findings.

- Researched air quality and mechanisms to protect the community from airborne toxins. Examined various alternatives to highway expansion and encouraged community members to put forward creative solutions to a proposed additional level on top of an existing freeway.
- Produced a bilingual (Spanish and English) educational flyer highlighting information gathered from the research effort.

Products/Results

Part of this project involved a stakeholder group meeting to address the lack of knowledge regarding health hazards associated with vehicle exhaust. Project participants printed and distributed 2,700 flyers to community members in three communities. The flyers accompanied newsletters and the Cross Community Coalition information. The project also created culturally appropriate material for dissemination to community members and local agencies, tailored to the educational levels of each group. Finally, the project involved 48 home visits to people who were not involved with neighborhood associations. As community members' awareness increased, they became more involved in local environmental issues.

Successes/Strengths

More regular and ongoing communication between agency officials and community members will result from this research and dissemination process. Additionally, more community members are aware of the technical assistance that this group can offer, and more community members will come to this group to access environmental data when they have questions regarding other environmental problems in their neighborhoods.

Conducting National Environmental Policy Act Training

Target Audience

All 21 Native American tribes from Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota, specifically Native American tribal council members, environmental professionals, and concerned tribal members.

Purpose

To increase the capacity of tribes and to empower the tribes to meaningfully participate in environmental decisions affecting tribal resources on and off reservation lands.

Goals

- Establish a working group of Native Americans familiar with NEPA training needs and challenges for tribes.
- Conduct a NEPA training needs assessment for tribes in the identified states.
- Compile and assess existing NEPA training materials.

Methods

- Convened eight to 10 key tribal members from the target audience, representing at least eight tribes, to attend a one-and-a-half day working group session.

Grant Number	EQ988647-01
EPA Funding	$15,000 | FY 2002
Focus	National Environmental Policy Act

Project Coordinator

Amy Amoroso
National Wildlife Federation
Tribal National Environmental Policy Act Training
Boulder, CO 80302

- After the first session, compiled educational materials, facilitated interaction, and distributed information to working group members.
- Convened a second one-and-a-half day working group session to review the training materials, evaluate the reports on the needs assessment, establish next steps of the project, determine who will develop new training materials, establish deadlines for tribal-based training materials, and establish funding strategies.

Products/Results

In January 2003, the first working group session was held, with 11 people in attendance. The main product of this meeting was the development of the needs assessment survey. At the next conference call meeting in March, tribal members set a goal of 50 surveys to be collected from each reservation. On July 30, a second face-to-face meeting was held to review the needs assessment process and evaluate trends in the process or data and to brainstorm training options. Project leaders received 279 surveys from four reservations representing three states.

Successes/Strengths

The results show that training is needed, and people are concerned about their environment and participating in NEPA. Thus, continuing seeking support for the working group and developing and implementing a training on reservations for tribal people is essential. This project shows that customized training and creative presentation of scenarios is necessary to create understanding and then gain the input of tribal citizens in the NEPA process.

Empowering Low-Income Communities About Environmental Justice Issues

Target Audience

Residents in northeast Denver, which includes six of Denver's 12 enterprise communities and a Superfund site. The target area has a population that is 28 percent black and 51 percent Latino or Hispanic.

Purpose

To empower and educate the low-income community of northeast Denver about the environmental justice issue of asthma and other respiratory illnesses.

Goals

- Develop a simple resource brochure that covers the basics of the effects of the indoor environment on respiratory health, written for low-literacy understanding and produced in English and Spanish.
- Host a meeting for community leaders to learn about the environmental justice issues surrounding asthma and other respiratory illness.
- Disseminate information packages to all day care centers and elementary schools in the target neighborhood. Send packets to 80 pediatricians and respiratory specialists who might treat patients in the target area.

Methods

- Held a community leadership meeting, which was attended by more than 100 health care and education providers. The meeting included a summary and slide show of the Northeast Denver Housing Center's (NDHC's) findings of environmental conditions in low-income homes in Denver, a presentation on lead and asthma hazards, community updates regarding other environmental justice issues in Denver, a tour of an interactive asthma display bus, and free blood lead testing.
- Distributed packages that generated requests for speaking engagements to get more detailed information on the subject. Several referrals of children with asthma were also made as a result of these packages.
- NDHC featured displays, informational tables, and free blood lead testing at several community events to raise awareness of the healthy homes initiative.

Grant Number	EQ988643-01
EPA Funding	$9,912 | FY 2002
Focus	Indoor Air Pollutants

Project Coordinator

Wendy Hawthorne
Asthma Outreach and Education Initiative
Northeast Denver Housing Center
Denver, CO 80206

Products/Results

Almost 50 children received testing for blood lead levels at one of the community events, and seven were found to have high blood lead levels. NDHC is working with the families of the children with elevated blood lead

levels to ensure that they receive services to make their homes lead-safe and that the children receive appropriate medical care.

The project plan originally envisioned that doctors would refer families with children with asthma to the healthy homes program; a few doctors did, but another approach was needed. Project leaders changed outreach methods to focus on nurses, day care providers, and direct outreach to families through the community events, posters, and print media.

Successes/Strengths

This project has improved the lives of low-income children with severe asthma. The additional outreach and education, made possible because of this grant, allowed NDHC to identify more low-income children living in homes with environmental hazards. Several of these families qualify for the Housing and Urban Development-funded Healthy Homes home renovation program. This grant has allowed an increase in inspections and interventions to reduce health and safety problems in the home.

Offering Alternatives to Sewage Ponds

Target Audience

Low-income rural homeowners, including single-wide trailer homes in the La Plata, Archuleta, and San Juan counties of southwestern Colorado.

Purpose

To adequately treat domestic wastewater on site while reducing the risk of human and animal disease transmission, noxious odors, and safety concerns. The project offered voluntary, alternative choices for rural homeowners that were living with open-body sewage ponds (lagoons) in their backyards. The efforts made were proactive and preventative.

Goals

- Educate communities about the issues of sewage lagoons and the impacts these lagoons might have on the environment and human health.
- Participate in a health fair to further disseminate information to the public about clean water and solid waste disposal.
- Work with the Community Environmental Health Assessment Team to educate the affected counties and to demonstrate the benefits of using alternative solutions to sewage lagoons.

Methods

- Conducted monthly meetings with the Community Environmental Health Assessment Team to prioritize household hazardous waste and waste management activities.

Grant Number	EQ988645-01
EPA Funding	$7,500 | FY 2002
Focus	Water and Solid Waste

Project Coordinator

Wano Urbonas
San Juan Basin Health Department
Remedial Sewage Utilization Systems
Durango, CO

- Promoted gray water technologies for beneficial use.
- Distributed fact sheets and other documents about onsite wastewater treatment systems.
- Publicized the project in the local newspapers, and distributed information at health fairs and other public forums.

Products/Results

During eight months of meetings, the Community Environmental Health Assessment Team came up with a community prioritization of household hazardous waste and waste management activities for ground water protection, ambient air quality, and zoonoses and vector control. Four existing sewage lagoons were converted to subsoil technology. Recommendations in the La Plata County Master Plan call for newly proposed subdivision wastewater utilization. A health fair presentation on chemical toxicity and safety of household chemicals flushed down septic systems educated the community,

and experts performed mosquito surveillance activities at 18 sites, including sewage lagoons, parks, wastewater treatment facilities, and farmland.

Successes/Strengths

The three stakeholder sessions on water quality protection and community assessment methodologies were a success, as is the effort to date of creating a foothold for alternative sewage utilization systems and technologies. Public response and feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, except for those affected by the recent prohibition on new lagoon installation.

Collecting Samples to Research Air and Water Quality

Target Audience

Young people, ages 15 to 25, from the Northern Ute Tribe, also known as the Uintah and Ouray Reservation of the Ute Tribe, located in northeastern Utah.

Purpose

To uphold the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act by collecting water samples in the Uintah Wilderness and reviving air and water quality research on the Ashley National Forest to gain more information about nonpoint pollution issues in the region.

Goals

- Revive a lake monitoring database on the Ashley National Forest and collect more information.
- Initiate community-based partnerships between the U.S. Department of Agriculture/U.S. Forest Service and the Northern Ute Tribe.
- Create opportunities for future collaborative efforts in protecting surface water and ground water from polluted runoff.
- Utilize data to monitor interstate pollution and to develop regional strategies for reducing air pollution.

Methods

- Established partnerships with the Ashley National Forest, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Northern Ute Fish and Game Department.
- Recruited and trained youth from the Ute Tribe to conduct water quality testing and gather air monitoring data from two wilderness areas.

Grant Number	EQ988444-01
EPA Funding	$10,000 | FY 2001
Focus	Air and Water Quality

Project Coordinator

Angie Krall
Ute Conservation Corps
Air and Water Quality Project
Steamboat Springs, CO

- Convened several work sessions made up of individuals from the various organizations to improve communications between stakeholders.
- Built tribal capacity by training youth in environmental careers.

Products/Results

Analysis of good data can be used to enforce the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act and can also be applied to sound management and protection of air and water quality in the Uintah Mountains and associated watersheds. The partnership formed through this project can help stakeholders work toward environmental protection across all political boundaries. The Northern Ute Tribe will benefit from skilled tribal members who might move into careers in environmental protection or might someday hold tribal positions in natural resource management.

Successes/Strengths

The project collected samples using sound protocols outlined in the Quality Assurance Project Plan, resulting in a clean sample assemblage. Samples were transported out of the wilderness in a timely fashion and packed to maintain cool temperatures.

Forest Service and Northern Ute Tribal personnel have expressed their enthusiasm at the success, cost-effectiveness, efficiency, and overall utility of the project and have agreed to aid in any future efforts to keep it going on an annual basis.

Alerting Former Students About Asbestos Exposure

Target Audience

Former students of Libby High School, Libby Junior High, and Plummer Elementary School, and the families of former students.

Purpose

To develop a database of names and addresses by researching the identity and whereabouts of school children who were exposed to asbestos from the nearby vermiculite mine in Libby, Montana. The period in question was from the early 1970s through the 1990s.

Goals

- Detect, assess, and evaluate the effects on and risks to human health related to hazardous substances.
- Survey, research, collect, and analyze data, which will be used to expand scientific knowledge and the Libby community's understanding of the effects of exposure to asbestos.
- Acquire contact information for as many of the identified individuals as possible to establish baseline data on who was potentially exposed to asbestos at the school and to determine other exposure pathways the individuals might have been subjected to as a result of living and working in Libby.

Methods

- Used a project coordinator and developed a volunteer committee to help research and gather data.
- Worked with stakeholder groups to facilitate information exchange to help with the research.
- Developed a database of former students from class lists, personal information, and any other available data.

Grant Number	EQ988651-01
EPA Funding	$14,931 | FY 2002
Focus	Hazardous Substance Research

Project Coordinator

Kirby Maki
Libby Public Schools
School Children Exposed to Asbestos
Libby, MT 59923

- Developed a questionnaire and distributed it to all former students and their families who were identified in the research. Entered data about their exposure to asbestos and any adverse health effects they might already have been experiencing.

Products/Results

Libby Public Schools did an excellent job getting the project off the ground. The committee of seven volunteers and working subcommittees therein were enthusiastic in their efforts. They successfully created an updateable database of 2,115 students' names. They also developed a brochure/questionnaire and sent this to most of the students in the database. Unfortunately, the available funds ran out before the project research could be completed.

Successes/Strengths

The project participants developed a questionnaire that would not conflict with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and the State Medical Officer. They achieved this goal by soliciting suggestions from

knowledgeable individuals and incorporating those suggestions into the final document. Because of the quality control exercised in developing the database of students potentially exposed to hazardous substances, only 2 percent of the mailings sent to those students were returned as undeliverable. The database will continue to expand.

The database's continuing existence and expansion will enable future communications concerning advancements in asbestos-related disease treatment, asbestos-related alerts, and updates about screenings/research activities in the Libby area to be sent to those potentially exposed.

Researching Effects of Transporting Hazardous Substances Through Communities by Rail

Target Audience

The residents of the Glendale and Poplar Grove communities, lower income, ethnically diverse neighborhoods located on the west side of Salt Lake City.

Purpose

To encourage young people from local elementary, middle, and high schools to become a part of the community process and to connect them to important community issues. Additionally, to help young people feel empowered to learn about environmental justice issues affecting their community and to find ways to educate their neighbors regarding the hazardous substances the rail cars are transporting through their neighborhoods.

Grant Number	EQ988919-01
EPA Funding	$20,000 | FY 2003
Focus	Hazardous Substance Research

Project Coordinator

Troy Bennet
Utah Federation for Youth, Inc.
350 South 400 East, #G4
Salt Lake City, UT 84111
www.ufyi.org

Goals

- Detect, assess, and evaluate the effects on and risks to human health from hazardous substances being transported on the 900 South rail line.
- Ensure that the research relates to "hazardous substances," as defined by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) 101(14).
- Research, collect, and analyze data, which will be used to expand the scientific knowledge and understanding of hazardous substances being transported on the 900 South rail line.
- Expand the Glendale and Poplar Grove communities' scientific knowledge and understanding of hazardous substance issues relating to the contents of train cars on the 900 South rail line.
- Train youth in approved research techniques.
- Publish a report documenting research results and outlining appropriate measures the community should take in the event of an accident or spill involving hazardous substances.
- Present results at community meetings, in community newspapers, and in other appropriate venues.
- Create a journal of activities that can serve as a model for similar research in other communities.

Methods

- Developed a Quality Assurance Plan.
- Began to develop partnerships, to recruit youth, and to interview interns for the project.
- Conducted volunteer training workshops and began preliminary research.
- Collected and analyzed data and built a computer database of the hazardous substances by documenting the placard numbers on the train cars as they passed through the neighborhoods.
- Reported on the findings of the research.

- Held a press conference and community meetings announcing results.

Products/Results

Utah Federation for Youth (UFY) staff and interns contributed more than 1,000 hours gathering data by documenting hazardous material placard numbers on train cars as they passed by. The staff and interns then entered these numbers into a computer database and looked them up to identify which substances were being transported. The team collected data from 200 trains as they passed through the low-income neighborhoods of Glendale and Poplar Grove. Once the interns identified the substances that were being transported, they began to research what might happen in the event of an accident or spill, and what the emergency response plan for such an incident would be. They focused on substances that appeared on the CERCLA Priority List of Hazardous Substances provided by the Agency on Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. These substances were of specific interest due to their potential for causing adverse human health effects.

The team observed a total of 59 different substances being transported on the trains. Of these, five appeared on the CERCLA priority list. These priority substances include chlorine, ammonia, aluminum, toluene, and polychlorinated biphenyls. The most abundant substance found was sulfuric acid. Each of the observed substances has the potential for causing harm to both the environment and people in the event of a large spill or leak. Thus, in order to be prepared and to react correctly in the case of an accident, it is important for the community to understand the substances' potential hazards.

The youth presented their findings at community council meetings. The research results were published in a report and were announced at a press conference at the conclusion of the project. In addition to research results, the final report for this project included a step-by-step journal of how the project was completed so that others could replicate it, a proposed Emergency Response Plan, and a case study of a deadly train derailment that resulted in a chemical spill in rural Bexar County, Texas. The team included recommendations for proposed actions communities can take to ensure that they are ready to deal with similar disasters along with this case study.

Successes/Strengths

The youth participating in this study learned early on that information and data about issues that can affect communities such as theirs are sometimes difficult to find. They decided that since they could not easily gain access to the specific information they needed, they had to take action to collect the data themselves. As a result of the project, the youth involved in the project developed a Youth Action Guide intended to act as a "journal of activities." The guide lays out the step-by-step approach taken in the project. The youth who were involved hope that this guide can assist young people in other communities facing similar environmental justice issues. This grant demonstrated to EPA and the environmental justice program that when youth are involved in a project, they are determined to make it work and are enthusiastic and dedicated to making it a success.

Restoring the Jordan River Area

Target Audience

Sixty young people (ages 14 to 18) from diverse cultures, socio-economic backgrounds, and ethnic populations; and the residents of Salt Lake City's Glendale area.

Purpose

To support environmental justice by facilitating diverse youth in coming together to complete environmental activities that would have significant ecological impacts on the targeted stretch of the Jordan River in Salt Lake City.

Grant Number	EQ988630-01
EPA Funding	$15,000 | FY 2002
Focus	Air and Water

Project Coordinator

Kari Cutler
Peace Trees, 2002
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Goals

- Train project participants to make presentations and assist them in facilitating the delivery of workshops and demonstrations that illustrate methods and resources related to healthy air, water, and soil.
- Perform hands-on environmental restoration work.
- Disseminate relevant information at all project events and make pertinent information available at project sites in English, Spanish, and Tongan.

Methods

- Brought people together and conducted workshops on keeping the air, water, and soil healthy.
- Completed information dissemination on the subjects of agricultural/environmental issues in three languages.
- Conducted an environmental concerns survey, which had strong indications of why nonpoint source pollution is the nation's number one water quality problem.
- Facilitated the Environmental Best Practices model: set up recycle bins; encouraged reuse of containers, paper, etc.; and focused on the importance of conservation, reduction, and simplicity.
- Facilitated youth involvement in national, state, county, local, business, educational, and nonprofit organizations to better maximize resources regarding youth participation in environmental concerns.

Products/Results

The project team held several workshops on topics such as agricultural literacy; keeping air, water, and soil healthy; Environmental Best Practices; communication; multicultural success; conflict resolution, and leadership training. Awareness activities carried out included Adopt-A-Waterbody water testing activities and "Community Day Out," which involved demonstrations and activities addressing the connection to agriculture and other issues.

Successes/Strengths

The project team achieved immediate aesthetic improvements at the "Peace Trees site" along the Jordan River when volunteers removed thistle and weeds and planted trees. As a result of the project, young people have expressed a greater understanding of environmental justice issues, greater levels of knowledge, and higher motivation to practice environmentally conscious lifestyles. The group's overall cohesiveness was very impressive, and the young people involved worked diligently to achieve the goals of the year's work plan. Their actions directly translated to positive impacts for their families, neighborhoods, and communities.

Surveying Communities About Knowledge of Bad Air Quality Days

Target Audience

The west side of Salt Lake Valley, where a disproportionate number of low-income and minority communities are located.

Purpose

To create a methodology to try and understand how air quality affects the low-income and minority communities in the target audience.

Goals

- Use research to analyze and understand how air quality affects local low-income and minority communities.

Grant Number	EQ988921-01
EPA Funding	$20,000 | FY 2003
Focus	EPA Superfund Research Grant

Project Coordinator

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www.usee.org

Methods

- Identified partners and avenues that could be used in gathering information on how air quality affects the target audience.
- Developed and conducted a research survey to determine if the target audience was aware of when bad air quality days occur.
- Analyzed the results of the data gathered in the survey instrument.
- Made the results of the analysis available to the public.

Products/Results

The project team developed contacts and partnerships with at least 10 individuals and organizations and created a resource list with potential organizations and individuals that could be assets in the research process. Then, the team developed a survey that examined whether people in low-income and minority communities know when bad air quality days occur, what causes the poor air quality, and what they can do to prevent the problem. The survey also served to determine the best mechanism to disseminate this type of information. A minimum of 200 people were surveyed, including at least 50 individuals of Hispanic origin, and 19 of Tongan origin. Team members analyzed completed surveys to determine the numbers of given responses and to determine if differences exist between the various minority communities, as well as between the low-income communities. Results from the project were made available to the public, published on a Web site and in paper format. The survey analysis revealed many implications for future efforts in information dissemination and education pertaining to air quality in this area.

Successes/Strengths

This project has provided valuable insight regarding the targeted audience's interest, knowledge, and attitudes toward air quality and air pollution. It serves as a good base from which to conduct further, more detailed research into the environmental perspectives of low-income and minority populations. It also provides a cursory feel for where the gaps in knowledge and outreach efforts are located, and where more work needs to be done. It has presented a great opportunity for community individuals to focus on their concerns about environmental quality, and to voice their opinions, which are not often solicited.

Informing Rural Residents About the Hazards of Storing, Disposing of Waste

Target Audience

Low-income residents of the city of Laramie and Albany County who are more likely to have aging and unkempt septic systems and limited access to the city landfill and other essential services that help other citizens facilitate community pollution prevention and control. Because of Albany County's rural nature and setting, local residents do not bear the burden of pollution associated with heavy manufacturing and other industrial waste. They do, however, suffer from pollution related to household waste. Many county residents do not have trash pick-up or free access to the nearest landfill, and, as a result, have opted to manage household waste on their own. Most households manage waste by burning it or stockpiling it on their property. Private dumps threaten the ground water quality. Stockpiled items such as cars, refrigerators, and dangerous chemicals can easily contaminate the Casper Aquifer, which translates into health risks for the community.

Grant Number	EQ988923-0
EPA Funding	$8,316 | FY 2003
Focus	Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, Solid Waste Disposal Act, and Toxic Substances Control Act

Project Coordinator

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City of Laramie Public Works Department
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Purpose

Through outreach and education, to address the stockpiling of waste products, such as tires, e-waste, and specific household chemicals, that collectively pose a health hazard to the community or require additional disposal fees.

Goals

- Inform rural residents about the health hazards associated with the improper management and/or storage of waste materials on their properties.
- Use outreach and education to facilitate the collection and recycling of waste products in rural parts of Albany County.
- Reduce the negative health impacts associated with incinerating and stockpiling waste on rural properties.

Methods

- Held two Household Hazardous Waste Days at a county landfill, during which landfill fees for disposing of tires, paints, solvents, pesticides, and e-waste were waived for county residents. Outreach, including advertisements in the local paper and on local cable TV, presentations to communities and schools, and flyers, helped increase participation at these events. In smaller communities, the 20-member volunteer committee used word of mouth to create momentum and increase participation.
- Used volunteers to help get the word out about health hazards associated with disposing of or storing waste materials on rural properties.
- Surveyed residents to determine which environmental issues were perceived to be the most pressing in their communities.

Products/Results

During the two Household Hazardous Waste Days, the project team collected and recycled 18,270 pounds of electronic waste, 378 passenger/light truck tires, and six large truck tires. The team also gave away 200 packets of waste paint hardener, along with recycling guides. Through this project, community members gained a greater awareness of the hazards associated with improperly disposing of hazardous materials. Community members also learned how hazardous materials stored above ground can come in contact with stormwater and thus contribute to aquifer contamination, as the stormwater flows through the soil and recharges the underlying aquifer.

Successes/Strengths

The grant for this project enabled the city of Laramie to collect more hazardous waste and to disseminate more information to the public than would have been possible without financial assistance.

Raising Public Awareness About Indoor Air Pollution

Target Audience

Low-income, elderly residents of Albany and Carbon counties in Wyoming. The project also worked on the Wind Reservation with the Eastern Shoshone Tribal Housing Authority.

Purpose

To raise public awareness about indoor pollutants and their health consequences while solving specific problems in individual homes.

Goals

- Conduct onsite assessments of qualifying low-income residents referred by home-care workers and housing officials.

Grant Number	EQ988443-01
EPA Funding	$15,000 | FY 2001
Focus	Indoor Air Pollution

Project Coordinator

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- Hold formal, classroom-style presentations featuring lectures, slides, posters, props, brochures, and pamphlets.
- Educate residents and the tribal communities about the correlation between indoor quality and their health.

Methods

- Conducted four formal presentations and one interview in the local newspaper concerning the indoor air quality program.
- Evaluated 50 sites (homes and businesses) on the Wind River Reservation, plus 29 homes in Albany and Carbon counties.
- Educated the maintenance men and directors of Eastern Shoshone Tribal Housing about radon and serious carbon monoxide issues present in many of the homes.

Products/Results

The project team identified numerous primary stakeholders, all of which have an interest in public and environmental health and are involved with low-income individuals. The team enhanced community understanding through presentations and classes sponsored by some of the stakeholder organizations. The onsite home evaluations will have lasting value because those whose homes were visited received valuable information and were able to see first hand how to improve the indoor air quality of their homes and their health.

Successes/Strengths

The organization had greater success in scheduling presentations with organizations that routinely need guest speakers and trainers or those that required client attendance. Although audiences often started out indifferent, they soon became engaged in the material being presented.

Any house, old or new, can be unhealthy. Indoor pollution needs to be better understood, and much more widely acknowledged, before significant improvement can occur. This program represents a small yet vigorous movement in that direction.



Region 9 Projects

Arizona (AZ), California (CA), Hawaii (HI), and Nevada (NV)



Project Descriptions

CA Establishing Community-Driven Indoor Air Quality Monitoring Research 72
Researching Air Emissions in a Former Landfill Site Community 73

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Establishing Community-Driven Indoor Air Quality Monitoring Research

Target Audience

The neighborhoods of North Richmond, Parchester Village, Iron Triangle, and San Pablo—"Inner West Contra Costa County"—in California. This area is surrounded by highways and is home to two rail yards and a large bulk petroleum port. About 85 percent of Inner West County residents are people of color (African American, Latino, and Asian), compared to 42 percent people of color in Contra Costa County as a whole. Twenty-two percent of the residents in this area have incomes below the poverty level, whereas only 8 percent of residents in all of Contra Costa live below the poverty level. Health outcomes in Inner West County also reflect disparities compared with the county average; for example, asthma hospitalization rates in Inner West County are nearly twice the county average.

Grant Number	EQ96913501-0
EPA Funding	$25,000 | FY 2004
Focus	Air Pollution, Asthma, and Community-Driven Research

Project Coordinator

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Purpose

To address community concerns about pollution from heavy-duty mobile sources; to reduce indoor air quality degradation in impacted areas; and to increase residents' science and "community-driven" research and data acquisition.

Goals

- Estimate particulate matter (PM) emission levels from heavy-duty mobile sources in the area.
- Monitor the concentrations of PM from those sources present in indoor air to better understand the levels of pollution to which residents are exposed.
- Help residents and environmental community workers to better organize and advocate for environmental justice rights, to identify sources of diesel pollution, and to bring together residents and business to improve environmental conditions.

Methods

- Conducted a comprehensive review of existing studies on diesel pollution, air quality, and health in the affected local community.
- Identified gaps in existing data (i.e., determined what information was needed but did not then exist to help understand the scope of the problem and to identify solutions). For example, no studies of indoor air quality had been conducted, nor a full inventory of diesel emissions, for the project area.
- Conducted indoor air monitoring and studies to give the community information on the problem and to help inform potential solutions.
- Using written reports, brochures, and fact sheets, educated residents about strategies to mitigate indoor air pollution mitigation and to reduce diesel pollution.

Products/Results

The community developed outreach and educational materials about indoor air quality, including reports, fact sheets, and brochures, based on the findings of its research. The research findings indicated the following:

- Average diesel emissions in Inner West Contra Costa County are 40 times higher per area than the California average. Furthermore, six times more diesel pollution is released per square mile in Inner West Contra Costa County than in Contra Costa County as a whole, and 40 times more than in California. Per person, two times more diesel pollution is released in Inner West County than the county average.
- Some Inner West County homes have four times more soot than a control home in Contra Costa County. An indoor air study of three Inner West County homes found levels of black soot that were four times higher than a home in Lafayette in Contra Costa County. A sizeable portion of this black soot is from diesel particulate matter emissions. Diesel particulate matter has been identified as a cancer-causing chemical.

The community also came up with recommendations for the local and state air districts for diesel emissions reductions in their community. Example recommendations included: focus current and future incentives to fund diesel emission reduction projects in Inner West County; regulate diesel pollution at rail yards and ports; enforce the mandated truck and bus idling limit; enforce truck routes and restrictions on neighborhood streets; change zoning and land use policies to limit residential development near sources of diesel pollution; and study the feasibility and effectiveness of green barriers.

Successes/Strengths

This project generated science-based information on environmental and social conditions at the neighborhood level. The project also strengthened the capacity of the North Richmond target area to participate in environmental health planning and decision-making, community education, and advocacy to reduce indoor hazardous substance pollution.

Researching Air Emissions in a Former Landfill Site Community

Target Audience

The residents of a low-income, racially mixed neighborhood in San Diego called Mid-City Chollas Park. Mid-City is home to more than 40 different cultural groups. Twenty-nine percent of residents are Hispanic/Latino, 17 percent are African American, and 14 percent are Asian or another ethnicity. Half of the households in Mid-City earn less than $25,000 per year, and 24 percent of the population lives below the poverty line. Mid-City has the highest asthma hospitalization rate of any community in San Diego County (280.4 per 100,000 people, compared to the 119.4/100,000 county average). Crowded housing, nearby freeways and high-traffic streets, the use of older cars and trucks, and the neighborhood's proximity to a former landfill site have resulted in Mid-City residents experiencing a disproportionate share of negative environmental impacts compared to other areas in San Diego County.

Purpose

To determine if emissions in the Chollas Park area, a former landfill site, negatively affect the respiratory health of the local community. The data and analysis will help determine what steps should be taken to better protect the health of Mid-City residents.

Goals

- Produce a report that reveals new information about hazardous air pollutant emissions in the Mid-City Chollas Park area of San Diego.

Grant Number	EQ97992701-0
EPA Funding	$10,000 | FY 2000
Focus	Air Emissions Testing and Comparisons

Project Coordinator

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- In the same report, evaluate the risks exposure to hazardous air pollutants pose to the respiratory health of Chollas Park residents.

Methods

- Worked with a professional environmental health consulting firm to develop a strategy and methodology to be used for detecting and assessing hazardous air contaminants emanating from the Chollas Park area of Mid-City.
- Collected hazardous air emissions data from the Chollas Park area to determine specific levels of hazardous contaminants present.
- Compiled a report that presents the results of hazardous air contaminant levels collected and evaluates

the risk potential exposure poses to the respiratory health of nearby residents.

Products/Results

The project team produced a report that featured the results of hazardous air contaminant levels collected in the Chollas Park area. The featured research revealed that hydrogen chloride levels in the Chollas Park area exceeded the California chronic Reference Exposure Level, which means that long-term exposure can have negative health impacts. The study also found that although the concentrations of criteria air pollutants did not exceed the State Ambient Air Quality Standards, the Chollas Park area had higher concentrations of these pollutants than a more affluent area of the county—El Cajon. Nitrogen oxide levels in the Chollas Park area exceeded ambient levels found at the El Cajon air quality monitoring station. The levels of two volatile organic compounds, 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene and methylene chloride, also exceeded ambient levels found at the El Cajon monitoring station. Additionally, carbon monoxide and sulfur dioxide levels at Carver Elementary School in the Chollas Park area exceeded ambient levels found at the nearby downtown San Diego air monitoring station.

The report produced also included recommendations for future research, education, and policy needed to protect the health of Mid-City's residents. The report recommended: 1) limiting passenger car and delivery truck idling at Carver Elementary to reduce student and staff exposure to carbon monoxide, 2) conducting further research at Carver Elementary to determine if ambient concentrations of hydrogen chloride detected there are ongoing or transitory and if vehicles and/or the former landfill are potential sources, and 3) conducting further research at Chollas Lake Park to determine if ambient concentrations of 1,2,4-tricholorbenzene detected there are ongoing or transitory and if vehicles and/or the former landfill are potential sources.

Successes/Strengths

As a result of this project, the community gained new scientific knowledge and a better understanding of the levels of hazardous air contaminants in the Chollas Park. The research has led to more specific research opportunities that might further reveal the sources of the various pollutants in the community.



Region 10 Projects

Alaska (AK), Idaho (ID), Oregon (OR), and Washington (WA)



Project Descriptions

AK Empowering Alaska Native Communities to Address Oil and Gas Impacts on Cook Inlet's Natural Resources 76

OR Reducing Risks From the Portland Harbor 77

WA Increasing Access to Information on Industrial Pollution..... 78

Fostering Intergenerational Education in the Asian Pacific Islander Community 79

Developing a Clean Air and Recycling Outreach Campaign 80

Training Quileute Youth in Environmental Awareness 81

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Empowering Alaska Native Communities to Address Oil and Gas Impacts on Cook Inlet's Natural Resources

Target Audience

Native tribes of Cook Inlet, Alaska.

Purpose

To enhance communication strategies to address expanding oil and gas development, as well as the training necessary to understand all the issues associated with industrial development in the Lower Inlet.

Goals

- Improve communications among native peoples and communities on oil and gas issues.
- Enhance native community capacity to identify and address environmental justice issues related to oil and gas development.
- Promote and enhance the native communities' understanding of information needed to address oil and gas issues.

Methods

- Developed and implemented a strategic communications plan to improve the frequency and substance of oil and gas discussions.
- Facilitated meetings, teleconferences, and Internet listservs.
- Identified liaisons from each tribe to actively communicate oil and gas issues to their respective Village Councils and to participate in meetings, teleconferences, and training.
- Hosted information clinics using lawyers, marine scientists, engineers, and other tribal and non-tribal experts to train the tribal liaisons in the complexities of oil and gas development.

Grant Number	EQ997039001
EPA Funding	$20,000 | FY 2002
Focus	Oil and Gas Development

Project Coordinator

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Products/Results

Seven Cook Inlet tribes participated in implementing this environmental justice grant. The team developed a strategic communications plan that included setting up a toll-free teleconference line, establishing a regular teleconference line, establishing a regular teleconference meeting schedule, holding monthly meetings, and setting up and managing a Tribal Coalition for Cook Inlet e-mail listserv. Each tribe identified two liaisons to implement the strategic communications plan. The liaisons also participated in two information sessions and researched additional funding to continue to build tribal capacity to enhance their awareness of oil and gas issues in Cook Inlet.

Successes/Strengths

As a result of this project, seven of the 10 Cook Inlet tribes participated in a newly developed coalition, "Tribal Coalition for Cook Inlet." This coalition began the collaborative effort to address issues of concern regarding oil and gas development in Cook Inlet.

Reducing Risks From the Portland Harbor

Target Audience

Low-income, minority, and immigrant communities (Russian, Hispanic, Vietnamese, and African American) who depend on fishing for their livelihoods.

Purpose

To expand the "Clean Water, Safe Fish" project to educate low-income, minority, and immigrant communities about the dangers of eating contaminated fish from Portland Harbor, and to engage these communities in dialogues about harbor cleanup efforts.

Goals

- Promote safe fishing and fish preparation.
- Organize community participation in cleanup initiatives.
- Encourage more aggressive actions to limit future discharge of toxins into the river.

Methods

- Engaged outreach workers from target communities.
- Updated brochures on fish and warnings about exposure to certain fish.
- Conducted presentations for community groups.
- Talked to fishermen one-on-one at fishing sites and distributed brochures.
- Implemented a Community Advisory Group to provide public oversight of cleanup efforts.
- Met with appropriate government representatives to discuss a more aggressive schedule for implementing federal standards.

Product/Results

The project team redesigned brochures to include updated information about fish from Portland Harbor and the latest EPA warnings about exposure to certain ocean-going fish. Outreach workers reached 6,000 people and distributed 2,000 brochures. Additionally, the team held a press conference, resulting in articles in *The Oregonian* and in African American, Hispanic, Russian, and Vietnamese newspapers. The effort to "adopt a fishing hole" was also successful, leading to direct interaction with fishermen. Finally, the team helped implement a Community Advisory Group to provide public oversight of cleanup efforts.

Grant Number	EQ97041601
EPA Funding	$15,000 | FY 2002
Focus	Fish Consumption and Water Pollution

Project Coordinator

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www.oregon-health.org

Success/Strengths

One of the most positive outcomes of this project was the establishment of close connections with highly competent outreach workers from various communities. Organizing low-income and minority group participation resulted in the successful implementation of an EPA-supported Community Advisory Group (CAG), which meets monthly and has established a Web site to keep people informed about progress on cleanup efforts. In addition, the state Department of Environmental Quality has developed an accelerated cleanup schedule and reports to the CAG on its progress.

Increasing Access to Information on Industrial Air Pollution

Target Audience

The low-income community, which is primarily composed of people of color, in South Seattle, Washington.

Purpose

To increase the community's access to and understanding of sources of industrial air pollution.

Goals

- Increase community awareness about contaminated sites and sources of industrial air pollution.
- Educate the general public and policymakers about disproportionate environmental health risks.
- Increase community involvement in the Community Coalition for Environmental Justice's (CCEJ's) outreach, education, and advocacy efforts on environmental justice issues.

Methods

- Involved South Seattle residents in education activities via door-to-door outreach.
- Disseminated fact sheets about contaminated sites and industrial air pollution sources.
- Obtained copies of EPA-generated GIS maps showing pollution sources.
- Coordinated monthly workshops for South Seattle residents.
- Coordinated interagency meetings to discuss health studies, statistics, and reports.
- Organized meetings with the media to create public awareness about pollution sources.

Products/Results

As a result of this project, 23 residents and 58 people from other communities became actively involved in the CCEJ's activities to address environmental justice issues in South Seattle. Project participants obtained maps showing contaminated sites throughout South Seattle, which were used to help identify major concerns in the area. Participants also held a meeting, involving state and local agencies, to focus attention on air pollution issues. This meeting led to increased agency monitoring of and attention to the problem. Meetings were held with City Council members as well, which resulted in requests for a more in-depth discussion about pollution issues. Four local newspapers featured articles focusing attention on CCEJ and environmental justice issues in South Seattle. Finally, reviewing an Environmental Impact Statement prepared in association with a permit request for a pollution source resulted in the decision to move the facility.

Grant Number	EQ98094301
EPA Funding	$15,000 | FY 2000
Focus	Industrial Air Pollution

Project Coordinator

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Success/Strengths

CCEJ's commitment to organizing the community impacted by air pollution problems was critical to the success of this project. Increased community awareness, achieved through direct outreach, coordination with state and local agencies, and media coverage, was also instrumental in drawing attention to environmental justice issues in South Seattle, as well as in other areas of the city.

Fostering Intergenerational Education in the Asian Pacific Islander Community

Target Audience

The greater Asian Pacific Islander (API) community in Tacoma and Pierce County, Washington. The API community in these counties includes Korean, Samoan, Filipino, Vietnamese, and Cambodian communities.

Purpose

To improve communication and coordination among concerned communities about environmental justice issues related to shellfish harvesting and consumption and to educate the community about human and resource health.

Goals

- Transfer oversight responsibilities from government agencies to community leaders within the API community.
- Foster the framework and relationships necessary to address environmental justice issues through community outreach and the recruitment of stakeholders within the API community.
- Expand the scope of environmental education.
- Assist in integrating API volunteers into the Beach Rangers Program.
- Conduct outreach presentations by API youth to low-income youth and first generation API families.

Methods

- Facilitated meetings and responsibilities associated with the Marine Resources for Future Generations Coalition.
- Developed relationships with resources agencies for community education projects, building on the intergenerational education model.

Grant Number	EQ98094501
EPA Funding	$15,000 | FY 2000
Focus	Shellfish Consumption and Pollution Education

Project Coordinator

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Tacoma, WA 98445
www.kwaoutreach.org

- Designed and delivered multicultural diversity training to educate about API cultures.
- Promoted the Beach Rangers Program within the six API communities and recruited volunteers (especially youth) from within the community.
- Trained youth, via hands-on shellfish collection and sampling.

Products/Results

As a result of this project, a video documentary of the youths' experience and a public service announcement video were produced.

Successes/Strengths

Project leaders trained API youth in all aspects of the project, including shellfish collection and sampling. In turn, they educated API elders about their experience and about environmental hazards related to shellfish harvesting. The program is considered a model of intergenerational education.

Developing a Clean Air and Recycling Outreach Campaign

Target Audience

Spanish-speaking, farm worker, and immigrant communities in eastern Washington.

Purpose

To educate Spanish-speaking communities about air quality issues and responsibilities in ensuring compliance with clean air policies, as well as to encourage the recycling of solid waste, such as tires and oil.

Goals

- Increase community understanding about environmental issues related to clean air and recycling.
- Conduct a comprehensive outreach campaign via public radio.
- Encourage public participation in protecting the environment.
- Provide printed information in Spanish.

Methods

- Developed a comprehensive radio outreach campaign.
- Produced and aired information about clean air, recycling, and the proper disposal of hazardous waste.
- Translated information into Spanish and distributed it to the Spanish-speaking community.

Grant Number	EQ97107001
EPA Funding	$15,000 | FY 2001
Focus	Recycling and Hazardous Waste

Project Coordinator

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www.kdna.org

Products/Results

This project resulted in the production of eight informational radio public service announcements. These announcements, 30 to 60 seconds in duration, were aired five times a day, five days per week, for 36 weeks and burned on a CD. Four hour-long, live call-in programs were also produced and aired on the radio. Additionally, project leaders developed and distributed printed information in Spanish about clean air and recycling.

Successes/Strengths

One success of this project was using the public education radio station, Radio KDNA, to produce and air relevant information. Another success was developing a partnership with the Yakima Regional Clean Air Authority. Also notable was the collaboration with local experts on clean air and recycling.

Training Quileute Youth in Environmental Awareness

Target Audience

The Quileute Indian community in western Washington.

Purpose

To increase the capacity of Quileute youth and their parents to become better educated and more involved in environmental justice issues affecting the Quileute Tribe. The tribe needs future generations to be capable of making sound planning decisions about their ecologically significant reservation lands.

Goals

- Create a process by which tribal youth and their parents will become better educated and more involved with the tribe's environmental organizations, programs, and projects, such as the Quileute Natural Resource Committee and the tribe's salmon restoration and hatchery programs.
- Increase the capacity of tribal youth and their parents to recognize and participate in finding solutions to the community problems of litter, dumping in the sea and on land, and improper disposal of household hazardous waste.

Methods

- Tribal youth participated in three of the tribe's ongoing resource management programs.
- Tribal youth participated in the Olympic Park Institute's Field Science Program and the Washington State Natural Resource Youth Camp.
- Tribal youth visited tribal fish hatcheries to understand stages of breeding process and the relationship between fishery maintenance and water quality issues.

Grant Number	EQ97018001
EPA Funding	$13,075 | FY 2001
Focus	Water Quality and Natural Resources

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Products/Results

Forty youth participated in the Quileute Youth Program, which included meeting with the Quileute Natural Resource Committee, to better understand water pollution and fishery issues and the critical role clean water plays in the future of the tribe. Youth and parent volunteers also visited fish hatcheries; participated in beach and stream cleanup projects; and received training in water safety and the responsible use of fishing nets and equipment, as well as in keeping the waters free and clean of debris. In addition, the Quileute Natural Resources Committee provided training on environmental awareness and the protection of fish and wildlife.

Successes/Strengths

Quileute tribal youth were taught the importance of the tribe's natural resources and how to protect them.



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(2201A)
Washington, DC 20460

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EPA-300-R-08-001
January 2008



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