CARE Basic Briefing
October 2005

CARE

Community Action for
a Renewed Environment

What is CARE?

CARE is a **community-based, community-driven** program created to build partnerships to help communities understand and reduce toxic risks from all sources.

CARE Goals

- Reduce exposures to toxic pollutants through collaborative action at the local level

- Help communities gain an understanding of all potential sources of exposure to toxic pollutants

- Work with communities to set priorities for risk reduction activities

- Create self-sustaining, community based partnerships that will continue to improve the local environment

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CARE Strategies

- Provide information and a variety of tools to help communities understand and assess toxic risks

- Collaborate with community stakeholder groups to prioritize plans for risk reduction

- Mobilize local resources and utilize EPA voluntary programs to implement risk reduction activities

- Link EPA programs together to efficiently support communities
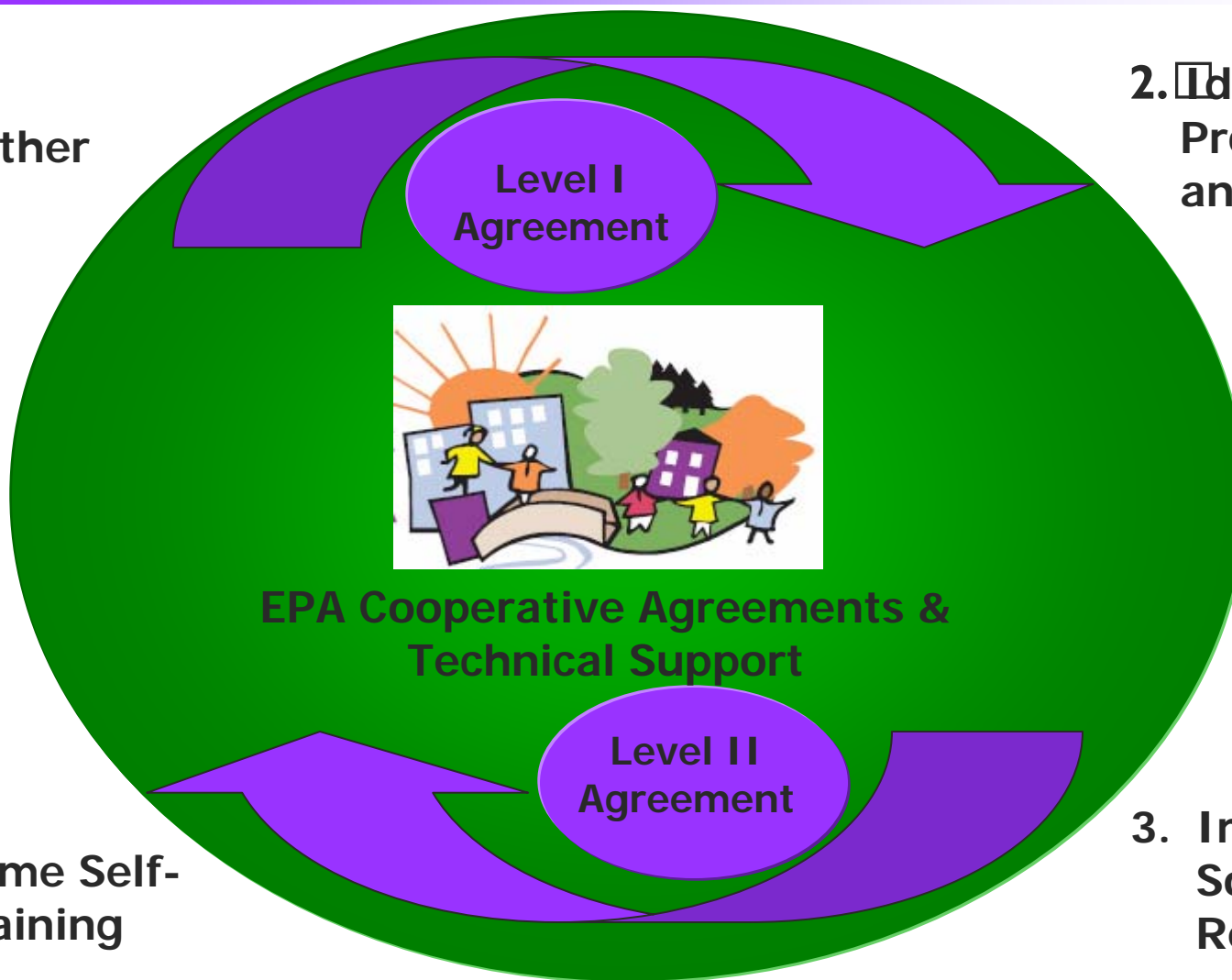
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CARE Strategies cont'd.

- Create a positive environment that encourages businesses to join the collaborative partnership

- Facilitate networking among CARE communities to share experiences and lessons learned

- Provide opportunities for colleges and universities to expand community partnerships

- Build long-term community capacity to continue improving the local environment

How CARE Works

1. Join Together

2. Identify Problems and Solutions

Level I Agreement

EPA Cooperative Agreements & Technical Support

Level II Agreement

4. Become Self-Sustaining

3. Implement Solutions/ Reduce Risks

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Funding CARE Communities

Nationally competed cooperative agreements will be awarded in two categories:

Level I
~ $75,000

Level II
~ $300,000

CARE is More than Money

EPA works directly with communities to provide:

- Technical support and information

- Scientific expertise and assessment

- Community planning to help identify and reduce risks

- EPA voluntary programs

- Networking opportunities

- Shared Learning

What Can Communities Gain From CARE?

- Risk reduction - unattainable through national regulations

- An improved understanding of risk

- Collaborative solutions to environmental problems

- Increased capacity for environmental stewardship

- A network of CARE communities to learn from and share experiences with

What Can Local Businesses Gain From CARE?

- Additional information and support to take advantage of EPA's voluntary programs regarding emissions reductions

- CARE helps businesses build new positive relationships in the community and develop new relationships with EPA, state and local governments

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CARE Creates Change in EPA

- Builds on successes and lessons learned from current and past community based programs

- Expands on existing safeguards & regulatory structure to include more partners and address community-specific issues

- Changes the way environmental programs are framed so they are seen the way citizens see them – a cumulative risk approach

- Encourages two-way communication between EPA and communities

- Provides a process for tracking results

CARE Tools for Communities

- **Resource Guide**
  - A map of the EPA website for communities

- **Voluntary Program Guide**
  - A description of the EPA voluntary programs of greatest benefit to communities

- **Roadmap** (fall)
  - A potential model for communities to assess local risks

All will be available on the CARE website
(www.epa.gov/care)

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The CARE Partners' Program

An additional way to become a CARE community

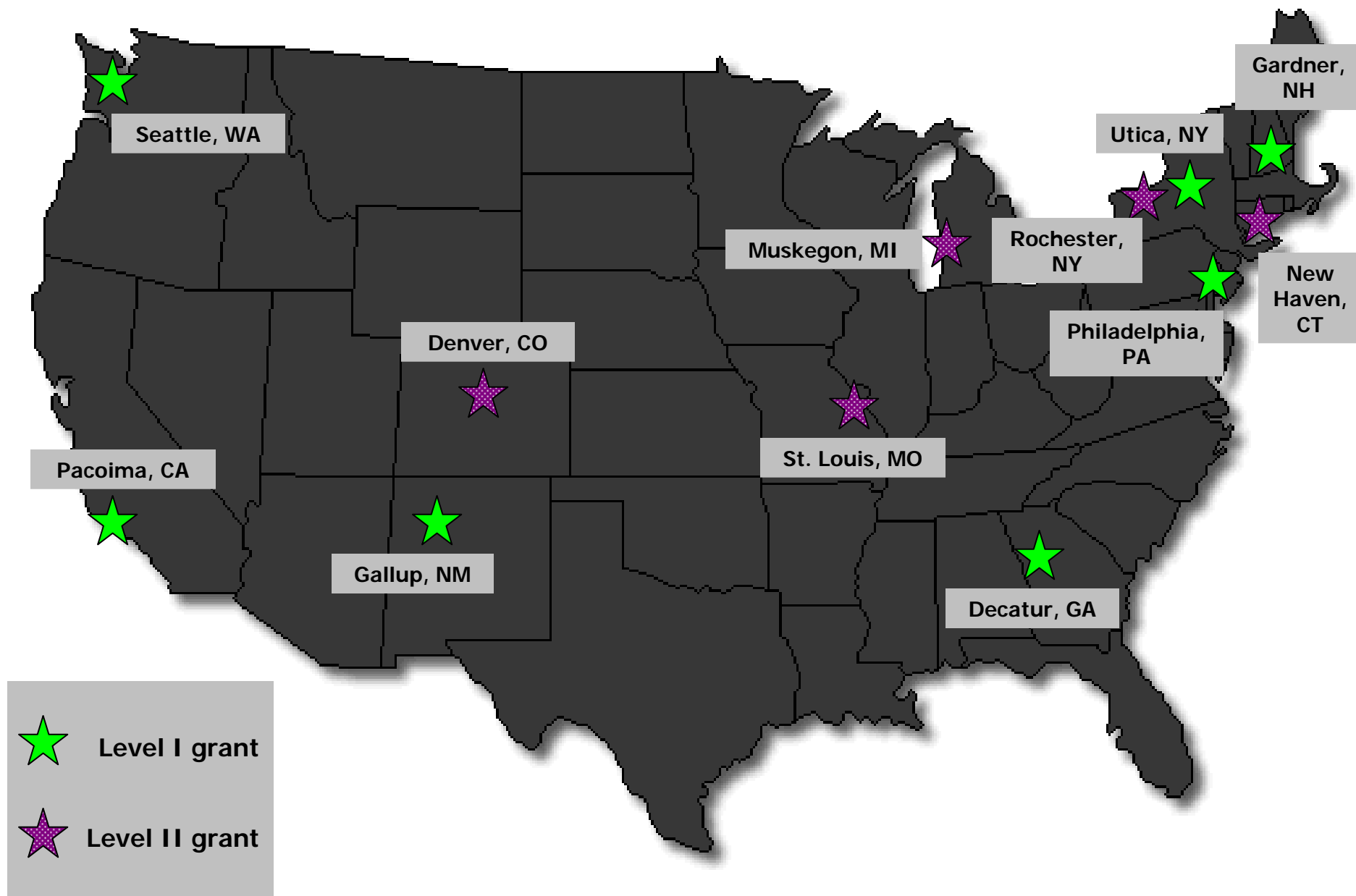## CARE Partner Communities agree:

- To find other funding sources

- To follow the CARE process and report their results

And will receive from EPA:

- Technical support

- Help from EPA regional staff

- National CARE trainings

- CARE network contacts

2005 CARE Communities

Seattle, WA

Gardner, NH

Utica, NY

Muskegon, MI

Rochester, NY

New Haven, CT

Denver, CO

Philadelphia, PA

St. Louis, MO

Pacoima, CA

Gallup, NM

Decatur, GA

★ Level I grant

★ Level II grant

CARE Contacts

- **CARE Hotline**
  - ○ 1-877-CARE-909

- **CARE Website**
  - ○ www.epa.gov/care