

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Environmental Justice Achievement Awards



*Recognizing Successful Partnerships
Achieving Public Health and Environmental Justice Goals*

The ReGenesis Project



Key ReGenesis Environmental Justice Partnership team members visit the Savannah, Georgia CARE Project.



ReGenesis members along with EPA and South Carolina Department of Environmental Control officials.



Representatives from Rhodia, ReGenesis, and EPA celebrate after a Rhodia-ReGenesis Dialogue Meeting.

EPA is pleased to present a 2009 Environmental Justice Achievement Award to the [ReGenesis Project](#) for its work to address environmental protection and community revitalization issues in the Arkwright community of Spartanburg, South Carolina.

The ReGenesis Project has demonstrated the creation, implementation, and sustainability of a successful private-public-community partnership, which has existed for several years and involves the community, local industry, and government agencies in Spartanburg, SC. The ReGenesis Project worked with 124 partners to raise public awareness and reverse the health impacts that industrial toxic wastes have had on the Spartanburg region. Over \$200 million has been leveraged to date to address environmental justice issues in this community, resulting in several site cleanups, cleaner air, and better access to health care for the community. The project established two ReGenesis Health Care centers that remain dedicated to reducing and eliminating economic, racial, social, gender, and age barriers to wellness in the community. The ReGenesis Project has also trained over 50 of its residents in environmental trades and empowered residents to address environmental justice issues directly.

As a result of the project's success, an advisory committee, the South Carolina Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (SCEJAC), was established to make recommendations to the state legislature on how to replicate the success of the ReGenesis project in other communities in South Carolina. Additionally, the project has worked to create affordable housing, a park, and senior housing. Currently, ReGenesis is seeking to design a community-supported revitalization plan to create the first Spartanburg public golf course project on the site of two Superfund sites and several Brownfield sites after cleanup is completed. This partnership demonstrates how urban planning and environmental protection can address health disparities.

Partners

ReGenesis Economic Development Corporation
University of South Carolina, Upstate
Spartanburg County, South Carolina
Spartanburg Housing Authority

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
City of Spartanburg, South Carolina
Rhodia Inc., Spartanburg Plant, South Carolina