

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement

Awards 2003-2004

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831550-01-0 Grant Application ID 2003058 EPA Region: 4 State: AL
West Anniston Foundation (WAF)

Health Education Coalition (HEC) Project

Issue

The city of Anniston is 49% black and 49% white. Of the people within Anniston who are 25 years and older, 26% do not have high school diplomas. Over 20 of Anniston families live below the poverty level. There are major issues that Anniston is facing: (1) PCB exposure and contamination problems; (2) destruction of the nation's chemical weapons stockpiles at the Anniston Army Depot; (3) high levels of lead have been found at 270 properties in West Anniston; and (4) residents of West Anniston are suspicious of the government's commitment to their environmental and public health concerns. Because West Anniston is home for the Anniston PCB Superfund site and the Anniston Lead Superfund site, the citizens are primarily concerned with PCB contamination into the area's air, lakes, rivers and soil.

Environmental Statutes

1. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
2. Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a)

Goal

The primary goal is to educate the citizens, especially the youth, of West Anniston about PCB exposure. There is a cloud of fear among the residents resulting from misinformation and lack of understanding regarding environmental and public health issues, especially PCB exposure. Although West Anniston residents have some level of awareness of environmental problems, residents experience stress and anxiety about health threats that may not actually be imminent. By targeting the young people of West Anniston, the goal is to break the cycle of misinformation so that the citizens can make the best and most informed decisions regarding their health and environmental needs.

Project

The project will involve the formation of the Health Education Coalition (HEC) that will include WAF and its partners. The primary objective of this project is to build capacity among the impacted community, healthcare providers, the public school system, state and local government, and other stakeholders to address the need for improvements in healthcare education concerning PCB exposure and prevention. The project will primarily focus on the development of a youth-driven, community-based video to educate the youth and community about PCB exposure under an overall health education program. The project will work with Anniston city schools to incorporate basic health education on PCB exposure, prevention and related health effects. Youth organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club and Concern for Children will also incorporate the video and other projects developed through HEC into their existing youth programs.

Partnership

Calhoun County Health Dept., Anniston City Board of Education/Anniston City School System (incorporate basic health education on PCB exposure prevention and related health effects into Anniston City Schools health-related programs), Family Services, Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce, Interfaith Ministries, Boys and Girls Club of East Central Alabama (help coordinate activities which provide health education to youth), Concern for Children (develop and implement "First Steps" program to incorporate health education for PCB exposure prevention geared toward first time parents), East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Corporation, St. Michael's Clinic, etc.

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003

Selected for Award

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831614-01-0 Grant Application ID 2003104 EPA Region: 9 State: CA
Coalition for West Oakland Revitalization (CWOR)

Neighborhood Environmental Indicators Project

Issue

West Oakland is one of the poorest neighborhoods in the Bay Area, in that 60% of the households earn less than \$25,000 per year. Forty percent (40%) of West Oakland residents report no working members in their household. In addition, over 50% of those 16 years and older are not in the labor pool. Forty-five percent (45%) have not graduated from high school. Only 13% have college education, which is 30% less than Oakland and the Bay Area. According to the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Report, in 1998, West Oakland had the highest amount of toxic air pollution of any Oakland zip codes. The amount of air pollution released in West Oakland was nearly as much as the rest of Oakland combined. With the expansion of the Port of Oakland, diesel exhaust will increase dramatically as the 9,000 truck trips per day, that currently travel through and around West Oakland, are expanded to over 22,000 truck trips per day by 2010.

Environmental Statutes

1. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
2. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)

Goal

The primary objective is to reduce environmental impacts, particularly air pollution, and that will eventually lead to a reduction in negative health impacts. Updated indicators and identifying new indicator information will provide tools and an infrastructure to community members to assess the impact of their activities and take action in improving the air quality in and around their community. The project will build technical and leadership capacity to ensure that the community will continue to use and track indicators to advocate for improvements in their environment. These goals will be accomplished by developing: (1) an Environmental Justice Resource Center; (2) accessible materials to present information to the public using secondary data collection, accessing agency/government databases, and GIS; (3) presentations, brochures, fact-sheets, and indicator reports; and (4) the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project Committee which will address issues measured in the indicator report.

Project

The grant recipient will address the air quality problem by creating an Environmental Justice Resource Center and materials concerning air quality issues to be housed in the Center so that residents can be educated on the problems facing their community. The EIP will also work to identify any new issues and propose projects to address the community's concerns.

Partnership

The Partnership will include the grant recipient, Coalition for West Oakland Revitalization, and Environmental Science Institute, Pacific Institute, West Oakland Asthma Coalition, Oak Center Neighborhood Association, Attitudinal Healing, Environmental Justice Academy, East Bay Conservation Corps, Ethnic Health Institute, Urban Strategies Council, Bay Area Consortium for Quality Health Care, Habitat for Humanity, and Jubilee West. The different partners will form the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project (EIP) Committee, a cross-section of organizations, agencies, and community members. The EIP process formulates community goals in facilitated brainstorming sessions with community members to prioritize issues. When issues are identified, organizations within the committee conduct research and gather data to inform and educate community members. Then, training is conducted, and EIP representatives will work directly on community campaigns to address issues of concern

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003

Selected for Award

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831605-01-0 Grant Application ID 2003039

EPA Region: 9 State: CA

Marin County Grassroots Leadership Network (MCGLN)

Marin Community Collaborative Project

Issue

The communities to be served are Marin City (a section of the City of Sausalito) and the "Canal District" of the City of San Rafael, California. These two communities are distinct in Marin County as they are populated almost exclusively by low-income persons of color as opposed to the surrounding population of Marin County, which is largely Caucasian and affluent. Marin City has a population of 2,500 and is geographically isolated from the other parts of Marin County with only one major artery for entrance and exit. The population is ethnically diverse with large East Asian, Hispanic, and African American populations. The population in the "Canal District" is largely Hispanic, with many households residing in over-crowded apartment units. The major health issue that concerns the residents is an anecdotally reported higher than average cancer rate. The social issues that exist in Marin City are an increasing sense of isolation and dislocation as the community experiences an ever-widening economic gap between newer homeowners and the public housing residents.

Environmental Statutes

1. Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3)
2. Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1442 (c)(3)(A)
3. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
4. FIFRA, Section 20(a)

Goal

The overarching goals are: (1) to understand the reasons, and possible mitigating measures, for Marin County's high cancer rates; (2) to include, for both investigative and mitigating purposes, populations that have been historically excluded from investigative studies and mitigating measures; and (3) to bring community-building advocacy, and scientific access skills to two historically disempowered communities. This objective will be accomplished through a collaborative partnership between the grant recipient, the Marin County Grassroots Leadership Network, and its three formal partners: (1) CWTI, Health and Disability Researcher; (2) Electric Clean; and (3) Isoji, a Marin City community organizing group. The recipient will also build upon the Marin Cancer Project which has collaborated with, and is able to provide access to, a wide range of individuals, communities, scientists, politicians, and government agencies.

Project

To design and test in-depth personal interview and environmental data collection instruments and methods, focusing on possible environmental contaminant exposures at work or at home. These specific scientific goals were arrived at by the Marin Cancer Project through six months of research subcommittee meetings.

Partnership

Marin Cancer Project has collaborated with, and is able to provide access to, a wide range of individuals, communities, scientists, politicians, and government agencies. The Marin Cancer Project has already lined up for this project: Kathy Busher (will offer to collect the water samples for free); Judie Erb Ph.D. in Physics (owns Three-Fold Sensors and will analyze some water samples for free); Lloyd Morgan, an electrical engineer (will analyze the possibility of "dirty electrical power" for free); and Lyz Cullman (will find scientists to provide the drilling for the soil samples for free). Joan Ripple, a professional for the past 25 years in scientific data collection is also pledged to provide the technical training to all participants involved. Partners include: (1) CWTI, Health and Disability Researcher; (2) Electric Clean; and (3) Isoji, a Marin City community organizing group.

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003

Selected for Award

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831555-01-0 Grant Application ID 2003137 EPA Region: 9 State: CA
Pacoima Beautiful (PB)

Pacoima Lead Poisoning Prevention Community Program

Issue

Pacoima is located in the northeast San Fernando Valley in the city of Los Angeles. Eighty five percent of the population is Latino, 8% African American, and 7% Asian, Caucasian, and Native American. Forty six percent of all Pacoima residents live below the poverty line. Pacoima is an underserved, vulnerable, at-risk community, and the children are especially vulnerable to lead poisoning. According to the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, over 5,000 children in Pacoima under the age of 6 are likely to have high lead levels in their blood. Pacoima Beautiful began investigating lead issues in 1999, when it organized a community survey with Cal State University, Northridge faculty. Conducted in 21 Pacoima neighborhoods, the survey assessed community knowledge about environmental hazards and health. Results revealed that Pacoima families knew very little about lead-related problems.

Environmental Statutes

1. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
2. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)

Goals

Through community-focused and culturally appropriate educational outreach, the project is intended to increase the capacity of community residents to access to the screening services and improve resource networks to prevent and reduce lead hazards in Pacoima.

Project

A report on the findings from health care provider and housing surveys will be prepared with the intent of advocating for more lead control in the community. Pacoima residents will receive the report, in Spanish and in English, and develop a presentation targeted at local officials. A strategy will be developed to change state and local laws and codes to eliminate lead hazards. Neighborhoods will be targeted to control lead hazards, and the process will serve as a model for other neighborhoods in other communities. Furthermore, a forum will be convened of interested stakeholders to link community development with lead poisoning prevention. In the end, it is anticipated that a housing registry will be developed listing lead free homes and apartments. Finally, health access issues will address barriers to lead screening and by Pacoima residents with healthcare options.

Partnership

Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, Valley Care Community Consortium, Northeast Valley Health Corporation, Neighborhood Legal Services of LA County, Cal State University Northridge, UCLA Family Medicine Dept., Coalition for Clean Air, and Healthy Homes Collaborative. As the project continues to expand both in scope and depth, Pacoima Beautiful continues to bring in other partners. For example, the UCLA Family Medicine Department, Coalition for Clean Air, and Healthy Homes Collaborative have recently joined the partnership.

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003

Selected for Award

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831610-01-0 Grant Application ID 2003071 EPA Region: 8 State: CO
Bessemer Association for Neighborhood Development (BAND)

Bessemer/Salt Creek Neighborhoods Environmental Health Initiative

Issue

The two communities of Bessemer and Salt Creek are minority communities, predominantly Latino and Native American. The communities are low-income and Bessemer is 70% Hispanic, and 63% of the residents have incomes less than \$25,000. Salt Creek is one of the oldest settlements in the area formed by Native Americans. It is an unincorporated neighborhood of 648 people bordering the Oregon Steel Mill to the East. In this neighborhood, 514 people or 79.3% are Hispanic, and another 29 people or 4.5% are American Indian. Both communities have been subject to disproportionate amounts of air pollution from heavy industry nearby. In addition to the existing mill and a coal-fired power plant, three facilities, including two major stationary sources and an aluminum smelter, are in various stages of permitting. Some residents report using well water for gardening and even drinking. This well water has been prohibited from use by the Health Department.

Environmental Statutes

1. Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1442(c)(3)(A)
2. Clean Air Act 103(b)(3)

Goal

BAND's main objective is the creation of a neighborhood health survey which will give residents of both neighborhoods a chance to have input in deciding on the specific goals of the study. Their ideas will be passed on to the researcher for consideration in the study's design. This goal will be accomplished by developing: (1) a neighborhood health survey and (2) informational materials for community residents on the incoming industries affecting the community.

Project

The project will be the creation of a neighborhood health survey, and it will be the first step for residents to organize effectively, to set community goals, to learn more about the environmental/public health problems they face, and to plan concerted action to lessen future risk. Dissemination of the results will give participants a chance to learn more about themselves in a context to provide opportunity for education about a variety of health issues and personal practices (such as smoking) that may make some conditions worse (e.g., aggravate asthma for a child in the household).

Partnership

The partnership includes the grant recipient, Bessemer Association for Neighborhood Development, and Citizens Alliance for Salt Creek Action, Citizens for Clean Air and Water in Pueblo/Southern Colorado, Pueblo City-County Health Department, and Colorado State University-Pueblo. Pueblo City-County Health Department and its connection with the state health department has a unique function in the partnership because it will help to bring other partners to the Collaborative Problem-solving model through its various associations.

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003
Selected for Award

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831554-01-0 *Grant Application ID 2003091* **EPA Region:** 8 **State:** CO
Groundwork Denver Inc.

The EJ Outreach Partnership (EJOP)

Issue

The residents of the north Denver communities of Highland, Sunnyside, Elyria/Swansea, Globeville, Cole, Clayton, and the southern edge of Commerce City live in a heavily industrialized area with nearly 500 regulated facilities and 3 Superfund sites. This part of Denver is also a major transportation corridor with over 10,000 trucks passing through or idling in truck stops and nearby facilities. Over 70% of the residents are Latino with 26% speaking only Spanish. One-third of those who live in these neighborhoods are foreign born. To engage these residents, it is not enough to overcome the language barrier. Lack of trust, cultural differences, and educational barriers need to be overcome.

Environmental Statutes

1. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
2. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)

Goal

The goal of this project is to have a central location where the community can go to acquire information about the environmental and health hazards in their surrounding area. The project specifically targets some of the most marginalized residents of the area; families who use Spanish as their primary language and those who suffer from technological gaps. By providing an information center, it is hoped that the Spanish-speaking community will become more engaged in the policy-making process that affects their environment and health. They will become more aware of the surrounding problems, and the center will help to overcome the barriers to participation.

Project

Groundwork Denver will establish the Centro de Salud Ambiental (The Center for Environmental Health) (CSA), and it will function as a sustainably supported center that is specifically for Spanish-speaking only or bi-lingual Hispanics. The purpose of the Center is to provide a place where they can find literature on environmental toxics in their native language, where residents of the target communities can do research either in the library or via computer over the internet with the help of staff. This Center will be the place where Spanish-speaking only or bi-lingual people can come for information about their environment and how contaminants affect their health.

Partnership

FrontRange Earth Force, Office of Councilperson Judy Montero, North East Metro Pollution Prevention Alliance (NEMPPA), Tri-County Health, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. In addition, the partners have agreed to enlarge and extend the funding for the project by looking at private industry and government for support of the project.

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Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003

Selected for Award

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831619-01-0 Grant Application ID 2003179 EPA Region: 4 State: FL
Fresh Ministries Inc. (FM)

Community Centered Environmental & Cleanup In East Jacksonville, Florida

Issue

The East Jacksonville neighborhood is located to the northeast of downtown Jacksonville in a neighborhood that has been in decline for over 60 years. The boundaries around the community are the Arlington Expressway, the railroad tracks near Ionia Street to the west, Eighth Street to the north, and the St. Johns River to the east. East Jacksonville comprise the census tracts 4 and 5. According to the 2000 census, tract 4 has an African American population of 95.5%. Seventy percent of the population have an average annual household income of less than \$25,000. The residents of census tract 5 has an African American population of 75.9%, and 36.1% of the population have an average annual household income of less than \$25,000. There are considerably more industrial uses next to residential uses than anywhere else in Jacksonville. Property conditions are in a deteriorating condition in many areas with numerous vacant lots.

Environmental Statutes

1. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)
2. Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3)
3. Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1442 (c)(3)(A)

Goal

The primary objective of the project is to bring awareness of environmental conditions and environmentally-related diseases in East Jacksonville by developing a planning tool, the "Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health" (PACE EH). This tool will recognize environmental health as a foundation of public health practice and will be used to assist local public health agencies and their partners with addressing local environmental issues. Furthermore, this project will build upon a 2001 East Jacksonville Neighborhood Action Plan which did not focus on the potential problems caused by proximity of the residential areas to old heavy industry areas.

Project

The planning tool will enable health care workers to assess the environmental and public health needs of the community residents. The area of East Jacksonville has been affected by environmental exposures from industrial facilities in proximity to their neighborhoods. The additional information gathered to build on the 2001 East Jacksonville Action Plan will motivate leaders and citizens in the community to improve environmental conditions in the neighborhood. Some of the activities under this project will include: (1) the planning tool ("Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health"); (2) environmental assessment portion of the 2001 East Jacksonville Neighborhood Action Plan; and (3) attendance of citizens who participate in the Citizens Advisory Committee and sign up for special education program. These activities will eventually lead to changes in environmentally related diseases in the area and remediation of chemically contaminated sites.

Partnership

The project will be accomplished through a partnership with Fresh Ministries as the grant recipient, and the partners which include the City of Jacksonville and its various local government agencies and departments, the University of North Florida, the Duval County Health Department, and First Coast Black Business Investment Corporation. New partners will be identified and recruited to strengthen the partnership structure, and existing partnerships will be strengthened through the application of the PACE EH model and workshops with the community.

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003

Selected for Award

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831606-01-0 Grant Application ID 2003042 EPA Region: 4 State: GA
Harambee House Inc. (HH)

From Assessment to Action: Hudson Hill Community

Issue

Hudson Hill is located in Savannah, Georgia on the west side of town. It is situated across the street from a paper mill, International Paper formerly known as Union Camp. From a recent survey conducted by Harambee House, many residents reported feeling that the neighborhood has been neglected and abandoned by elected officials and by the Community Development Corporation movement that seeks to revitalize and rebuild the community. In the last 10 years, residents have been plagued by an increase in drug traffic, gang activity, housing deterioration, high school dropouts and unemployment: while witnessing a decrease in health status, home ownership and property values, and economic growth. According to a summary statistics from the US census, the population within a three-mile radius of the International Paper company is 25,805. The racial characteristics of the community include 8,386 whites, 17,243 African Americans, and 176 from other races. Within this 3-mile radius, is the community of Hudson Hill. Hudson Hill has a population of 355, and 353 are African American. The unemployment rate is 13.30%, and 50.60% of the population fall below the poverty line. For the past 10 years, residents have complained about damage to their health and homes due to emissions releases from the paper mill. In Florida A&M University's Final Report to the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry in December 1999, 73% of the respondents stated that they believed that there was a problem with environmental contamination, and 64.9% believed that Union Camp/International Paper was polluting the community.

Environmental Statutes

1. Toxic Substance Control Act, Section 10(a)
2. Clean Air Act 103(b)(3)

Goal

The primary goal to focus on the health problems and damage to homes due to emissions releases from the International Paper Company. HH will conduct a community capacity-building program to mobilize and give voice to the Hudson Hill community to articulate their collective concerns, to learn negotiation skills, and to understand the points of contact, roles, and responsibilities of local, state and federal agencies. The project will develop: (1) an educational program; and (2) a comprehensive action plan. Both components will provide a process that involves the community in assessing its environmental/public health needs and concerns through techniques like the National Association of County and City Health Officials' (NACCHO) Assessment tool.

Project

The project intends to build consensus among the partners around the draft goals through its planning charette. A two-phased charette process will be used to allow the community to develop its own vision and to identify issues and strategic goals. In the second phase of the charette process, other stakeholders will join in and expand the issues and bring their own experiences and desires to the community vision. Then the entire collaborative partnership will collectively design the strategic goals.

Partnership

The partnership includes the Chatham County Health Department, Savannah State University, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Florida A&M University, and the Neighborhood Improvement Association. The partners will be broken into a coordinating team and a communications team. The coordinating team facilitates all project activities, partnership meetings, and work schedules, while the communications team will distribute all information. Other teams and/or working groups may be developed over time to achieve project goals. The partnership also has the potential for growth. There is already engagement with other businesses, banks, government officials, academic institutions, civil and cultural organizations.

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003

Selected for Award

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831556-01-0 Grant Application ID 2003070 EPA Region: 9 State: HI
Anahola Homesteaders Council (AHC)

Project Imua

Issue

As Hawaii became a state, sugarcane production was the main source for employment on Kauai. In 2001, the island's largest sugar company, AMFAC, halted its sugar operations. The land has been used as a dump site for abandoned vehicles, hazardous waste materials, and discarded household goods. Streambeds have become contaminated and have become the breeding ground for invasive plants and an infectious disease called leptospirosis. Leptospirosis warnings are posted on trees along the Anahola River where recreational enjoyment and fish once flourished. For many Anahola residents, one of the most disturbing aspects of the environmental and public health issues facing the community is the uncertainty and lack of information that complicates discussion of these environmental and public health concerns.

Environmental Statutes

1. Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1442(c)(3)(A)
2. Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a)
3. Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3)

Goal

The primary goal is to engage the Anahola community in an investigation of Anahola's environment. Currently, the community does not understand the environmental and public health issues they face, and so their fears are based on speculation and lack of knowledge. By conducting this environmental assessment, the community can take ownership of the problems they face and work collaboratively to fix them. Furthermore, the Community Plan will be used to engage local and regional governments who have largely ignored the problems that the Anahola community faces.

Project

The end product of the Community Plan will be a "living document" suitable for a Web site that permits the reader to "drill down into the document" to access the research, references and logs of the various Project Imua activities that provide background information and support the conclusions in the Plan. The project will use a consultant, but the consultant will be there to consult and teach more than to conclude, and the community will do most of the groundwork which involves sampling and testing. For instance, the students at Kanuikapono Charter School will perform the majority of the physical data collection and analysis under the supervision of experienced team leaders, experienced government specialists and the project consultant. The final hard document will serve to educate the youth, elderly and government officials who are concerned about the environmental degradation left behind with the departure of the sugar plantation from Anahola. Everyone in the area will have a means to access this "living document" and be tied to the problems facing the community. This document will also be a powerful tool to demonstrate to the government partners the seriousness of the environmental and public health issues faced by the community and will put to rest any speculation about the nature of the problems. The production of this "living document" will require collaboration between community participants, subject matter experts and project organizers. It will provide the means by which the community will establish ownership of the project and take responsibility for carrying the work forward.

Partnership

Local charter school, community (parents and other local citizens), County of Kauai, local real-estate developers (their vast development of the area is contributing to the poor water quality), local businesses (Heli USA has committed to providing helicopter service for aerial photos & transportation to remote locations), State of Hawaii Energy Resources Division, Hawaii Department of Health, Hawaii Office of State Planning, State Water Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003

Selected for Award

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831551-01-0 Grant Application ID 2003037
People for Community Recovery Inc. (PCR)

EPA Region: 5 State: IL

Environmental Justice for Altgeld Gardens, Chicago, Illinois

Issue

According to the Chicago Housing Authority, the population of nearly 4,500 is approximately 99% African American, with over 300 disabled residents and some 2,000 children under the age of 14. A third to one half of Altgeld's housing units stand dilapidated and vacant, and there are concerns about lead and asbestos in the buildings. The environment in and around Altgeld Gardens Public Housing Project suffers from soil contamination from prior land uses and ongoing illegal dumping, air contaminants from area industry and highways, and water contamination from decades of industry outflow and landfill operations. Some challenges span environmental health conditions, housing, employment availability, transportation, industry, and land-use.

Environmental Statutes

1. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
2. Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a)
3. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)

Goal

To create an Environmental Justice Research and Training Center in Altgeld Gardens to serve as a focal point of community skills development and job training, and a hub for contaminant research and remedial activity. These might include monitoring and abatement of contaminants, environmental management systems and industry auditing, bio-and phyto-remediation, and ecological restoration and landscaping. The Center would provide lab facilities, meeting and classroom space, and a base for conducting trainings, workshops, and research in a setting where the work would serve real and immediate needs throughout the Calumet River region. The Center would expand on resident-led environmental activities and assist with many kinds of business incubation and education – such as gardens, food production, landscaping, a farmers market, greenhouses, renewable energy, and green manufacturing.

Project

The Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving model will serve as a virtual start-up for the Environmental Justice Research and Training Center by having the various partners focus on project area activities designed to build awareness, knowledge, skills, alliances, and momentum in order to bring the Training Center together. Activities include community health assessments, production of educational materials focusing on environmental health, and training of people in area clean up and basic remediation activities.

Partnership

University of Wisconsin - Madison, Chicago State University Department of Geography/Calumet Environmental Resource Center, St. James Hospital Occupational and Environmental Health Center, Indiana Clean Manufacturing Technology and Safe Materials Institute, Institute for Local Self Reliance. Chicago's Department of Environment and the City of Chicago will also be engaged in the initiative. As the project is underway, PCR will work with local government in the smaller municipalities near Altgeld. Both the University of Wisconsin and Chicago State University offer research, administrative, and educational resources to PCR. In addition to commitments by university students, faculty and staff will work in the area and to assist PCR's efforts, these partnerships offer an important source of social "bridging capital" for the organization and local residents. PCR will also have access through the universities to expensive and specialized technical equipment and analytical capability. The partnership with St. James Hospital and Dr. Herbert White will provide medical and epidemiological supervision and guidance. Both the Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR) and Purdue's Clean Manufacturing Technology and Safe Materials Institute (CMTI) will help PCR bridge gaps between industry/business and environmental/community-based organizations. Through their training and assistance, they will help create important dialogues that can lead toward mutually supportive collaborations and problem-solving.

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003

Selected for Award

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831553-01-0 Grant Application ID 2003003 EPA Region: 7 State: KS
Oak Grove Neighborhood Association (OGNA)

Back to the Park: Collaborative Problem Solving on the Oak Grove Community

Issue

The Oak Grove neighborhood is located in the northeastern part of Wyandotte County in Kansas City, KS. There are 7,833 residents, 91% are African American, 8% are Caucasian and the other 1% includes Hispanics, Asians, American Indians, and others. According to the 2000 Census, the median household income for the area was approximately \$22,500, and 51% of households have an income of less than or equal to \$12,500. Before becoming John Garland Park (a community park located in the Oak Grove neighborhood), the property operated as a landfill from 1972-1974 and accepted municipal and industrial waste. When the landfill was closed it was covered with clean soil and used as a community park. In the late 1980s, however, the park was closed due to environmental concerns. The Kansas City Department of Health and Environment continues to monitor the site and work toward reducing seepage of contaminated water from the landfill and safely venting the methane gas to prevent migration and build-up in nearby homes.

Environmental Statutes

1. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
2. Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a)

Goal

The overarching goal is to move forward the community-driven redevelopment of John Garland Park. OGNA will create the John Garland Park Task Force to organize the necessary stakeholders in the redevelopment initiative and will oversee and monitor progress toward this goal.

Project

The Oak Grove Neighborhood Association will create the John Garland Park Task Force to organize the necessary stakeholders in the redevelopment initiative and monitor progress toward the goal of reopening the park. The Task Force will develop a redevelopment plan for implementing the Oak Grove community's vision for John Garland Park, to include: (1) identifying and securing funding; (2) identifying and organizing human resources; and (3) assuring the redeveloped park is consistent with Oak Grove's vision, but will not compromise the safety and integrity of the landfill cap and monitoring systems.

Partnership

Associated Youth Services, Kansas State University-Center for Hazardous Substance Research, Faith Lutheran Church, Commissioner Nathan Barnes, the Quindaro Ruins/Underground Railroad Site. Other stakeholders include Unified Government Parks and Recreation, Unified Government Wyandotte County, Environmental Protection Agency, Kansas City Parks and Recreation-Public Works, and Kansas City Parks and Recreation-Community Development and Planning.

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003

Selected for Award

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831613-01-0 Grant Application ID 2003094 EPA Region: 6 State: LA
Louisiana Environmental Justice Project (LEJP)

New Orleans Lead Education and Advocacy Development (NO LEAD) Capacity Building Project

Issue

The target neighborhood for this project is in New Orleans' 8th Ward. This target area is a densely residential, African American neighborhood with a mix of low-income and working class families. To demonstrate the poverty in this community, the area high school has 83 % of its students qualify for the Free Lunch program. In a Louisiana Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program/Childhood Blood Lead Surveillance System, a total of 580 Ward 8 children between the ages of 6 months and 5 years were screened for lead poisoning during 2002. Of these, 118 (20%) had at least one lead level result of 10 or more micrograms of lead per deciliter, which is almost 10 times the percentages estimated by the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.

Environmental Statutes

1. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)
2. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)

Goal

The primary objective is create a program, "NO LEAD", which seeks to significantly impact the rate of lead poisoning hazards in New Orleans' 8th Ward by coordinating the efforts of a number of participants to educate and to provide renovation work on affected properties. The "NO LEAD" program will conduct the following activities:(1) samples collected from houses for lead hazards and (2) creation of the Pre-Apprenticeship/Math Tutorial Program. These activities will lead to remediation of homes contaminated by lead and create job training for young adults in the environmental area.

Project

A lead assessment program will provide information which will be used to develop the Pre-Apprentice Program and Math Tutorial Program. These programs will involve the community's young adults in the renovation of homes with lead hazards. This will not only address the lead issue in the community but will empower local residents to participate in eliminating the lead problem themselves and will develop technical job skills for young adults in the environmental field.

Partnership

The partnership will include Louisiana Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, New Orleans Department of Housing and Neighborhood Development, ACORN Community Land Association of Louisiana, Mayor's Office of Environmental Affairs, New Orleans' Health Department, Tulane University Center for Applied Environmental Public Health & Lead Busters, Xavier University, Carpenter's Millwright and Piledrivers Apprenticeship and Training Program, Urbanheart Afterschool Program, and Louisiana ACORN. In addition to these partners, the recipient is reaching out to businesses that provide contracting services, materials, cleaning, and other services that might assist families in making their homes lead safe. The project is also reaching out for funding via grants, city agencies, and banking institutions.

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003

Selected for Award

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831544-01-0 Grant Application ID 2003032 EPA Region: 1 State: MA
Coalition for a Better Acre (CBA)

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving Model

Issue

The area of focus for this project is a distressed neighborhood known as "the Acre" and 3 other neighborhoods (Back Central, Lower Highlands, and Lower Centralville) in Lowell, MA. According to the 2000 Census, 36.8% of the residents in this area had incomes below the poverty line. The Lowell Asthma Coalition reports that a study of children enrolled in Head Start classes in Lowell found that nearly one-third, 32%, of the 3 and 4 year olds had difficulties with asthma. Air pollution in low-cost, rental housing is a major cause of rising asthma rates. The contributing factors to poor indoor air quality include lead paint problems, roach infestations, mold and dust. Another area of concern is reducing the solid waste generated in the city. Promoting a recycling program will prevent solid waste from ending up in landfills or incinerators that have a direct impact on environmental health. Furthermore, educating the public that leads to increased recycling of more toxic items will also improve the environment and public health. The population is made up of 26% Hispanic; 26% Caucasian; 24% Asian (Cambodian); 19% Mixed Race; 6% African American.

Environmental Statutes

1. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
2. Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a)
3. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)

Goals

Residents will learn that there are steps each person can take to address problems of indoor air pollution, solid waste disposal, and recycling, and that additional community-wide steps will be needed to successfully address the full array of factors creating indoor air pollution problems and other environmental and health problems.

Project

The 3 partner organizations will carry out 12 "toxics in the home" educational sessions featuring a natural, non-toxic cleaning products baskets and distribute asthma barrier products to local residents. Residents will learn that there are steps each person can take to address problems of indoor air pollution, and that additional community-wide steps will be needed to successfully address the full array of factors creating indoor air pollution problems in Lowell. Additionally, the partners will carry out 8 education sessions on solid waste and recycling. The education and training activities will serve as a way to recruit people into participating in the large community deliberations leading to the City's Master Plan. For example, Item 11.1.5 in the Master Plan calls for adopting a "pay as you throw" program for municipal trash collection. However, there is no focused process for moving city waste collection in that direction. Ultimately, this project is designed to help low-income residents work with city decision-makers to design a process that will build community support and formulate regulations leading to better indoor air quality and improvements in solid waste disposal and recycling.

Partnership

Lowell Community Health Center, the Center for Family, Work, and Community, City Government, University of Massachusetts Lowell and Community Leaders. The project will bring the city's large Asian, Hispanic, and lower-income white communities together to play a role in major policy decisions in the city through the City of Lowell's Master Planning Process.

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003

Selected for Award

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831543-01-0 Grant Application ID 2003165 EPA Region: 1 State: MA
Pioneer Valley Project Inc. (PVP)

Vietnamese Nail Salon Health Project

Issue

Vietnamese-owned nail salons are a source of employment for low-income Vietnamese women. Vietnamese nail salons dominate the low-cost sector of this industry based on a captive workforce that lacks employment alternatives and uses illegal, low cost chemicals. Nationally, Vietnamese salons make up an estimated 40-50% of the market. As many as 300 salons beyond the Springfield, MA region employ Springfield residents. Nail technicians are often working 10-12 hours in poorly ventilated rooms with hazardous and volatile chemicals. Health hazards include miscarriages and reproductive disorders, damage to the nervous system, respiratory problems, and asthma. Lessons learned from this project may be replicated in other parts of the country since Vietnamese nail salons make up an estimated 40-50% of the nail industry, especially the low cost, quick "discount" salons.

Environmental Statutes

1. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
2. Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a)
3. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)

Goal

To resolve emerging conflicts between the expanding population of Vietnamese nail salons and health and safety regulators in order to protect the health of the Vietnamese nail technicians without driving away business. Low-cost services at Vietnamese nail salons have been built on hazardous work practices and conditions that put workers at risk for potential health problems ranging from rashes, asthma, respiratory problems, fungus infections, bacterial and viral infections, spontaneous miscarriages and stillbirths, cancers, and death. Currently, city and state regulators are working to increase regulations in an attempt to improve health and safety practices in this industry without understanding the socio-economic and cultural issues facing the Vietnamese population. The goal is to create a shared context for collaborative problem-solving by facilitating understanding among health providers, regulators, nail salon owners and technicians, and community leaders about the health concerns among low-income Vietnamese nail salon workers.

Project

This project will involve the following activities: 1) to develop a working group of health care providers, nail salon owners and technicians, community leaders in the Vietnamese community, and local regulators to work through a collaborative problem-solving process to assess and resolve health and related economic issues in salons; 2) to increase the capacity of Vietnamese nail salons to create healthy environments through the development and implementation of culturally appropriate education and technical assistance programs in Vietnamese; 3) to develop a demonstration salon that will model safe chemical management and reduction practices, and serve as a site for ongoing, hands-on training and demonstrations for the Vietnamese nail community; 4) to educate Vietnamese technicians and families suffering from health problems due to chemical exposures about the causes to enable them to take appropriate action to protect themselves; 5) to identify the most effective way for Vietnamese nail salons to work together to meet their common needs for affordable, less toxic products and ventilation equipment; 6) to increase the capacity of health care providers that service the Vietnamese community to identify symptoms of chemical exposure to develop appropriate treatments and educate patients; 7) to educate community leaders, the Vietnamese public and agencies that serve the community about the importance of safe management of chemicals in the nail industry; and 8) to gain the cooperation of local and state regulators through development of a long-term strategy to educate and assist salons to improve chemical management practices based on the results of this project.

Partnerships

Vietnamese American Civic Association, Vietnamese Health Project at Mercy Hospital, Springfield Southwest Health Clinic, Springfield Health Department, Toxics Use Reduction Institute, MA Association of Health Agents, MA Association of Health Boards, Dorchester Occupational Health Initiative, the Healthy Cosmetology Committee, Buddhist Temple & Catholic Apostolate, nail salon owners and workers. Also have commitments to cooperate from health regulators such as Springfield Health Dept. & the Division of Occupational Safety and MA Health Officers Association. They understand that the risks of failing to develop a cooperative solution could result in the loss of business as illustrated by Holyoke, located next to Springfield, which developed its own regulations that are closing down salons.

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003

Selected for Award

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831611-01-0 Grant Application ID 2003074 EPA Region: 3 State: MD
Baltimore Community for Environmental Justice Inc. (BCEJ)

Community Involvement in Urban Redevelopment

Issue

The target community is the section of East Baltimore that is undergoing extensive urban redevelopment. Nearly two-thirds of the area's adult population have not completed high school. Relative to Baltimore City, East Baltimore has a lower mean family income; nearly twice as many families live in poverty and have higher rates of unemployment. Moreover, one in three families lives below the Federal poverty level. Ninety-eight percent (98%) of the population is African American. Housing vacancy rates are also high. As part of the urban redevelopment efforts, many older abandoned houses will be demolished. Such housing is likely to contain environmental hazards such as lead paint, asbestos, allergens, and molds.

Environmental Statutes

1. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)
2. Toxic Substance Control Act, Section 10(a)

Goal

BCEJ's primary objective is to engage the community in partnership with various stakeholders involved in redevelopment to attain direct and meaningful community involvement in the planning and implementation of urban redevelopment activities; thereby ensuring that urban redevelopment is conducted in a manner that is safe and respectful of residents' needs and that a healthy environment is sustained during and after urban redevelopment.

Project

Community monitors will be formed who will be trained to perform block assessments to minimize environmental and safety hazards present during and after urban redevelopment activities. The block monitor positions will be part-time jobs available to interested residents. The project will build capacity and leadership development for addressing community concerns about current demolition practices by partnering with residents, city agencies, community organizations, and contractors. The project will establish: (1) the creation of community monitors/block captains/outreach educators; (2) health education materials involving redevelopment; and (3) presentations and forums held in the community about environmental and public health issues.

Partnership

The partnership will include the grant recipient, Baltimore Community for Environmental Justice, and East Baltimore Development Inc. (EBDI), Prohealthsol Community Services Foundation Inc., Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, and Environmental Justice Community Board. EBDI was created in 2002, under the Mayor's initiative to oversee and coordinate the planning and implementation of the redevelopment work in East Baltimore. This collaborative partnership will develop a public health model for urban redevelopment so that all parties will have meaningful input into EBDI's redevelopment process. Other partners who are not part of the formal partnership include the US Housing and Urban Development and the National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences. EBDI also has links to city agencies and will be helpful in bringing them in as potential partners.

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003

Selected for Award

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831546-01-0 Grant Application ID 2003141 EPA Region: 3 State: MD
Park Reist Corridor Coalition Inc. (PRCC)

Park Heights Environmental Justice Project Creating a Model for Success.

Issue

In Park Heights, almost 50% of the community, which is 96% African American, receives public assistance. The average income is between \$15,000 and \$24,000 with one-third of children living in poverty and in families headed by females. In this community, there are over 65 auto-body shops, ranging in existence from 3 to 15 years. Most of them are situated on sites that were previously warehouses. One third of all shops had a spray booth present at operation locations. The chemicals that are used in the paint operations include ethyl acetate, toluene, aliphatic polyisocyanates, hexamethylene diisocyanates, etc. In addition to the potentially hazardous chemical exposures, inconsistent waste disposal practices have been identified. The nearby auto body shops contribute to the environmental and health problems in the community by their lack of compliance with EPA and OSHA regulations.

Environmental Statutes

1. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
2. Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a)
3. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)

Goal

To develop a more sustained process for environmental assessment within the community, improve communication, and the ability to address environmental justice problems in the Park Heights community. The process will focus on building the capacity of the auto body shops to increase their environmental compliance and understanding of health risks in the community that may be posed by their solid waste practices and air emissions.

Project

An organization will be created to represent the auto body shop owners in the Park Heights community. Some examples of projects include identifying learning or resource needs of the auto body owners through their environmental compliance issues. The PRCC will introduce several new activities to further raise awareness about the auto body shop efforts and to educate community residents about other environmental health issues. A proposed activity is the development of an EJ workgroup of community members to develop and implement educational efforts for children, youth, pregnant women, and the elderly.

Partnership

Northwest Baltimore Community Association, Community Congress (local businesses, faith-base orgs, law enforcement), Park Heights Community Health Alliance, ClearCorps (Community Lead Education and Reduction Corps), Auto body repair shop owners, Caribbean Association of Park Heights, Maryland Dept. of Environment and EPA Region 3, Baltimore City, Morgan State University, and University of Maryland. Auto body shops represent a critical part of Park Heights commerce and will be important to maintain in the City's Master Plan. The City will assist auto body shop owners to obtain the appropriate permits and other requirements to be in compliance w/ city ordinances.

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003

Selected for Award

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831612-01-0 *Grant Application ID 2003076* **EPA Region:** 3 **State:** MD
Washington Village/Pigtown Neighborhood Planning Council (WVPNPC)

Operation: Clean & Healthy Neighborhood

Issue

Washington Village/Pigtown is a racially mixed (46.9% African American, 46.9% low income white), inner city neighborhood in Southwest Baltimore. The area is 40% industrial, 60% residential and is home to an estimated 5,700 people living in 2,155 households. Half of these households have an annual income of less than \$15,000. Out of 4,265 residents over the age of 16, less than half are employed. Forty-six percent (46%) of Pigtown's residents, 25 or older, have not graduated from high school or obtained a GED. The University of Maryland Baltimore School of Nursing conducted a study where 53.5% of the respondents said they or someone in their household had asthma. Maryland Asthma Surveillance Report for 2002 reported that asthma hospitalizations for zip codes in the Washington Village/Pigtown community ranked in the highest 15 zip codes for Maryland from 1993 through 1998.

Environmental Statutes

1. Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a)
2. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)

Goal

The objective of WVPNP's project is to significantly reduce litter, trash, and dumping in the neighborhood, not only through clean ups, but also by reducing the problem at the source. These goals will be achieved by developing a sanitation campaign which will establish: (1) a sanitation workgroup; (2) a Pigtown Trash Manual that will provide information on how to properly dispose of refuse and unwanted goods; (3) information sheets informing residents of free city transfer stations where dumping is allowed; and (4) a "Tool Bank" which is an information storehouse for sharing clean up efforts.

Project

The project will lead to reduced trash, more trees and greenspaces, and residents' use of the spaces in the neighborhoods will increase. Improving the environment of the neighborhood will also increase the potential for investment and economic revitalization, bringing new business and new jobs to the community. Finally, improved sanitation will reduce health hazards for residents. Some of the products to develop out of the project include: (1) a sanitation workgroup; (2) a Pigtown Trash Manual that will provide information on how to properly dispose of refuse and unwanted goods; (3) information sheets informing residents of free city transfer stations where dumping is allowed; and (4) a "Tool Bank" which is an information storehouse for sharing clean up efforts.

Partnership

The partnership includes the grant recipient, WVPNP, Baltimore City Forestry Division, Friends of Carroll Park, Maryland Department of the Environment, Open Gates, Parks & People Foundation, Paul's Place, St. Jerome's Head Start, Tri-Churches Housing, and University of Baltimore School of Nursing. A steering committee is envisioned for the partnership. In the beginning, it will be composed of the community-based organizational partners and residents, with the Maryland Department of the Environment and the University of Maryland lending technical expertise and support. However, other potential partners such as Baltimore City Departments of Planning and Public Works and the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods will be pursued as potential partners. The city, county, and state government offices will be especially helpful in linking the recipient to other organizations and community tools.

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Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003

Selected for Award

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831552-01-0 Grant Application ID 2003030 EPA Region: 5 State: MI
West Michigan Environmental Action Council (WMEAC)

Community Organizing Project

Issue

The community of focus for this project is the Madison/Baxter, and Grandville Avenue communities. The 2000 Census shows that 66% of the neighborhood residents are African American and 27% are identified as Hispanic. More than half the area residents report income below the federal poverty level. The Kent County Health Department reported that 805 of the 1,195 children were screened for lead in 2002. Of those children screened, 38% (228 children) had elevated blood lead levels. Included in this target area are 5 city blocks reported as among those with the most lead poisoned children in the State of Michigan.

Environmental Statutes

1. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
2. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)

Goal

As part of the "Get the Lead Out" (GTLO) strategic plan is the goal of ensuring that the community understands the causes of childhood lead poisoning and how to protect the children. Two strategies will be used: (1) develop and implement a countywide community awareness strategy; and (2) develop and implement a geographically concentrated education campaign for at risk residents.

Project

Developing a "Train the Trainer" curriculum for educating both professionals and caregivers around lead awareness. With this grant, the Education and Outreach committee will collaborate with the Madison/Baxter and ¡Saquemos el Plomo! citizen groups to develop and implement a primary prevention "Peer to Peer" Training component that will be included in the overall "Train the Trainer" curriculum for residents of the Madison/Baxter and Grandville communities. At a minimum, 30 community residents of the 3 target neighborhoods will receive the "Peer to Peer" training. The Community Organizer will coordinate this. This primary prevention approach will not only address residents' understanding of lead, but also expand their understanding of their neighborhoods, of available and missing resources, and of their potential role in the community as change agents. Development of the "Peer to Peer" training component will occur simultaneously with the completion of the community capacity-building process. Participation in the development of the curriculum will provide a practical and important opportunity for the citizens groups to help shape a proactive response to the issue of lead within their communities, hence facilitating the capacity-building aspects of the Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving model described in the grant proposal.

Partnership

WMEAC, Community Leadership Institute, ¡Saquemos el Plomo!, Madison/Baxter Citizen Group. By year three, the Community Organizers will also work closely with the community trainers and "Get the Lead Out" to identify community institutions such as neighborhood organizations, faith based institutions, schools, service providers, and other community resources that will sponsor the "Peer to Peer" training program in their settings. This effort will bring other resources to the table to expand the capacity and sustainability of the lead prevention effort beyond the grant period.

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003

Selected for Award

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831609-01-0 Grant Application ID 2003063 EPA Region: 7 State: MO
Neighbors Assisting Neighbors (NAN)

Mid County Community Clean Sweep

Issue

Currently, the overall population in this community is 75 % African American. The 2000 census reports a population of 23,201, and the overall population increased 6.4% since the last census. The median income ranged from \$21,500 to \$49,286 and home ownership constitutes 69.60%. Unemployment is 10.60%. The inner-ring suburbs of St. Louis County have experienced a slow and steady decline over the past 50 years. Residents who continue to live in the small municipalities lying on the edge of the city are faced with deteriorating housing stock, closed businesses, vacant lots and municipal governments that cannot provide services because of a decreasing tax base which is used revenue source. One of the most pressing problems the community faces is an accumulation of refuse in sewer via ducts, on vacant lots, alleys, public right-of-ways, and common spaces.

Environmental Statutes

1. Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a)
2. FIFRA, Section 20(a)

Goal

The first goal is to stem the loss of population within the inner ring suburbs of St. Louis County. The second goal is to clean-up, reduce, and recycle solid waste by (a) conducting 10 community clean-up campaigns; (b) raising awareness about related health and environmental hazards; and (c) encouraging reuse and recycling. The third goal is to reduce reliance on insecticides and rodenticides. These goals will be achieved by developing: (1) a plan to create "Mid-County Community Clean Sweep", a collaboration designed to coordinate clean up efforts and (2) guidance and mentoring workshops to educate on the costs of solid waste and ways to address this problem.

Project

Mid-County Community Clean Sweep proposes to coordinate 10 clean up efforts throughout the community. Clean up efforts will target solid waste dumped along the River Des Peres Culverts, on vacant lots, in alleys, on problem properties and common areas. Residents, business owners, and local public officials will mobilize to remove trash from their communities and establish a volunteer-based system for keeping the community free of waste, reducing the amount of waste, and recycling.

Partnership

The partnership is formed by the grant recipient, Neighbors Assisting Neighbors, and Mid-county Partners for Progress, STEP Inc., The Green Center, University of Missouri, Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, St. Louis County Department of Planning, St. Louis County Health Department. The inner-ring neighborhoods already express an interest in working with the recipient. Once they receive a request for clean up from the neighborhood, a community-wide meeting will invite residents, business owners and operators, and local officials to raise awareness about the clean up day. These meetings will not only serve as informational sessions but will be an opportunity for the recipient to bring in other potential partners.

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003

Selected for Award

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831549-01-0 Grant Application ID 2003066 EPA Region: 4 State: MS
Jesus People Against Pollution (JPAP)

Community First - Building Bridges for Inclusion

Issue

According to the 2000 Census, the city's population is 6,603 with approximately 62% of the population Caucasian and 36% African American. The poverty rate is 30% with the median household income at \$14,926. Jesus People Against Pollution (JPAP) was founded to represent the residents in regards to the 1997 explosion at the Reichhold Chemical Plant in Columbia, MS. A 1999 survey of residents living by the Reichhold site showed that more than half of the respondents had symptoms/conditions of allergies, body aches, and itching of skin. Other problems include breathing problems, dizziness, infections, bad coughs, etc.

Environmental Statutes

1. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
2. Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a)
3. Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3)
4. Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1442(c)(3)(A)

Goal

This project seeks to address the many serious limitations of the data contained in the 1999 study. The most significant limitation of this data set is the substantial amount of missing data for the federal environmental statutes. The results of the study will be compiled into a document that can be used to show the extent of the environmental contamination in the area which will ultimately facilitate the relocation of the Web Quarter residents and the redevelopment of the Web Quarter for non-residential use as well as documentation to support additional environmental and public health services in the city of Columbia.

Project

The project will be a survey development plan. The partnership will conduct a health survey to document the water pollution, safe drinking water, solid waste and toxic substances and environmental health consequences resulting from the Reichhold chemical explosion and proper clean up of the contaminated site to support relocation of Web Quarter community residents over 3 years. Data will be collected from residents, stakeholders, partners and program staff, and all qualitative data will be maintained and analyzed to finally form the final document. JPAP will also design a plan for relocating the 150 to 200 families that surround the Reichhold Site, and the health survey will be used to help secure lifetime environmental health services and monitoring for on-going treatment for affected residents.

Partnership

River Network, MS River Basin Alliance, Deep South Center for Environmental Justice, Jackson State University, and Green Management. A special effort will be initiated to include residents, business, and the private sector. A membership and outreach subcommittee will facilitate the inclusion of new partners.

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003

Selected for Award

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831618-01-0 Grant Application ID 2003170 EPA Region: 4 State: NC
West End Revitalization Association (WERA)

"Lack of Basic Amenities": Links to Environmental and Health Disparities in Low Income and Minority

Issue

The target communities in Mebane, North Carolina include the West End Community, White Level Community and Buckhorn/Perry Community. These communities are 85-95% African American. Local governments and the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) planned the 119 bypass/interstate for 14 years without input from residents. NCDOT engineers reported that 87% of the displaced homeowners would be low-income minority homeowners who were denied participation in the planning process. Many of these homeowners live on dirt paths, without safe city water or sewer services.

Environmental Statutes

1. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
2. Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3)
3. Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1442(c)(3)(A)
4. Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a)
5. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)

Goal

The project seeks to develop a study for an environmental health assessment which can be used as a model in other low-income minority communities that are denied safe water and sewer services and adequate housing conditions in the state. The project will increase the residents' ability to work with local and state officials to achieve corrective action and address environmental risks in their local communities. Community involvement through training will help assess environmental hazards through data collection and will lead to: (1) installation of safe water services; (2) installation of safe sewer services; and (3) a clean-up of a toxic substance site in the community.

Project

The primary objective of this project is to seek management and corrective action through community capacity-building and multiple stakeholder involvement regarding environmental hazards in order to protect the public health of homeowners and residents in support of planned economic, social, and environmental growth and development. The project will focus on: (1) installing safe sewer services; (2) installing safe water services; (3) mitigating 199 bypass/interstate pass; and (4) other environmental hazards. The scope of the problem will be first assessed through a Community Household Environmental Hazard and Epidemiological Survey. Community members will be educated on the results of the survey through public health workshops, and residents will learn how to conduct their own lead and mold home tests.

Partnership

The partnership is formed by selecting organizations from the following sectors: (1) non-profit, non-governmental; (2) health; (3) legal; (4) research; (5) business; (5) housing; and (6) government. Some of the partners that have agreed to participate in the Collaborative Problem-Solving Model include the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Alston & Bird LLP; North Carolina State University; North Carolina Rural Communities Assistance Project; Churches Reuniting Our People; Haw River Assembly; Elon University; MDC Inc.; Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law; Orange County Health Department; Pantego Area Community Development; Concerned Citizens of Vance County Hwy 39 – North, Blue Springs/Hoke County CDC, and North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers.

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003

Selected for Award

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831608-01-0 Grant Application ID 2003052 EPA Region: 2 State: NY
Bushwick Environment and Health Collaborative (BEHC)

Make the Road by Walking

Issue

Sixty-five percent (65%) of the Bushwick community is Latino, and 24 % are African American. Over 40 % of the residents of Bushwick live below the poverty level which is less than \$16,700 for a family of four, and almost 40 % rely on means-tested government benefits. Per capita income is under \$7,000 which is less than half the New York City average. The unemployment rate in Bushwick is over 20 percent; twice the amount in a city whose average is already among the highest in the nation. Bushwick's housing stock comprises many old and deteriorated buildings, mainly tenements with absentee landlords or tax-foreclosed properties owned by New York City. An August 1999 study showed that lead levels in residences in Bushwick's average site contained 10 times the allowable lead levels. Children in Bushwick are exposed to high levels of lead in their drinking water, most likely from pipes and plumbing fixtures with lead solder. The sale of illegal pesticides in low-income communities, especially immigrant communities, is a major problem. Retail outlets in these neighborhoods often sell industrial strength pesticides to consumers for use at home.

Environmental Statutes

1. Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3)
2. Toxic Substance Control Act, Section 10(a)
3. Clean Air Act 103(b)(3)
4. FIFRA, Section 20(a)

Goal

MRBW had identified a need to strategically plan and update current Environmental Justice Project campaigns by reexamining the needs of the community in regards to environmental and public health issues. These goals will be achieved through the development of: (1) data from surveys; (2) workshop curricula plan; and (3) design proposal for a clinic.

Project

MRBW has identified a need to strategically plan and update current Environmental Justice Project campaigns by reexamining the needs of the community in regards to environmental and public health concerns. After gathering and analyzing data in the community, the collaborative will work with community residents to categorize data into a report about high priority environmental issues. The collaborative will develop a plan to address the problems they have identified and will design a curriculum regarding the identified environmental hazards

Partnership

The project will be accomplished through a partnership between the grant recipient, Make the Road by Walking (MRBW), and Wyckoff Heights Medical Center. Make the Road by Walking will be the community-based organization that will be the communications, outreach and capacity building arm, while Wyckoff Heights will serve as the institutional partner supporting MRBW's educational and outreach campaigns. Other identified partners include the Williamsburg Brooklyn Asthma and Environment Consortium and Cornell University New York Presbyterian Hospital. A part of this project will involve identifying other resources available at the neighborhood and city-wide level in order to develop networks larger than the current collaboration.

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003

Selected for Award

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831545-01-0 Grant Application ID 2003117
United Community Centers Inc. (UCC)

EPA Region: 2 State: NY

Environmental Justice in East New York

Issue

East New York is a community of 170,000 inhabitants and is roughly comprised of 60% African Americans and 40% Latinos. Approximately 30% of the population is immigrant. East New York is mainly a low-income area with a substantial number of lower/middle income families. More than 30% of the families receive some form of public assistance and 27% of the households had incomes less than \$10,000 in 1999. East New York has the highest number of asthma hospitalizations and the highest number of acute respiratory infectious hospitalizations in Brooklyn.

Environmental Statutes

1. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
2. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)

Goal

To secure government and private business cooperation in an effort to reduce air pollution generated by trucks and buses located in the community and to determine the extent of the indoor and outdoor air pollution in order to inform parents about asthma, asthma triggers, and allergens and what can be done to minimize or eliminate indoor asthma triggers.

Project

The first step is to create an Environmental Council which will be developed by the partnership. The Environmental Council will conduct air sampling tests in schools, apartments, and community locations and will inform the local government bodies of the project. This will be done to determine the extent of outdoor and indoor air pollution. Particular attention will be paid around the industrial park near Atlantic Avenue and Linden Boulevard, two heavily used truck routes, in order to characterize the air quality.

Partnership

The Pratt Institute Center for Community and Environmental Development, the Local Development Corporation of East New York, the Morris L. Eisenstein Learning Center, and the Cornell Agricultural Extension. There are 3 locations that UCC knows of that produces significant levels of toxic emissions because of the buses and diesel trucks that move in and out of these areas although there may be others. One is the Industrial Park, the other is the MTA Bus Terminal and the third is Atlantic Avenue. One of the members of the Environmental Council is the liaison between the Industrial Park and the rest of the community. This relationship will facilitate the meeting with the business leaders of the Industrial Park. They will also meet with the Community Schools Board and ask them to join in the efforts to meet with the administrators of the bus terminal and officials in the MTA, and with the relevant officials in the Department of Transportation.

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Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003

Selected for Award

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831617-01-0 Grant Application ID 2003144 EPA Region: 10 State: OR
Environmental Justice Action Group (EJAG)

Build collaborative group to address EJ issues in Northern sector of Portland to improve air quality

Issue

The community encompasses 12 North/Northeast (N/NE) neighborhoods and contains some of the most racially diverse neighborhoods in Portland. Sixty-seven percent (67%) are African American, 19% Latinos, and 11% Native Americans. Poverty and unemployment rates are high in N/NE. In 11 of 15 census tracts, the poverty rate is 35% or more (with 3 tracts over 50% and 6 tracts between 40-50%). Thirty-six percent (36%) of children under six in N/NE live in poverty. The poverty rate among Native Americans (53.5%); Latinos at (44%); African Americans (32.4%); and Whites (20.7%). Forty percent (40%) of households live on less than \$15,000 per year, and unemployment was measured at 12.4%, compared to 6.1% for Portland, as a whole. The community is home to more than 30 sites included on the Federal government's Toxic Release Inventory. Major highways and numerous highly-used thoroughfares cross the neighborhood, while both a municipal landfill and sewage treatment plant are located in North Portland.

Environmental Statutes

1. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)
2. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)

Goal

The primary objective of this project is to address the significant and disproportionate air pollution problems faced by the residents of the N/NE neighborhoods. By working collaboratively, the recipient (EJAC) and project partners will raise awareness of the sources of pollution and hope to bring cleaner air to Portland. This process will create healthier outcomes by establishing trust between the community and agencies and support the implementation of new and innovative processes that will enhance the quality of life for all residents. The objectives will be met through: (1) the formal establishment of the Northern Neighborhoods Air Quality Coalition which will continually identify and implement projects to improve air quality and (2) the creation of a community-based education program to increase understanding of air quality issues and the health impacts for the community.

Project

The project involves addressing the problems of asthma and hazardous air pollutants in the community. The project will increase awareness in the community about the quality of the air and its impact on health based on monitoring data, release inventories, EPA exposure models, and health impact studies. Furthermore, the recipient will establish a Portland Northern Neighborhoods Air Quality Coalition that will find collaboration and sustainable solutions to reduce harmful emissions to the air.

Partnership

The project will be accomplished through a partnership between the Environmental Justice Action Group (EJAG), Oregon Solutions/National Policy Consensus Center, Northwest District Association H&EC, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Department of Transportation, and Portland State University. The reason this partnership came into being is because through various conversations, it was realized that EJAC and Northwest District Association H&EC have been working independently with the Department of Environmental Quality when the two organizations share many similar concerns. The collaborative problem-solving partnership will be created by building upon the initial relationship between EJAC and Northwest District Association H&EC.

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003

Selected for Award

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831547-01-0 Grant Application ID 2003077 EPA Region: 3 State: PA
Village of Arts and Humanities Inc. (VAH)

Shared Prosperity Through Environmental Justice Initiative

Issue

The Village is located in a blighted section of North Philadelphia. More than 40 years of economic decline have contributed to the vast tracts of vacant land and abandoned and deteriorating buildings. After demolition of existing structures, lots often are not properly capped, thus leaving toxic dust exposed to wind. Abandoned buildings contribute to air pollution as they deteriorate and expel materials contaminated with lead and other particulate air pollutants. Hazardous wastes either existing in the lots or recently dumped on the abandoned land pose a threat of toxic contamination. The Village recognizes that asthma rates are high in the 19133/19122 zip code area of the community. Forty percent of the residents are African American and the median household income is just under \$14,000 with 41% of the households having incomes under \$10K. The project will focus on recycling because Philadelphia's recycling rate is ranked 8th out of 9 major US cities. Thirty percent of refuse is burned in incinerators, polluting the air with toxic smoke and 70 % is buried in landfills, which can leak toxic chemicals to the soil and water.

Environmental Statutes

1. Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a)
2. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)

Goal

Improper disposal of solid waste, including dumping and littering, is unintentionally facilitated by the abundance of inconspicuous sites, a lack of enforcement, and a lack of knowledge about proper avenues for disposal. Many illegally dumped items contain hazardous wastes and pose a threat of toxic contamination to the air, land and water. Through greening, improved conditions in vacant lots are much less susceptible to dumping which encourages proper waste disposal including recycling. The goal of the project is to improve vacant lot maintenance and sustain their upkeep through a recycling program, thereby eliminating the toxic dust from the uncapped vacant lots which contribute to the high asthma rates in the community.

Project

The project will be a vacant lot management program with a recycling focus. This recycling program will not only improve Philadelphia's recycling rate and the air quality due to the reduced level of refuse entering incinerators, but will directly benefit the Village community by transforming vacant lots into green spaces. Much of the vacant lots are not properly capped, thus leaving toxic dust exposed to wind, and abandoned buildings contribute to air pollution as they deteriorate and expel materials contaminated with lead and other particulate air pollutants. The green spaces will be maintained through a sustainable recycling program. Once vacant lots are transformed, they are less susceptible to dumping and degradation. Some activities include a Philadelphia Partnership Recycling Program, an after-school program with a design contest to promote awareness of the new recycling program.

Partnership

Temple University Dept. of Geography & Urban Studies, Pennsylvania Horticulture Society, Women's Health and Environmental Network, Germantown Merchants Association (improve recycling strategies for local businesses), Friends of Fotteral Square (recycling education activities and implement on-site recycling at Fotteral Square Park for residents), and local government.

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003

Selected for Award

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831615-01-0 Grant Application ID 2003118 EPA Region: 6 State: TX
Colonias Unidas (CU)

Community Solid Waste Management Project

Issue

Las Lomas, the aggregated colonia of approximately 2,000 residents in which Colonias Unidas is located, has a poverty rate of over 75% among its families. Almost the same percentage of the community's adults have not gone to school beyond the ninth grade. Further impeding residents from institutional integration is the fact that Spanish is the dominant language of the households. Unemployment normally runs approximately five times above the national average. The border environment in which Colonias Unidas is situated exists as a jurisdictional gray area where two national and many local governments have yet to create a consistent system of environmental regulation. Though the public health situation has made improvements over the last twenty years due to the expansion of safe municipal water and wastewater collection, conditions in the colonias remain harsh as compared to the rest of the United States.

Environmental Statutes

1. Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a)
2. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
3. Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1442(c)(3)(A)

Goal

The primary objective of this project is to address the problem of disposing solid waste in the colonias. Dumping in and around the local colonias has posed a serious public health problem for the residents. Establishing the program, Colonias Limpias, will lead to a cleaner environment and to more informed and responsible citizens. The creation of "Colonias Limpias" is the primary project. Other activities include: (1) a research report on the status of city and county waste management policies; (2) bi-lingual education publications concerning waste management; (3) recycling drives and clean-up efforts; and (4) broadcasts of informational videos on local cable access channels. This will lead to community awareness of the solid waste disposal problems and lead to improvements in the environment around the colonias.

Project

The project will progress over three years in the following manner: (1) Year One – emphasis on confirming community needs across different colonias and ascertaining what solution mechanisms would garner the greatest support (year one involves the initiation of some educational and outreach work); (2) Year Two – building community capacity through training, social events, free services, programs to identify and work with new community leaders; and (3) Year Three – bringing these new community leaders forward to work with community partners on long term solutions to local problems.

Partnership

The partnership will be a collaboration between the grant recipient, Colonias Unidas, and Starr County Government, Rio Grande City Government, Grande Garbage Company, Community Resource Group, Rio Grande City Consolidated Independent School District, and Texas A&M Cooperative Extension. The partnership will operate under a circular "web" model with Colonias Unidas at the center working with program partners on the periphery. Colonias Unidas will be the lead organization and serve as a focal point for all the partners. New potential partners can also be pulled into this partnership framework. The goal of this structure is both to leverage the resources of all parties to fulfill the goals set by the community members and to provide all partner organizations with better access to other entities who may be of a valuable service to them.

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003

Selected for Award

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831616-01-0 Grant Application ID 2003133 EPA Region: 6 State: TX
Mothers for Clean Air (MfCA)

Improving Environmental Quality through Collaboration: Reducing exposure of SE Houston residents

Issue

The target community is 64% Hispanic, 23% White, 6% Asian and 3% African American. Nearly one-fourth of the households have incomes of less than \$15,000 per year. The community also has a young population with fairly low levels of formal education. Almost one-third are under 18 years of age and of those over 25, nearly one-third do not have a high school diploma. Southeast Houston is located outside the I-610 Loop and bordered by I-45 on the West, State Highway 225 on the North, the City of Pasadena in the East, and the City of South Houston in the South. Citizens had informally identified air pollution as a concern in their communities through visual observations, olfactory senses, associated health symptoms, and high incidence of specific diseases.

Environmental Statute

1. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)
2. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)

Goal

The primary objective of this project is: (1) a reduction in exposure of residents to air pollution; (2) empowerment of residents to communicate with regulatory authorities to change their environment; and (3) understanding community perceptions of cumulative risks. The project seeks to develop: (1) a training module for residents using air monitoring equipment to educate them on use and proper handling; (2) a plot map which will document the different air hazards within the community, and the information collected will be from the resident air sampling effort; (3) a community plan will identify industries and government officials to be included in the growing partnership; and (4) a final consolidated report with results from the air sampling. These activities will lead to improved air quality conditions for the residents of Southeast Houston.

Project

The recipient and the citizens of Southeast Houston have identified air pollution as a concern in their community. The community residents want to conduct an air sampling project which will be developed through a plan created in the targeted area using various monitoring devices.

Partnership

The project will be conducted through a collaborative partnership between the grant recipient, Mothers for Clean Air (MfCA) and the City of Houston Bureau of Air Quality Control, Harris County Pollution Control, the University of Texas Medical Branch, and Clean Air/Clean Lake. Working with the partners, MfCA will create a group called "Improving Environmental Quality through Collaboration" (IEQC) which will help residents articulate their concerns, provide them with tools to verify their concerns, and improve their communication skills so they can take their concerns to the regulatory agencies. IEQC will begin with two regulatory agencies, two universities, one citizens' group and community representatives but will later grow when it becomes more established. Other potential partners include state regulatory agencies, EPA, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, elected officials and industry, among others.

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003

Selected for Award

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831548-01-0 Grant Application ID 2003002 EPA Region: 3 State: VA
Hands Across the Mountain Inc. (HAM)

Coal Country Water Quality and Environmental Justice Project

Issue

The residents and communities that inhabit the three watersheds (McClure, Guest River, Upper Powell Watersheds) have significant social issues with respect to low-income, lack of education, and low employment rates. Resource extraction still has a major impact on the region, despite the fact that a majority of the coal mines are no longer active. Runoff from operational and abandoned mines contributes heavy metal and sediments to the streams of these watersheds and impacts both human and animal life. All 3 watersheds lack developed public water systems and septic systems. Many residents still draw water directly from local streams and rivers, the same rivers that receive "straight pipe" sewage from those homes and businesses. There are 11 stream segments in the 3 watersheds that are classified as "impaired" by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. Seven of those segments are impaired due to fecal coli-form contamination from human waste.

Environmental Statutes

1. Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3)
2. Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1442(c)(3)(A)

Goal

The goal is to enhance existing community organization partnerships and establish new partnerships with local, regional, state, federal, and private sector organizations to fully identify and characterize the environmental and public health issues associated with straight pipe sewage disposal and acid mine drainage, and then develop and implement the strategies necessary to successfully address these issues.

Project

Work with educators to teach the people in the community about the environmental and health effects of straight-piping so that local citizens can return to their communities to make improvements to the sewage disposal system. Using preliminary inventories already compiled by the Coal County Watershed Coalition and other data sources, HAM will prepare an environmental health inventory of problem areas and community needs and desires for revitalization. It will be used to identify and prioritize projects, track project progress, prepare background materials, and guide the design of the visioning process and workshop.

Partnership

Guest River, the Upper Powell River, and McClure River watersheds, LENOWISCO Planning District Commission, Department of Interior's Office of Surface Mining, the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the coal industry, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, and the community. Additional partnerships will be forged, and an organizational structure will be developed so that community-based and community-driven collaboration is the primary focus. Community-based collaboration will be augmented through layers of secondary partners (e.g., the Tennessee Valley Authority and coal industry and government partners such as the DOI and the Appalachian Regional Commission).

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003

Selected for Award

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831607-01-0 Grant Application ID 2003047
Community Coalition for Environmental Justice (CCEJ)

EPA Region: 10 State: WA

Health and Environmental Collaborative Project

Issues

The community of focus for this project is South Park, White Center (West Seattle) and Beacon Hill. Beacon Hill is 83% Asian, South Park is 71% Latino, and White Center is 45% people of color. South Park is the most impacted by toxic waste dump sites and pollution generating facilities. The unifying concern of the three areas is the impact of 3 industries emitting high amounts of carbon monoxide which is a recognized developmental toxicant and suspected neurotoxicant. Other pollutants include lead, lead compounds, and nitrogen oxides. Lead and lead compounds are recognized as developmental toxicants, and nitrogen oxides are linked to respiratory illness. LaFarge Corp., Ash Grove Cement and Birmingham Steel were listed in the 2000 toxic release inventory data as being among the highest emitters of air toxins in these neighborhoods.

Environmental Statutes

1. Toxic Substance Control Act, Section 10(a)
2. Clean Air Act 103(b)(3)

Goals

The primary objectives of CCEJ's project are: (1) to reduce exposure to indoor and outdoor neurotoxins; (2) to improve the knowledge base of medical professionals and links to child nervous system disorders; (3) to initiate increased enforcement of pollution prevention strategies; (4) to increase access to environmental health information; (5) to increase communication among health professions, scientists and community members; and (6) to increase overall public understanding and sensitivity to environmental justice concerns of low-income communities and communities of color. These goals will be accomplished through the project activities (see below).

Project

The project will create an Action Plan that will have the following three components: (1) Communication; (2) Outreach, and (3) Education. Activities include: (1) development of reports and fact sheets about the sources of neurotoxicants and their impact on children for several audiences including community members, the media, policymakers, government agencies, and the scientific community (for non-English speaking communities, ensure that material is culturally appropriate and translated for wide distribution in the community); (2) creation of a handbook for environmental health specialists, providers and health educators; and (3) communication of data gathering findings and policy recommendations to the media, policymakers, and government agencies through the implementation of a media plan.

Partnership

The partnership will include Dr. Jordan Firestone at the University of Washington; John Ridgeway at the Washington State Department of Ecology; Elise Miller of the Institute for Children's Environmental Health; Dr. Ngozi Oleru at the Seattle King County. The objectives will be accomplished through the partnership between the Community Coalition for Environmental Justice and the University of Washington, the Institute for Children's Environmental Health, and Seattle's King County. Three committees will be created which include the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and the Child Health Advisory Committee (CHAC). The CAC will be the driving force of the work of the entire workgroup and will be comprised of residents of the impacted community and the Community Coalition for Environmental Justice.

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003

Selected for Award

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831557-01-0 Grant Application ID 2003016 EPA Region: 10 State: WA
Indochinese Cultural and Service Center (ICSC)

Asian Pacific Islander Environmental Awareness Project

Issue

According to the 2000 Census in Pierce County, the Asian Pacific Islander population is 57,959. There are 20 or so sewer outfalls along the eastern shore of Puget Sound. There is also industrial discharge and runoff from freeways and parking lots that have lead and other contaminants. This pollution contributes to high levels of mercury in the shellfish in the area that the Asian Pacific Islander community depends on for subsistence shellfish harvesting. Traditions, cultural differences, and misunderstandings have been identified as primary causes for many of the unsafe environmental practices among API communities. Paralytic shellfish poisoning pose serious health risks to SE Asian communities. For example, in August 2000, 9 Cambodian workers were hospitalized after eating mussels from a closed area on the Puget Sound.

Environmental Statutes

1. Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3)
2. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
3. Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act, Section 203

Goals

Building and sustaining strong working relationships among partners will be through the development of mechanisms that facilitate the provision of safe and sustainable harvesting practices and safe fish consumption. This will be done by increasing public awareness of dangers from mercury poisoning, unsafe harvesting practices, and non-point sources of pollution – including mercury and hazardous waste disposal, and build the capacity of the community to reduce exposure to these health risks.

Project

Establishment of Beach Monitoring and Closure Management Plan. This will include a Public Information and Notification Initiative described as public meetings, beach postings, public announcements, and other control mechanisms. Activities as part of the Management Plan include bio-toxin monitoring and sampling, training (rules and regulations for safe harvesting, sample collection, etc.), and sustainable harvesting.

Partnership

Korean Women's Association, Tacoma Pierce County Health Department, State of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, State of Washington Department of Health, Puget Sound Action team. Government partners including the Washington State Department of Health which has reported the need to have access to the API communities, as their traditional methodology of providing information is largely ineffective with Limited English Speaking communities.

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