

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

**CARE  
Grantee Final Report**

Grantee: City of Gary  
 Project location: Gary, Indiana  
 Project title: Community Action for a Renewed Environment Program—City of Gary  
 Grant period: 10/1/10 to 12/31/12  
 Project Manager: Laura Riga  
 EPA Project Officer: Alex Schusler

**I. Your Partnership**

Please describe your CARE partnership and explain how it operated. Please make sure that your description includes the following:

- a. Please include a list of your partnership.

<u>Organization Name</u>	<u>Type of Organization</u>
Camp Dresser & McKee, Inc.	Business, Environmental
Indiana American Water	Business
U.S. Steel Gary Works	Business
Indiana University Northwest	Academic
Maternal Child Health Network	Faith Based
NW Indiana Federation	Faith Based
Solomon's Kingdom CDC	Faith Based
Gary Common Council	Government
Gary Community Development	Government
Gary Environmental Affairs	Government
Gary Health Department	Government
Gary Public Library	Government
IN Dept of Environmental Management	Government
Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore	Government
Lake County Solid Waste Management Dist	Government
US EPA Region 5	Government
Froebel Community Council, Inc.	Non-profit/Community Org.
Gary Community Health Foundation	Non-profit
Groundwork Gary, Inc.	Non-profit
Inst. Cultural & Environmental Understanding	Non-profit
Lake County Minority Tobacco Coalition	Non-profit
Miller Citizens Corporation	Non-profit
Motivating Women Ministry, Inc.	Non-profit
Resident Owned Business Initiative, Inc.	Non-profit
United Steelworkers District 7	Union
United Steelworkers Local 1010	Union

Northwest Indiana Healthy Start	Non-profit
Catholic Charities	Faith-based
C.R. Works	Community/Non-profit
Lake Michigan Solid Waste Districts	Government
Northwest Indiana Community Action	Non-profit
Geminus Head Start	Non-profit
Adonia Community Services	Non-profit
Indiana State Department of Health	Government
Gary Recycling Department	Government
Bridgette C. Kelly Youth Foundation	Community/Non-profit
Gary Indiana New Day Foundation, Inc.	Community

- b. What role did your organization play in this partnership? What skills were most important from your organization to implement the project?

The City of Gary Department of Environmental Affairs role was to manage the grant and facilitate the partnership process. The relevant skill set was the ability build community relationships and motivate participants in the process.

- c. Which partners were most active? How?

The Gary Health Department was most active in implementing and engaging targeted households to involvement in the healthy homes component.

- d. Which partners were most critical? Why?

The EPA's participation and technical assistance were instrumental in organizing partners and strengthening the City capacity to implement such a vital program in the community.

- e. Were there critical partners that were not at the table? If yes, which ones and how would their participation have helped?

None. Every organization/group identified the partnership willingly participated in the program.

- f. How did you ensure that the most vulnerable community members were included in the partnership or process?

Every relevant organization/group identified by the partnership were invited to participate in and/or join the monthly meeting.

- g. What role did your EPA Project Officer play in the partnership?

EPA staff provided technical assistance especially in identifying additional resources or information to help group make informed decisions.

- h. What barriers did your partnership experience and how did you overcome them (distrust, unequal power, control over money, differing priorities, process for reaching consensus, etc.)?

During the final year, the City changed its administration replacing CARE staff. After establishing relations with EPA and CARE Partnership, the program proceeded closing

out the program. Although the planned activities continued, the motivation among the outreach partners subsided. Gary Health Department welcomed to changes particularly since it provided the flexibility needed to implement and document program service in a more efficiency and beneficial manner.

- i. Has this partnership improved relationships among those involved? Please share an example.

Gary Health Department welcomed to changes particularly since it provided the flexibility needed to implement and document program service in a more efficiency and beneficial manner

- j. Has your organization engaged in a similar process to CARE in which you had a similar role? Please describe briefly.

Prior to the Gary CARE Partnership project, Gary Health Department worked collaboratively with local healthy and housing agencies to reduce childhood lead poisoning. Portions of that process were used to implement the CARE Level II initiative.

- k. Is there anything else about your partnership that you would like to share?  
No.

## II. Your Project

Please describe your CARE project and provide copies of important materials that you developed. Please make sure that your description includes the following:

- a. What toxic risks did your project address?

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Materials, Indoor Air Pollution, Lead, Radon, and Mold Toxins

- b. Did your project address both toxic reduction sustainability and partnership sustainability? If so, how? If not, why not?

The Gary CARE Partnership project had successes in both toxic reduction and partnership sustainability.

In toxic reduction, 211 household received education on using alternative cleaning methods and how to assess their home for indoor toxins using lead, water and radon home testing kits. Project successes included having an additional 300 attend HHW Events; 15 tons of HHW removed; accidental poisonings prevented by having toxic removed from homes; Toxic spills & cleanup costs avoided; 204 MTCEs are reduced by community efforts; Gary neighborhoods are cleaner & healthier Partners & residents practice environmental stewardship to create and sustain clean & healthy homes and neighborhoods; City's carbon footprint is reduced

The CARE action plan was developed so that partnership could continue to work together on identified issues in the community. Environmental Affairs is always available to coordinate community lead initiatives of the partnership.

- c. What toxic reduction strategies did you pursue?
- Education and Awareness – Healthy homes outreach materials was developed and distributed by CARE partnership city-wide.
  - Collection activities – Conducted HHW Collection & Green Awareness events; trained City department to reduce, reuse, and recycle; City departments increased enforcement of illegal dumping through an illegal dumping hotline.
  - Behavior Changes – Healthy Home/Green Awareness events were held to increase public awareness and involvement in pollution prevention and alternative behaviors.
- d. How did you reach agreement on implementation decisions?
- Steering Committee – Monthly meeting were held to update partners on project activities and included partnership involvement in the decision making process.
  - Willing Partners – In making decisions, partners were free to share information and brainstorm on issues and resolutions through a consensus process.
  - Leadership through Environmental Affairs – If the group was challenged with solutions to problems, Environmental Affairs and EPA collected additional information to include identifying guest presenters and presented to the entire group.
- e. Did you reshape your partnership in any way to address strategy implementation? Please explain.  
The CARE Partnership did not have to restructure the partnership to address implementation strategies.
- f. What outside resources (e.g., people, programs, approaches, etc.) were most important to your project?
- All of the community organizations the partners identified eventually became members of the partnership. Menards was the only notable outside resource that supported the healthy homes component of the program by discounting purchased supplies and materials.
- g. Was there any environmental issue that EPA seemed to lack the tools or means (e.g., Partnership Programs, data tools, other expertise) to address? If so, please describe the situation or need you had.

No

- h. How did you build momentum over the course of your project? Did you secure any “early wins” to help build momentum? Did you look for additional funding early on? What was acquired?

Community outreach efforts were extensive. Yes, the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Day was highly anticipated by residents. No, funding early on but US Steel contributed funds to help pay for two of the three HHW Collection Days.

- i. What were the significant *outputs* of your project (meetings held, materials developed, people trained, etc.)?

Output: Conducts Gary CARE Partnership Meetings

Status: Fully Accomplished

Narrative: 21 meetings conducted

Output: Personnel are hired & trained to execute Level II project activities

Status: Fully Accomplished

Narrative: 12 Healthy Homes Practitioners/Technicians hired; 4 left; 4 fulfilled contractual obligations; Additional personnel trained and hired; 5 additional hired to complete project.

Output: Gary CARE Partnership stakeholders engage in policy-influencing activities to leverage resources and implement CAP recommended Actions

Status: Fully Accomplished

Narrative: Stakeholders engaged in policy-influencing activities to implement Indiana No Smoking Law. Law enacted June 1, 2012.

Output: HHNs & HHTs conduct in-home Healthy Homes Assessments to identify environmental & health risks in high-risk homes referred by GHD and other CARE Partners based on known health risks

Status: Fully Accomplished

Narrative: HHNs & HHTs have conducted Healthy Homes Assessments in 209 homes.

Output: Healthy homes kits delivered to 200 households and provide hands on instruction, supplies, & green products to reduce health risks in 200 high-risk homes

Status: Fully Accomplished

Narrative: Kits have been delivered to 209 households and instruction provided.

Output: Households with lead analysis indicating lead presence in dust and/or referred to in-house or partners for remediation

Status: Fully Accomplished

Narrative: 10 household have been referred to partners for remediation and have been re-mediated or are scheduled to be re-mediated.

Output: Community-wide Environmental Stewardship (Healthy Homes fairs & Community Clean-up Event)

Status: Fully Accomplished

Narrative: 3 Healthy Homes Community Events were conducted; CARE also participated in 3 Community Clean Up Events.

- j. What were your project’s most significant *outcomes* (changes in policy, behavior, and practice, e.g., auto shops’ shift to less toxic materials, ban adopted on school bus idling, change in local agencies’ policy or procedures, school district commitment to IPM for pest control, etc.)?
- Promotion that environmental stewardship begins at home and families learned how to maintain reduced level of risk.
  - Adoption of CARE Action Plan as a planning guide in development of programs and services
  - Rebuilt relationship with solid waste districts to increase cultural awareness of community’s need and making adjustment to meet the needs of the residents.
  - Increased participation of local residents in Household Hazardous Waste Collection days

Outcome: Goal 2-      100 Healthy Homes Referrals Received  
                                  100 F-CAPs conducted  
                                  100 Mid-Term Assessments  
                                  100 high-risk homes implement F-CAP’s  
                                  100 families use safer cleaning supplies  
                                  200 children not exposed to previous risk levels in homes

Status: Fully Accomplished

Narrative:            500 plus referrals received  
                                  211 F-CAPS conducted  
                                  205 mid-term Assessments  
                                  147 implemented  
                                  205 homes use safer cleaning supplies  
                                  338 Children not exposed to previous risk levels in home

Outcome: Goal 3-      600 Households participate in 3 HHW Events; accidental poisoning reduced in 600 homes

Status: Accomplished

Narrative: 600 plus residents participated in 3 HHW Events; accidental poisoning is reduced in 600 plus homes.

- k. What specific reductions in environmental risks did your project achieve?

Lead reduced in 42 Homes where levels were elevated in drinking water  
 10 Homes were tested and treated for Lead Paint  
 Household hazardous waste reduction from homes in pounds:

- |                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Paint Related: 13,746 | • Acids: 163              |
| • Aerosols: 706         | • Caustics: 109           |
| • Oxidizers: 43         | • Flammable Liquid: 756   |
| • Pesticides: 1361      | • Alkaline Batteries: 471 |

- Latex Paint: 4562
- Mercury Elemental: 2
- Waste Oil: 1530
- Antifreeze: 256
- Auto Batteries: 2394
- Outdated Medication: 14
- Propane Cylinders: 140
- MT Plastic Gas Cans Recycling: 155
- Fluorescent Lamps: 167
- Mercury Vapor Lamps: 12
- Sharps: 93
- Ammo/Flairs: 19
- Helium Gas: 10
- Flammable Solid: 4
- Reactive Calcium: 6
- Reactive Calcium Carbide: 5
- Fire Extinguisher: 5
- CFC Gas: 10
- **Total: 26,739**

- l. How did functioning as a partnership aid in achieving these reductions?
- Collective outreach efforts increased awareness of the event thereby increasing public participation
  - Consistency of events and outreach materials increased expectation from the community resident.
  - Incorporated green awareness activity with informational booth, paper shredding, and e-recycling.
- m. Were there differences between your original plan and what actually occurred in your project? Did you achieve your objectives? Please explain. What objectives were not met and why?
- Actual results exceeded original plan in the areas of:
- Number of households participation in healthy home assessments
  - Relationship development among partners that lead to collaboration of program and services like Green Gary, Green Awareness Day, Clean Water Celebration, and community and beach cleanup events.
- n. What other resources (not already covered in your discussion of your partnership or outside resources above) did your project mobilize, both financial and in kind?

New	Organization Name	Type of organization (see above)	Funding amount	Additional details—funding period, etc.
	Indiana Dept. of Health	Government	\$5,000	Grant Radon Outreach and Education Support for Healthy Children/Healthy Homes
	U.S. Steel Gary Works	Business	\$5,000	Contribution to Household Hazardous Waste Program



	Gary Storm Water Management District	Government	\$1,800	Newspaper Advertising for HHW Collection; Outreach and Education Consultant
	Northern Indiana Regional Planning Commission	Government	\$1,200	60/2.5 gallon gas cans for HHW exchange @ \$20.00 each
	Gary Recycling Department	Government	\$525	Residential & Small Business Shredding at HHW and recycling bins Shredding: 3 hours @ \$175.00/hr
<b>Total financial support received</b>			\$13,525	

### III. Reflection

- a. How likely is it that the progress achieved could have been made without your CARE partnership?

Not likely. This partnership is a ground-breaking collaboration within the City of Gary on environmental related issues.

- b. What do you consider your project’s greatest achievement?

The healthy homes assessment and awareness initiatives were two of the greatest achievements. The partners were unanimously supportive of these activities.

- In-homes multimedia pollutant & toxic assessments was conducted in 200 high-risk homes and provided “Healthy Home Kits”
- Families learned about sustainable and cheaper “green” products
- Families learn about safely disposing toxic risks and e-Waste events;

- c. What was your greatest challenge and how did you deal with it?

The home visits were challenging for staff as well as follow up. Households were will to allow staff in to conduct initial assessments, but were reluctant to making themselves available for followed up. Eventually, Environmental Affairs allowed the Gary Healthy Department to make adjustments to number of required follow-up visits which increase the level of program success. The change included an initial and one follow up home visitation process rather than the two to three home visits.

- d. What would you do differently next time in terms of organizing and structuring your partnership to achieve your project objectives?

- e. How might you have been more strategic in designing or implementing your project?  
 In retrospect, the outreach effort would have included expanding on public access television opportunities by interviewing or having televised discussion with each partner. The partnership shared a wealth of information that significantly improve information

sharing and access to local resources among those in attendance of monthly meeting. Televised recordings had potentials to reach a larger audience.

- f. If you chose to create one, did you find using a logic model or other goal-driven model helpful? Please explain. Did the model change over time? If so, how?

The project use the logic model to develop outputs, activities, and outcomes during the project timeframe. The model identified short, medium and long-term outcomes along with lead organization responsible for the goals.

- g. To what extend did your CARE community communicate or engage with other CARE communities and how was that interaction helpful?

The only engagement Gary CARE Partnership had with other CARE communities was through annual conferences and information resources provided by EPA.

- h. Did media coverage play a role in your project? If so, please explain.

Yes, the CARE Partnership hosted a few Gary Going Green presentations to promote HHW event in 2011. Gary Storm Water Management District also sponsored newspaper advertisements for those events, which help the CARE Partnership to focus outreach dollars to into outreach materials.

- i. In what ways did you rely on EPA for assistance (assessing risks in your community, conflict resolution, partnership support, voluntary programs, such as Tools for Schools or Pollution Prevention)?

See the chart on page 10 and 11.

The tool/program you used	Who provided the tool? EPA, a partner, other?	Of the following, please mark the category that best characterizes your purpose for using the tool			
		For assessing risk	For raising awareness/under-standing	For changing behavior/reducing toxics	Other
Master Home Environmentalist Training	American Lung Association			x	
Healthy Homes Family Centered Action Plan	Coalition of West Michigan			x	
Home Environmental Assessment List (HEAL)	American Lung Association	x		x	
How to Make Your House A Healthy Home	USEPA			x	
Partner Presentations for Community Programs and Services	Gary Recycling Department; Department; Lake Michigan Districts Household Hazardous Waste Program; Lake County Solid Waste Management District; NWICA; C. R. Works; Geminus Head Start; Northwest Indiana Healthy Start; Health Visions; Brownfields, Froebel Community Council; Motivating Women Ministries & WGVE; Solomon's Kingdom CDC		x		
EPA Presentation of Community Resource Tools	EPA Project Manager		x		
Sustainable & Healthy Communities Webinar	USEPA				x
Radon Conference Calls	EPA & ISDH			x	
Community Gardening	SPEA/IUN Dr. Lin Kaatz Chary		x		
A Citizen's Guide to Radon	USEPA & CDC			x	
A Brief Guide to Mold, Moisture and Your Home	USEPA			x	
TIPS to Protect Children from Environmental Risks	USEPA			x	

The tool/program you used	Who provided the tool? EPA, a partner, other?	Of the following, please mark the category that best characterizes your purpose for using the tool			
		For assessing risk	For raising awareness/under-standing	For changing behavior/reducing toxics	Other
Help Your Child Gain Control Over Asthma	US EPA & CDC		x		
“Green Cleaning” Alternatives	ecocycle.org/hazwaste/recipes.cfm			x	
EPA Presentation of Community Resource Tools	EPA Project Manager			x	
Poison-proof your Home: One Room at a Time	US EPA		x		
Dusty The Asthma Goldfish and His Asthma Triggers Funbook	US EPA			x	
Healthy Homes Seven Tips for Keeping a Healthy Home	US HUD			x	
Integrated Pest Management	US EPA		x		
Healthy Homes Workshop	US EPA		x		
National Conversation on Toxic Chemicals	SPEA/IUN Dr. Ellen Szarleta			x	
Poison-proof your Home: One Room at a Time	US EPA			x	
Dusty The Asthma Goldfish and His Asthma Triggers Funbook	US EPA		x		
Healthy Homes Seven Tips for Keeping a Healthy Home	US HUD			x	
Integrated Pest Management	US EPA			x	
Healthy Homes Workshop	US EPA		x		
National Conversation on Toxic Chemicals	SPEA/IUN Dr. Ellen Szarleta		x		
Shaping Policy In Health Training	Indiana State Department of Health		x		x

- j. What role did your Project Officer and other EPA staff play in your work? What would you have liked more of or less of? See page 2, letter g for response.
- k. To what extent do you think that this project increased the capacity of your organization? Your partnership? Your community? Please provide examples.  
This project increased our organization, partnership, and community capacity by producing a Community Action Plan (CAP) that can be implemented by various bodies. The CAP allows much room for growth and development of all agents involved.
- l. Did your project produce any new “community leaders?” Please describe.  
No.
- m. What advice would you offer to other communities undertaking similar work?  
Conduct community forums to gather information beyond agencies represented.

#### IV. What Next?

- a. Will the partnerships created continue to serve the community by protecting the environment and reducing toxics? Yes.
- b. How will this work be sustained? Environment Affairs will serve as central access point to initiate CARE CAP welcoming opportunities to work with new and existing partners interested in developing programs and services to improve the health of our environment.
- c. If neither your organization nor the members of the partnership plan to continue the work, please describe why. Not applicable.
- d. Please describe a continuing or next source of funding you have for your work or other groups in your community that have continued the work and have found funding. The Department of Environment Affairs and Green Urbanism will use grant and allocated resources to incorporate pertinent CARE strategies into program services. The department continuously seeks opportunities to seek federal, state, and local funding to support aspects of the plan relevant to internal strategies.

#### V. Feedback and Follow up

- a. Please share any thoughts you have about what EPA could do to improve the CARE program. None. The CARE Partnership greatly appreciates the support and technical assistance EPA provided especially during the new administrative transition.
- b. We want to keep in touch and learn about the work that you do after your grant with CARE. Would it be okay for someone from the headquarters CARE team to contact you in the future to talk about how your work is progressing? Are there others we should contact instead of or in addition to you? If so, please provide their contact information.

The CARE Partnership was approved to create a website to share information broadly about the project and related environmental health concerns. Green Urbanism will launch this site to include outcomes on the website for public access.

- c. Would you be willing to be interviewed for a more in depth case study?  
Yes.