

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

CARE: Bringing Communities Together



Collaborative Science and Technology Network for Sustainability: Grantees' Workshop – October 18th

What is CARE?

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



How CARE Works

1. Join Together

2. Identify Problems and Solutions

Level I Agreement



EPA Cooperative Agreements & Technical Support

Level II Agreement

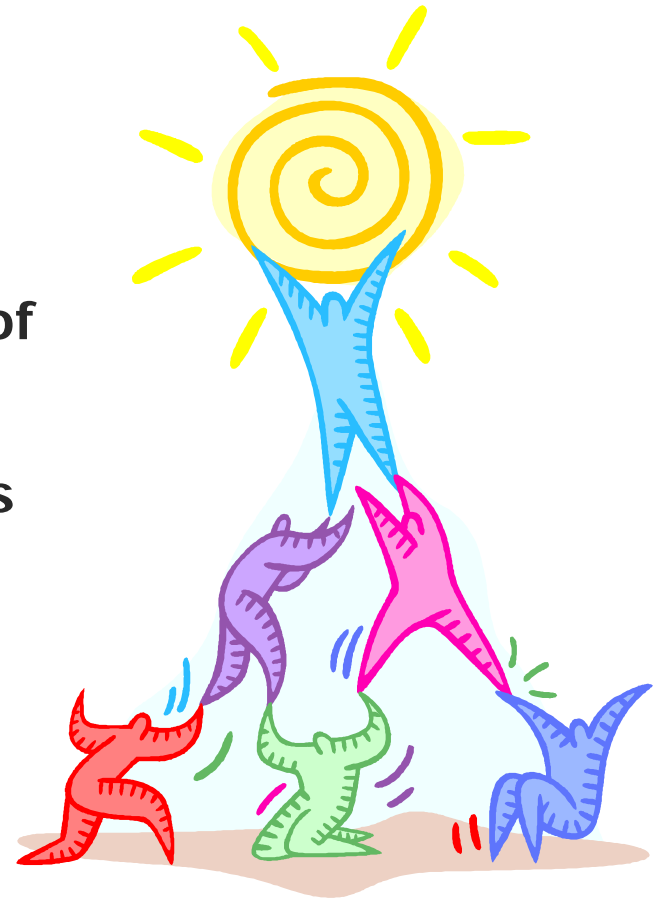
4. Become Self-Sustaining

3. Implement Solutions/
Reduce Risks

CARE Goals

- Reduce exposures to toxic pollutants through collaborative action at the local level
- Help communities gain an understanding of all potential sources of exposure to toxic pollutants
- Work with communities to set priorities for risk reduction activities
- Create self-sustaining, community based partnerships that will continue to improve the local environment

Design the fact finding and decision-making process with goals in mind



Building an Effective Partnership

- Invite all stakeholders both inside and outside the partnership area
- Take time to build the partnership and get everyone involved
- Go beyond interested groups to broader community groups: churches, schools, clubs, etc.



[CARE Strategies]



- Provide information and a variety of tools to help communities understand and assess toxic risks
- Collaborate with community stakeholder groups to prioritize plans for risk reduction
- Mobilize local resources and utilize EPA voluntary programs to implement risk reduction activities
- Link EPA programs together to efficiently support communities

CARE Strategies for Making Decisions



- Create a positive environment that encourages a collaborative partnership
- Use neutral facilitation, set ground rules, and focus on building common vision
- Take time and make effort to ensure that all partners participate on level playing field
- Involve partnership and community in collecting information and establishing facts
- View core group as facilitators for broader community decision-making and involvement

CARE Contacts

- **CARE Hotline**
 - 1-877-CARE-909
- **CARE Website**
 - www.epa.gov/care

