

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



What's New?

Since this is the last *Network News* that is sure to be issued, you are invited to subscribe to the **National Coalition for Dialogue & Deliberation [NCDD]'s monthly email Updates or the Deliberative Democracy Consortium's (DDC) monthly e-Bulletin**. The NCDD keeps over 20,000 people up-to-date on what's happening and what opportunities are available to them in dialogue, deliberation and public engagement. If you would like to receive the update, e-mail to ncdd@thataway.org and asked to be subscribed to the **Updates** list. You may subscribe to the DDC **e-Bulletin** @ <http://69.89.31.237/~deliber3/> where you can also find a link to the Journal of Public Deliberation.

The **International Journal of Public Participation's** latest edition asks the question: Has Obama made a difference to P2? Read the articles and begin your own conversations - log on www.iap2.org and follow the links from there.

Apply for Environmental Community Grants Due Date: March 9 -- EPA is making \$2 million available in 2010 to reduce pollution at the local community level through the **Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE)** program.

CARE is a community-based program that works with county and local governments, tribes, nonprofit organizations, and universities to help the public understand and reduce toxic risks from numerous sources, including those found in water. Since 2005, the grants have reached 68 communities in 34 states and territories.

EPA will award CARE cooperative agreements in two levels. Level I awards range from \$75,000 to \$100,000. These awards will help establish community-based partnerships to develop local environmental priorities. Level II awards will range from \$150,000 to \$300,000 each. Grants at this level will support communities that have established broad-based partnerships, have identified the priority toxic risks in the community, and

are prepared to measure results, implement risk-reduction activities, and become self-sustaining.

Applications for the CARE grants are due March 9, 2010. To learn more, visit <http://www.epa.gov/care>

4th Annual Rachel Carson Contest Applications due June 16 - EPA invites the public to submit creative projects to the 4th annual Rachel Carson intergenerational “**Sense of Wonder**” contest. The categories are poetry, photography, essays, and dance. The contest seeks to instill a sense of wonder for the environment among all generations and spur environmental stewardship. Carson is considered to be the founder of the contemporary environmental movement through her landmark book, *Silent Spring*. Its publication is credited with reversing the nation's pesticide policy.

Entries must be from a team of two or more persons from both younger and older generations. EPA is working with the Liz Lerman Dance Exchange, the Rachel Carson Council, Inc., and Generations United to sponsor this contest. The deadline for team entries is **June 16**, 2010. The winners will be announced in October 2010. The public will have the opportunity to vote among the finalists for the winners in each category. Learn more at www.epa.gov/aging/resources/thesenseofwonder/index.htm.

The **USDA** has created a [publicly available database](#) that provides:

- 1) measured nutrient load and concentration data and corresponding watershed characteristics from numerous field-scale studies
- 2) readily accessible, easily queried information to support water quality management, modeling, and future research design, and
- 3) a platform allowing user input of additional project-specific data

The primary objective of this effort was to compile measured annual nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) load and concentration data representing field-scale transport from agricultural and forest (new September 2009) land uses.

Todd Davies and Seeta Peña Gangadharan edited a new book ***Online Deliberation: Design, Research, and Practice***. This resource for the field is something you can [download at no charge](#). You can also order the book from the [University of Chicago Press](#) or [download individual chapters here](#).

Here's the book description: Can new technology enhance local, national, and global democracy? *Online Deliberation* attempts to sample the full range of work on online deliberation, forging new connections between academic research, web designers, and practitioners. Since the most exciting innovations in deliberation have occurred outside of traditional institutions, and those involved have often worked in relative isolation from each other, research conducted on this growing field has to this point neglected the full perspective of online participation. This volume, an essential read for those working at the crossroads of computer and social science, illuminates the collaborative world of deliberation by examining diverse clusters of Internet communities.

Everybody's Movement: Environmental Justice and Climate Change

<http://www.envsc.org/esc-publications/ESC%20everybody%20s%20movement.pdf> features the perspectives and wisdom of twenty-three activists and funders who are engaged in or supporting work to connect environmental justice and climate change. In this report, these leaders from across the United States share their perspectives about how their movement can contribute to climate organizing, policy, and solutions. They also speak about how their movement can be strengthened by better integrating climate issues into the content of environmental justice.

After four years of development and public feedback, the **Sustainable Sites Initiative** has released the nation's first rating system for sustainable landscapes. It developed criteria for sustainable land practices that will enable built landscapes to support natural ecological functions by protecting existing ecosystems and regenerating ecological capacity where it has been lost. This report focuses on measuring and rewarding a project that protects, restores and regenerates ecosystem services - benefits provided by natural ecosystems such as cleaning air and water, climate regulation and human health benefits.

County Health Rankings is a program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. You may find this tool useful in determining, at least from one source, the comparative health of counties throughout the US. <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>

<http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/sites/default/files/CHR%202010%20Top%20and%20Bottom%205%20co.png>



Did your nonprofit organization create a video in 2009? If so, enter it into the [4th Annual DoGooder Nonprofit Video Awards](#) for the chance to win \$2,500 for your nonprofit, get your video featured on the [YouTube](#) homepage, receive great prizes from [Flip Video](#) and [NTEN](#), and have your work showcased at a screening in Washington DC, hosted by [Nomadsland](#).

The Case Foundation is excited to be a sponsor of the DoGooder Nonprofit Video Awards, presented by [See3 Communications](#) and YouTube.

Submissions close on March 19, at which point, a set of [nonprofit and media professionals](#) (including Guy Kawasaki, Gary Vaynerchuk and Beth Kanter) will select 16 finalists to compete in a public vote among the YouTube community. Winners will be announced on April 10 at the [Nonprofit Technology Conference](#) in Atlanta.

The categories for submission are: 1. best small organization video, 2. best medium organization video, 3. best large organization video, and 4. Best innovation in video.

For more information, read the [press release](#), follow what's happening on Twitter ([#npvideo](#)), or go straight to www.youtube.com/nonprofitvideoawards.

The Praxis Project is proud to announce the **Call for Proposals for Communities Creating Healthy Environments (CCHE)**-a grant initiative funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to support community organizing and policy advocacy to increase access to healthy food and safe places to play in communities of color. CCHE will provide funding and technical assistance for up to ten local community organizing groups and indigenous nations with grants of up to \$250,000 over three years. Youth led organizing groups in communities of color are strongly encouraged to apply.

As the program embarks on its second year, CCHE is looking to continue to expand the investments to create healthy vibrant communities. This past year ten dynamic groups across the country were awarded with the grants. The groups are developing cutting edge, culturally competent and comprehensive approaches to ensure just and equitable access to healthy food and safe places for recreation.

What kind of organization should consider applying for CCHE funds?

- Local organizations working in communities of color whose leadership and makeup reflect the populations they serve.
- Groups with a successful track record of at least two years in community organizing and policy advocacy work to address health-related problems in communities of color.
- Tribal governmental agencies engaged in health policy

Examples of health-related policy advocacy for local communities include: land use regulation such as zoning limitations that prevent the increased availability and access to healthy food choices; before-and-after school programs that improve access to recreation and increase physical activity levels; increasing access to translation in health care and social services; laws to extend Medicaid eligibility are solid examples on policy advocacy for local communities.

For more information on the Call for Proposals or to become a part of CCHE, please visit www.ccheonline.org where you can download the Call for Proposals, sign up for information sessions and learn about the current CCHE communities!

Communities Creating Healthy Environments is a National Program Office of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation under the leadership of The Praxis Project. The Praxis Project is a national, nonprofit organization that builds partnerships with local groups to influence policymaking that addresses the underlying, systemic causes of community problems. For more information on Praxis and our other initiatives, please visit www.thepraxisproject.org. For more information on other funding initiatives of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and its goal of reversing the childhood obesity epidemic by 2015, please visit them on the web at www.rwjf.org.

The Praxis project also developed "**Open Gov the Movie**," a short film documenting the year since President Obama's Open Government memorandum. The 14-minute film shot over November/December 2009 in Washington DC and via Skype is based around a series of interviews with key players involved in the Open Government initiative, including:

- Beth Noveck - Head of the White House Open Government program
- Tim O'Reilly - Web2.0 commentator
- Dustin Haisler - CIO at Manor, Texas
- Lena Trudeau - Head of Collaboration at the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA)
- Jeffrey Levy - Head of digital communications at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Jake Brewer - Sunlight Foundation
- Allan Holmes - Editor, NextGov.com
- Steve Lunceford - founder of GovTwit

The Open Gov Movie launched on Thursday 21st January, on the first anniversary of President Obama's issuing the Open Government memorandum, giving an insider's perspective of how the Open Government initiative came about, what's happened over the last 12 months and its effect on both Federal and Local government.

The film's creator Chris Quigley is based in London [UK]. He saw President Obama's memorandum "as a significant move in how government works -- only for the US, but for democracy around the world"...and feels that "The impact that the Open Government manifesto has had on how UK government works has been particularly pronounced. It's no coincidence that since the release of the memorandum in January 2009, both Gordon Brown and David Cameron have announced various schemes to make UK government more open, transparent and participative."

The FCC released a public notice, **FCC Launches Examination of the Future of Media and Information Needs of Communities in a Digital Age**. It quotes the conclusion of the Knight Commission that "[t]he digital age is creating an information and communications renaissance. But it is not serving all Americans and their local communities equally. It is not yet serving democracy fully." The notice goes on to state 42 questions on which the project is conducting research and seeking public input through March 8, 2010. The notice is at http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-10-100A1.doc. The

project web site is <http://reboot.fcc.gov/futureofmedia>.

Applications are now being accepted for the **2010 National Award for Smart Growth Achievement**. This competition is open to public- and private-sector entities that have successfully used smart growth principles to improve communities environmentally, socially, and economically. The application period is open from February 8, 2010 to April 5, 2010. Up to five awards will be given in the following categories:

- Programs, Policies, and Regulations
- Smart Growth and Green Building
- Civic Places
- Rural Smart Growth
- Overall Excellence

More information is available @ <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/awards.htm>

The **Smart Growth Implementation Assistance Program** is an annual, competitive solicitation open to state, local, regional, and tribal governments (and non-profits that have partnered with a governmental entity) that want to incorporate smart growth techniques into their future development.

EPA recently announced a Request for Letters of Interest [RFLI] which is open for 60 days, closing April. It is available here for your reference: [HTML](#) | [PDF Version](#) (4 pp, 44K, [About PDF](#)). There is also a helpful list of [Frequent questions about the SGIA application process are answered here](#).

Once selected, communities receive direct technical assistance from a team of national experts in one of two areas: policy analysis (e.g., reviewing state and local codes, school siting guidelines, transportation policies, etc.) or public participatory processes (e.g., visioning, design workshops, alternative analysis, build-out analysis, etc.). The assistance is tailored to the community's unique situation and priorities. EPA provides the assistance through a contractor team – not a grant. Through a multiple-day site visit and a detailed final report, the multi-disciplinary teams provide information to help the community achieve its goal of encouraging growth that fosters economic progress and environmental protection.

EPA initiated the SGIA program in 2005 with three goals in mind:

1. To support communities interested in implementing smart growth policies;
2. To create regional examples of smart growth that can catalyze similar projects in the area; and
3. To identify common barriers and opportunities for smart growth development and create new tools that other communities can use.

EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson named **Dr. James H. Johnson, Jr.**, professor emeritus of civil engineering and former dean of the College of Engineering, Architecture, and

Computer Sciences at Howard University in Washington, D.C. **to chair the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology [NACEPT]**. The NACEPT is one of EPA's Federal Advisory Act committees. The group advises the agency on a broad range of environmental policy, technology, and management issues.

Dr. Johnson received his B.S. in civil engineering from Howard University, M.S. in sanitary engineering from the University of Illinois and Ph.D. from the department of civil and environmental engineering from the University of Delaware. Dr. Johnson's research interests include treatment and reuse of wastewater sludges, treatment of hazardous substances, the use of nanotechnology tools in the environmental area, the evaluation of environmental policy issues and the development of environmental curricula.

Dr. Johnson is currently a member of the National Research Council's (NRC) Division of Earth and Life Sciences Oversight Committee, the U.S. EPA Science Advisory Board and chair of the Anne Arundel (MD) Community College Board of Trustees. In addition, he serves on several university, private sector and research center advisory committees. Previous board and committee activities include NRC Boards on Radioactive Waste Management and Environmental Studies and Toxicology, American Society for Engineering Education's (ASEE) Engineering Deans Council Executive Committee, Civil Engineering Research Foundation Board, SECME and several NRC, ASEE and ASCE committees (e.g., Remediation of Buried and Task Wastes, DOE Infrastructure Renewal, Assessing the Capacity of the US Engineering Research Enterprise).

Dr. Johnson has published over 60 scholarly articles, contributed to three books and co-edited two books. Memberships in professional organizations include American Water Works Association, fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers, American Society for Engineering Education, water and Environment Federation and Tau Beta Pi. Dr. Johnson is a registered professional engineer in the District of Columbia and a diplomate of the American Academy of Environmental Engineers. He is the recipient of the National Society of Black Engineers 2005 Lifetime Achievement in Academia Golden Torch Award and the 2008 Water Environment Federation Gordon Maskew Fair Distinguished Educator Award.