SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SHOWCASE COMMUNITIES PILOT PROGRAM

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

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Contents

Appendices

Tables

Note: The Salt Lake Tribune is credited with the photograph of asthma testing on the left center of the cover page.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency established ten "Showcase" pilot projects under the Environmental Justice Showcase Community (EJSC) pilot program. This program has brought together governmental and non-governmental organizations and pooled their collective resources and expertise to: (1) reduce exposures in ten communities with multiple, disproportionate environmental health burdens and population vulnerabilities, (2) increase effective participation in decisions with environmental and health consequences and (3) increase access to community benefits. For this report, the Office of Environmental Justice examined the EJSC activities to gain insight into the results of EPA's investment in this effort and how future similar efforts may be developed. This report presents results achieved thus far, including:

- Significant exposure reductions in all ten pilot communities,
- Millions of dollars in leveraged funding, services, and other support from numerous organizations, and
- Numerous new ideas on more effective, efficient, and sustainable ways to address local environmental challenges.

What is the EJ Showcase program?

The Showcase program is an innovative approach through which ten teams of regional management and staff, with National Program Manager (NPM) support, coordinate their work in ten communities with environmental justice (EJ) concerns across the country using new and existing financial, technical and human capital resources to address human health and environmental challenges. The program was started in November 2009, with a 2-year expected duration for most of the ten projects; some projects will be ongoing until September 2012.

Where are the Showcase pilot communities?

All ten locations are listed below, and a summary of each project is provided on the Internet at http://www.epa.gov/compliance/ej/grants/ej-Showcase.html

- Bridgeport, Connecticut - EPA Region 1
- Staten Island, New York - EPA Region 2
- Washington, D.C. - EPA Region 3
- Jacksonville, Florida - EPA Region 4
- Milwaukee, Wisconsin - EPA Region 5
- Port Arthur, Texas - EPA Region 6
- Kansas City, Missouri and Kansas City, Kansas - EPA Region 7

- Salt Lake City, Utah - EPA Region 8
- Los Angeles, California - EPA Region 9
- Yakima, Washington - EPA Region 10

What types of successes were achieved?

The EPA Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) has examined the results achieved and has identified numerous individual successes by the ten regional projects. Examples of these successes include:

- Region 1 leveraged a $1 million commitment from the City of Bridgeport to provide low-income communities access to local parks and also removed 600 tons of contaminated soils.
- Region 2 conducted enforcement actions at 21 industrial sites and also will carry out $350,000 worth of targeted brownfield assessments.
- Region 3 leveraged EPA funding for the Children's Environmental Health Workgroup Healthy Homes Project and convened major workgroups around the District of Columbia to coordinate services for community environmental and health needs.
- Region 4 completed a comprehensive study of fish and shellfish in two local fishing streams and worked with the City of Jacksonville to acquire property for the construction of a new healthcare facility.
- Region 5 conducted 13 tank inspections and seven multi-media inspections to assess potential impacts on the community and awarded $800,000 to investigate 200 known brownfields sites.
- Region 6 engaged in partnerships with Port Arthur stakeholders and industries leading to a $1 million award toward construction of a health clinic in the Showcase neighborhood.
- Region 7 hosted an "Essentials for Healthy Home Practitioners" course for 50 participants and developed a ten-week environmental awareness program for local youth.
- Region 8 developed a process model titled "Pathway toward a Healthier Community" to guide project efforts and mobilized a core group of state, county, and city government agencies and local non-profit and community organizations.
- Regions 9 conducted 185 inspections and took 47 enforcement actions that required $2.4 million in penalties and the reduction of 34 thousand pounds of pollutants annually.
- Region 10 tested 600 private wells for nitrate contamination in the Yakima Valley in the State of Washington and also investigated nearby crop fields, dairies, and septic systems in an effort to link contaminated domestic wells to nitrate sources.

What did the EPA learn?

Staff in all ten EPA regions shared numerous ideas, many of which contained promising practices and lessons learned for improving the EPA's community-based projects. Some of these promising practices have been identified in past community-based projects and others appear to be new. Table 3-3 (all tables are at the end of this report) presents a complete list of promising practices, lessons learned, tips, and other ideas shared by the EPA regions.

What are the major findings?

The major findings from analyzing the results of the EJSC pilot projects include:

- All ten projects met the program objectives to:
  - Achieve significant measurable environmental and public health results;
  - Build broad, robust, results-oriented and sustainable partnerships with community organizations, federal agencies, and state agencies; and
  - Coordinate and leverage existing federal resources to address EJ considerations pertinent to the selected community using the programs, policies, and activities of the EPA, and appropriate federal, state and local agencies.
- The Showcase program offers a promising new approach to community-based projects that authorizes a project team in each EPA region to select a community, spend project funds, and partner with federal, state, and local organizations. The new approach allows the EPA to more proactively:
  - Conduct activities related to the EPA's strengths and program priorities
  - Leverage funding from partner organizations.
- All projects achieved one or more of the fundamental[1] goals by implementing numerous strategies that can be used to build specific work plans for future community-based projects.
- All project teams identified numerous ideas related to their projects, including many promising practices and lessons learned.

SHOWCASE PROJECTS ACHIEVED EJ GOALS USING VARIOUS STRATEGIES

FUNDAMENTAL GOALS FOR MEANINGFUL INVOLVEMENT
(Opportunity to participate in decisions)

- 1. ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY
  - General Environmental Awareness
  - General Community Improvement Activities
- 2. EMPOWER THE COMMUNITY
  - Community Ownership of Project Activities
- 3. IMPROVE STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATION
  - Stakeholder Meetings and Forums
  - Facilitated Discussions

FUNDAMENTAL GOALS FOR FAIR TREATMENT
(No disproportionate environmental harms)

- 4. REDUCE COMMUNITY EXPOSURES
  - Enforcement Initiatives and Fines
  - Direct Removal of Contamination
  - Exposure Awareness, Notification, and Preparedness Training
- 5. INVESTIGATE COMMUNITY EXPOSURE CONCERNS
  - Local Media Sampling
  - Facility Inspections
- 6. IMPROVE COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE
  - Train Healthcare Workers
  - Increase Healthcare Locations/Hours
  - Assess Healthcare Needs

What are the recommendations?

Based on the above findings, one major recommendation is to conduct another round of EJSC projects. In addition, it is further recommended that development of the new EJSC projects incorporate the following suggestions:

[1] OEJ's rationale for identifying each success is based on the achievement of at least one of six goals that OEJ believes is fundamental to doing effective community-based project work.

- Planning meetings among the EPA NPMs to discuss methods to:
  - Further expand and facilitate coordination between EJSC project teams and staff in the regional and headquarters program offices.
  - Build management-level procedures and protocols for enlisting and leveraging state and other federal agency support on EJSC projects. Such new methods and protocols would address the lessons learned in the pilot program regarding the time and resources needed to identify and reach agreements with project partners by streamlining and removing many of the uncertainties involved in these complex relationships.
- Arrange a series of conference calls among the current EJSC project teams to gather additional ideas, including promising practices and lessons learned, and to obtain further details on the ideas that are already listed in Table 3-3 at the end of this report.
- Convene a workgroup that reports to the NPMs and that revises the template for development of future EJSC work plans. The new template would incorporate the six fundamental goals in a flexible manner that allows project teams to more efficiently discuss alternative strategies and activities for addressing each fundamental goal thus allowing them to more efficiently communicate across project teams and with partner organizations, community residents, and other stakeholders as they build their projects.
- Share the findings and recommendations developed for this report with EPA management and staff currently working on future Key Performance Indicators (KPI) for upcoming community-based projects.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents an analysis by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) of the results achieved by the EPA's Environmental Justice Showcase Communities (EJ Showcase) pilot program. Through the pilot program, ten "Showcase" pilot projects have brought together governmental and non-governmental organizations and pooled their collective resources and expertise to achieve quantifiable results. The communities in the pilot program have multiple, disproportionate environmental health burdens, population vulnerabilities, and limits to effective participation in decisions with environmental and health consequences. The results achieved thus far include:

- Significant reductions in exposures in all ten pilot communities.
- Millions of dollars in leveraged funding, services and other support from numerous organizations.
- Numerous new ideas for addressing local environmental challenges.

The main driver behind the successes from the Showcase pilot program was its innovative structure. The structure involves one EPA project team in each region charged with the responsibility to choose a community, select partner organizations, prepare a project plan and obtain results, all within a timeframe of 2 to 3 years. The structure required high level involvement in each region to assure unprecedented communication and collaboration between environmental justice (EJ) community-based project teams and staff from regional program offices.

At the time this Showcase structure was developed, many of the EPA staff members in all regions had already accrued many years of experience working on community-based projects, such as those associated with the EPA's EJ Small Grants program, the Brownfields program, the EJ Collaborative Problem Solving program, and the CARE[2] program. The structure of the Showcase program took advantage of promising practices and lessons learned from these earlier projects. However, headquarters and regional staff involved in the EJSC pilot program also suggested many new ideas for ways to improve the process for planning and implementing community-based projects.

This report describes how the ten pilot projects accomplished numerous successes in reducing exposures, leveraging funds, and providing measurable improvements in the quality of lives in the ten pilot communities. The report also shares insights that the EPA project teams provided on how they believe

[2] Community Action for a Renewed Environment

greater successes can be achieved in future community-based projects. The report consists of the following sections:

- Section 1 is the introduction to the report.
- Section 2 describes the Showcase program, including its basic structure and how it was developed and implemented.
- Section 3 presents and analyzes the results from the EJSC pilot program. It describes where the projects occurred, examines project goals and successes, and explains what the EPA can learn from the project results.
- Section 4 summarizes the major findings and recommendations that were drawn from analyzing the ten pilot projects and presents rationale supporting the development of additional projects using the innovative design attributes of the Showcase pilots.
- Appendix A provides detailed summaries of each EJSC project.
- Appendix B provides a copy of the original EJ Showcase Community Pilot Program guidance issued by the Environmental Justice Committee, under its former name the Environmental Justice Executive Steering Committee.

2.0 SHOWCASE PILOT PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The EJ Showcase Communities pilot program was designed by a workgroup established by the Environmental Justice Committee (EJC)[3] in December 2008 and was advanced to the regions in early 2009. The following sections describe the Showcase pilot program, including its goals and implementation strategy; the full guidance is provided in Appendix B of this report.

BASIC SHOWCASE PROGRAM STRUCTURE

- Pilot Program Duration: January 2009 - June 2012.
- Ten place-based projects (one per EPA region).
- Project Durations: November 2009 - September 2012.
- The EJC provides guidance for selection of communities and development of regional project plans.
- An EPA project management team in each region selects a project location and develops a project work plan.
- The central focus of each project is to apply lessons learned from previous EJ projects to:
  - Enhance ongoing environmental-justice-related projects by adding EPA funding, EPA staff, and leveraging funding and staff from other government and nongovernment sources
  - Create multi-stakeholder partnerships that would lead to measureable results.
- Baseline funding of $100,000 was provided to each project by the Office of Environmental Justice in support of non-staff project costs.

2.1 General Program Goals

The EJSC program created an innovative approach through which ten teams of regional management and staff, with OEJ and National Program Managers' (NPM) support, coordinated their work in ten EJ communities across the country using new and existing financial, technical and human capital resources to address human health and environmental challenges. The objectives assigned to each regional project management team were to:

- Achieve significant measurable environmental and public health results;
- Build broad, robust, results-oriented and sustainable partnerships with community organizations, federal agencies, and state agencies; and
- Coordinate and leverage existing federal resources to address EJ considerations pertinent to the selected community using the programs, policies, and activities of the EPA and the appropriate federal, state and local agencies.

[3] Formerly known as the Environmental Justice Executive Steering Committee, the Environmental Justice Committee (EJC), a subgroup of EPA's Executive Management Council, is the senior policy and leadership body for EPA's EJ Program. It promotes Agency actions that enhance the protection of the environment and public health in minority, low-income, tribal or other disproportionately burdened communities through the integration of environmental justice in all programs, policies, and activities.

2.2 Program Implementation Strategy

The overall EJSC program implementation strategy is depicted in the figure below. It shows five basic steps that are described in the following subsections.

2.2.1 Program Development Step

The program development step involved a number of meetings, coordinated by the work group created by the EJC, which were convened to identify and resolve key program issues. This program was intended to work in communities with EJ concerns, particularly those where there was an opportunity to benefit from multi-federal, state and local agency partnership and coordination to address those issues. As a result, the focus of the agency's efforts was a specific community in each region, but the resources to achieve results could be provided to and could be received from states, county government, local municipal government, community-based groups, and others working to mitigate the environmental justice concerns of the community residents and institutions.

OEJ provided $100,000 of funding to each region for the EJSC program. The funding was provided in support of a Showcase community proposal from each region for supporting activities associated with their respective community. Similar to the former Brownfields Showcase Communities program, the EJSC program required that the regional proposals involve work with one locale per region, involve a multi-federal and state agency partnership, have some objective criteria for identifying which community to partner with, and identify clear human health and environmental improvement goals at the outset of the project. The regional proposals were designed with lessons learned from the Brownfields Showcase Communities, the Regional Geographic Initiatives, the CARE Program and the EJ Collaborative Problem Solving (CPS) Cooperative Agreements programs in mind.

The regions were permitted to use the program funds to support existing contract efforts in the regions that could be leveraged to assist the pilot. Regions could purchase tools and equipment and conduct and support joint training exercises.

2.2.2 Identify Project Locations Step

Two main criteria for identifying project locations involved the need for the project to succeed in: (1) reducing environmental and human health impacts; and (2) testing and refining cross-program and multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms. In addition, each location was intended to have a number of ongoing projects that were supposed to have been initiated before or during fiscal year (FY) 2009 to quickly start getting measurable results and to ensure that the EJSC program's development was informed by on-the-ground experience.

2.2.3 Identify Project Tools and Approaches Step

The work plans from each EPA region were to include specific commitments to address the priority issues identified in the targeted project locations. The leadership team for this priority was tasked to ensure that specific tools and approaches were being tested through implementation of these work plans.

2.2.4 Establish a Program Reporting Framework Step

The EJC requested a framework for recording success in EJ areas that include reporting outputs and environmental and health outcomes from geographic projects. This step in the program implementation effort resulted in a regular semiannual report that was required to be submitted by each project team.

2.2.5 Program Management Step

This final step of the program implementation process involved agreeing on a regular schedule for holding monthly meetings with regional project teams and headquarters programs representatives to discuss progress and successes and brainstorm solutions to issues that were found to be common to more than one region.

2.2.6 Technical Assistance and Support

As the Showcase Communities program evolved, it became clear that the original plan that each region developed would need support for unanticipated project needs. As a result, OEJ explored additional resources that could be applied to the projects. Regional teams submitted work plans to OEJ, which then vetted the plans and subsequently engaged appropriate contract support to each project. Several existing OEJ and Agency contract vehicles were identified and engaged in the projects. These contract vehicles, which included the Technical Assistance Services to Communities (TASC) contract, the Conflict Prevention and Resolutions Center (CPRC) contract, and the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) Technology Transfer, and Training contract, provided a wide range of support to many of the Showcase projects and communities. Support ranged from project planning to dispute resolution to translation of materials into plain language. The inclusion of these support mechanisms, improved the projects that incorporated them and contributed to their results.

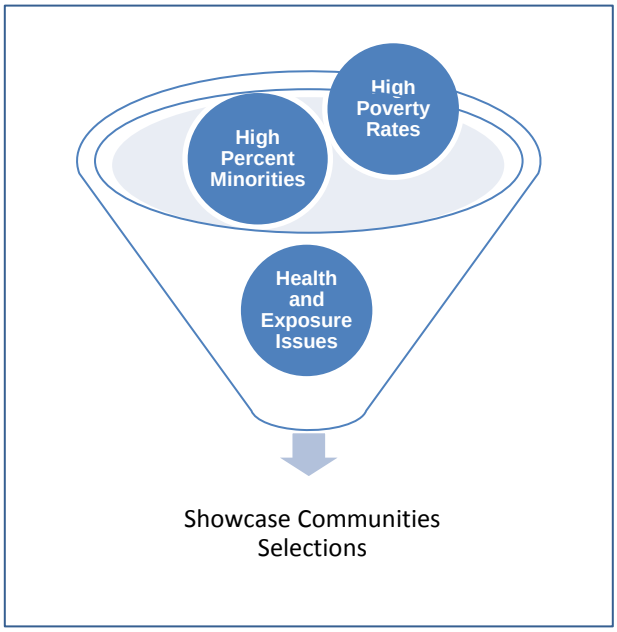
3.0 RESULTS

This section presents and analyzes the results from the Showcase pilot program. It describes where the projects occurred, explores project goals and successes, and presents ideas provided by regional project teams on what the EPA can learn from the results of the Showcase projects.

3.1 Project Locations

All project locations are listed below and summaries of all ten project locations are provided on the Internet at http://www.epa.gov/compliance/ej/grants/ej-Showcase.html

- Bridgeport, Connecticut - EPA Region 1
- Staten Island, New York - EPA Region 2
- Washington, D.C. - EPA Region 3
- Jacksonville, Florida - EPA Region 4
- Milwaukee, Wisconsin - EPA Region 5
- Port Arthur, Texas - EPA Region 6
- Kansas City, Missouri and Kansas - EPA Region 7
- Salt Lake City, Utah - EPA Region 8
- Los Angeles, California - EPA Region 9
- Yakima, Washington - EPA Region 10



All of these communities are disproportionately affected by multiple factors, and they share many of the health, social, and education issues that are common in low-income areas, including high rates of asthma and blood lead levels in children, high unemployment, and low awareness of environmental hazards. In addition, many of the project areas have language barriers, literacy barriers, and ethnic and cultural traditions and customs that have the potential to significantly affect project implementation considerations. Table 3-1 at the end of this report provides a brief profile and summary of the socioeconomic and environmental issues and concerns in each pilot community.

The sizes of the nine urban communities varied between one neighborhood (Regions 1, 4, and 6) and many contiguous neighborhoods (Regions 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, and 9). Regions 1 through 9 each selected an

urban community for their project, and Region 10 selected a rural community. The rural community selected by Region 10 consisted of a multi-million acre valley that includes a large Indian reservation.

As shown in Table 3-1 at the end of this report, the locations collectively exhibited a wide array of environmental exposure and health issues. For example, there were:

- Contaminated soils in a Bridgeport community (Region 1),
- Permit violations by businesses in the north shore communities of Staten Island (Region 2),
- Needed improvements in the asthma healthcare programs administered by the District of Columbia (Region 3),
- Contaminated fish and shellfish in a Jacksonville community fishing area (Region 4),
- Numerous brownfields sites in and around the 30th Street corridor in Milwaukee (Region 5),
- Air quality issues from fence-line refineries in Port Arthur (Region 6),
- Potentially contaminated urban gardens in Kansas City (Region 7),
- Children's health concerns in Salt Lake City (Region 8),
- Elevated mortality rates from diesel emissions in Los Angeles (Region 9), and
- Nitrate contamination of wells in the Yakima Valley (Region 10).

In addition to the above examples, each location contained neighborhoods with numerous other exposure issues that needed to be addressed. For example lead-based paint and asthma-related issues were found in virtually all of the nine urban communities, as were air quality issues caused by vehicle exhaust and high densities of small businesses engaged in air-emitting activities such as automotive painting and repair, dry cleaning, and printing. Similarly, in addition to the nitrate contamination in drinking water wells, the rural project in Region 10 also involved air quality issues on the Yakama Indian Reservation.

3.2 Goals and Successes

Each regional EJ program prepared a work plan based on its knowledge of the selected community, knowledge of the ongoing EPA and other stakeholder projects in the community, and the EJSC program guidance (see Appendix B).

Now that all of the work plans have been implemented, OEJ has examined the results achieved and has identified a large number of individual successes by the ten regional projects. These project successes are listed in Table 3-2 at the end of this report. OEJ's rationale for identifying each success is based on the achievement of at least one of six goals that OEJ believes is fundamental to doing effective community-

based project work. As shown below, the first three of these goals are mainly related to the environmental justice principle of meaningful involvement of communities, and the last three are mainly related to the environmental justice principle of fair treatment, which is aimed at eliminating disproportionate environmental harms in overburdened communities.

- Engage the Community
- Empower the Community
- Improve Stakeholder Communication

→ Meaningful Involvement

- Reduce Exposures
- Investigate Exposures
- Improve Healthcare

→ Fair Treatment

All six of the above goals are "fundamental" because each goal can be attained independently without achieving one or more of the other fundamental goals. Thus, these fundamental goals can be thought of as mutually exclusive in the sense that any of them has the potential to be achieved in the absence of the other goals. For example, healthcare can be improved without reducing exposures, and exposures can be reduced in the absence of engaging the community. However, this identification of projects in terms of six distinct fundamental goals is flexible and recognizes that project strategies and activities designed to achieve one of the six fundamental goals can be linked to additional strategies and activities that achieve one or more additional fundamental goals.

The following paragraphs describe these fundamental goals and provide examples of the successes, project strategies, and promising practices that were applied to achieve each goal.

3.2.1 Engaging the Community

Community engagement is achieved by getting community members to participate in activities that are designed to increase their awareness of and interest in environmental issues, making it more likely that community members will participate in current or future decision-making processes that have the potential to affect their levels of exposures and health. This goal can be achieved on many levels, depending on the current level of engagement of a community or portion thereof. A basic step toward achieving community engagement is identifying and characterizing major segments of a community in terms of their interests, which may or may not initially be related to the environment. Some of these interests may be related to their faith, cultural events, or their children.

Once they are identified, the interests are leveraged to initiate and expand discussions on local vulnerabilities, health, and potential sources of exposure. The activities conducted by the EJSC projects reflected use of two basic types of strategies for community engagement:

- Conduct community improvement activities that elevate the general quality of life of community residents, and
- Conduct general environmental awareness activities, such as green infrastructure job training, general awareness training, recycling, pollution prevention techniques, reducing global climate change, and energy saving techniques.

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES

REGION 1 leveraged a $1 million commitment from the City of Bridgeport to provide low-income communities access to local parks. ***REGION 2*** supported development of a website for a newly formed coalition composed of 30 community organizations. ***REGION 3*** facilitated and funded a green infrastructure job training project. ***REGION 4*** conducted "build your own rain barrel" and community garden workshops to improve storm drainage and provide fresh food. ***REGION 5*** conducted training for community health workers and health care providers. ***REGION 6*** supported community forums on improving the quality of life in the Westside neighborhood of Port Arthur, Texas. ***REGION 7*** hosted an urban agriculture workshop to inform residents of the potential hazards of gardening on brownfields and ways to mitigate these hazards. ***REGION 8*** developed a project process model titled "Pathway toward a Healthier Community" to guide project efforts. ***REGION 9*** partnered with the Clean Up Green Up campaign to support its "Green Zones" efforts in three Los Angeles neighborhoods. ***REGION 10*** developed an innovative quick home nitrate test postcard that was distributed to residents at community festivals and by local social service organizations in the community.

In reviewing the text box, it can be observed that the activities shown for Regions 1, 2, and 5 fit the strategy of general community improvement, and that the activities shown for Regions 3, 4, and 7 through 10 are more aligned with the strategy of conducting activities to promote a general environmental awareness. It is important to note that although community engagement by itself is not always directly connected to a specific issue in the community, these activities are essential for outreach and getting the word out about the EPA project. There are many specific, promising practices for optimizing the successes that are linked to this goal. For example, Region 4 used radio announcements, Regions 8 and 9 benefited from the use of significant translation and simultaneous interpretation services, and Region 7 worked with young students who learned about the history of local water bodies from senior citizens.

3.2.2 Empowering the Community

Empowering a community is often thought of as the highest possible state of community engagement. This goal is achieved by helping the community to make the transition from active involvement in project activities to providing substantial inputs into decision-making processes that have the potential to affect

their levels of exposure and health. Another way to describe community empowerment is the ownership of activities to meet the other five fundamental goals listed in this report. For example, the communities involved in the Regions 2 and 9 Showcase projects took ownership of their role in reducing exposures by actively collecting information about possible sources of contamination in their communities and providing it to federal and state regulators. The activities conducted by empowered community members greatly improved EPA's abilities to target inspections and enforcement actions.

EMPOWERING THE COMMUNITY

REGIONS 2 and 9 empowered community members to provide state and federal enforcement officials with information and recommendations on which businesses should be inspected for possible violations of their permits and for operating without permits. ***REGION 7*** Urban Waters volunteers were trained on water sampling techniques and conducted water sampling over the course of 6 months at five different urban water bodies. This information was provided to a program with the University of Missouri, which was then given to Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

3.2.3 Improving Stakeholder Communications

Improving stakeholder communications is essential to reaching a consensus on the types of exposures that may be present in a given community and how to mitigate each type of exposure. Improving communication represents the first step toward a collaborative problem-solving process, which can be effective for reducing exposures in some communities. The types of strategies used by the Showcase projects for improving stakeholder communications included:

IMPROVING STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS

REGION 4 provided three community-industry forums to improve communications by fostering community-industry dialogues. ***REGION 9*** worked with community leaders to organize a bus trip and forum with the Regional Administrator and other agency representatives. ***REGION 10*** supported a "situation assessment" of more than 23 groups and 65 stakeholders to identify areas of common ground on divisive issues pertaining to cleanup of groundwater contamination.

- Stakeholder meetings or forums, and
- Facilitated discussions

Improving a community's ability to work with stakeholders, especially those who have significant power to reduce community exposures, can significantly expedite resolutions of certain types of exposure issues. In Region 10, it is likely irrigated agriculture and dairy operations in the Yakima Valley have contributed to nitrate contamination in residential wells. Acknowledging the importance of agriculture to the

economy, the region took the first steps toward development of a collaborative problem-solving approach to the issues by enlisting a professional organization to conduct a situation assessment. The results of this assessment are being used to determine whether there are areas of common ground between various stakeholders that can be used to reduce the potential for nitrate releases to the groundwater through improved farm management practices.

3.2.4 Reducing Exposures

Reducing exposures in a community involves strategies that are focused on specifically identifying and reducing the sources of toxins that are coming in contact with community residents in a manner that is disproportionate to most other communities. These exposure reductions may be accomplished using three basic strategies:

- Direct removal,
- Enforcement initiatives, or
- Exposure awareness training.

REDUCING EXPOSURES

REGION 1 removed 600 tons of contaminated soils and conducted in-home asthma training. ***REGION 2*** conducted enforcement actions at 21 industrial sites. ***REGION 3*** leveraged EPA funding for the Children's Environmental Health Workgroup Healthy Homes Project. ***REGION 4*** reduced exposures to asthma triggers and lead-based paint. ***REGION 5*** reached more than 75 local families with training on blood lead screening, asthma testing, lead-based paint removal, and healthy home practices. ***REGION 6*** conducted healthy homes trainings for 60 neighborhood residents. ***REGION 7*** supported an "Essentials for Healthy Home Practitioners" course for 50 participants that taught participants how to identify and addresses sources of indoor environmental hazards. ***REGION 8*** compiled neighborhood-specific environmental and health data on a map of the community. ***REGION 9*** took enforcement actions that required annual reductions of 34 thousand pounds of pollutants and required 37 facilities to institute best management practices. ***REGION 10*** partnered with Yakima County through a $400,000 state grant to install well water filters in 166 homes.

Direct removal can be accomplished by the EPA or another government entity with or without the assistance of an empowered community. For example, Region 1 used a direct removal strategy to remove approximately 600 tons of contaminated soils from an overburdened neighborhood. Not only did this removal reduce specific potential exposures in the community, it also met the goal of engaging the community, because the EPA solicited the community's involvement, using its inputs to carefully consider and to ensure that the removal activities would not cause any additional exposures or stress to nearby residents. Because it was done properly and with maximum input from community members, the engagement portion of this removal enabled the involved community members to envision positive exposure-reducing activities that might be applied to other exposure issues. For example, some community members who met the EPA staff during discussions about the removal learned that it is easy and rewarding to converse with government workers on various environmentally related topics.

Another example of the direct exposure reduction strategy was identified by the EPA Region 10 staff, who leveraged a $400,000 state grant to Yakima County to install filters on 166 contaminated residential wells. The large geographic area covered by the filter program and the reduced English language and literacy skills in the target population challenged the EPA Region 10 team and county partners to devise multiple outreach tools to engage the community. These tools included a direct mailing with a self-test nitrate kit to all residences on wells, radio spots on English and Spanish stations, and direct outreach with medical practitioners and schools to engage families with babies, young children, or child-bearing women. On-site testing of residential wells by EPA staff provided discrete one-on-one opportunities for community members to express additional concerns.

As indicated above, using enforcement and fines is another promising practice for reducing exposures in communities. This approach was used by Region 9, requiring local facilities to collectively pay a total of $2.4 million in penalties in the Showcase area over the project period, which is expected to reduce 34,000 pounds of pollutants annually. In addition, the use of targeted enforcement actions in the Showcase area led to the eventual engagement and later empowerment of community members from numerous neighborhoods who began working closely with federal, state, and local enforcement officials to efficiently target businesses that either do not have environmental permits for various media or are violating their permits.

Region 2 was also able to reduce exposures to its Showcase community using enforcement actions with assistance from empowered community members. The empowerment of these individuals occurred before the Showcase project by virtue of a project conducted by a community-based organization. This project was funded by a state grant that allowed the community to conduct research to identify industrial sites that appeared to be out of compliance with various regulations.

Environmental exposure awareness training was the most frequently used strategy for reducing exposures in the Showcase communities, and healthy homes training was by far the most used promising practice selected to implement this strategy. As indicated in the previous text box, Showcase funding provided healthy homes training for hundreds of community members in Regions 5, 6, and 7.

3.2.5 Investigating Exposures

Investigating exposures, whether conducted by empowered community members or by state, federal, or local governments, often creates opportunities for reducing potential exposures and greatly reduces unnecessary stresses and fears caused by a lack of information or data.

When part of a coordinated effort or partnership, investigations have a significant potential to engage and empower a community, even when no contamination is found. The collection of pertinent information about a potential exposure can create the desire to initiate a collaborative process in which an industrial entity can determine if its facility is the primary source of contamination in a community, before it takes actions to reduce exposures.

INVESTIGATING EXPOSURES

REGION 2 investigated and resolved concerns associated with 21 industrial sites that were identified by the community. ***REGION 4*** completed a comprehensive study of fish and shellfish in two local fishing streams. ***REGION 5*** conducted 13 tank inspections and seven multi-media inspections to assess potential impacts on the community, and awarded $800,000 to investigate 200 known brownfields sites. ***REGION 6*** supported revitalization by leveraging more than $300,000 to assess 1,300 properties in and near the community. ***REGION 7*** sampled 15 urban lots to help community members assess whether the lots are safe for gardening and agricultural production. ***REGION 9*** held a scoping session for a health impacts assessment of port operations with over 40 stakeholders including port officials and business representatives. ***REGION 10*** tested 600 private wells for nitrate contamination and also investigated crop fields, dairies, and septic systems to identify the main sources of nitrate contamination in the communities of Yakima Valley.

Alternatively, the results of an investigation may lead to reuse and revitalization of a formerly useless property. As shown in the text box, seven regions used investigations to address community concerns about potential exposures. The types of strategies used for these investigations included:

- Local media sampling, and
- Facility inspections.

Region 2 used investigations as part of its enforcement initiatives, and Regions 5 and 6 leveraged a total of more than $1,000,000 for brownfields assessments at 200 known sites in Region 5 and 1,300 properties in Region 6. In addition, Region 9 provided key stakeholders with an opportunity to learn more about the practice of health impact assessment in the context of port operations and expected expansions, and Region 10 tested for nitrate contamination in 600 private wells. On a subset of wells with nitrate above the drinking water standard, Region 10 analyzed for other chemicals including pesticides, veterinary pharmaceuticals, and hormones from both the well and the potential upgradient sources to assess linkages.

3.2.6 Improving Healthcare

Improving healthcare generally results in direct positive impacts on a community during the project period. Such improvements may reduce a large number of health disparities, such as the frequency and severity of asthma attacks, the percentage of young children in a community who have elevated levels of

lead in their blood, and the mortality rates caused by all types of exposures. The successes associated with healthcare improvements within the Showcase projects generally involved three strategies:

- Increasing the locations and accessibility of healthcare facilities,
- Training healthcare workers, and
- Assessing healthcare needs in the community.

IMPROVING HEALTHCARE

REGIONS 3 and 8 completed comprehensive healthcare needs assessments. ***REGION 4*** leveraged property for construction of a new healthcare facility. ***REGION 5*** trained 170 community healthcare workers and healthcare providers, and ***REGION 6*** engaged in partnerships with Port Arthur stakeholders and industries leading to a $1 million award toward construction of a health clinic in the Showcase neighborhood.

Region 4 successfully pursued the first strategy by securing a construction site for a new healthcare facility by leveraging a Superfund cleanup property (owned by the City of Jacksonville) with help from staff in the EPA Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (OSRTI). Similarly, Region 6 also successfully pursued this strategy by leveraging $1 million through partnering with local industries and other local stakeholders toward construction of a new healthcare facility in Port Arthur, Texas.

The second strategy, involving training of healthcare workers to better meet the specific needs of the their communities, was successfully pursued by the Region 5 Showcase project, which resulted in training 170 community healthcare workers and healthcare providers.

Regions 3 and 8 successfully completed comprehensive healthcare assessments in their Showcase communities, which are expected to lead toward development of new training materials and new healthcare facilities in those communities.

3.3 Ideas from Regional Project Teams

The previous section provided examples of the many significant successes accomplished and millions of dollars leveraged that resulted from the EPA staff reaching out for assistance from various partner organizations. This effort of reaching out instilled the EPA regional staff with new ideas for improving on the positive results of the Showcase program, which they shared with each other during regular monthly meetings and in semi-annual reports to the OEJ program management team. Some of the ideas were expressed as promising practices, others were expressed as lessons learned, and a number of ideas were in the form of tips for optimizing specific activities, such as soil sampling. All of these ideas are presented in Table 3-3 at the end of this report according to the following topic areas:

- General approaches for program and project planning
- Partnership development
- Collaboration and communication
- Project specific needs
- Outreach workshops
- Soil sampling in urban gardens
- Specialized training

This section evaluates the ideas corresponding to the top three topic areas listed above because they are potentially applicable to a broad range of future projects, whereas the potential applications of the ideas in the remaining four categories generally were narrower in scope. In addition, this section features some of the ideas that contained promising practices and lessons learned.

3.3.1 Ideas about General Approaches and Program and Project Planning

Ideas from four regions addressed general approaches and program and project planning; all of these ideas were expressed as ways to improve the current program, and most of them appeared to focus on the need for allowing more time and planning, especially in the beginning stages of a community-based project.

One of the most interesting ideas in this category was provided by Region 1 and is related to the comment shown in the text box. The comment states that "program planners should anticipate a project predicated on a systems approach to take years to show substantial benefits. If you think of the Showcase like you would a cleanup, time needed to issue a permit (after an appeal), or years used to restore a river then you know you

IDEAS ABOUT GENERAL PROGRAM AND PROJECT PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

REGION 1: "Program planners should anticipate a project predicated on a systems approach to take years to show substantial benefits. …EJ work happens on a similar timeline largely because of the complexity of the issues."

REGION 4: "Using a previously established and widely recognized boundary, such as a community health zone, helps to avoid uncertainties about project boundaries and focus all project work on a specific area."

REGION 5: "Enforcement activities take time to plan and execute."

REGION 6: "More detailed strategic planning should be used for the new national initiatives, particularly potential funding use and obligation timelines."

REGION 9: "Using our senior leaders' performance agreements was an effective way to ensure buy in to the project goals across the Region."

could be talking conservatively about five to ten years of work. EJ work happens on a similar timeline largely because of the complexity of the issues." Implementing this idea would involve more uniform and stepwise processes that require greater emphasis on interagency and intra-agency coordination, requiring specific time estimates and more detailed descriptions of the outputs expected to be produced at various milestones.

This idea also envisions improved communications with state and other federal agencies, resulting in better estimates of the time frames needed to allow synchronization of priorities and schedules among partners and other stakeholders. The skills and commitments needed to conduct coordination and communication with other stakeholders and to construct clear project milestones could be provided by staff from specific regional programs, depending on the goals and types of actions (such as cleanups, enforcement initiatives, or permit reviews) that are established in the project plan. For example, regional Superfund staff could assist in planning and coordinating an investigation and potential cleanup that might be planned in a given community, and the outputs of the planning process would provide valuable information to all stakeholders. This information could be used in the project kickoff meeting and to fuel collaborative problem-solving sessions between a wide variety of stakeholders.

Region 5 staff provided an idea that aptly described the parallel experiences of the EPA staff working with other Showcase communities. This idea was that the project team was "working to address multiple issues – health, environmental contamination, public involvement – involving different partners and activities. There was not one problem, but multiple problems not easily or quickly solved. However, this may be the norm for EJ communities in urban areas – several neighborhoods, different needs and approaches, different levels of success." By exploring this thought, it may be possible to determine what the norm should be for future community-based projects and whether the norm can be optimized with some well-placed adjustments.

3.3.2 Ideas about Partnership Development

One of the most useful observations noted from reviewing these ideas is that none of them reflected uncertainty about which organizations should be targeted as potential partners; thus, it appears that the regional staffs generally know which organizations would be helpful in contributing to their project needs. The information on Table 3-4 at the end of this report supports the validity of this observation because it provides examples of the wide array of government, private, and community organizations with which the regional teams were able to pursue relationships.

Seven regions provided ideas about partnership development, and many of their ideas are similar to those discussed above under planning and project management because they emphasize the need to have realistic understanding of the time needed to fully develop a community-based project. Much of this time is used in simply gaining a rapport with the individuals in the partnering organizations and understanding the types of capabilities and constraints that the prospective partner will have in providing value to the EPA project.

IDEAS ABOUT PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

REGION 1: "Align the project goals as closely as possible to partner organization goals to maximize potential leveraging opportunities."

REGION 5: "Community and local agencies have their own demands, priorities, and schedules that can prevent them from meeting EPA time lines and cause delays."

REGION 6: "Collaboration of disparate groups and interests is challenging for priority setting."

REGION 7: "Partnering individuals/organizations need to be briefed on how to interact with the populations we serve."

REGION 8: "Partnership development takes time."

REGION 9: "The Showcase project relied heavily on existing partnerships …"

REGION 10: The Region "partnered with a local, trusted, bilingual-bicultural health promotion organization to reach the most vulnerable populations but the contracting mechanism required extra effort by both groups that detracted from the immediate task."

Partnership development appears to be one of the major areas where senior EPA managers may need to establish guidelines and work with states and other federal agencies to set protocols and other channels of communications that can facilitate and even streamline development of high-functioning relationships between the EPA and its partner organizations. In addition, further guidelines are needed to inform the EPA project teams on how to use the new protocols to expedite establishment of a cooperative relationship with another federal, tribal, state, or local agency, or with any other type of organization.

3.3.3 Ideas about Collaboration and Communication

Ideas from six regions addressed collaboration and communication. Many of these ideas addressed the need to communicate accurate and eye-catching messages about the Showcase project to recruit more community members and partners. Other ideas within this category discussed the need for consistent, clear, and transparent collaborations between all project team members.

In addition, virtually all of these ideas also refer to the significant amounts of time and resources needed for collaboration and communication. For example, many of the ideas in this category use words like "constant communication," "communicate often," and "work closely," and one idea notes that "a series of more than thirty group meetings were needed to fully understand the concerns of a disempowered community …"

IDEAS ABOUT COLLABORATION AND COMMUNICATION

REGION 1: "Consider a range of communication tools, including word of mouth, public forums, small group meetings, the press and written updates," and "The person on the street should be able to describe the project to someone not familiar with the work over the course of the project."

REGION 2: "Having EPA report back to community residents greatly increased the level of trust between the region and a number of local environmental organizations."

REGION 5: "Spend time explaining what EPA is; what, besides being "environmental police," EPA does; and what EPA programs, tools, and resources are available to communities."

REGION 6: "Constant communications with all participants/stakeholders is critical for success."

REGION 8: "Communicate often. As a collection of many different organizations, it proved helpful to frequently communicate already agreed upon facets of the partnership, including the goals, the project process model, and the timeline."

REGION 10: "Neighbor referrals helped convince low-income, rural well users to participate in the well testing program, enhancing the contacts made by local partners and EPA staff using letters, follow-up phone calls, and door-to-door visits."

In addition to this strong emphasis on the time needed to be set aside for communications and collaboration, the regions suggested a number of methods that can be used to improve and expedite communications with community residents.

In Region 8, the use of promotoras (lay community health workers) was a successful method of improving communications with community members. Another method employed by Region 8 was to meet community residents where they "already are," such as at pre-natal or sewing classes, community events, and in the local parks.

Regions 4, 9, and 10 successfully used contracted interpreters to facilitate communication and collaborations with community members. Perhaps the best example of a promising practice for improving communications was the Region 1 idea shown in the text box, about the "person on the street."

3.3.4 Ideas Involving Promising Practices and Lessons Learned

OEJ's examination of the ideas provided by regional project teams identified a number of promising practices and lessons learned that deserve special consideration. The ideas captured below represent those

that are consistent with OEJ's on-going analysis of the Showcase program. Some of the promising practices have been identified in past community-based projects; others appear to be new.

Examples of new practices

- Conducting proactive activities related to the EPA strengths (for example, removal of contamination, sampling, monitoring, inspections, permit analysis, and regulatory reviews) to initiate meaningful dialogues with community residents.
- Leveraging organizations to fund quality-of-life community improvements, which increases residents' potential to become engaged in discussions of environmental issues, leading to the empowerment of some residents to become more actively involved in environmental issues.
- Using technical support from regional program offices and states to conduct investigations that improve the identification of specific disproportionate exposure issues in communities.
- Constructing a customized map of all potential sources of exposures in the community and using the map to conduct environmental awareness training for community residents.

Examples of using previously identified promising practices

- Using promotoras to reach communities that have language and cultural barriers.
- Using Healthy Homes, training healthcare workers, and other tried-and-true approaches to reduce exposures and help to engage community members into expanded discussions on environmental issues.
- Maximizing potential leveraging opportunities by aligning project goals as closely as possible to the goals of partner organizations.
- Considering a range of communication tools, including word of mouth, public forums, small group meetings, the press and written updates.

Examples of lessons learned

- These projects are not only financial and human capital intensive, they also take a great deal of time to scope and complete.
- More detailed strategic planning should be used for the new national initiatives, particularly potential funding use and obligation timelines.
- Community and local agencies have their own demands, priorities, and schedules that prevent them from meeting EPA timelines; thus, they cannot be as responsive as the EPA would like.
- The EPA can initiate and expedite collaborative problem-solving by proactively collecting data and information needed by stakeholders as fuel for decision-making discussions.

4.0 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The lifecycle of the EJ Showcase Communities Program provided a range of insights and lessons learned to all involved. Throughout the process of initiating the program, implementing the projects, and finally achieving results, those involved identified numerous key recommendations for conducting future projects. The following subsections present the major findings and recommendations from analyzing the results of the EJSC pilot projects.

4.1 Findings

OEJ has analyzed the Showcase program since its inception. The findings below reflect insights developed for this analysis and from the OEJ analytical perspectives developed over the life of the program. The major findings from the EJSC project results are that:

- All ten of the EJSC projects met the program objectives to:
  - Achieve significant measurable environmental and public health results;
  - Build broad, robust, results-oriented and sustainable partnerships with community organizations, federal agencies, and state agencies; and
  - Coordinate and leverage existing federal resources to address EJ considerations pertinent to the selected community using the programs, policies, and activities of the EPA, and appropriate federal, state and local agencies.
- The Showcase program offers a promising new approach to community-based projects that authorizes a project team in each EPA region to select a community, spend project funds, and partner with federal, state, and local organizations. The new approach allows the EPA to more proactively:
  - Conduct activities related to EPA strengths (for example, removal of contamination, sampling, monitoring, inspections, permit analysis, and regulatory reviews), which present excellent opportunities to initiate meaningful dialogues with community residents, and
  - Leverage funding from partner organizations for quality-of-life community improvements (such as enhancements to parks), which also present excellent opportunities to initiate meaningful dialogues with community residents.
- The EJSC program is endorsed at the Regional Administrator level, which greatly increased opportunities to:
  - Apply the technical support and know-how found in the various regional program offices to community-based projects.
  - More accurately identify specific disproportionate exposure issues in communities.
- The ten EJSC projects each achieved one or more of six fundamental goals by implementing strategies that can be used to build specific work plans for future community-based projects.
- The EPA regions used measurements for tracking many of their results and quantifying their successes, such as the number of inspections conducted, the numbers of community residents trained, and tons of contaminants removed.

- EJSC project teams identified numerous ideas related to their projects, including many promising practices and lessons learned. Examples of these ideas are presented in the text box below; the full listing of project team ideas is presented in Table 3-3 at the end of this report.

EXAMPLES OF IDEAS FROM THE EJSC PROJECT TEAMS

Promising Practices:

- Spending time explaining what EPA is; what, besides being "environmental police," EPA does; and what EPA programs, tools, and resources are available to communities.
- Constructing a customized map of all potential sources of exposures in the community and using the map to conduct environmental awareness training for community residents.
- Fulfilling a community's request to investigate potential sources of toxic exposures leading to trust and cooperation between the EPA and local environmental organizations.
- Using widely recognized neighborhood boundary lines to focus project resources.

Lessons Learned:

- These projects are not only financial and human capital intensive; they also take a great deal of time to scope and complete.
- More detailed strategic planning should be used for the new national initiatives, particularly potential funding use and obligation timelines.
- Community and local agencies' timelines differ from EPA.
- EPA can initiate and expedite collaborative problem-solving by proactively collecting data and information needed by stakeholders as fuel for decision-making discussions.

4.2 Recommendations

Based on the above findings, the major recommendation from OEJ's analysis is to conduct another round of EJSC projects. It is further recommended that the development of the new EJSC projects incorporate the following suggestions:

- Initiate a series of conference calls among the EPA NPMs to discuss methods to:
  - Further expand and facilitate coordination between EJSC project teams and staff in the regional and headquarters program offices. This expansion and facilitation will increase the ability of EJSC project teams to more accurately:
    - Identify and select communities that have significant disproportionate exposures relative to surrounding communities;
    - Identify actions that the EPA can conduct (with community inputs) to reduce or eliminate the exposures; and,
    - Identify other federal agencies that should be consulted in reducing the exposures (for example, the Department of Transportation may be needed to resolve exposures related to mobile sources of air contamination);

- Build management level procedures and protocols for enlisting and leveraging state and other federal agency support on EJSC projects. These new methods and protocols would address the lessons learned in the pilot program regarding the time and resources needed to identify and reach agreements with project partners by streamlining and removing many of the uncertainties involved in these complex relationships.
- Arrange a series of conference calls involving the current EJSC project teams to gather additional ideas, including promising practices and lessons learned, and to obtain further details on the ideas that are already listed in Table 3-3 at the end of this report.
- Convene a workgroup that reports to the NPMs to revise the template for development of future EJSC work plans. The new template would incorporate the six fundamental goals (Community Engagement, Community Empowerment, Improvement of Stakeholder Communication, Investigation of Exposure Concerns, Reduction of Exposures, and Improvement of Healthcare) in a flexible manner that allows project teams to more efficiently discuss alternative strategies and activities for addressing each fundamental goal thus allowing them to more efficiently communicate across project teams and with partner organizations, community residents, and other stakeholders as they build their projects.

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Tables

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Table 3-1: Socioeconomic Conditions and Environmental Concerns in Showcase Communities

SOCIOECONOMIC CONDITIONS	ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONCERNS
Bridgeport CT – East End Neighborhood (Region 1):	
• Bridgeport, Connecticut, is one of the most populous cities in the state with a population of approximately 138,000 residents. • 18% live below the federal poverty line. • 63% are people of color. • The median income for a city household is $39,571, less than 75% of the state median income. • Approximately 35% of households have children under 18 years of age. • 11% of households have someone living alone aged 65 years or older. • Local officials have also said that the city lost most of its factory base in the 1970s and 1980s.	• Residents of Bridgeport suffer heightened health risks as a result of a high concentration of industry, brownfields, and vacant lots. • A recent data assessment found higher concentrations of air particulates, Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) and major pollution sites, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) air pollution generators and brownfields in the neighborhoods of the East End, East Side, South End, and the Hollow. • The city also has several major sources of toxic air pollution, including the nation's 11th largest trash incinerator, numerous chrome plating facilities and a regional coal and oil fired power plant. The trash incinerator emits the six criteria pollutants and is a significant source of air emissions. These emissions have been associated with incidence of asthma, cancer, endometriosis, and diabetes. • Bridgeport is bordered by several major roadways including I-95, and the Route 8/Route 25 connector and is host to a high level of daily traffic. • Bridgeport residents suffer a 20% asthma rate, more than twice the national average.
Staten Island, NY – North Shore (Region 2):	
• Numerous residents living at or below the poverty level. • High percentages of non-white residents. • Close proximity to large petroleum storage facilities, numerous small plating and painting operations, and large petrochemical manufacturing facilities.	• The neighborhood has seen an increase in the number of children with elevated lead levels in their blood. • In 2006, the North Shore Waterfront Conservancy of Staten Island, Inc. (NSWC) identified 21 sites along Staten Island's North Shore waterfront that may harbor environmental contaminants and described how this contamination has negatively influenced the perception of Staten Islanders and others about the local community.

Table 3-1: Socioeconomic Conditions and Environmental Concerns in Showcase Communities (Continued)

SOCIOECONOMIC CONDITIONS	ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONCERNS
Washington, DC – Wards 7 and 8 (Region 3):	
Wards 7 and 8 contain: • High poverty levels. • High proportions of ethnic minorities. • Degraded infrastructure. • Poor access to environmental and other amenities.	• High asthma rates. • High incidence of child lead exposure. • Numerous contaminated properties.
Jacksonville, FL - Health Zone 1) (Region 4):	
• One of six health zones in Jacksonville, Health Zone 1, is considered to be the most urban area with a population density of 2,766 people per square mile. • As of 2006, Health Zone 1 contained the largest number of minority residents in the county. • Lowest median household income and the highest population of people living below the poverty level of 26% compared with the other five health zones. • Only 32% have more than a high school education.	• Highest rate of asthma emergency room visits with a rate of 1,382 per 100,000 residents. The rate is 132% higher than the overall county rate. • Highest percent of low birth weight babies with 13%. Likewise, Health Zone 1 also: - Has the highest rate of infant mortality with 13.1 per 1,000 live births. - Contains Superfund sites, including the Jacksonville Ash, Brown's Dump, and Kerr McGee/Tronox. - Contains several brownfield sites. - Contains a number of vacant and abandoned lots where contamination is suspected, including impaired waterways.

Table 3-1: Socioeconomic Conditions and Environmental Concerns in Showcase Communities (Continued)

SOCIOECONOMIC CONDITIONS	ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONCERNS
Milwaukee, WI – 30th Street Corridor (Region 5):	
• More than 39% of the area residents live below the poverty level, compared with 21% in the city and 9% statewide. • 45% of the area's residents 16 years and older report not being in the labor force. • The area's median household income is $19,467. • 95% of the residents are considered "minority." • 37% of adults lack a high school diploma.	• 200 known brownfields properties threaten public health (for example, exposure to contaminated soil and airborne contaminants, presence of illegal drug markets, unsafe buildings, and rodent infestations). • High rates of asthma and blood lead levels in children. • Limited access to healthy, fresh foods. • Blighting effect (such as graffiti, weeds, and trash dumping). • 15% of housing units are vacant, in some blocks more than 25%. • Residents have more safety concerns compared to others within the city.
Port Arthur, TX – Westside Neighborhood (Region 6):	
• Port Arthur's economy has steadily declined over the last 20 plus years. • African Americans make up 35 percent of the population and the Hispanic population stands at 18 percent. • Populations in the Westside section of the city are estimated to be approximately 97% African American. • Not unlike many EJ communities across the country, lower income, and populations of color live nearby blighted properties and operating facilities.	• There are numerous chemical plants, refineries and a hazardous waste incinerator. • The area hosts 54% of the nation's ethylene production capacity (15,644,896 tons per year). • Port Arthur was recently identified as the possible location for disposing of imported hazardous waste. • Local community-based Environmental Justice (EJ) organizations and others have called on the EPA to take a comprehensive look at cumulative and multiple environmental impacts and their effects in Port Arthur. • Port Arthur was severely affected as a result of three recent major hurricanes—Katrina, Rita and Ike.

Table 3-1: Socioeconomic Conditions and Environmental Concerns in Showcase Communities (Continued)

SOCIOECONOMIC CONDITIONS	ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONCERNS
Kansas City Metro Area Neighborhoods (Region 7):	
• The targeted neighborhoods have the highest percentages of low-income and minority populations: - 33% to 96% minority. - 20% to 33% living below the poverty level.	• Targeted community contains economically distressed neighborhoods that have many risk factors including: - Poor housing conditions which increase exposure to indoor environmental contaminants. - High asthma rates. - Vacant lots, brownfields, and abandoned properties. - High unemployment. - Poor surface water quality and fish advisories. - Illegal dumping. - Concerns over air quality. - Concerns over risk related to facility concentrations.
Salt Lake City Utah – Western Neighborhoods (Region 8):	
• The six project neighborhoods are home to approximately 60,000 of the 181,743 residents. • 50% do not speak English in their homes. • 39% of residents are minorities. • The average median household income is below the median household income of Salt Lake City. • Salt Lake City is a designated refugee resettlement site, and the target community is home to more than 80% of the city's refugee population.	• The project neighborhoods contain four Superfund sites, 186 Leaking Underground Storage Tank sites, 20 Large Quantity Generators classified under RCRA and 29 TRI facilities. • 40% of the TRI facilities in Salt Lake County are located within, or adjacent to, the community, including four of the five largest TRI facilities in the county. • The neighborhoods also lie within a narrow strip of land bounded on three sides by major freeways (I-15, I-215 and SR-201) and are bisected by interstate highway I-80. • The Jordan River corridor is impaired with high e-coli levels, creating a health risk for children and adults who might fish, swim and play in its waters.

Table 3-1: Socioeconomic Conditions and Environmental Concerns in Showcase Communities (Continued)

SOCIOECONOMIC CONDITIONS	ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONCERNS
Los Angeles, CA – Route I-710 Corridor (Region 9):	
• Of the approximately 1 million people who live along the Corridor, 70% are people of color and low-income.	• The Los Angeles EJ Network has continually raised serious concerns about EJ impacts to both the EPA and California EPA (Cal/EPA) over a number of years. • The project area is one of the most heavily affected in the state. • The Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles are the entry point of 40% of all imports to the US and 20% of diesel particulate emissions in southern California. • Approximately 1,200 premature deaths are associated with diesel emissions from goods movement in the South Coast Air Basin.
Yakima Valley, WA – Rural Wells and Tribal Air Quality (Region 10):	
• Poverty affects greater than 20% of the population and a little over one-third of adults have less than a high school diploma. • Approximately 40% of residents live outside town or city municipalities. • Many homes abut farm fields and rely on private wells and septic systems. • The Yakama Indian Reservation spans nearly a million acres and has checkerboard ownership of leased, deeded, and tribally owned lands. • In 2008 the population of Yakima County was 41% Hispanic and 5% Native American.	• Residents are experiencing industrial-type pollution caused by the size and number of farms in the region. • Aerial, ground, and fine mist application of pesticides are a common occurrence near homes. • Yakima County is listed as non- attainment with EPA air quality standards for particulate matter. • Groundwater quality is not systematically monitored in the agricultural parts of the Basin. • More than 20% of wells sampled in a survey in 2001 exceeded drinking water standards for nitrates. • Historically containing the nation's highest levels of DDT in river sediment, fish advisories for DDT in the Yakima River have been removed due to improved irrigation practices by farms. • Fish advisories for mercury are in effect, and eutrophication that results from high nutrient levels cause concern for listed salmonid species.

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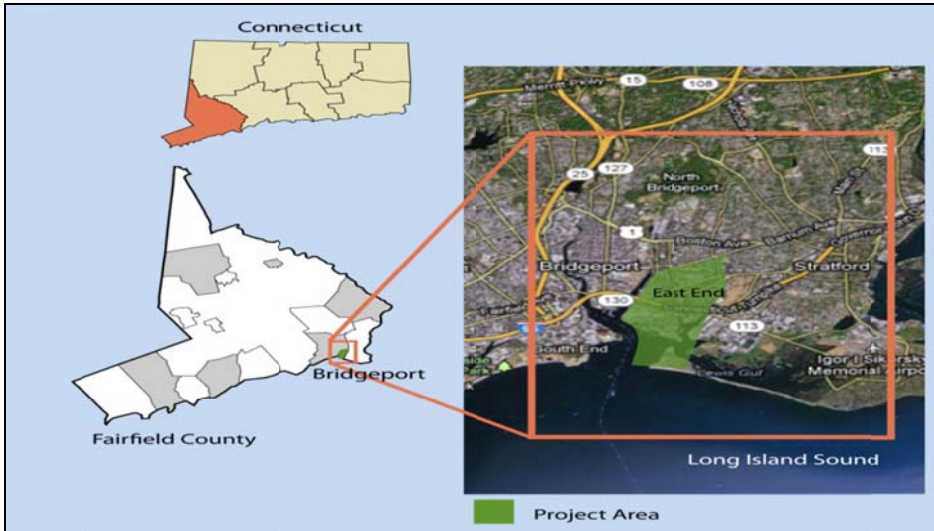
Table 3-2: Showcase Successes in Relation to Fundamental Goals and Strategy Types



	FUNDAMENTAL GOALS AND STRATEGY TYPES[4]												
	1		2	3		4			5		6		
	General Environmental Activities	Community Improvement Actions	Empower Community	Stakeholder Meetings/Forums/Discussions	Facilitated Discussions	Enforcement Actions and Fines	Direct Removal of Contamination	Exposure Awareness Training	Local Media Sampling	Facility Inspections	Train Healthcare Workers	Increase Healthcare Locations or Hours	Assess Healthcare Needs
SUCCESSES													
REGION 1 (Bridgeport, CT – East End Neighborhood)													
• Leveraged a commitment from the City to invest $1 million to provide low-income communities with access to parks along the Bridgeport waterfront.		**D**											
• Supported the awards of wastewater and drinking water handler certifications to 51 inner city youths.	**D**												
• Supported stormwater management training for 20 inner city youths and a 2-week "Water Boot Camp" for 18 public school students.	**D**												
• Provided greenscaper training to 28 workers in small and minority landscaping and contracting and construction businesses.	**D**												
• Supported funding awards totaling approximately $16 million.		**D**											
• Improved recycling at Bridgeport public schools.	**D**												
• Supported a hospital pollution prevention workshop attended by 50 persons.	**D**												
• Contributed to the cleanup of the Bridgeport waterfront.		**D**											
• Participated in the Pequonnock River Initiative.	**D**												
• Removed 600 tons of contaminated soils from an industrial site (Direct Exposure Reduction).	**I**						**D**						
• Conducted asthma prevention training at numerous residences.	**I**							**D**					

D = Success directly achieved the fundamental goal; **I** = Success indirectly achieved the goal.

[4] **Notes on Fundamental Goals: Goal 1 – Engage Community; Goal 2 = Empower Community; Goal 3 = Improve Stakeholder Communication; Goal 4 = Reduce Community Exposures; Goal 5 = Investigate Exposure Concerns; and Goal 6 = Improve Community Healthcare**

Table 3-2: Showcase Successes in Relation to Fundamental Goals and Strategy Types (Continued)

SUCCESSES	FUNDAMENTAL GOALS AND STRATEGY TYPES[5]													
	1		2	3		4			5		6			
	General Environmental Activities	Community Improvement Actions	Empower Community	Stakeholder Meetings/Forums	Facilitated Discussions	Enforcement Actions and Fines	Direct Removal of Contamination	Exposure Awareness Training	Local Media Sampling	Facility Inspections	Train Healthcare Workers	Increase Healthcare Locations or Hours	Assess Healthcare Needs
REGION 2 (Staten Island, NY – North Shore Communities)														
• Supported a kick-off meeting held by local organizations.	**I**			**D**									
• Provided technical assistance, with support from state and city government agencies, in the formation of a local community coalition composed of 30 groups.	**D**												
• Providing significant resources to support projects selected by the new coalition, including asthma training for local schools and an environmental profile of the community.	**I**							**D**					
• Developed a website (http://nsccej.org/) to aid in the coalition's outreach efforts.	**I**			**D**									
• Leveraged support and assistance of city government, businesses, and community organizations involved in local brownfields redevelopment projects within the north shore area, including the 107-acre Mariners Marsh property, Richmond Terrace/Kill Van Kull waterfront, and the Port Richmond Brownfield Opportunity Area.		**D**											
• Investigated and resolved concerns associated with 21 sites identified by the community.	**I**								**D**	**D**			
• The region received $350,000 to conduct a targeted brownfield assessment at the Mariners Marsh property.	**I**								**D**				
• Identified over $1.3 million for a 2012 Superfund action to remove 4,200 cubic yards of lead-contaminated soil from the former Jewett White Lead Company site.	**I**						**D**						
• Partnering with state government to conduct an anti-idling campaign under the state's "I-Watch for Cleaner Air Program."	**I**							**D**					

D = Success directly achieved the fundamental goal; **I** = Success indirectly achieved the goal.

[5] **Notes on Fundamental Goals: Goal 1 – Engage Community; Goal 2 = Empower Community; Goal 3 = Improve Stakeholder Communication; Goal 4 = Reduce Community Exposures; Goal 5 = Investigate Exposure Concerns; and Goal 6 = Improve Community Healthcare**

Table 3-2: Showcase Successes in Relation to Fundamental Goals and Strategy Types (Continued)

SUCCESSES	FUNDAMENTAL GOALS AND STRATEGY TYPES[6]													
	1		2	3		4			5		6			
	General Environmental Activities	Community Improvement Actions	Empower Community	Stakeholder Meetings/Forums/Discussions	Facilitated Discussions	Enforcement Actions and Fines	Direct Removal of Contamination	Exposure Awareness Training	Local Media Sampling	Facility Inspections	Train Healthcare Workers	Increase Healthcare Locations or Hours	Assess Healthcare Needs
REGION 3 (Washington, DC – Wards 7 and 8)													
• Facilitated and funded a green infrastructure job training project in southeast DC.		**D**			**D**								
• Created a community consensus statement on contaminated properties.			**D**	**D**	**D**								
• Convened three major workgroups with stakeholder groups around the district to address community needs.				**D**	**D**								
• Supported three consensus building meetings held by the Children's Environmental Health Workgroup (CEHW).			**D**	**D**	**D**								
• Leveraged EPA funding for the CEHW Healthy Homes Project.	**I**	**D**						**D**					

D = Success directly achieved the fundamental goal; **I** = Success indirectly achieved the goal.

[6] **Notes on Fundamental Goals: Goal 1 – Engage Community; Goal 2 = Empower Community; Goal 3 = Improve Stakeholder Communication; Goal 4 = Reduce Community Exposures; Goal 5 = Investigate Exposure Concerns; and Goal 6 = Improve Community Healthcare**

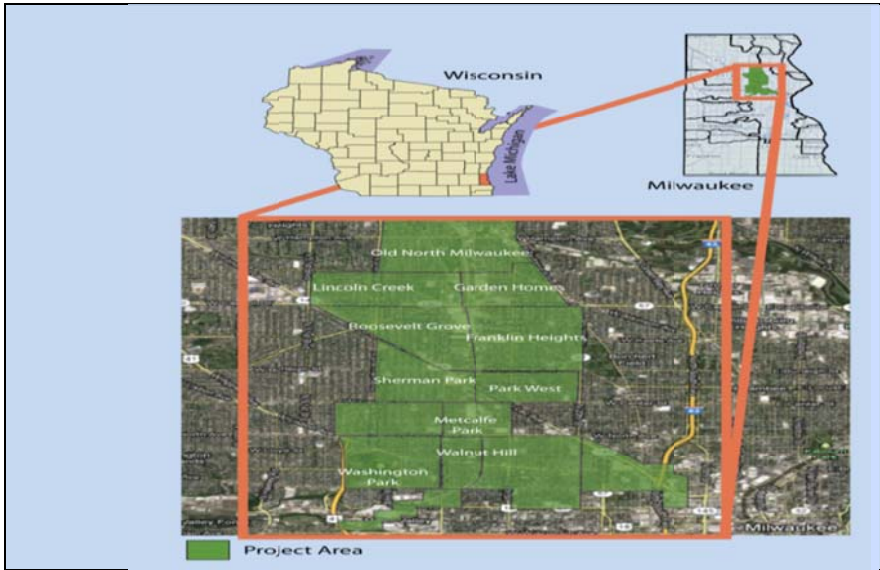
Table 3-2: Showcase Successes in Relation to Fundamental Goals and Strategy Types (Continued)

SUCCESSES	FUNDAMENTAL GOALS AND STRATEGY TYPES[7]												
	1		2	3		4			5		6		
	General Environmental Activities	Community Improvement Actions	Empower Community	Stakeholder Meetings/Forums/Discussions	Facilitated Discussions	Enforcement Actions and Fines	Direct Removal of Contamination	Exposure Awareness Training	Local Media Sampling	Facility Inspections	Train Healthcare Workers	Increase Healthcare Locations or Hours	Assess Healthcare Needs
REGION 4 (Jacksonville, FL - Health Zone 1)													
• Conducted "build your own" rain barrel and community garden workshops to improve public health and provide fresh food.	**D**												
• Provided three community-industry forums to improve communications by fostering community-industry dialogues.	**I**				**D**								
• Leveraged, with assistance from the EPA Office of Site Remediation and Technical Innovation (OSRTI), Superfund cleanup property from the City of Jacksonville for building a new health care facility in Health Zone 1.	**I**											**D**	
• Completed a comprehensive study of fish and shellfish in two local fishing streams.	**I**								**D**				
• Posted 24 fish consumption advisory signs to protect public health.	**I**							**D**					
• Addressed stormwater pollution for improving local water quality.	**I**						**D**						
• Conducted a series of "shared learning" workshops to advance community integrated planning toward development of a community-based improvement plan (health care, healthy food, and open green space).	**I**							**D**					
• Reduced exposures of neighborhood children to asthma triggers and lead-based paint.	**I**							**D**					

D = Success directly achieved the fundamental goal; **I** = Success indirectly achieved the goal.

[7] **Notes on Fundamental Goals: Goal 1 – Engage Community; Goal 2 = Empower Community; Goal 3 = Improve Stakeholder Communication; Goal 4 = Reduce Community Exposures; Goal 5 = Investigate Exposure Concerns; and Goal 6 = Improve Community Healthcare**

Table 3-2: Showcase Successes in Relation to Fundamental Goals and Strategy Types (Continued)

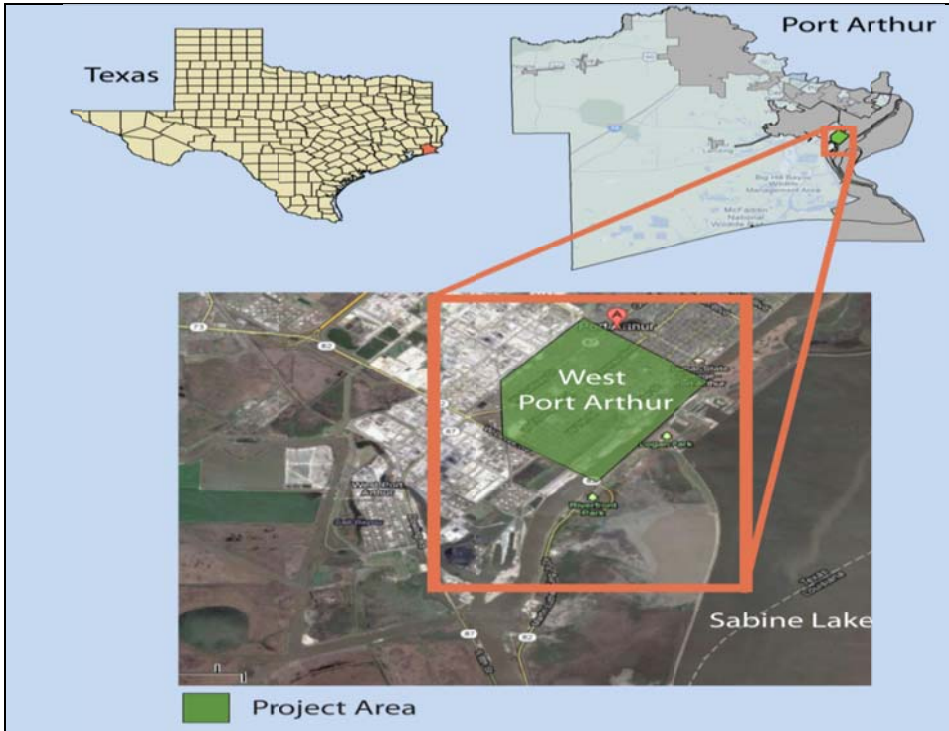


SUCCESSES	FUNDAMENTAL GOALS AND STRATEGY TYPES[8]												
	1		2	3		4			5		6		
	General Environmental Activities	Community Improvement Actions	Empower Community	Stakeholder Meetings/Forums/Discussions	Facilitated Discussions	Enforcement Actions and Fines	Direct Removal of Contamination	Exposure Awareness Training	Local Media Sampling	Facility Inspections	Train Healthcare Workers	Increase Healthcare Locations or Hours	Assess Healthcare Needs
REGION 5 (Milwaukee, WI – 30th Street Corridor)													
• Supported revitalization with $1.3 million to the city.		**D**											
• Provided training to more than 170 community health workers and healthcare providers.	**I**				**D**						**D**		
• Used geographic-based targeted enforcement to assess facilities in the EJ community.	**I**								**D**	**D**			
• Conducted 13 tank and facility inspections and seven multi-media investigations to assess potential impacts on the communities.	**I**					**D**			**D**	**D**			
• Awarded four brownfields assessment grants, totaling $800,000, to the state to assess and remediate 200 known sites.	**I**								**D**				
• Reached more than 75 local families with training on blood lead screening, asthma testing, lead paint removal and healthy home practices.	**I**							**D**					
• Conducted hazard training in 90 public schools and removed 100 pounds of hazardous chemicals.	**I**						**D**						
• Provided lead abatement training to 63 contractors and handymen.	**I**							**D**					
• Collaborated with city and community organizations to identify obstacles to community gardens; produced Urban Agriculture Code Audit.		**I**		**D**									
• Organized an Environmental Justice Roundtable for Administrator Lisa Jackson.	**D**												
• Created with the city a community garden for Hmong Community on a former brownfields property.		**D**											

D = Success directly achieved the fundamental goal; **I** = Success indirectly achieved the goal.

[8] **Notes on Fundamental Goals: Goal 1 – Engage Community; Goal 2 = Empower Community; Goal 3 = Improve Stakeholder Communication; Goal 4 = Reduce Community Exposures; Goal 5 = Investigate Exposure Concerns; and Goal 6 = Improve Community Healthcare**

Table 3-2: Showcase Successes in Relation to Fundamental Goals and Strategy Types (Continued)



SUCCESSES	FUNDAMENTAL GOALS AND STRATEGY TYPES[9]													
	1		2	3		4			5		6			
	General Environmental Activities	Community Improvement Actions	Empower Community	Stakeholder Meetings/Forums/Discussions	Facilitated Discussions	Enforcement Actions and Fines	Direct Removal of Contamination	Exposure Awareness Training	Local Media Sampling	Facility Inspections	Train Healthcare Workers	Increase Healthcare Locations or Hours	Assess Healthcare Needs
REGION 6 (Port Arthur, TX – Westside Neighborhood)													
• Supported community forums on improving the quality of life for Port Arthur Westside residents.				**D**									
• Received significant support from Administrator Jackson.		**D**											
• Supported air quality and job training and education of more than 100 families on energy conservation.		**D**											
• Engaged in partnerships with Port Arthur stakeholders and industry, leading to a $1 million award for construction of a health clinic on the Westside of Port Arthur Texas.	**I**											**D**	
• Supported revitalization by leveraging $329,598 worth of brownfields assessments on 1,300 properties.	**I**								**D**				
• Conducted Healthy Home trainings and health outreach for 60 neighborhood residents.	**I**							**D**					
• Provided emergency response training to 75 community representatives.	**I**							**D**					
• Provided school chemical cleanout training to more than 30 science teachers.	**I**						**D**						

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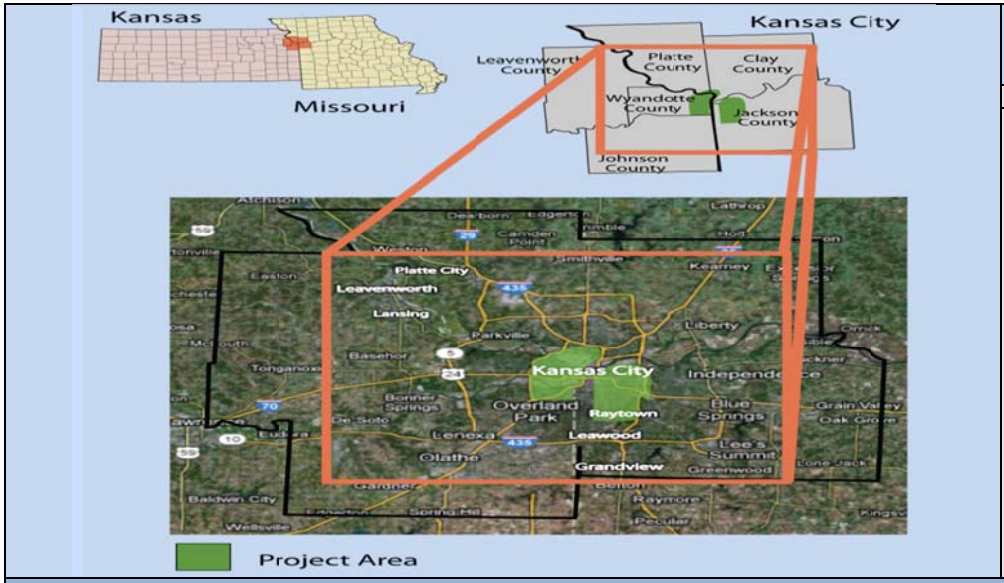
[9] **Notes on Fundamental Goals: Goal 1 – Engage Community; Goal 2 = Empower Community; Goal 3 = Improve Stakeholder Communication; Goal 4 = Reduce Community Exposures; Goal 5 = Investigate Exposure Concerns; and Goal 6 = Improve Community Healthcare**

Table 3-2: Showcase Successes in Relation to Fundamental Goals and Strategy Types (Continued)



SUCCESSES	FUNDAMENTAL GOALS AND STRATEGY TYPES[10]													
	1		2	3		4			5		6			
	General Environmental Activities	Community Improvement Actions	Empower Community	Stakeholder Meetings/Forums/Discussions	Facilitated Discussions	Enforcement Actions and Fines	Direct Removal of Contamination	Exposure Awareness Training	Local Media Sampling	Facility Inspections	Train Healthcare Workers	Increase Healthcare Locations or Hours	Assess Healthcare Needs
REGION 7 (Kansas City Metro Area Neighborhoods)														
• Provided training on water monitoring techniques to 20 community members who then monitored water quality in five urban lakes.	**D**		**D**						**D**				
• Supported youths to produce video interviews with local elders on histories of local water bodies.	**D**												
• Supported a ten-week environmental awareness program with three Boys and Girls Clubs.	**D**												
• Hosted an urban agriculture and brownfields workshop for 30 attendees.	**D**							**D**					
• Sampled 15 urban lots to help community assess whether the lots are safe for gardening and agricultural production.	**I**								**D**				
• Hosted training workshop on the Emergency Planning Community Right-to-Know Act.	**I**		**D**					**D**					
• Organized Showcase forum with stakeholders to identify environmental problems and solutions.	**I**							**D**			**D**		
• RMP Inspections and Enforcement.	**D**					**D**				**D**			
• Hosted an "Essentials for Healthy Home Practitioners" course for 50 participants.	**I**							**D**			**D**		

D = Success directly achieved the fundamental goal; **I** = Success indirectly achieved the goal.

[10] **Notes on Fundamental Goals: Goal 1 – Engage Community; Goal 2 = Empower Community; Goal 3 = Improve Stakeholder Communication; Goal 4 = Reduce Community Exposures; Goal 5 = Investigate Exposure Concerns; and Goal 6 = Improve Community Healthcare**

Table 3-2: Showcase Successes in Relation to Fundamental Goals and Strategy Types (Continued)

SUCCESSES	FUNDAMENTAL GOALS AND STRATEGY TYPES[11]												
	1		2	3		4			5		6		
	General Environmental Activities	Community Improvement Actions	Empower Community	Stakeholder Meetings/Forums/Discussions	Facilitated Discussions	Enforcement Actions and Fines	Direct Removal of Contamination	Exposure Awareness Training	Local Media Sampling	Facility Inspections	Train Healthcare Workers	Increase Healthcare Locations or Hours	Assess Healthcare Needs
REGION 8 (Salt Lake City Utah – Western Neighborhoods)													
• Held a kick-off event and children's environmental health fair attended by approximately 250 people.	**D**												
• Developed a project process model titled "Pathway toward a Healthier Community" to guide project efforts.	**D**												
• Compiled neighborhood-specific environmental and health data and prepared a map of environmental features as a communication and analytical tool.	**I**							**D**					
• Completed a community environmental health needs assessment.	**I**												**D**
• Mobilized a core group of state, county, and city government agencies and local non-profit and community organizations.	**I**			**D**									
• Supported "Essentials for Healthy Homes Practitioners" and "Community-based Social Marketing" trainings.	**I**							**D**					
• Developed a two-prong implementation approach that includes a longer-term community leadership training to facilitate the sustainability of the project.	**D**												
• Established brand new effective relationships with health, environmental, family, and faith-based organizations.	**D**												

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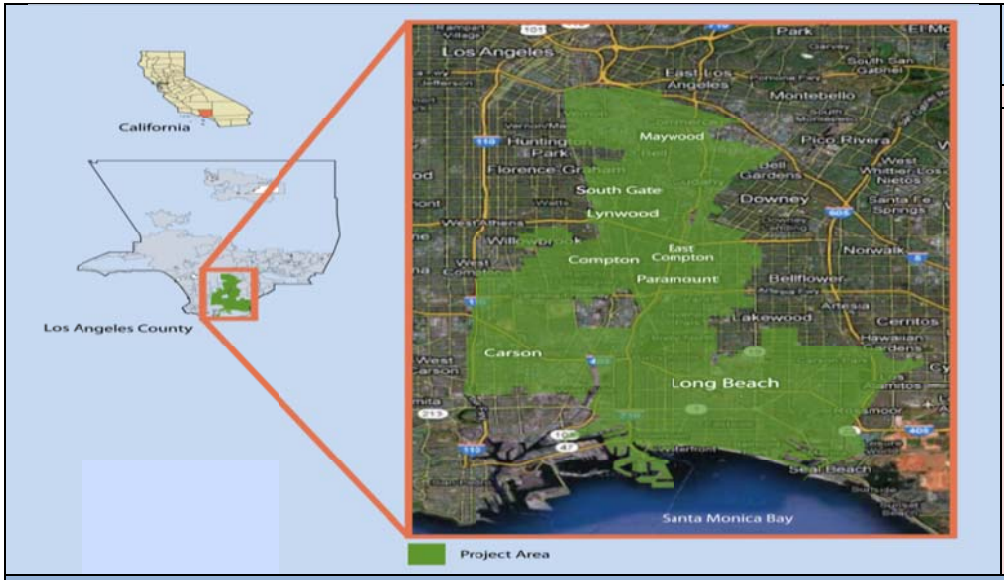
[11] **Notes on Fundamental Goals: Goal 1 – Engage Community; Goal 2 = Empower Community; Goal 3 = Improve Stakeholder Communication; Goal 4 = Reduce Community Exposures; Goal 5 = Investigate Exposure Concerns; and Goal 6 = Improve Community Healthcare**

Table 3-2: Showcase Successes in Relation to Fundamental Goals and Strategy Types (Continued)

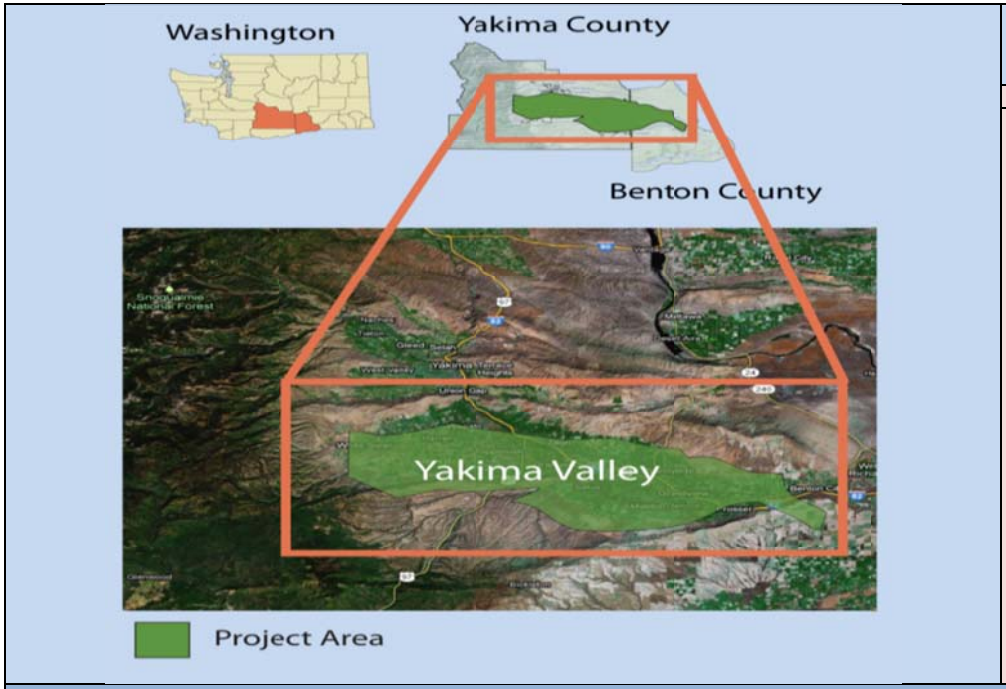


	FUNDAMENTAL GOALS AND STRATEGY TYPES[12]													
	1		2	3		4			5		6			
	General Environmental Activities	Community Improvement Actions	Empower Community	Stakeholder Meetings/Forums/Discussions	Facilitated Discussions	Enforcement Actions and Fines	Direct Removal of Contamination	Exposure Awareness Training	Local Media Sampling	Facility Inspections	Train Healthcare Workers	Increase Healthcare Locations or Hours	Assess Healthcare Needs
SUCCESSES														
REGION 9 (Los Angeles, CA – Route I-710 Corridor)														
• Organized an Environmental Justice Roundtable with the Regional Administrator.				**D**										
• Partnered with the Clean Up Green Up communities to support their "Green Zones" efforts in three Los Angeles neighborhoods and with the City of Commerce and the East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice to develop recommendations for land use and green zones.	**I**		**D**											
• Community provided valuable and substantial inputs into the targeting of federal, state, and local inspections.			**D**											
• Conducted 185 inspections.	**I**									**D**				
• Convened state and local agencies to identify abandoned underground storage tank sites for assessment and remediation; seven Phase 1 assessments are completed and seven sites are approved for targeted brownfields assessments.	**I**								**D**	**D**				
• Issued 47 enforcement actions requiring local facilities to pay $2.4 million in penalties in the Showcase area reducing pollution by 34,000 pounds annually.	**I**					**D**								
• Together with the California Air Resources Board, produced 340 anti-idling signs for posting in community-identified locations.	**I**							**D**						
• Proposed two contaminated sites for the National Priorities List.	**I**						**D**							
• Provided training identified by community leaders such as drinking water and NEPA.			**D**											

D = Success directly achieved the fundamental goal; **I** = Success indirectly achieved the goal.

[12] **Notes on Fundamental Goals: Goal 1 – Engage Community; Goal 2 = Empower Community; Goal 3 = Improve Stakeholder Communication; Goal 4 = Reduce Community Exposures; Goal 5 = Investigate Exposure Concerns; and Goal 6 = Improve Community Healthcare**

Table 3-2: Showcase Successes in Relation to Fundamental Goals and Strategy Types (Continued)



	FUNDAMENTAL GOALS AND STRATEGY TYPES[13]												
	1		2	3		4			5		6		
	General Environmental Activities	Community Improvement Actions	Empower Community	Stakeholder Meetings/Forums/Discussions	Facilitated Discussions	Enforcement Actions and Fines	Direct Removal of Contamination	Exposure Awareness Training	Local Media Sampling	Facility Inspections	Train Healthcare Workers	Increase Healthcare Locations or Hours	Assess Healthcare Needs
SUCCESSES													
REGION 10 (Yakima Valley, WA – Rural Wells and Tribal Air Quality)													
• Supported a situation assessment of more than 23 groups and 65 stakeholders to identify areas of common ground on divisive issues pertaining to the cleanup of groundwater contamination.	**I**				**D**								
• Supported an air quality issues meeting attended by more than 100 stakeholders.				**D**									
• Added significant value to Region 10 and state assistance efforts.	**I**												
• Tested 600 private wells for nitrate contamination.	**I**								**D**				
• Sampled crop fields, dairies, and sewage treatment units to link nitrate contamination to sources.	**I**								**D**				
• Developed a comprehensive geographic information system (GIS) tool of the Yakima Valley to guide the nitrate investigations.	**I**								**D**				
• Partnered with Yakima County through a $400,000 state grant to install 166 well water filters.	**I**						**D**						

D = Success directly achieved the fundamental goal; **I** = Success indirectly achieved the goal.

[13] **Notes on Fundamental Goals: Goal 1 – Engage Community; Goal 2 = Empower Community; Goal 3 = Improve Stakeholder Communication; Goal 4 = Reduce Community Exposures; Goal 5 = Investigate Exposure Concerns; and Goal 6 = Improve Community Healthcare**

Table 3-3: Ideas Provided by Showcase Project Teams Sorted by Subject Matter

IDEAS (Including Promising Practices, Lessons Learned, and Implementation Tips)	SUBJECT
REGION 1 (Bridgeport, CT – East End Neighborhood)	
• Using systems thinking has allowed us to leverage resources and arrive at significant solutions. Instead of assessing issues in isolation, we viewed problems and solutions as part of an overall system/community and its residents. • These projects are not only financial and human capital intensive, they also take a great deal of time to scope and complete. • Program planners should anticipate a project predicated on a systems approach to take years to show substantial benefits. If you think of the Showcase like you would a cleanup, time needed to issue a permit (after an appeal), or years used to restore a river then you know you could be talking conservatively about five to ten years of work. EJ work happens on a similar timeline largely because the complexity of the issues. • Benefits of the projects should be visible and quantifiable. • Set clear achievable goals that reflect and balance the priorities and interests of the diverse stakeholders. • Priority setting has encouraged stakeholders to think in multi-year, multidisciplinary goals, like creating access to Pleasure Beach for passive recreation.	General Approaches for Program and Project Planning
• Leadership and persistence by the project team were essential for establishing ownership by partner's agreements as soon as possible after each partner was added to the project. • Agree on deadlines and establish some sense of urgency when assigning responsibilities, we have seen substantial progress made in achieving individual and collective outputs and outcomes. We have also increased the diversity of stakeholders to include organizations that emphasize natural resource management. • Transparency and regular communications have increased participant capacity, improved trust among the stakeholders, and enabled stakeholders to hear "no" and not feel deceived or undermined. • Timely meetings between key stakeholders to revisit and amend priorities, as needed based on new information and access to resources, has ensured that the projects progress towards completion. • Align the project goals as closely as possible to partner organization goals to maximize potential leveraging opportunities.	Partnership Development
• Consistent collaboration enabled disparate groups to reach agreement on prioritizing issues and subsequent projects. • Consider a range of communication tools, including word of mouth, public forums, small group meetings, the press and written updates. • The person on the street should be able to describe the project to someone not familiar with the work over the course of the project.	Collaboration and Communication

Table 3-3: Ideas Provided by Showcase Project Teams Sorted by Subject Matter (Continued)

IDEAS (Including Promising Practices, Lessons Learned, and Implementation Tips)	SUBJECT
• Using training sessions that explain key environmental laws and policies provided a forum for diverse stakeholders to learn a great deal about programs and projects. • Training sessions aimed at providing public and private groups and individuals with direct access to decision makers have led to a willingness to take a fresh look at the effectiveness of current zoning and land use policies by businesses, residents and local officials. The city's economic development office and community activists has reinvested in compliance outreach to area businesses and the police and solicitor are exploring bringing more enforcement actions against permit and zoning violators as a direct result of the EPA funded training.	Specialized Training
REGION 2 (Staten Island, NY – North Shore Communities)	
• Fulfilling a community-based organization's request to investigate 21 potential sources of contamination led to closer ties between various regional program offices. • Having the EPA report back to community residents greatly increased the level of trust between the region and a number of local environmental organizations.	Collaboration and Communication
REGION 3 (Washington, DC – Wards 7 and 8)	
• Years of preparation may be required prior to realizing significant goals from a broad collaborative project. Approximately three years of preparation preceded the selection of Washington DC as an EJSC project location. During these years, Region 3 had worked in collaboration with OEJ and the community-based organization, Coalition for Environmentally Safe Communities (CESC), on their EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving (CPS) Cooperative Agreement (CA) project.	General Approaches for Program and Project Planning
REGION 4 (Jacksonville, FL - Health Zone 1)	
• Using a previously established and widely recognized boundary, such as a county health zone, helps to avoid uncertainties about the project boundaries and focus all project work on a specific area. • The EJSC project is leveraging an EPA Region 4 Superfund project to help the HZ1 community make significant progress toward establishing a much-needed community health center on a remediated brownfields or Superfund site.	General Approaches for Program and Project Planning

Table 3-3: Ideas Provided by Showcase Project Teams Sorted by Subject Matter (Continued)

IDEAS (Including Promising Practices, Lessons Learned, and Implementation Tips)	SUBJECT
REGION 5 (Milwaukee, WI – 30th Street Corridor)	
• Enforcement activities involve planning and time to execute and complete the actions. A geographic targeted enforcement initiative may start during a community engagement effort, but may not be completed during that effort. EPA needs to be able to explain the long timeline, find ways to communicate the eventual results, and to provide assurances that action will be taken if an imminent and substantial threat is found. • Outreach to private and charter schools for School Chemical Cleanout require a new approach. The normal networks, communication systems, and governing districts of public schools do not exist for private or charter schools. Additional time and effort are needed to identify schools, appropriate school contacts, and possible governing bodies that will champion the program. • Funding flexibility – ability to provide funding to local organizations and agencies is critical. • When providing services directly to residents, need to identify multiple approaches and delivery (and deliverers). • Working to address multiple issues – health, environmental contamination, public involvement – involving different partners and activities. There was not one problem, but multiple problems not easily or quickly solved. However, this may be the norm for EJ communities in urban areas – several neighborhoods, different needs and approaches, different levels of success.	General Approaches for Program and Project Planning
• Community and local agencies have their own demands, priorities, and schedules that prevent them from meeting EPA timelines; thus they cannot be as responsive as EPA would like.	Partnership Development
• In communities already inundated with meetings, build the EPA activities and meetings into existing or planned local activities (unless it is a specific problem that is on the radar screen on a community or neighborhood). • Guard against "paternalism" when conducting outreach. • Spend time explaining what EPA is; what, besides being "environmental police," EPA does; and what EPA programs, tools, and resources are available to communities. • Educate stakeholders on how environmental health and public health are intertwined.	Collaboration and Communication

Table 3-3: Ideas Provided by Showcase Project Teams Sorted by Subject Matter (Continued)

IDEAS (Including Promising Practices, Lessons Learned, and Implementation Tips)	SUBJECT
REGION 6 (Port Arthur, TX – Westside Neighborhood)	
• More detailed strategic planning should be used for new national initiatives, particularly potential funding use and obligation timelines. • Engaging complex "silo" federal partner should be conducted at high levels of regional management early in project start-up. • New initiatives should include focused effort at project start-up to provide coordination and communication between regional staff. • Formation of workgroups is key to resolving concerns in the project area. • Flexibility is required by all, as the pace of change is extremely rapid. • Some projects are short term and others are longer term and you have to be realistic about the expectations and possibilities to resolve concerns. • Set realistic goals and objectives and stick to them.	General Approaches for Program and Project Planning
• Strong effective leadership is an imperative for success. There has to be a champion for the process and project. • Collaboration of disparate groups and interests is challenging for priority setting. • Do not over promise or create false expectations.	Partnership Development
• Industry has to work closely with local emergency response team. • Industry has to provide significant outreach to fence-line neighbors. • Constant communications with all participants/stakeholders is critical for success.	Collaboration and Communication
• Port Arthur stakeholders need more knowledge, skills and abilities to compete for grants opportunities in the green jobs sector, job opportunities, and housing opportunities. • Need to develop more leadership capacity among the residents in order to support initiatives in the area. • Need to develop train-the-trainer curricula to educate residents more about harmful effects of pollutants on residents in the fenceline area. • Need to create more partnership forums that bring together community-based organizations, health offices and universities to support outreach and reduction of ongoing potential emissions hazards. • Residents need more education and awareness about emergency response and industry siren system. • Need to promote more open dialogue between community and industry.	Project-Specific Needs
REGION 7 (Kansas City Metro Area Neighborhoods)	
• More effective teaming up with partners or local residents was needed to perform the water monitoring. Three lakes were abandoned by their corresponding community group and then it became the responsibility of the group's EPA staff partner to perform all monitoring and sampling as well as all the outreach pertaining to fish consumption. • Partnering individuals/organizations need to be briefed of how to interact with the population we serve.	Partnership Development

Table 3-3: Ideas Provided by Showcase Project Teams Sorted by Subject Matter (Continued)

IDEAS (Including Promising Practices, Lessons Learned, and Implementation Tips)	SUBJECT
• Emergency preparedness workshops were not an easy topic to sell. It is difficult to attract and reach all of the stakeholders who likely have an interest in this subject due to the perception that emergency preparedness is not a "need to know" subject. • Details regarding the Healthy Homes workshop such as time, date, location, availability of food, can greatly impact the event attendance, and the need for the service or program must be initiated by the community rather than the EPA. • The population targeted for the Boys and Girls Club educational series is in need of environmental education and they have enjoyed the presence of the EPA; however, it is extremely important when working with this age group to provide educational activities that help them learn and comprehend by keeping their attention. • Coordinating transportation to other sites for educational purposes has not been possible.	Outreach Workshops
• The EPA cannot accurately communicate the results of soil sampling because the agency lacks Soil Screening Levels (SSLs) specific to urban gardening. • If the EPA were to continue sampling urban lots for gardening, qualified contractors should be used to evaluate the data and translate it into meaningful and useful results for the community. • The EPA needs to have a plan in place to respond to community concerns if levels of contamination are found which are harmful to human health. • Be aware of external or other factors which could affect the outcome of planned activities and include these factors in the planning and scheduling of events.	Soil Sampling in Urban Gardens
REGION 8 (Salt Lake City Utah – Western Neighborhoods)	
• Partnership development takes time: Initial formation of the participating organizations took a lot more time than expected. Due in part to the intangible nature of the early stages of the project along with its novelty, there was considerable confusion around the purpose of the project and the role of the participants early on. Naturally, participants questioned their role and level of involvement in the project during this time as well. • Be reasonable with timelines and acknowledge upfront that formation of the partnership will take a considerable amount of time and energy in the beginning. • Engage participants around a tangible activity. As noted above, there was apprehension and considerable confusion around what exactly the project was doing during the first few months. As such, it was challenging to get organizations and individuals involved in a relatively abstract and intangible project. • Money changes everything. In some instances it might be advantageous to start a project with no money to see who is committed to a cause before financial resources are brought in. On the other hand, be aware that some organizations really do need a funding stream associated with a project or activities to be involved.	Partnership Development

Table 3-3: Ideas Provided by Showcase Project Teams Sorted by Subject Matter (Continued)

IDEAS (Including Promising Practices, Lessons Learned, and Implementation Tips)	SUBJECT
• A series of more than thirty small group meetings were required to understand what most concerns a disempowered community comprised of nine neighborhoods. • Our most effective resource is a community-based organization which uses promotoras to reach out into the community and discover which environmental and health issues are most important to residents. • Meet the community where they are. Early efforts to engage community residents in project meetings were largely unsuccessful. After observing this, we changed our strategy, especially during the community environmental health needs assessment, to meet community residents where they already are such as at pre-natal or sewing classes, community events, and in the local parks. • Communicate often. As a collection of many different organizations, it proved helpful to frequently communicate already agreed upon facets of the partnership, including the goals, the project process model, and the timeline. Brief reminders served to prevent participants from losing sight of them.	Collaboration and Communication
REGION 9 (Los Angeles, CA – Route I-710 Corridor)	
• Diverse and continued investment of resources from federal, state, and local agencies help build community trust and capacity. • Continued investment is important in building trust, meeting community needs, and fueling the Collaborative to continue to make progress in the Showcase area. • Not all community environmental and public health issues can be immediately addressed by agency resources and often times take more time, effort, and resources than expected.	General Approaches for Program and Project Planning
• The Showcase project relied heavily on existing partnerships to build the Enforcement Collaborative and to continue bringing in new partners. Over the years, partnerships between agency and community were built to address several of the issues (superfund, goods movement, refineries).	Partnership Development

Table 3-3: Ideas Provided by Showcase Project Teams Sorted by Subject Matter (Continued)

IDEAS (Including Promising Practices, Lessons Learned, and Implementation Tips)	SUBJECT
REGION 10 (Yakima Valley, WA – Rural Wells and Tribal Air Quality)	
• Although the project was highly successful in convincing low-income, rural well users to participate in the well testing program, a significant effort by the local partners and EPA staff was required (letters, follow-up phone calls, and door-to-door visits) because a large percentage of the well users did not respond to outreach via mail or telephone. • Over 60 percent of homes sampled by EPA chose to reduce nitrate exposure by installing a filter. Many families declined to participate in the free well test based on the fact that the person being asked for permission to sample were renters who did not own the well or the property. Many of these renters were concerned that their permission to test the well could lead to retribution from their landlords, many of whom were engaged in the types of agricultural businesses that were being implicated by vocal environmental organizations as major sources of well contamination. Also, a number of individuals declined well testing because they were originally from parts of Mexico where it is customary to drink bottled water and not to trust the quality of well water. • The air quality concerns in the valley overlap with well contamination in the potential major source as agriculturally-based pollutants. A community steering committee with members from environmental organizations and agricultural producers was formed to develop the agenda and format for an air quality forum held on the Yakama Reservation. This forum allowed EPA R10 to hear community concerns directly prior to proposing any new regulations under the Federal Air Rules for Reservations (FARR).	Collaboration and Communication
• Slightly divergent goals within the EPA community (research, enforcement, and outreach) challenge team dynamics on this type of large project.	Partnership Development

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Table 3-4: Examples of Federal, State, Local, and Community-Based Partners Incorporated into Showcase Work Plans

EJSC PROJECT	PARTNERS	
	Federal and State	**Local and Community-Based**
Bridgeport CT – East End Neighborhood (Region 1)	Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection	Connecticut Coalition for the Environment; East End Neighborhood Revitalization Zone; East End Community council; Fairfield County Environmental Justice Network
Staten Island, NY – North Shore (Region 2)	ATSDR (HHS/CDC); U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – North Atlantic Division; New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; New York State Department of Health;	NYC Office of Environmental Remediation; NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; North Shore Waterfront Conservancy of Staten Island; Project Hospitality; Northfield LDC; NYC Community Board # 1
Washington, DC – Wards 7 and 8 (Region 3)	U.S. Department of Labor; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	DC Department of the Environment (DDOE); DC Department of Health; Coalition for Environmentally Safe Communities; Children's Health Network; and the Mid-Atlantic Center for Children's Health and the Environment (MACCHE)
Jacksonville, FL - Health Zone 1) (Region 4)	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District; Florida Department of Health; Florida Department of Environmental Protection	Duval County Health Department; City of Jacksonville; The Eastside Environmental Council; Communities in Schools of Jacksonville; Home Depot; Eastside Environmental Council; North Jacksonville Community Advisory Panel
Milwaukee, WI – 30th Street Corridor (Region 5)	EPA R5 OECA, ARD, LCD, WD, GLNPO, SF, RMD, OSWER; WDNR	City of Milwaukee; several community groups (including the recipient of a 2009 CARE grant).
Port Arthur, TX – Westside Neighborhood (Region 6)	EPA: several NPMs (OSWER, OPPTS, OAR, OECA, OW); State Government1; and other Federal Government[2]	NGOs and non-profits (Community In Power & Development Association, Westside Neighborhood Association, Port Arthur Community Fund, Digital Workforce Academy/Golden Triangle Empowerment Center, Downtown Renewal Association, Tekoa Charter School, various local churches); Industry[3]; Academia[4] ; and Local Government[5]
Kansas City Metro Area Neighborhoods (Region 7)	Missouri Department of Natural Resources; Kansas Department of Health and Environment; ATSDR	Argentine Neighborhood; Columbus Park; Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council; Marlborough Neighborhood; Prescott Neighborhood; Oak Grove Neighborhood; Oak Park Neighborhood; Rosedale Neighborhood; Ruskin Heights; Washington Wheatley Neighborhood; Wyandotte County Unified Government; City of Kansas City, Missouri

Table 3-4: Examples of Federal, State, Local, and Community-Based Partners Incorporated into Showcase Work Plans (Continued)

EJSC PROJECT	PARTNERS	
	Federal and State	**Local and Community-Based**
Salt Lake City Utah – Western Neighborhoods (Region 8)	Utah Department of Health; and Utah Department of Environmental Quality (UT DEQ)	Utah Society for Environmental Education; Comunidades Unidas; neighborhood city councils; Salt Lake City Division of Sustainability; Salt Lake City School District; National Children's Study; Salt Lake County Health Department.
Los Angeles, CA – Route I-710 Corridor (Region 9)	California EPA; Department of Toxic Substances Control; California Air Resources Board	Los Angeles Environmental Justice Network; Los Angeles County Local Enforcement Agency; Padres Unidos de Maywood (PUMA); Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
Yakima Valley, WA – Rural Wells and Tribal Air Quality (Region 10)	EPA Region 10 Offices[6]; WA Departments of Ecology, Health, and Agriculture; WA State Migrant Council Head Start Program	Yakima County Public Services/ health departments; Center for Hispanic Health Promotion (local office of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center); Yakama Nation; Radio KDNA (Spanish language public radio); Yakima Valley residents; Enviro-org: members of Concerned Citizens of the Yakama Reservation and Friends of Toppenish Creek.

1. Texas Commission of Environmental Quality, Texas General Land Office, and Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

2. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA), Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), U.S. Department of Homeland Security Coast Guard.

3. Port Arthur Industrial Group and various local industrial facilities.

4. Lamar University, University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, and Texas Southern University.

5. City of Port Arthur, Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission, Jefferson County, Port Arthur Housing Authority, Port Arthur Economic Development Corporation, and Port Arthur Independent School District.

6. The Office of Ecosystems, Tribal and Public Affairs (ETPA) has the lead role in coordinating the EJ pilot. ETPA brings tribal, children's health, environmental justice, media, and community involvement expertise and networks to the project and maintained a field office in the impacted Yakima Valley. The Office of Water and Watersheds provided program expertise in drinking water programs and statutes, networks with state partners, and permitting authority under the Clean Water Act (CWA) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program. The Office on Environmental Assessment uses mapping and database tools, field sampling contract support, and source characterization funds from the Regional Applied Research Effort (RARE) program, and also provided links to research labs. The Office on Compliance and Enforcement contributes enforcement staff and inspectors with backgrounds in pesticides, groundwater, NPDES, and air regulations. Staff from the Office of Air, Waste and Toxics also provides support to the pilot.

APPENDIX A:
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SHOWCASE COMMUNITIES
PROJECT SUMMARIES

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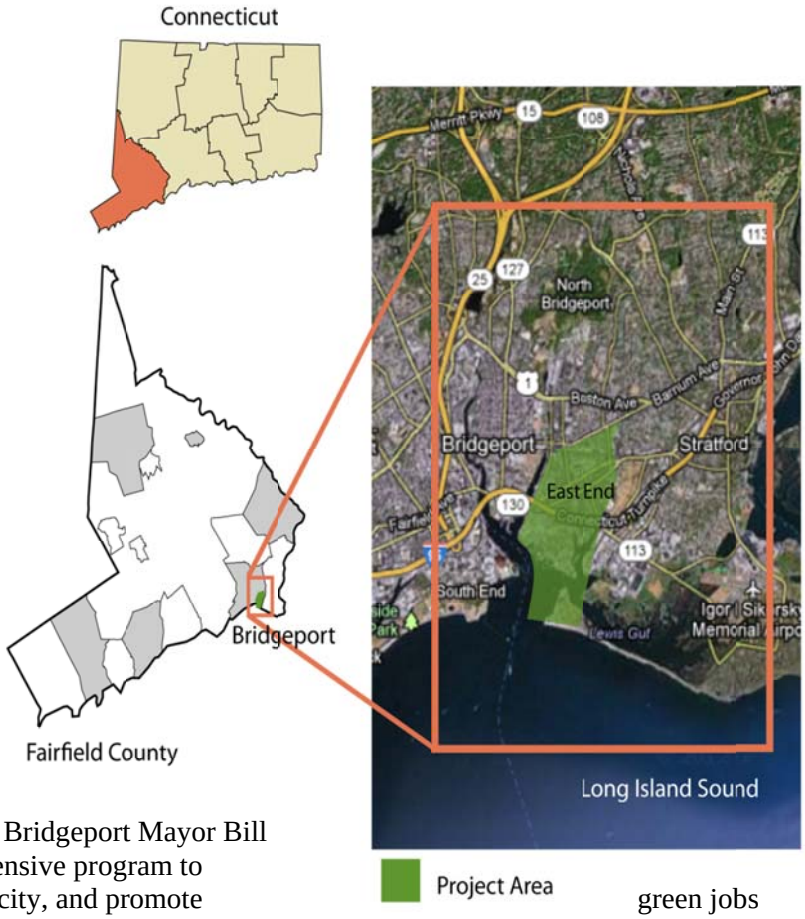
APPENDIX A
Environmental Justice Showcase Communities
Project Summaries

REGION 1: BRIDGEPORT EAST END NEIGHBORHOOD SUPPORT

Project Overview



The Environmental Justice Showcase Community (EJSC) project in Bridgeport, Connecticut, addressed environmental and public health concerns of residents in the Bridgeport East End Neighborhood. These concerns, which were identified under a recent Community Action for Renewed Environment (CARE) Level I grant, included increased incidence of asthma and lead poisoning, mixed zoning, exposure to dust and air toxics from industrial sources, illegal dumping, vacant and contaminated properties, and mold and poor air quality in schools. The EJSC project is also leveraging community-based activities associated with the Bridgeport "B-Green 2020" Sustainability Initiative.

Launched by an executive order from Bridgeport Mayor Bill Finch in 2008, B-Green is a comprehensive program to decrease carbon emissions, green the city, and promote green jobs and technology, along with more widespread economic vitality and improved social and health benefits.

The East End Neighborhood is a tight weave of industrial buildings and residential housing, typical of pre-World War I industrial areas. Bridgeport's poverty rate is 18.4 percent, more than double the state level of 7.9 percent.

Project Goals

After the Bridgeport EJSC project was announced in November 2009, EPA Region 1 began designing it to address some of the community concerns identified under the CARE program and to take advantage of activities with similar goals in progress under the Bridgeport "B-Green 2020" Sustainability Initiative. Region 1 is using a multi-media, cross-program strategy to engage stakeholders in a highly coordinated fashion to address public health and environmental problems in overburdened neighborhoods of Bridgeport.

Region 1 developed and supported programs designed to improve indoor air quality, to encourage green jobs in the community, to increase recycling rates, and to reduce asthma and toxic exposure in schools and homes. The EPA and other federal partners worked with the Connecticut Departments of Environmental Protection and Public Health and six municipal departments (mayor's office, economic development, parks and recreation, police, library, school department, and public works and health). The EPA also worked with several community-based organizations, environmental advocacy groups, and youth development programs.

Successes

Supported the awards of wastewater and drinking water handler certifications to 51 inner city youths: The Region 1 EJSC staff assisted the city's Workplace, Inc., jobs training program, which received a $350,000 grant to provide wastewater and drinking water handler certification training to inner city youth. The program expects to place 43 graduates in environmental jobs and track graduates for 2 years.

Supported stormwater management training to 20 inner city youths: Region 1 helped to fund and provided technical support to Groundwork Bridgeport to train 20 Bridgeport youth in stormwater management. After the training, the youths marked 600 street drains, indicating that they drain into Long Island Sound and should be kept clean. The youth also organized neighborhood meetings for residents and local businesses about water resource protection. They participated in other volunteer and for-profit projects. Region 1 is now quantifying the number and percent of young people who participated in projects and are now attending college.

Supported a 2-week "Water Boot Camp" for 18 public school students: The EPA worked with the Connecticut section of the American Water Works Association, the Water and People Program, and schools in Bridgeport to establish a Water Boot Camp. These groups are leading the way in teaching youth about water resources and preparing them for green jobs in water operations. The success of this 2-week summer program is being measured against the level of interest in environmental and public health protection and the increased community capacity for green jobs in the water sector.

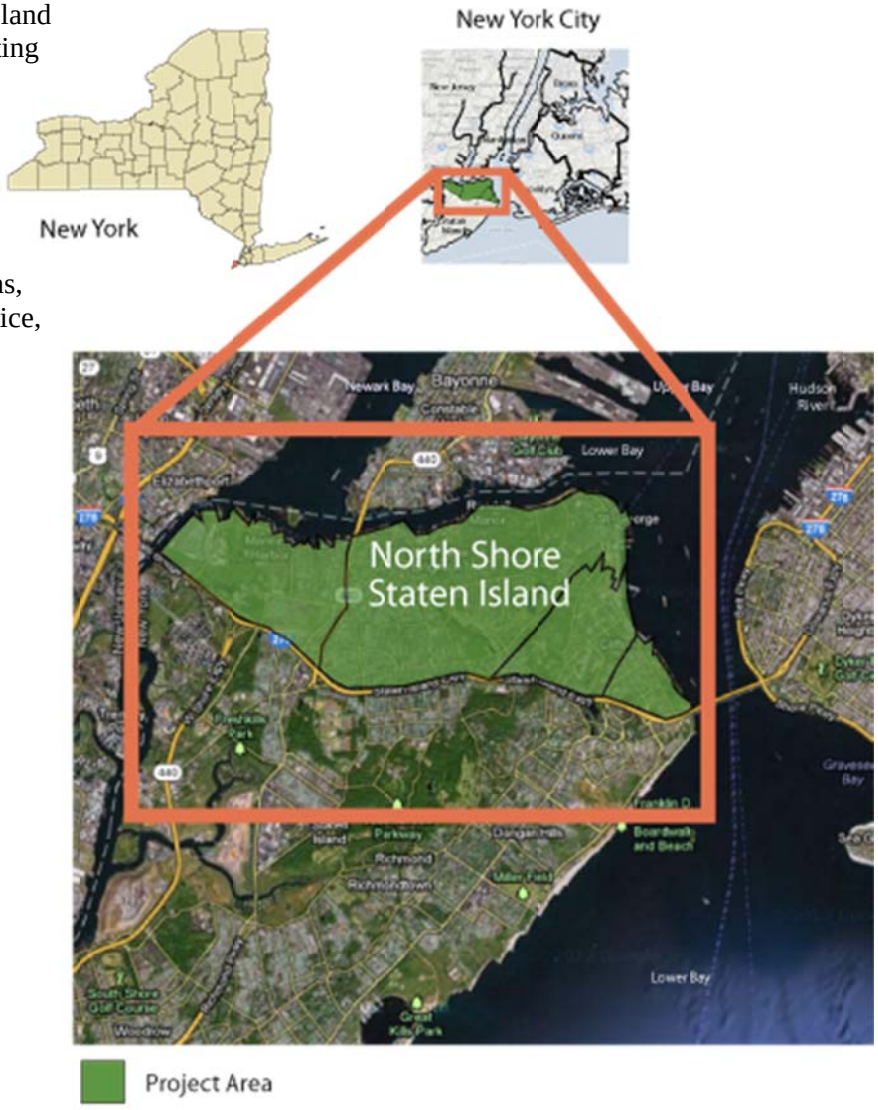
Provided greenscaper training to 28 workers in small and minority landscaping and contracting and the construction businesses: The greenscaper training program focused on the function, design, construction, and maintenance of vegetated rain gardens for the control of stormwater runoff. Trainees participated in both classroom instruction and a hands-on practicum when 28 trainees (including zoo employees) installed a rain garden at the Beardsley Zoo. The garden will be used both for stormwater management and visitor education. The program was developed by a collaboration between the Bridgeport Small & Minority Business Resource Office and Parks Department, University of Connecticut-NEMO (Non-Point Education for Municipal Officials)/Center for Land Use Education and Research, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Water Program, and Rutgers University.

Other Successes: Region 1 also supported funding awards of approximately $16 million, improved recycling at Bridgeport public schools, supported a hospital pollution prevention workshop attended by 50 persons, supported the Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice in its coordination of in-home asthma training, leveraged a commitment from the city to invest $1 million to provide low income communities with access to parks along the Bridgeport waterfront, participated in the Pequonnock River Initiative, improved Port Authority compliance, and removed 600 tons of contaminated soils from an industrial site.

REGION 2: NORTH SHORE OF STATEN ISLAND EJ SHOWCASE COMMUNITY PROJECT

Project Overview

The North Shore of Staten Island project is focused on supporting the continued growth and success of the "North Shore Community Coalition for Environmental Justice," which is composed of 30 organizations, including environmental justice, civic, and conservation groups and tenant associations. The coalition will be instrumental in the further prioritization of local environmental and public health concerns and will attract additional resources and build partnerships among public and private institutions. The North Shore of Staten Island is made up of a number of residential neighborhoods that are interspersed with industrial properties that contain abandoned, contaminated, and regulated activities along the waterfront.



The coalition began forming in the summer of 2010, about 6 months after the North Shore was designated an Environmental Justice Showcase Community. In February 2011, the coalition ratified a structure designed to ensure transparency, accountability, and participation. The coalition is developing a formal constitution and recently began to implement plans for spending the majority of funding that was made available through the EJSC program. The project is expected to continue until July 2012, addressing exposure of children to diesel exhaust, exposure of infants to lead, and compiling an environmental profile of the entire North Shore area for future targeting of other types of exposures.

Project Goals

In January 2010, shortly after the North Shore area was selected as an EJ Showcase Community, the EPA provided the community with the latest update from a regional task force on the status of action items for each of 21 sites that were listed as community concerns.

Region 2 supported the emerging coalition by providing staff from the EPA and state, local, and other federal organizations to provide technical support in evaluating the environmental and public health issues that were nominated for inclusion in the EJSC project.

Successes

Investigated and resolved concerns associated with 21 sites identified by the community: As noted in the Project Goals section above, a regional task force had been formed 6 months before the EJSC project began to address concerns at 21 sites in the North Shore. Although the task force was not a direct result of the EJSC project, its actions demonstrated the EPA's commitment to and created the basis for effective dialogues with the community.

Supported a kickoff meeting held by local organizations: The meeting was successful in training the various community groups to recognize the types of exposures (inhalation, direct contact, and ingestion) in the North Shore neighborhoods and to discuss different exposures in terms of frequency and severity at various sites. In addition, many of the participants learned about the concepts of receptors and risk scenarios as a way of thinking about worst-case exposures and how to visualize cumulative exposures and compare the exposure levels between various neighborhoods in the North Shore.

Provided regulatory and technical support and leveraged state and local governmental support for the formation of a local coalition — made up of 30 groups: After the kickoff meeting described above, EPA Region 2 has continued to provide updates on the progress made in investigating and resolving issues at the 21 sites identified by the community. In addition, the coalition has relied on Region 2 for technical assistance in identifying which issues should be funded by the EJSC project. In February 2011, the coalition ratified a structure designed to ensure transparency, accountability, and participation. Currently, the coalition is working on a formal constitution and has recently reached consensus on and begun to implement plans for spending the majority of funding that was made available through the EJSC program.

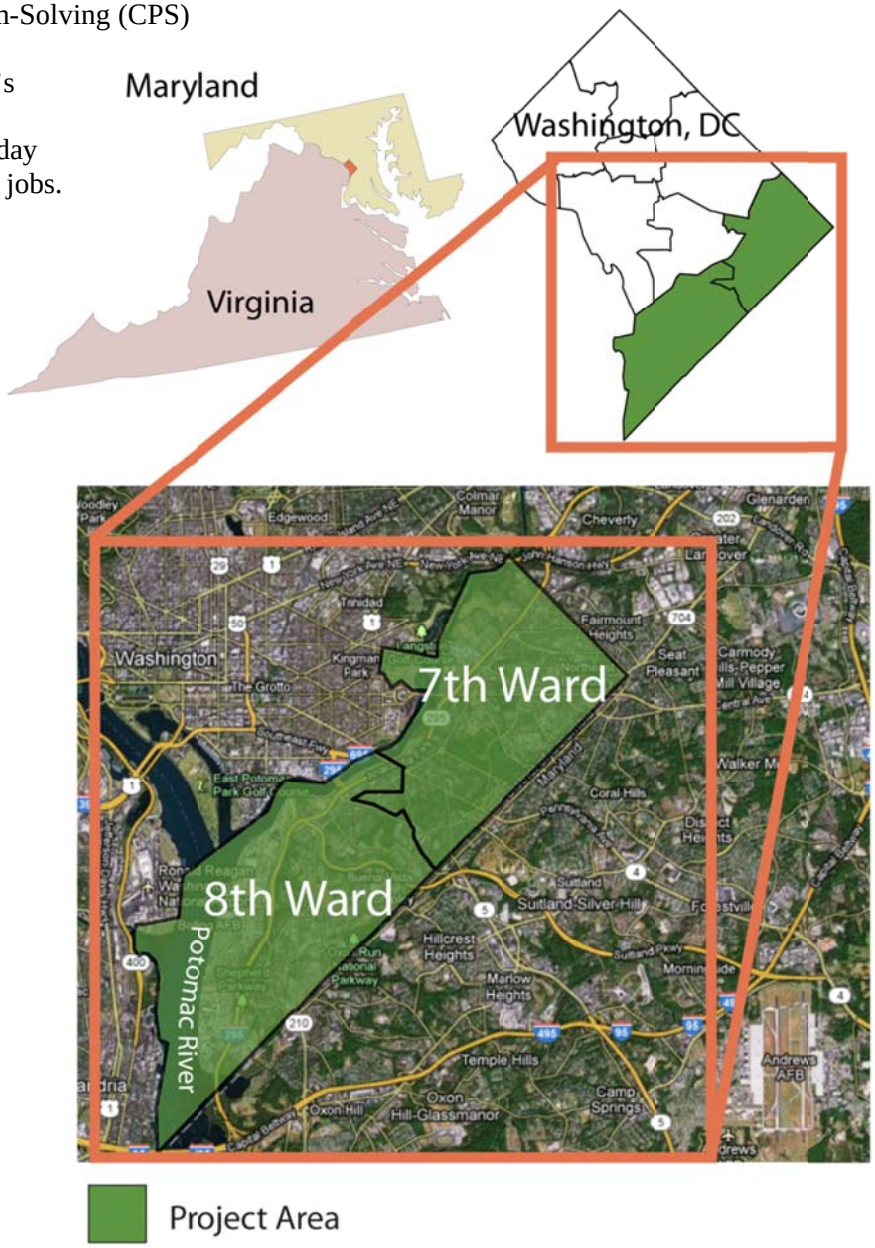
In the spring of 2011, the coalition was able to provide Region 2 with a list of projects that will address exposure of children to diesel exhaust, exposure of infants to lead, and the compilation of an environmental profile of the entire North Shore area for future targeting of other types of exposures. In response, the region has obtained contracted resources to assist in developing specific goals and performance measures for each project and implementing strategies and activities accordingly. This work is expected to be conducted over the next 12 months.

Providing significant resources to support projects selected by the new coalition: Currently, the majority of the original EJSC project funding is still available because almost no EJSC funds were expended when the coalition was being established and organized. Region 2 has committed a significant portion of the remaining EJSC project funds to a contract that will provide for development of a detailed work plan to address diesel emissions near schools, exposure of infants to lead, improper disposal of solid waste, and preparation of a community-wide environmental profile to prioritize future actions. In addition, the region will assist the coalition in creating a website to provide an online presence for the coalition and to provide up-to-date information on environmental justice issues on the North Shore.

REGION 3: DC EJ SHOWCASE COMMUNITY PROJECT

Project Overview

The EJSC project in the District of Columbia (DC) has made progress in addressing environmental and public health concerns expressed by residents of DC Council Wards 7 and 8. The concerns identified in a recent EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving (CPS) Cooperative Agreement report included lead, asthma, children's health, hazardous facilities, pesticides, subsistence fishing, day care centers, vehicle idling, and jobs.



Project Goals

The vision of the DC EJ Showcase Community project was to enlist the support and technical expertise of the various stakeholders to provide mechanisms for addressing environmental and health concerns as identified through the dialogues, collaborative interaction with the partners and the community, and through consensus of the DC EJSC Project Steering Committee.

The steering committee's main goal was to form sustainable workgroups that would be able to address the issues identified by the EJ CPS project report described above. Those issues included lead, asthma, children's health, and hazardous facilities (such as the Washington Navy Yard, Kenilworth Landfill, Pepco Energy Services [PES] Benning Plant, Poplar Point, Washington Gas and Light, and other facilities). In addition, participants in their public forums around the district reported the following concerns: the indoor use of pesticides, subsistence fishing, day care centers, vehicle idling, and green jobs/green economy.

Related to the topic of green jobs and green economy, the district has also identified cleanup and restoration of the Anacostia River as a major environmental justice priority. The river has suffered severe water quality damage caused by urban pollution and habitat destruction. Poor water quality and impaired aquatic habitats make the river unhealthy. The EPA has designated the Anacostia River as one of its targeted watersheds and as an Urban River and has agreed to work with the district in supporting cleanup and restoration of its water resources. A green jobs training initiative will be launched as part of this Showcase Community project to assist in this cleanup and restoration effort.

Successes

Convened three major workgroups with stakeholder groups around the District: Using the strong partnerships forged with the large network of organizations established in the EJ CPS CA project and the list of issues and concerns identified in the EJ CPS CA project report, the EJSC project team refined the list of critical issues and formed three workgroups, including Children's Environmental Health, Contaminated Properties, and Green Economy/Green Jobs.

The Children's Environmental Health Workgroup seeks to help identify environmental health problems in buildings used by children in Ward 8. It is creating a public-private partnership to educate the citizens about building-related environmental health issues and to link individuals who need resources to improve their buildings with existing resources in the district. The workgroup will assess and then reduce at least three environmental health hazards or triggers (pesticide use, lead, and mold or vermin) in five housing units, two schools, and three child care facilities in Ward 8. The workgroup will also link five private home owners and three child care owners and providers with DC and national resources to assist with remediation strategies. In addition, the workgroup seeks to expand participation in Ward 8 community meetings, train 25 youth on important health-related topics, and increase the awareness of 100 parents by conducting three children's environmental health workshops (approximately one per month).

The Contaminated Properties Workgroup is developing informational community forums regarding contaminated sites in DC, with the goal of supporting education and advocacy and fostering environmental stewardship among the community. The Contaminated Properties Workgroup is meeting with local city council members to inform them of the EJSC project and to encourage them to establish a Citizens Advisory Committee to assist with cleanup of contaminated properties.

The Green Economy Workgroup was formed to support initial green job/green infrastructure training for unemployed youth and community members and to facilitate additional opportunities and partnerships that will expand the green economy in DC. Partners in the workgroup include staff from EPA's Urban Waters and Chesapeake Bay programs, National Park Service (NPS), National Institute of Environmental Health Services (NIEHS) -Worker Education and Training Program, the Department of Labor's Job Corps Program, the District Department of the Environment (DDOE), and the non-government organizations (NGOs) Groundwork Anacostia River (GWAR) and DC Greenworks. The workgroup has met in DC for meetings during November 2010 and January, March, June, and August 2011.

Facilitated and funded a Green Infrastructure job training project in southeast DC: EJ funds supplemented by Urban Waters funding led to a partnership project with the Department of Labor's (DOL) Potomac Job Corps Center, the NPS, and GWAR that will develop and deliver green job/green infrastructure training for unemployed youth and community members. Training began in fall 2011. This project has been expanded to include two other local NGOs, DC Greenworks and Anacostia Watershed Society, to work together within the DC community to grow a green economy.

Created a community consensus statement on contaminated properties: The Contaminated Properties Workgroup held community meetings on May 11, July 9, and September 26. DDOE and PES officials attended two of the three meetings. An informal working group to design a health impact assessment of neighborhoods surrounding the Anacostia River and the PES Benning plant has been formed. Representatives from neighborhood associations are compiling a consensus document outlining key points they agree on with regard to needs for community participation to ensure adequate cleanup of contaminated properties and protection of human health. Additionally, the Contaminated Properties Workgroup has designed a health impact assessment that will be conducted in the affected neighborhoods adjacent to one of the contaminated properties. Additional health impact assessments may follow.

REGION 4: JACKSONVILLE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SHOWCASE COMMUNITY PROJECT

Project Overview

The Jacksonville EJSC project is improving the quality of life and increasing community-driven actions for residents of the area designated by Duval County as "Health Zone 1" (HZ1), which has the highest emergency room visit rate for asthma and the highest number of houses testing positive for lead-based paint in the county. HZ1 also contains a number of Superfund sites, Brownfield sites, vacant and abandoned lots, and impaired waterways.

Project Goals

EPA Region 4 selected HZ1 in Jacksonville as an EJSC in November 2009. The first major step involved community stakeholder meetings and interviews with community leaders and representatives from more than 20 organizations during April 7 to 16, 2010. Participants included community-based organizations, the City of Jacksonville, the Duval County Health Department, Duval County Public Schools, academic institutions, and the Florida Brownfield Association. The next steps included a major press conference and kickoff meeting in cooperation with the City of Jacksonville and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).

Follow-up meetings and interviews with governmental, non-governmental, and community based organizations and academic institutions were conducted in August 2010 to obtain input and feedback on the proposed priority goals, which include:

- Investigate and improve urban stream water quality
- Enhance community planning and communication tools and practices
- Reduce exposures of neighborhood children to asthma triggers and lead-based paint.

After reaching general agreement on the goals the HZ1 community and project partners created a Community Action Plan (CAP). The following sections describe the strategies, activities, and successes from implementing the CAP.

Successes

Completed a comprehensive study of fish and shellfish in two local fishing streams: The EPA Region 4 collected fish and shellfish from sites in Hogan and Long Branch creeks. These samples were evaluated for chemical contaminant accumulation in edible tissue. Sampling results revealed elevated levels of several pesticides, arsenic, and industrial chemicals. The results were provided to Florida Department of Health (FDOH) in May 2011 for review. After FDOH's review and evaluation were complete, the Duval County Health Department (DCHD) and the City of Jacksonville issued a Fish Consumption Advisory, and the City of Jacksonville is procuring 24 Fish Consumption Advisory signs that will be posted along the creeks.

Planned and conducted activities for improving local water quality: The improvement of water quality in HZ1 streams has begun with construction of rain barrels and community gardens. It will continue with a large demonstration project to be conducted at the Robert F. Kennedy Center in HZ1. Participants in the rain barrel workshop engaged in the hands-on construction of a barrel to take home and start reducing urban runoff in their watershed. Community gardens are in the planning stage; the EPA Region 4 awarded the Eastside Environmental Coalition $15,000 for supporting and expanding community gardens throughout HZ1. In addition, approximately $65,000 of the EJSC project funds will be used to develop a comprehensive green infrastructure site plan for the Kennedy Community in HZ1. The site plan will include phases for green infrastructure demonstrations such as practices that address rooftop runoff, parking runoff, and street runoff.

Provided three community-industry forums to open lines of communication: Participants at the three forums included representatives from eight local industries, four regulatory agencies, and the City of Jacksonville, as well as 62 community participants and other interested stakeholders. Resident attendees and corporate attendees viewed the forums as a good way to open lines of communication, and all agreed the forums were productive as a bridge-building exercise in the community.

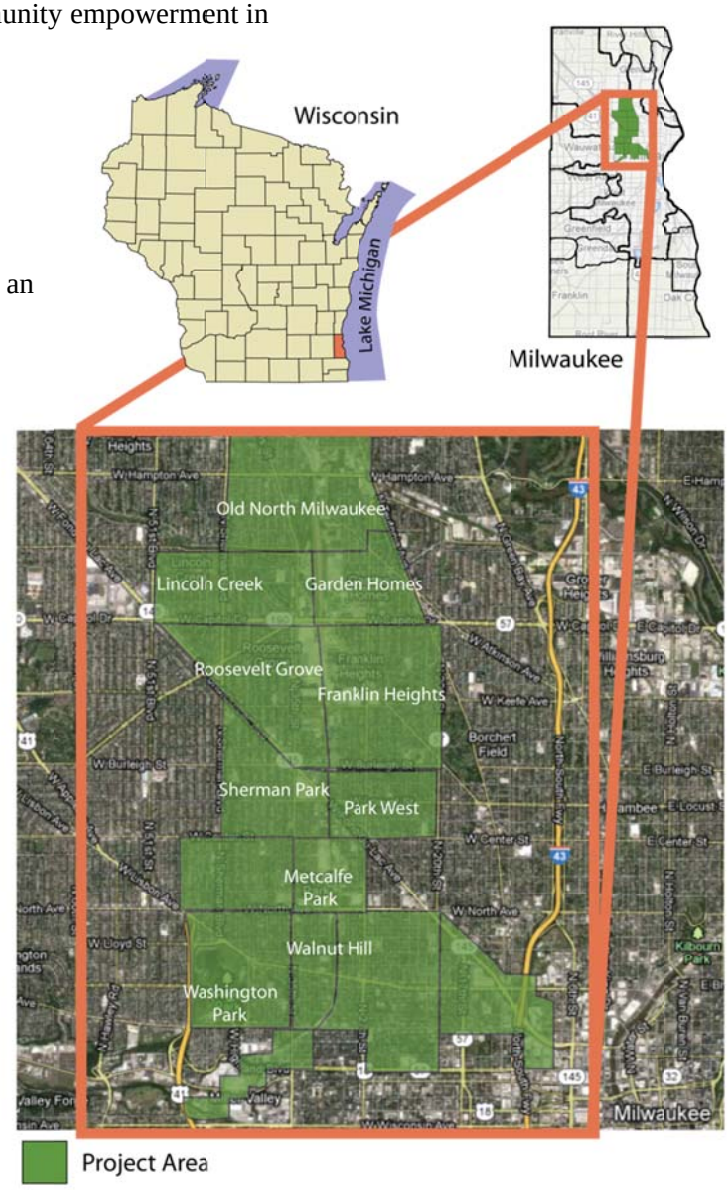
Leveraged local Superfund activities to advance community integrated planning: The EJSC project is leveraging an EPA Region 4 Superfund project to help the HZ1 community make significant progress toward establishing a much-needed community health center on a remediated Brownfields or Superfund site. The leveraged project is focused on obtaining community involvement in the redevelopment of cleaned up sites. The community healthcare center is envisioned to provide comprehensive, holistic, integrated and sustainable federally qualified health care for HZ1residents and include conventional health care (primary, mental, dental, and vision), response for environmental exposures and prevention.

Reduced exposures of neighborhood children to asthma triggers and lead-based paint: The Region 4 EJSC project helped to bring the Duval County Asthma-Smart School Program to at least 1,000 additional preschoolers. This program teaches children about childhood asthma. Additionally, EPA Region 4 representatives visited daycare centers, places of worship, schools, and area businesses in HZ1 to build awareness of the dangers of lead poisoning for approximately 1,300 children and their families.

REGION 5: MILWAUKEE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SHOWCASE COMMUNITY

Project Overview

The Milwaukee EJSC project addressed cumulative effects of pollution, rising public health issues, and limited resources and information for community empowerment in Milwaukee's 30th Street Industrial Corridor, which is located in the north-central part of the city and includes portions of 11 neighborhoods. The corridor was formed around a rail line that runs north-south along 30th Street for 5 miles, through what was once the manufacturing backbone of the city. The figure on the far right provides an outline of the corridor in relation to the 11 neighborhoods it traverses. Most of the manufacturing jobs in the 30th Street Corridor have been lost, and many industrial properties are vacant or under-used (with numerous Brownfields properties). The corridor has been home to such companies as: Master Lock, Miller Brewery, Harley-Davidson, DRS Technologies, Eaton Corp., A.O. Smith, and Cutler-Hammer. About 40 percent of the workforce was employed in manufacturing in 1960; by 2007, that proportion was 17.4 percent, representing the loss of about 77,000 jobs. One in four residents lives in poverty.



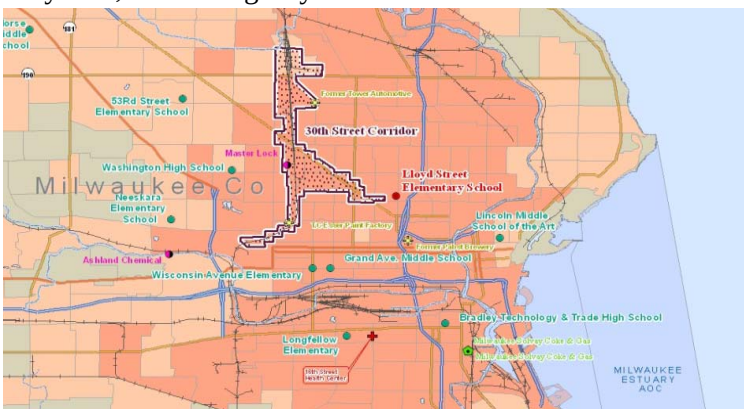
Project Goals

The Milwaukee EJSC project has three primary objectives for improving environmental and public health conditions. They are: (1) reduce exposure to environmental impacts through a targeted enforcement initiative with geographic tools, (2) improve understanding of environmental health triggers and access to wellness measures, and (3) provide opportunities for development of new skills and capacity building.

The second objective, to improve understanding of environmental health triggers and access to wellness measures, was addressed by conducting training on healthy homes practices and other environmental health concerns, providing outreach and facilitating health services, and reducing chemical hazards in schools. The third objective was addressed by providing opportunities for development of new skills and capacity building through training.

Successes

Used geographic-based targeted enforcement to assess facilities in the community: The region used a geographic information system (GIS) tool to develop an enforcement strategy plan to quickly and easily screen large amounts of toxics release inventory data, and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's (ATSDR's) database of all health consultation reports. This tool was helpful for finding sources of contamination caused by violations of existing laws and regulations. The figure to the right shows how the geographic tools can be applied to highlight the areas where EJ concerns are high (bright orange areas), moderate (light orange areas), and low (light green areas). The outline of the corridor is shown in the center portion of the figure, just to the right of "Milwaukee Co."



Conducted 13 facility inspections; seven were multi-media investigations: Review of the inspection reports and data analysis disclosed three facilities to be in noncompliance, two facilities in compliance, and five that are currently being investigated. A list of facilities for enforcement action was generated, which Region 5 staff further refined based on need and evidence. The inspections did not reveal immediate or substantial endangerment to the public at the time of the inspection.

Provided trainings to more than 170 community health workers (CHWs) and healthcare providers: The Healthy Homes and environmental health trainings conducted by the EPA and its partners provided the 170 CHWs with new information and new skills that equip them with new tools when they make home visits. It is estimated that one CHW will visit up to 240 families per year; therefore, the 170 newly trained CHWs could collectively reach as many as 40,800 families and family members per year, providing them with information that will help them reduce or prevent lead poisoning in children and asthma incidents.

Participated in and hosted numerous health and environmental awareness events: In addition to the training, the region and it partners — the City Health Department, Wisconsin Department of Human Services, and local organizations and institutions — hosted a Healthy Homes Fair for the Washington Park neighborhood, which was visited by an estimated 75 families and children. Blood lead testing for children and asthma screenings were provided, as well as outreach and information on lead poisoning and other health issue related triggers in the home. Region 5 also participated in local festivals such as Fight Asthma Wellness Day and Milwaukee's Hmong Community New Year's Festival, which is attended by thousands, and provided information on healthy home practices, pesticides, fish advisories, and urban gardening.

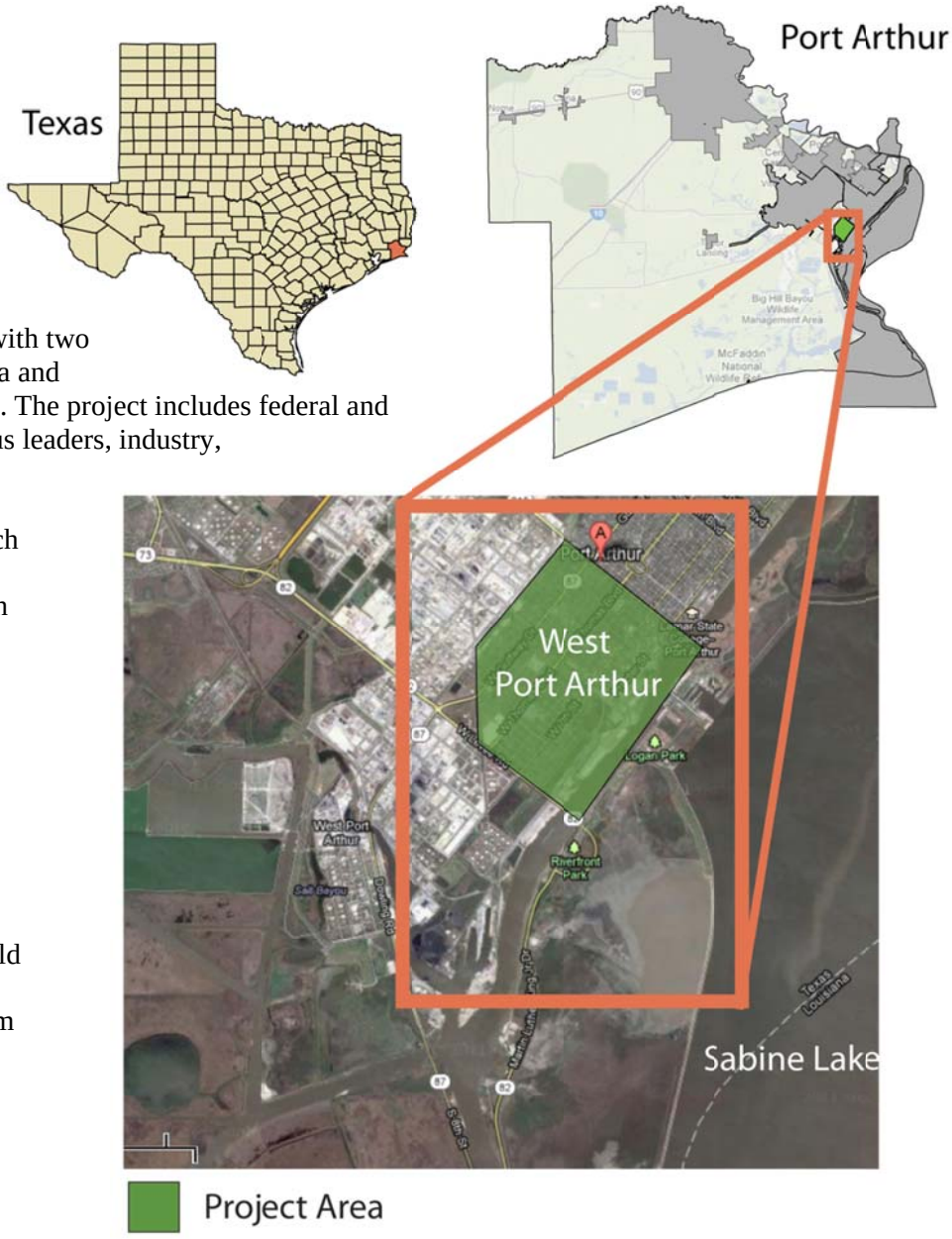
The region conducted a School Chemical Cleanout program for private and charter schools in project neighborhoods. More than 90 schools were contacted directly and agreed to join the program. A total of 100 pounds of chemicals was removed and disposed of properly.

Provided lead abatement training to 63 contractors and handymen: Region 5 funded training on the new Renovation, Repair, and Painting rule for unemployed and underemployed residents of Milwaukee. Sixty-three eligible contractors and handymen attended the three free sessions. Most are expected to pass the course and receive state certification to work in older homes, which dominate the local neighborhoods.

Other Successes: Region 5 also supported revitalization with $1.3 million to the city and four Brownfields assessment grants, totaling $800,000, to the state to assess and remediate 200 known sites, and reached at least 75 local families with training on blood lead screening, asthma testing, lead paint removal and healthy home practices.

REGION 6: PORT ARTHUR, TEXAS WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD

Project Overview



The EJSC project in Port Arthur, Texas, is implementing a comprehensive, cross-media action plan in the city's Westside Neighborhood, which shares fence lines with two large oil refineries (Motiva and Valero) and an active port. The project includes federal and local government, religious leaders, industry, community leaders, and citizens in a collaborative community-based approach to improve the community's public health and the environment.

The neighborhood spans about 60 blocks and is home to approximately 3,500 people, of which 44 percent are living below the poverty line.

Project Goals

In early 2010, the EPA held public meetings in Port Arthur and used input from these meetings to develop and implement a comprehensive, cross-media action plan for the Westside community of Port Arthur, Texas.

Successes

Supported community forums on improving the quality of life for Port Arthur Westside residents: The EPA partnered with the City of Port Arthur to hold a 2-day summit with stakeholders to develop a comprehensive approach to address issues. The city agreed to develop and implement a comprehensive plan that would improve the quality of life of Port Arthur's residents. The city, stakeholders of Port Arthur, and EPA Region 6 are committed to finalizing the plan through several carefully managed and broad-based work groups (Environmental Quality and Emergency Response; Housing, Unemployment and Skill Development; Downtown and Westside Revitalization; Community Health; and Energy Efficiency). Each work group includes city officials, industry and community representatives, as well as representatives from all relevant local, state, and federal agencies, and each group has identified several potential projects that will be implemented over the next 3 to 5 years.

Engaged in partnerships with Port Arthur stakeholders and industry leading to a $1 million award for construction of a Health Clinic on the Westside of Port Arthur Texas: During a meeting in

September 2011, Administrator Lisa Jackson informed Port Arthur Mayor, Deloris "Bobbi" Prince, that after many months of discussion and coordination, the EPA and the U.S. Department of Justice finalized a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) agreement with the Valero Port Arthur Refinery. This SEP will result in construction of a $1 million health clinic on the city's west side.

Received significant support from Administrator Jackson: Administrator Jackson met with Port Arthur Mayor Prince to discuss how the city can continue to work effectively with the EPA on EJSC project activities. Administrator Jackson also requested assistance from the Department of Housing and Urban Development in the effort to provide for relocation and replacement of the Carver Terrace low-income housing complex located in Port Arthur. In addition, Administrator Jackson requested assistance from the Department of Labor to address the persistently high levels of unemployment on Port Arthur's west side.

Conducted Healthy Home trainings and health outreach for 60 neighborhood residents: The EPA provided Healthy Homes training to more than 60 Carver Terrace residents. The training was conducted through a grant to the University of Texas Foundation in collaboration with University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston.

Provided emergency response training to 75 neighborhood representatives: The EPA Region 6 provided workshops on emergency response notification procedures to address concerns raised by neighborhood groups living near the industrial facilities in Port Arthur. The workshops also provided industry representatives and local officials an opportunity to explain the notification procedures after a release.

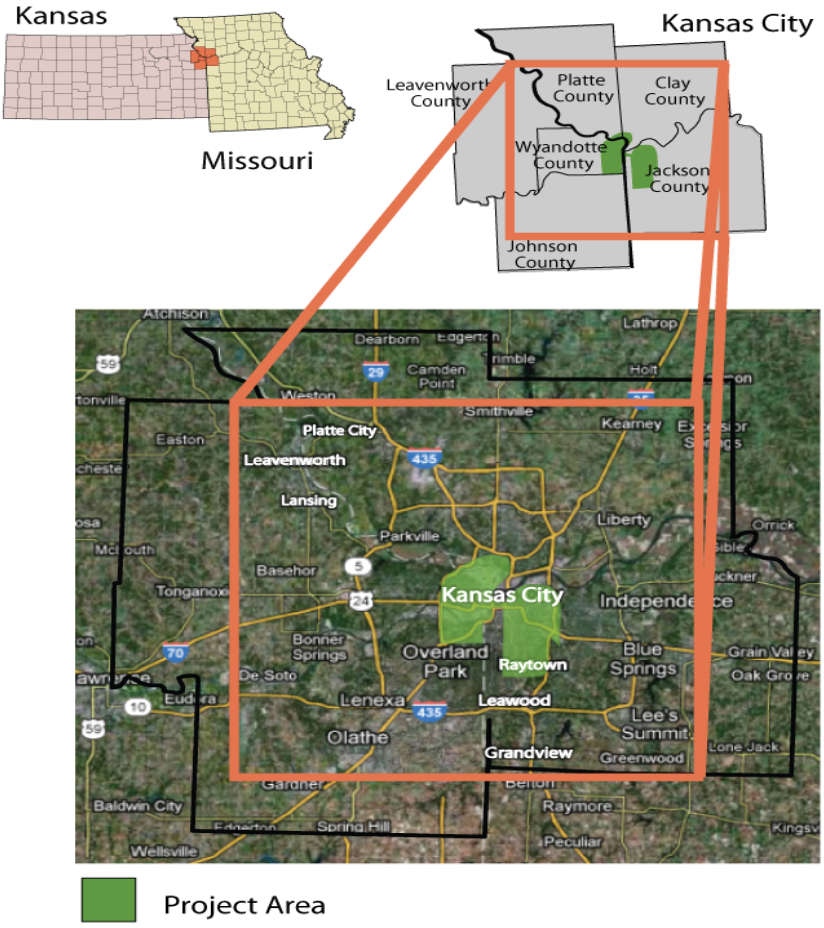
Supported air quality and job training and education of more than 100 families on energy conservation: The EPA awarded a grant to the Tekoa Charter School Environmental Science Lab Project to educate students about the importance of local air quality and the benefits of recycling as a means of improving air quality. Another EPA grant was awarded to the Golden Triangle Empowerment Center Job Training to support an existing job training program being implemented in the Port Arthur area. Furthermore, the EPA educated more than 100 families on energy conservation measures through the Lighthouse Program.

Provided school chemical cleanout training to more than 30 science teachers: The EPA met with Port Arthur Independent School District science teachers, school officials, and Veolia Environmental Services (ES) representatives in support of training sessions and local community needs. In addition to donating training expertise, industry donated $25,000 for services, including chemical disposal.

Supported revitalization with $329,598 through Brownfields assessments of 1,300 properties: The EPA Brownfields Program conducted asbestos and lead-based paint surveys and EPA supported revitalization through Brownfields assessments of 1,300 properties. Region 6 Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA) Program is currently providing 27 Phase I Environmental Site Assessments (ESA) on city-owned property in the Westside Neighborhood. The TBA Program recently completed an inventory of a 63-block corridor in downtown. In all, the TBA Program has invested $329,598 in support of environmental assessments in Port Arthur since 2009.

REGION 7: HEALTHY PEOPLE, HEALTHY HOMES, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Project Overview



The EJSC project identified economically-distressed neighborhoods in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Risk factors in these neighborhoods include increased exposure to environmental hazards and poor housing conditions. Kansas City, Kansas, is 44.2 percent minority, and Kansas City, Missouri, is 39.3 percent minority. Kansas City, Kansas, has 17.1 percent of its population living below poverty, and Kansas City, Missouri, has 14.3 percent of its population living below poverty. Residents and community organizations in the targeted neighborhoods have identified numerous environmental concerns, including poor air quality, vacant and abandoned properties, asthma, lead exposure, poor housing conditions, lack of clean water, stormwater and flooding, lack of urban farming, illegal dumping and improper waste disposal, and children's health issues.

Project Goals

On Saturday, June 12, 2010, Region 7 held a kickoff meeting for the EJSC project that was attended by numerous community residents and more than 50 organizations representing the private, non-profit, federal, and state sectors. The discussions at the kickoff meeting revolved mainly around three topics: vacant and abandoned properties, urban waters, and healthy communities. Based on previous community input, it was determined that these topics would be the focus areas for the Environmental Justice Showcase project. Participants from several communities and other organizations were able to exchange ideas about problems, priorities, and potential projects. The discussions resulted in the identification of detailed goals, objectives, and activities.

Successes

Provided water quality monitoring training to 20 community members, who then monitored water quality in five urban lakes: The Region 7 Urban Waters Team, which consists of EPA employees from the Water, Wetlands and Pesticides Division, the Environmental Science Division, the EJ program, and the Office of Public Affairs, visited five lakes in the Kansas City Metro Area: Wyandotte County Lake, Big 11 Lake, Penn Valley Lake, Lake of the Woods, and Troost Lake. These lakes were selected in partnership with local communities based on concerns over the health of each water body. Monitoring has been completed by community volunteer groups, each of whom was paired with a member of the Urban Waters Team. Training on monitoring techniques took place at Camp Lake of the Woods in Kansas City,

Missouri, on June 28, 2011. Approximately 20 community members (groups of four volunteers per lake) were present. Each community volunteer group has successfully completed water monitoring at the water body since they were trained.

Supported community youths to produce video interviews with local elders regarding their historical interaction with local water bodies and how these waters played an integral part in their lives: Thus far, two video interviews have been recorded. These stories were in turn downloaded and shared on Facebook.

Supported an all-day awareness training workshop attended by 14 personnel from 12 different organizations and agencies for individuals and community leaders on community uses of data from Emergency Planning Community Right-to-Know (EPCRA) activities: The EJ team, in collaboration with the Chemical Risk Information Branch, conducted a 1-day, 8-hour workshop for individuals and community leaders on how to use EPCRA data to gain awareness of environmental hazards in the community. The workshop also provided attendees with valuable information on community emergency preparedness and how individuals and communities can be prepared for emergencies.

Supported the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Kansas City (BGCGKC) in providing a 10-week Environmental Awareness program called Environmental Ambassadors: From January 12 to March 23, 2011, the EPA ran an Environmental Awareness program called Environmental Ambassadors. This program was rolled out at the BGCGKC Wagner Unit. The 10-week series was coordinated by the EJ program and supported by speakers from across the region. Topics during the series included History of the EPA; Radon, Pesticides and Chemicals in Your Community; Waste Reduction and Recycling; Five Green Things; and Environmental Justice.

Supported the Oak Grove Neighborhood Association in presenting the "Essentials for Healthy Home Practitioners" course to 50 participants: This course is designed to help bring awareness to community partners and local organizations on environmental hazards in the home and workplace using the core healthy home principles, which are to keep the home dry, clean, safe, pest-free, ventilated, and contaminant-free and maintained.

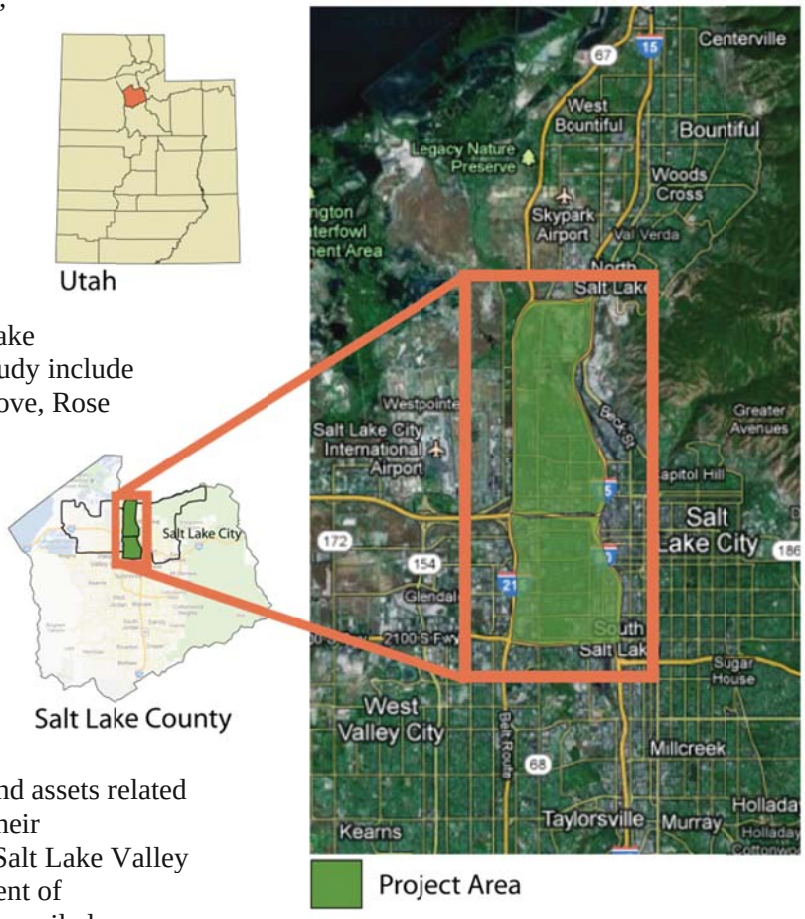
Hosted an urban agriculture workshop for 30 attendees on safe and effective gardening on vacant lots and Brownfields sites, in cooperation with Kansas State University: The EJ program hosted an urban agriculture workshop that presented information regarding safe and effective gardening on vacant lots and Brownfields sites. The workshop also presented information on garden site design.

Sampled 15 urban lots to help community members assess whether the lots are safe for gardening and agricultural production: Soil was tested at 15 vacant lots and Brownfields sites in a number of disadvantaged communities. The EJSC project staff is coordinating with community members and ATSDR to communicate the results of the soil sampling and what these results mean in terms of gardening and agricultural production.

REGION 8: SALT LAKE CITY CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (CEH/EJ) INITIATIVE

Project Overview

The EPA Region 8, together with state, county, city, non-profit, and community organizations and residents, is working with nine neighborhoods in central and west Salt Lake City on a community-based Children's Environmental Health and Environmental Justice Initiative. The initiative study area includes all or portions of nine different neighborhoods in Salt Lake City. The nine neighborhoods in the study include Glendale, Jordan Meadows, Poplar Grove, Rose Park, State Fairpark, Westpointe/West Salt Lake, Downtown/Rio Grande, Capitol Hill, and People's Freeway/Ballpark.



After a core group of participants was mobilized, the participants completed a community environmental health needs assessment that engaged community members to understand their concerns, priorities, and assets related to children's environmental health in their neighborhoods. At the same time, the Salt Lake Valley Health Department, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, and the EPA compiled environmental data and environmental health data for the area. The results of the community environmental health needs assessment will be used to inform the next step of the process – Setting Priorities and Planning for Action.

Project Goals

The overarching project goal is to make a positive difference to the environmental health of children through collaboration and community problem solving. The main project objectives are to: (1) empower the community to reduce environmental risks to children, (2) achieve a more holistic, integrated approach to children's environmental health that is sustainable in the community and replicable for communities outside of the initiative, (3) build collaborative, community-based partnerships, and (4) improve agency coordination and leverage resources. Both the goals and objectives were developed collaboratively among the project participants.

Participating organizations developed a custom project process model titled *Pathway Toward a Healthier Community* to guide their efforts in achieving the above stated goal and corresponding objectives.

Successes

Developed a project process model titled "Pathway Toward a Healthier Community" to guide project efforts: Project participants drew on their knowledge and experience with other project process models to develop a custom process model for this project. The model includes five steps, which are depicted in the figure at the right: Mobilize Partners, Assess Community, Set Priorities and Plan for Action, Implement, and Track Progress/ Evaluate Results

Completed a community environmental health needs assessment (the second step in the Pathway to a Healthier Community): To learn the community residents' concerns, priorities, and assets surrounding children's environmental health, the project participants elicited the assistance of a non-profit organization, Comunidades Unidas. Comunidades Unidas engaged 500 residents through informal discussions in parks, at community events and following other events (such as sewing classes).

Compiled neighborhood-specific environmental and health data and prepared a map of environmental features as a communication and analytical tool: Environmental data from the Utah Department of Environmental Quality were inserted into a large-scale map depicting air, water, and land-based environmental data along with other information unique to the community and region such as air quality and homes built before 1980 for lead-based paint concerns.

Other successes: Mobilized a core and extended group of project participants including state, county, city government agencies, as well as local non-profit and community organizations; held a kick-off event and children's environmental health fair attended by approximately 250 people; developed a participant Memorandum of Understanding to help guide the day-to-day efforts and logistics; produced project communications including a brochure, newsletters, and a video; and leveraged with other organizations to provide a community-based social marketing training.

REGION 9: LOS ANGELES AREA ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT COLLABORATIVE

Project Overview

The EJSC project in Los Angeles, California, is focusing on coordinated federal and state inspection and enforcement in the densely populated communities along the Interstate 710 cargo truck corridor between the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach and northward to East Los Angeles.

The Los Angeles area, specifically the communities surrounding the I-710 corridor, faces many environmental and public health threats. The ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach are the entry point of 40 percent of all imports to the U.S. and account for 20 percent of diesel particulate emissions in Southern California. Approximately 2,000 premature deaths are associated with diesel emissions in the South Coast Air Basin. About 70 percent of the more than 1 million residents that live along the corridor are minority and disproportionately low-income. The American Lung Association's "State of the Air 2009" report identifies Los Angeles as the most polluted city in the nation by its levels of ozone and particulate pollution.

Project Goals

The Los Angeles EJSC project goals are designed to support and enhance the four basic strategies of the Los Angeles Environmental Enforcement Collaborative, which include (1) partnering with communities, (2) implementing robust enforcement at pollution sources of most concern to communities, (3) building on the success of community-based enforcement, and (4) using the CARE model to work with communities.

Successes

Organized an Environmental Justice Roundtable with the Regional Administrator: Community leaders developed a comprehensive list of environmental issues and shared it with EPA Regional Administrator Jared Blumenfeld in August 2010. Diesel particulate matter was highlighted as a major concern. In partnership with the California Air Resources Board (ARB), the EPA funded the production of anti-idling signs to be posed in communities. Safe schools are a priority to the Los Angeles area

community. At the request of local leaders, the EPA organized a school siting listening session in Los Angeles with the head of the Office of Children's Health to provide an opportunity for the community to weigh in on the EPA's National School Siting Policy.

Supported efforts of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to focus community driven-enforcement and capacity building in several communities in the showcase area: Through this partnership, DTSC has provided a series of trainings in the communities of Maywood and Wilmington that can be replicated in other communities in the focus area. Translation was provided at several meetings in Maywood and Wilmington focusing on topics including drinking water and mobile source pollution using the showcase funding. Additionally, a CARE grant was awarded to Union de Vecinos to develop an environmental justice plan to address environmental issues in the City of Maywood.

Inspected 185 facilities and issued 47 enforcement actions requiring local facilities to pay $2.4 million in penalties: In fiscal year 2010, EPA Region 9 issued 26 enforcement actions requiring local facilities in the showcase area to pay $2.4 million in penalties for violations. The region also invested $340,000 to reduce pollution, improve compliance, and better protect the local environment. The enforcement actions at these facilities will keep at least 34,000 pounds of pollution per year out of the local environment and prevent the potential of release of 80,000 gallons of oil into local water sources. One hundred thirty-one inspections resulted in discovery and correction of violations, formal enforcement, and compelled several companies to perform self-audits to improve environmental compliance or voluntarily report violations and corrective actions taken to the EPA. The EPA's enforcement programs coordinated with each other and with their state and local counterparts for inspection planning for 2011.

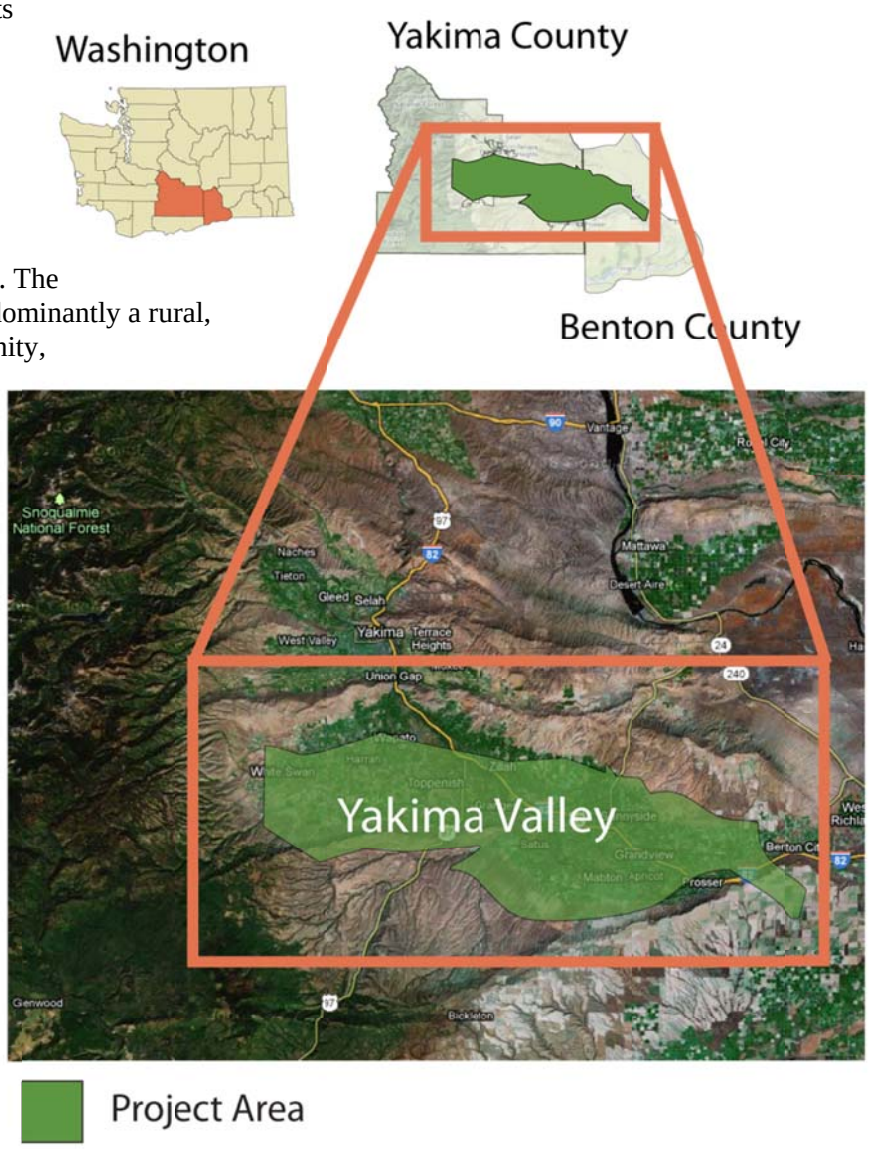
Produced 340 anti-idling signs for posting in community-identified locations along the corridor: Diesel particulate matter is of great concern to the communities in the showcase area. The ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach and the trucks that travel up and down the I-710 are major sources of diesel particulate matter that affect the showcase communities. Trucks drive through many of the communities surrounding I-710 and on occasion will idle their engines. The EPA and the California ARB met with the communities of Maywood and Wilmington to identify locations of idling trucks. The EPA produced 30 anti-idling signs and is working with ARB and local governments to identify funding sources to post the signs in the areas of concern.

Partnered with communities in the showcase area to support their "Green Zones" effort and provided funds to further support one of the communities in development of a green zones ordinance: Region 9's Administrator provided letters of support to the Clean Up Green Up Campaign in Los Angeles and the City of Commerce for their "Green Zone" projects. Designating areas as Green Zones will improve the environment, human health, and quality of life for communities disproportionately affected by toxic pollution. A land use and green economic development strategy will be developed that is protective of health and focused on environmental justice. The EPA is providing contractor support to the City of Commerce to facilitate planning discussions to incorporate "Green Zones" policies in land use recommendations and city ordinances. The EPA is supporting the Clean Up Green Up effort by targeting inspection and enforcement efforts in the identified communities and providing non-regulatory support.

REGION 10: YAKIMA VALLEY GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION & AIR QUALITY CONCERNS

Project Overview

The EJSC project enhanced efforts by the EPA and other local, state, and federal agencies to reduce the exposure of residents in the Yakima Valley in the State of Washington to high concentrations of nitrate in drinking water from private wells. The Yakima Valley population is predominantly a rural, low-income, farmworker community, with language barriers. The Yakama Nation, one of the largest tribal nations in Washington, is also located in the valley.



High nitrate concentrations may affect children by reducing their blood's ability to carry oxygen, which can lead to illness, and if left untreated, death. Symptoms can include shortness of breath and "blue baby syndrome." Research has shown that high nitrate concentrations in drinking water are also correlated with increased risk for some cancers.

Groundwater contamination and mechanisms to reduce human exposure and aquifer pollutant loading in the area was summarized in a report coauthored by the Washington State Department of Ecology, the EPA, and Yakima County, which was published in February, 2010 (http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/1010009.html). This report provided a number of short- and long-term recommendations, some of which were consistent with elements in the EJ Showcase project work plan.

Another issue being addressed by the EJ Showcase project involves supporting ongoing implementation of the Federal Air Rules for Reservations (FARR) on the Yakama Reservation, which includes 1 million acres of land within the Yakima Valley. This support has included identifying and addressing community concerns regarding high asthma rates and other air quality impacts in an air quality forum, which may lead to revisions of the FARR regulations.

Project Goals

The EJ Showcase project for Region 10 has three primary objectives: (1) ensure fair treatment and meaningful involvement of affected populations in designing a solution to reduce groundwater pollution

of private drinking water wells, (2) help residents understand and reduce their risk from drinking from private wells, and (3) support the well testing study conducted by the EPA in 2010 to link contaminants to sources.

Successes

The following sections provide additional details about each of the successes achieved thus far on this project, including key factors that should help in the design of future projects to address rural well contamination issues.

EPA tested 600 private wells: The EPA well testing program in Lower Yakima Valley was instrumental in assisting rural residents with understanding their risk from nitrate concentrations and harmful bacteria in drinking water. It was also the key to reaching and providing awareness specifically to the populations that have contaminated wells, which included users of 126 of the 602 wells tested. All of the persons whose wells were tested received follow-up information that explained what to do if high nitrate concentrations are discovered.

Sampling of crop fields, dairies, and sewage treatment units to link nitrate to sources: The collection of more than 10,000 pieces of data from sampling crop fields, dairies, and sewage treatment units is supporting a study that will greatly increase the EPA's understanding of how the wells in various parts of the Lower Yakima Valley became contaminated with nitrates and how these contamination sources can be eliminated to prevent further contamination.

Installation of well water filters in 166 homes: The EPA well sampling program helped to convince state and county decision makers of the need to provide aid to rural residents with significant nitrate contamination in their wells and at-risk family members, including infants, pregnant women, and immune-compromised adults. In June 2010, a $400,000 grant from the state legislature was provided to Yakima County to provide water treatment systems for nitrate-contaminated wells. The EPA assisted in this effort by providing certified laboratory results for nitrate concentrations exceeding 10 milligrams per liter (mg/L), recontacting the persons with contaminated wells to inform them that they were eligible for a free water filter, and assisting them with filing the necessary information required by the county. Of the 126 wells identified as contaminated, 89 accepted the free water filter from the county. An additional 18 families installed filters in 2010 before the county program began.

Significant value was added to Region 10 and State assistance efforts: The showcase project funded travel and expenses for Region 10 sampling teams, thus allowing for the testing of many more wells than otherwise would have been possible. In addition, the efforts of the EPA Yakima team in sampling and follow up with concerned residents on private wells increased the number of well users who were able to take advantage of free water filters being offered by Yakima County. Quantified leveraged funds included approximately $90,000 worth of funding for analytical support from the Regionally Applied Research Effort (RARE) program, $70,000 worth of in-kind labor for regional sampling teams, and $400,000 in funding from the State of Washington to Yakima County to provide free water filters to households that were found to have unacceptable nitrate concentrations.

Over 100 stakeholders attended an air quality issues meeting: The Yakama Reservation includes 1 million acres of land within the Yakima Valley, and the EPA Region 10 implements the FARR to reduce air quality impacts to residents within the airshed. Community concerns regarding high asthma rates and other air quality impacts were considered during a forum held on the Yakama Reservation in the spring of 2011. Results of the air quality forum may lead to revisions of the FARR regulations, with the goal to improve air quality on the reservation.

APPENDIX B:
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SHOWCASE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM GUIDANCE

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APPENDIX B
Environmental Justice Showcase Community Pilot Program Guidance

Draft June 22, 2009

PRIORITY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN: EJ Showcase Communities
The Environmental Justice (EJ) Showcase Communities Pilot is a multi-media, cross-program approach to engaging multiple stakeholders in coordinated action that addresses EJ concerns in high-priority areas within each of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Regions.

Background: The EPA needs to develop a more integrated approach to collaboratively address environmental justice issues at a community scale.

Each region is home to communities with EJ concerns, including: (1) multiple, disproportionate environmental and health burdens; (2) population vulnerability; (3) limits to effective participation in decisions with environmental and health consequences, and (4) opportunities for multiple federal, state and local agency collaboration, particularly with respect to green development.

The EPA has advanced the collaborative problem-solving model as a community-based approach to address these concerns. This approach recognizes that:

> "In situations involving environmental justice issues, stakeholders often have to reconcile divergent interests in order to address complex and interrelated environmental, public health, economic, and social problems in local communities. Many of these problems are deeply rooted and difficult to resolve without the concerted effort and active participation of all the stakeholders. When multiple stakeholders work together, they create a collective vision that reflects mutually beneficial goals for all parties. Such collaboration fosters the conditions that enable the parties to mobilize the resources necessary to realize stronger, more lasting solutions."

The EPA's *Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Model* (June 2008), page 3.

It is time to build on this model, incorporating the lessons learned from all of our previous community-based efforts. In particular, the EPA should make this approach a more routine part of how we bring our resources and authorities to bear by building our capacity to take part in place-based comprehensive action; and by working with multiple stakeholders to build sustainable mechanisms for addressing environmental and human health challenges at a community scale. The results of the showcase pilots should be used to refine the model for working collaboratively with communities to produce significant results.

The two primary needs to build this capacity are coordination and resources.

Coordination is necessary for the EPA to participate in comprehensive responses to comprehensive issues. The main coordination issues to be addressed in achieving the goals set out below are:

1. Coordination across programs within the EPA so that (1) risks are prioritized and addressed across all exposure pathways (air, land, and water); and (2) the Agency strategically uses multiple regulatory and non-regulatory tools such as compliance assistance, enforcement, permitting, site remediation, and stewardship programs;
2. Coordination between regions and the (National Program Managers) NPMs to make the full range of tools, expertise, and resources available;

3. Coordination with co-regulators (federal, state, local, and tribal), to build government capacity to strategically apply both regulatory and non-regulatory tools to; and
4. Coordination with community groups and other relevant stakeholders to help set priorities and to foster collaborative problem-solving.

Resources are needed to carry out the work, but also to support partnership and collaboration.

The EJ Showcase Communities approach seeks to address all of these needs.

Goals:

- To create an approach through which regional management and staff, with NPM support, coordinate their work in EJ communities across the country using new and existing financial, technical, and human capital resources to address human health and environmental challenges using the model for action created by the Brownfields Showcase Communities Program.
- To achieve significant measurable environmental and public health results; build broad, robust, results-oriented and sustainable partnerships, especially with community organizations within affected areas; build a connection to Regional EJ Action Plans; and implement a strategy which coordinates and leverages existing federal resources to address EJ considerations pertinent to the selected community using the programs, policies, and activities of the EPA, the appropriate federal, state agency, and local agencies.
- To build partnerships with and coordination among multiple federal agencies with potential resources that can be deployed in the particular communities to achieve the programs aims such as environmental and human health protection, particularly in the green development arena.

Implementation Strategy

- **Develop a Showcase Communities Program**

The Showcase Communities Program will provide resources to support this EJ Priority and help to establish standard approaches that can institutionalize this approach as part of how the EPA does business. Details on this program are in Attachment A.

- **Identify projects in each region**

Identify areas across the nation for demonstration projects to: (1) reduce environmental and human health impacts; and (2) test and refine cross-program and multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms.

These should be projects that have already been initiated, or can be initiated during fiscal year (FY) 2009, to quickly start getting measurable results and to ensure that the Showcase Community Program is informed in its development by on-the-ground experience. These projects would be the primary candidates for funding in FY 2010 under the Showcase Community Program.

Regions will test and share information through these "demonstration projects," on different approaches used to build the EPA's capacity for coordinated, place-based action; and will help to define core elements of the Showcase Community Program. Several examples are attached: Attachment B describes Region 5's Milwaukee Project; Attachment C describes Region 6's Port Arthur Project; and Attachment D describes Region 9's I-710 Corridor Project. While a primary role of regions is to work at the community level, these demonstration projects will also support a long-term goal of further institutionalizing place-based EJ work (comparable to the routine activities of the

Brownfields program that were initially fostered by the Brownfields Showcase Communities approach).

- **Explore a set of specific tools and approaches for coordinated place-based work**

Each project should have work plans with specific commitments to address the priority issues identified in the targeted geographic area. The leadership team for this priority should ensure that, at least for the regional demonstration projects, specific tools and approaches are being tested through these work plans. These tools and approaches include:

The 2004 National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) report recommendations on "Ensuring Risk Reduction in Communities with Multiple Stressors: Environmental Justice and Cumulative Risks/Impacts."

Create new alliances with universities to help staff local EJ efforts. Some activities might include scheduling meetings between community and industry and researching viable options for reducing stressors.

Create a Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (IWG) EJ Showcase Communities Task Force to develop an interagency work plan that identifies resources and strategies to address environmental and public health concerns and incorporate green development approaches and goals in communities with EJ concerns.

- **Establish a reporting framework**

Produce a framework for recording success in EJ areas that includes reporting geographic projects, outputs from those projects, and environmental and health outcomes.

Attachment A: Showcase Communities Program

Who will be the potential recipients of the resources supported by the Showcase Communities Program?
This program is intended to work in communities with EJ concerns, particularly where there are opportunities to benefit from multi-federal, state, and local agency partnership and coordination to address those issues. Therefore, the focus of the agencies efforts will be on a specific community, however, the resources to achieve results may be provided to states, county government, local government, community-based groups, and others working to mitigate the environmental justice concerns of the community residents and institutions.

What areas would the Showcase Communities Pilot work in?
Each region will identify a geographic area with high-priority EJ concerns, using established criteria that focus on environmental and public health issues.

How will the proposed Showcase Communities Pilot program work?
The Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) will provide funding to each region in response to the showcase community proposal each region submits for supporting activities associated with a specific geographic setting. Similar to the former Brownfields Showcase Communities Program, the EJ Showcase Communities Program would:

- Work with one locale per region,
- Involve a multi-federal and state agency partnership,
- Have some objective criteria for identifying which community to partner with,
- Have clear human health and environmental improvement goals identified at the outset of the project which would be documented as part of a workplan for addressing the EJ issues of concern for the locale, and
- Be a one-time effort (pilot).

What is the timetable for this program?
Showcase activities would be developed through the remainder of FY 2009 and initiated by November 30, 2009.

- OEJ and the EJ ESC would draft the showcase communities proposal criteria by June 30, 2009, and give the regions 60 days to identify communities, partners, resources, and results measures for the project.
- By August 31, 2009, each region will submit its proposed workplan for funding and coordination to OEJ.
- Projects initiated by November 30, 2009.
- Project work plan milestones would be completed within 2 to 3 years.

What type of projects (and project activities) would be supported through this effort?

- Multi-media (Air, Water, Toxic, and Waste) projects
- Constructive engagement with other stakeholders around key issue strategies and solutions
- Geographic-based targeting
- Prioritizing inspections (enforcement and permitting)
- Measuring benefits
- Consensus building and dispute resolution
- Community capacity building and leadership development
- Development of multi-stakeholder partnerships and leveraging resources
- Cleanup and remediation efforts

- Job training and other training
- Other projects to be identified with the selected community's input

How does a region apply for these funds?
Regions will access the OEJ funding by completing and submitting to OEJ a showcase community proposal consisting of:

- A description of the proposed EJ showcase communities,
- A description of the community (county, city, neighborhood, or other) that includes information on the environmental and public health concerns to be addressed, demographics, relevant historical information (such as previous or ongoing EPA or other federal agency efforts to address community health and environmental challenges) and other descriptive information the region chooses to include,
- A detailed preliminary work plan for the project that includes prospective output and outcome milestones, anticipated performance measures, and anticipated results with timelines.
- A list of potential federal, state, local, tribal, and other partner organizations and their roles and potential resources that will be leveraged.

Where would the funding for the program originate?
OEJ would provide $1 million for the EJ Showcase Communities Program, with $100,000 per region for the project identified and submitted by the region in accordance with program criteria (which will be developed through a collaborative effort of the EJ Executive Steering Committee), from its congressional add-on funds in FY 2009.

What kind of money is this (grants, cooperative agreements, operating funds) and how can the regions use the funds?

- Funds could be used to support existing contract efforts in the regions that could be leveraged to assist the pilot. This assistance could include use of Senior Environmental Employment (SEE) staff, adding funds to the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) Contract, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and convening services through the EPA or the General Services Administration (GSA).
- Regions could issue small non-competitive grants to organizations working in the pilot community.
- Tools and equipment could be purchased to support the pilot.
- Joint training exercises could be supported and conducted.
- Other discretionary activities could also be funded in a manner consistent with supporting the showcase community's pilot programs.

What is the prospective structure of the program to be based on?
The EPA regions in developing their implementation plans should build on the lessons learned from the Brownfields Showcase Communities, the Regional Geographic Initiatives, the Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) Program, and the EJ Collaborative Problem Solving (CPS) Cooperative Agreements programs. Below are examples of the components of the above programs that should be considered when developing EJ Showcase Communities pilot projects.

1. CPS Lessons and emulations
    a. Provide training on Collaborative Problem Solving Model
    b. Partner with a strong community based organization
    c. Have clear program objectives and prospective measurable outcomes in place before major phases of activity are initiated
    d. Create internal support plan and structure to maximize project success and efficiency
    e. Follow an updated version of the CPS Model (with influence from the CARE Roadmap).

2. Brownfields (BF) Showcase lessons and emulations
    a. Have a champion to serve as central point of contact or project lead for the EPA
    b. Identify potential federal partners as early as possible
    c. Make connections at local and headquarters levels with other federal partners
    d. Have regular meetings of and engagement by high level management to maintain focus of partners
    e. Promote successes throughout the life of the project
    f. Change course to maintain focus on goals and objectives.

3. RGI lessons and emulations
    a. Have clearly defined parameters for tracking efforts
    b. Keep senior management engaged and accountable
    c. Allow flexibility within the general parameters of the program.

4. CARE Program
    a. Use the framework of the CARE model and bias for action to guide activity and work plan development
    b. Use lessons and recommendations from CARE National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) report to refine approach
    c. Create internal support plan and structure to maximize project success and efficiency (such as through an enhanced project officer role)
    d. Strive for sustainability in community projects and partnerships
    e. A well-trained project officer with an influential decision-making role is crucial.

Attachment B: Milwaukee Demonstration Project

There are two major elements to the Milwaukee Demonstration Project:

- Existing Program Implementation - we are identifying work that is part of the normal course of program implementation, and are looking for opportunities to: (1) build on ongoing work already directed to Milwaukee; and (2) strategically target additional planned work. For example, we have identified multi-media and single-media enforcement targets for the programs to consider. These targets should meet program enforcement priorities, while also supporting focused impact reductions in Milwaukee.

- Community-Based Collaborative Work - we will work with state/local government and community groups to determine environmental and health priorities, and to identify opportunities for collaborative work. We will provide assistance to meet needs (based on strategic targeting of program work), will help to leverage additional resources, and will work with interested groups on high-priority issues.

Current Region 5 participants in the Milwaukee Demonstration Project are:
Region 5 Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA), Air and Radiation Division (ARD), Land and Chemicals Division (LCD), Water Division (WD), Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO), Superfund Division (SD), Resources Management Division (RMD), and OSWER. External partners are expected to include: Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Wisconsin Department of Health Services (WDHS), Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), City of Milwaukee, and several community groups (including the recipient of a 2009 CARE grant).

Reporting. Progress will be reported and tracked in the EJ Initiative portion of the Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Team (ECAT) Database. Reporting of activities will include:

1. Brief description of the activity
2. EJ Considerations – how was EJ considered in selecting and/or carrying out the activity?
3. Output – what was (or will be) the immediate result of the project or action? Was a product produced or something implemented?
4. Outcome – how did (or will) the environment or human health improve; or people's understanding or attitude change?

Communications materials. Participants on the Showcase Pilots should look for opportunities to record progress in writing, photographs, or video for the purpose of broadcasting the success of the projects and transferring lessons learned to other EPA projects.

Attachment C: Port Arthur, Texas Demonstration Project
Geographic Initiatives Scoping Paper
March 24, 2009

Background

Each region contains geographic areas with EJ concerns including:

(a) Multiple, disproportionate environmental and health burdens;
(b) Population vulnerability; or
(c) Limits to effective participation in decisions with environmental and health consequences.

Despite various efforts to address these concerns, there are significant barriers to undertaking responses that are as comprehensive as the problem. Comprehensive responses should include:

(1) Coordination across programs so that risks are prioritized and reduced across all exposure pathways (air, land, and water);
(2) Use of multiple tools such as compliance assistance, enforcement, permitting, site remediation, and stewardship programs; and
(3) Strong coordination between regions and the NPMs to make the full range of tools, expertise, and resources available, bolstered by partnership with state, local, and tribal regulators, community groups, and other relevant stakeholders.

Region 6 proposes to develop and implement a comprehensive, cross-media pilot project in Port Arthur, Texas. Port Arthur is located along the Gulf Coast of southeast Texas. Racially and ethnically diverse populations call Port Arthur home; according to 2000 data collected by the U.S. Census Bureau, African Americans make up 35 percent of the population and the Hispanic population stands at 18 percent. In addition, numerous facilities, including chemical plants, refineries, and a hazardous waste incinerator are located here as well. Over the last 20-plus years, Port Arthur's economy has steadily declined, perpetuating an increase in those of low to moderate income. Not unlike many EJ communities across the country, the lower income and populations of color live nearby blighted properties and operating facilities. In addition, Port Arthur has been damaged as a result of three recent major hurricanes—Katrina, Rita and Ike.

Elements of the Port Arthur Demonstrations Project

- Identify existing program implementation efforts: - we are researching programs, initiatives, projects in place, such as enforcement targeting and grant funding.
- Strategically target additional work – supplement and build on ongoing efforts.
- Implement community-based collaborative work – we will identify applicable resources at state, local, and federal level to work with the community to identify priorities. Implement process for collaborative work on environmental and health-based priorities. (Refer non-environmental priorities to applicable agencies.)
- Partners – expected partners include EPA Region 6 programs (enforcement/compliance), CARE, superfund/Brownfields, RCRA, water, emergency response, multimedia programs office (permitting, monitoring, etc.); ATSDR, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), Texas Department of Health Services (TDHS), City of Port Arthur, Jefferson/Orange Counties, Port Authority, industry organizations, community based groups, faith-based community.

Timeline/Schedule

- **March 24, 2009** – EJ Executive Steering Committee will discuss national EJ priorities, including the Geographic Initiatives priority.
- **April 21, 2009** – Priority teams submit implementation plan.
- **Spring 2009** – NPMs and regions identify roles and resources to support demonstration project
- **Summer 2009** – Project initiated collaborative process with community, local government, and other relevant stakeholders.
- **Summer 2010** – First progress report, lessons learned, sharing with other regions.
- **Summer 2011** – Second progress report, assess measurable outputs.

Communication Plan

Reporting: Progress will be reported and tracked in the appropriate database. Reporting will include:

1. Brief description of the activity
2. EJ considerations – how was EJ considered in selecting and/or carrying out the activity?
3. Outputs – what was (or will be) the immediate result of the project or action? Was a product produced or something implemented?
4. Outcome – how did (or will) the environment or human health improve; or people's understanding or attitude change?

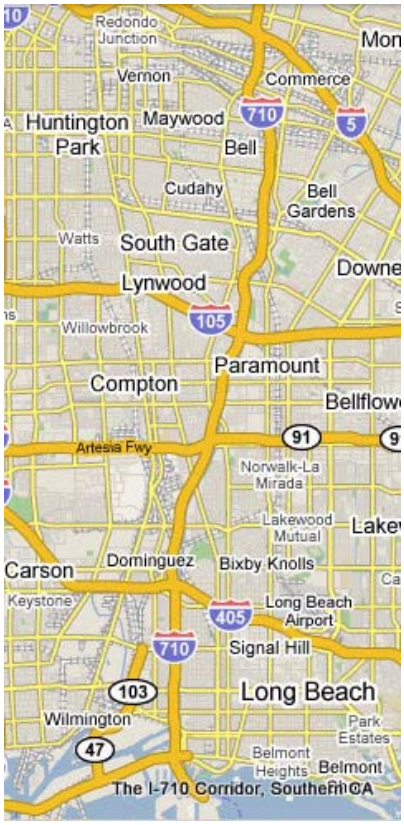
Communication materials: Participants on the Port Arthur EJ Team should look for opportunities to record progress in writing, photographs or video for broadcasting the success of the projects and transferring lessons learned to other EPA projects.

Attachment D: EPA / CalEPA Enforcement Collaborative
The Goods Movement Corridor Along I-710 (Los Angeles and Long Beach, California)

The EPA and Cal/EPA are working together to coordinate inspection and enforcement activities in the densely populated communities along the I-710 goods movement corridor from the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach northward to East Los Angeles. This effort will build on the existing targeted inspection and enforcement efforts of Cal/EPA's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) in Wilmington (at the ports and southern end of the corridor) and in Maywood (the upper end of the I-710 corridor). Our collaborative approach will solicit input from the communities on environmental problems and concerns and to work with federal, state, and local agencies to focus inspection and compliance efforts on the most heavily affected, highest-priority areas. Given the magnitude of the problems and the number of affected communities along this goods movement corridor, we envision a multi-year effort, with initial scoping in spring and summer 2009 and implementation from 2009 through 2011.

Environmental Challenges Facing Communities along the Los Angeles/Long Beach Goods Movement Corridor

The corridor passes through 15 cities and unincorporated areas with a population of more than 1 million, the majority of which are disproportionately low-income and minority, and the corridor is adjacent to many residences, schools, daycare centers, and senior centers. The Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles are the entry point of 40 percent of all imports to the U.S. and the source of 20 percent of diesel particulate emissions in Southern California. Every day, 35,000 trucks leave the port. The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SQAMD) is in non-attainment for carbon monoxide, 8-hour ozone, particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter ($PM_{2.5}$) and less than 10 microns in diameter (PM_{10}). Approximately 1,200 premature deaths are associated with goods movement in the South Coast Air Basin and 120 premature deaths annually are attributable to these ports alone. The nearby City of Vernon is home to several rendering plants, food processors, glass and plastic manufacturing, smelters and metal working facilities, and several major off-site hazardous waste treatment and storage facilities. The City of Commerce is home to four major railyards which take up about 13 percent of the land mass and operate 365 days a year, 24 hours per day. The cancer risk to residents who live near the rail yards is 140 percent greater than the rest of the Los Angeles region *(Health Risk Assessment for the Four Commerce Rail Yards, CARB, Nov 2007).*



How We Are Getting Input and Working Together

In spring (2009), federal and state regulatory agencies met to begin sharing information about current enforcement activities as well as what would be possible if we were to coordinate our efforts more effectively. Building on DTSC's and the EPA's Southern California Field Office relationships, established in part through regular interaction with the Los Angeles EJ Network, we have sought the input of key community leaders to gauge their interest in helping us refine how we target environmental sources for compliance assistance, inspections and enforcement. We held our first community meeting on April 1, 2009 at the Comite Pro Uno office in Maywood with EJ organizations and community-based groups and plan additional community meetings in Wilmington and other communities in the I-710 goods movement corridor.

The organizing team for this collaborative includes the EPA, Cal/EPA's EJ office, DTSC, and the Los Angeles EJ Network. Additionally, the collaborative has engaged with Cal/EPA Boards, Departments, and Offices (BDOs), including the California Air Resources Board (CARB), the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB), and the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), as well as Los Angeles County agencies, and other community groups. We will continue to identify additional agency and community partners for this collaborative effort.

Potential Approaches for Focusing on Specific Areas
While the communities along the I-710 bear similar burdens related to goods movement, each community is different with different industrial sources and will require a customized approach. The collaborative will spend much of 2009 identifying the community-specific issues, what local resources and knowledge are available, and how the agencies can help build partner communities' capacity through grants, voluntary programs, and other efforts. In Maywood, the most densely populated city in California, local community organizations such as Padres Unidos de Maywood (PUMA) have organized as part of a Maywood Community Partnership with the EPA, DTSC, LARWQCB and SCAQMD to identify, prioritize and address their environmental problems. The enforcement collaborative can build on Maywood's community-driven "ground truthing" exercise, which identified environmental sources of concern, as potential targets for inspection and compliance efforts.

Other approaches under consideration include using schools as focal points and building on DTSC's successful use of community-led tours and workshops followed by transparent reporting of progress to build accountability.

Timeline
During the early months of 2009, CalEPA and the EPA enforcement managers met, held a preliminary scoping meeting with BDOs in the Southern California Field Office, met with the Maywood community to hear concerns, and will meet next week to develop a 6-month action plan. Anticipated activities in the plan include: work with communities and agencies to identify measures of progress, focus areas, resources, and data/communication tools; hold Cal/EPA CARB workshops for corridor communities, meet with Maywood community to report on actions taken, meet with other communities along the corridor, hold a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Workshop for citizens and a kickoff event in late summer.

Region 9 Core Team
Clancy Tenley, Associate Director, Communities and Ecosystems Division
Steven John, Director, So California Field Office
Deldi Reyes, Environmental Justice Program Manager
Zoe Heller, EJ Program Project Lead
Angela Baranco, Lead Region Coordinator for Compliance Assistance & Integrated Strategies
Kathleen Johnson, Director, Office of Public Affairs