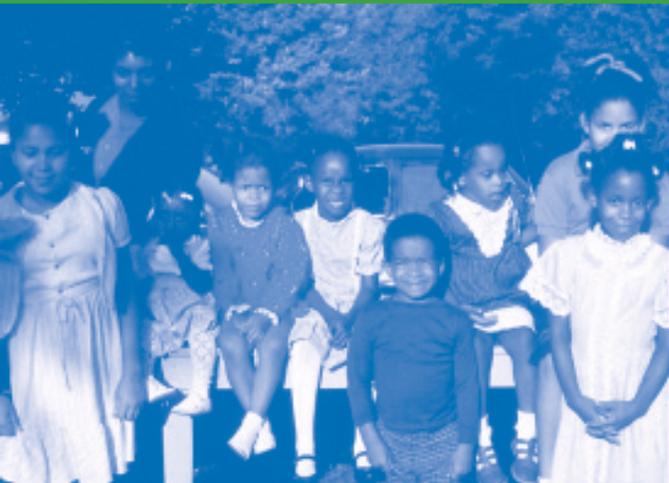
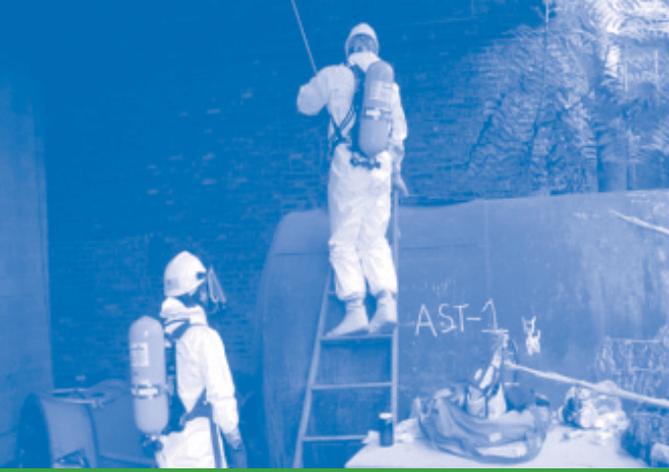




OSWER Environmental Justice Success Stories Report (FY 2004-2005)

Partnerships for Environmental Justice



OSWER Environmental Justice Success Stories Report (FY 2004-2005)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response
Washington, DC 20460

Spring 2006

Note from OSWER's Assistant Administrator

The third edition of the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) Environmental Justice Success Stories Report (2004-2005) underscores OSWER's commitment to environmental justice. This updated report highlights OSWER environmental justice projects that have successfully addressed national and local environmental justice challenges through collaborative and creative approaches to problem solving. An important goal of this report is to share information on effective projects and programs, so that they might be emulated in other communities across the country. I hope that communities, environmental organizations, states, and EPA staff will continue to use this report as a source of innovative ideas and contacts for future collaborations.

In his November 4, 2005, memorandum, "Reaffirming the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's Commitment to Environmental Justice," Administrator Stephen Johnson "directs EPA to more fully and effectively integrate environmental justice considerations into its programs, policies, and activities." It has been, and continues to be, OSWER's policy that programs administered by OSWER demonstrate the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people from all cultures, races, and incomes. OSWER's commitment to environmental justice officially began with an OSWER directive, issued in 1994, that requires environmental justice to be considered in all of its programs, rulemakings, and activities.

Since 1995, OSWER has tracked and documented its environmental justice activities. OSWER tracked its environmental justice accomplishments in "Waste Programs Environmental Justice Accomplishments Reports" from 1994 to 1999, prior to the first "Environmental Justice Success Stories Report (FY 1999-2001)." In 2002, OSWER began to document the program's environmental justice successes by focusing on ways to promote partnerships, assess benefits, and incorporate lessons learned into program activities. In the last three years, since this report began to focus on successful efforts, other EPA offices and regions have begun to provide broader environmental training to their management and staff. In addition, the OSWER environmental justice implementation organizational structure is being emulated in other headquarters offices and two other offices have begun to recognize environmental justice accomplishments through the issuance of awards to staff. All these activities were previously highlighted in OSWER reports.

The success stories in this report illustrate how environmental justice considerations were incorporated into EPA's waste programs. They represent a sampling of OSWER's continued support, commitment, and accountability in addressing environmental justice issues. By applying the concepts of environmental justice to all activities sponsored by EPA's waste programs, OSWER has been recognized as a leader in the eyes of the public, according to comments made by federal advisory committee members and others. Consequently, the projects and partnerships represented in these success stories are worth emulating widely across the Agency.

We will continue to recognize that a variety of partnerships and collaborative problem-solving approaches are integral to the future of our efforts to protect human health and the environment for all Americans. Through these efforts we will continue to generate positive results in all of our work.

Sincerely,

Susan Parker Bodine, Assistant Administrator
Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response

What is Environmental Justice?

Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment means that no group of people, including a racial, ethnic, or a socioeconomic group, should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local, and tribal programs and policies.

Environmental justice communities are minority and/or low income communities that often are excluded from the environmental policy setting and/or decision-making process and are subject to a disproportionate impact from one or more environmental hazards. These communities experience a disparate implementation of environmental regulations, requirements, practices, and activities.

Environmental justice is about real people facing real problems and designing practical solutions for challenging environmental problems. The environmental justice movement advocates programs that promote environmental protection within the context of sustainable development. Using various methods, including traditional knowledge about the ecosystem and community mobilization, the environmental justice community has become an imposing force in the protection of both urban and rural environments.

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Featured Story



Featured Story

Region 6 Environmental Response Unified Command to Continue in 2006

Hurricane Katrina brought unprecedented destruction to the Gulf Coast in August 2005. The huge storm surges, widespread wind damage, and the flooding of New Orleans displaced hundreds of thousands of people, damaged thousands of homes beyond repair, and disrupted thousands of businesses. New Orleans was particularly hard hit, as its levees broke, flooding large parts of the city and costing the lives of over 1,300 individuals. Officials are now in the process of rebuilding the Gulf Coast. Since the hurricane, personnel from EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response have been working tirelessly in the Gulf coastal areas as an integral part of the federal response team.

Personnel from the multi-agency unified command in Metairie, Louisiana, have made significant accomplishments in the assessment, investigation, and oversight of the environmental cleanup efforts in southeast Louisiana since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Unified command agencies, along with their local, state, and federal partners, have recovered about seven million pounds of hazardous material, disposed of eight million tons of debris, and recovered four million gallons of oil.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, under the Presidential Natural Disaster Declaration, activated emergency environmental resources to address hazardous materials and oil spill issues. This multi-agency effort, organized under the National Response Plan, is comprised of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the U.S. Coast Guard. The operations are based at a closed Louisiana Technical College facility.

"We have effectively managed the disposal of eight million of the 22 million tons of debris generated by the hurricanes [January 2006]," said Chuck Brown, LDEQ assistant secretary. "As we continue our cleanup efforts in 2006, our partners are committed to properly disposing of each waste stream in the most efficient and environmentally sound manner."

The Coast Guard, along with its agency partners, responded immediately following Hurricane Katrina to six major and three medium spills totaling about eight million gallons of oil. The spills all resulted from storm damage to facilities. Since then, the Coast Guard has

recovered about four million gallons of oil. The remaining oil was naturally dispersed, evaporated, or burned off in a process known as in-situ burning. In addition, pollution investigation teams responded to more than 100 spill reports. Residual oil cleanup efforts continue at the following facilities: Sundown East in Potash, Louisiana; Bass Enterprises Production Company Cox Bay facility at mile marker 35 on the Mississippi River; and Bass Enterprises Production Company at mile marker 36 in Pointe a la Hache, Louisiana.

"Our Coast Guard men and women, agency partners, and countless other environmental response personnel have done an extraordinary job under very difficult circumstances. Their passion and dedication to this cleanup effort is certainly recognized by many, and their commitment will carry them through the monumental task of clean up, restoration, and future protection of the Gulf Coast environment," said Capt. Frank Paskewich, commanding officer of Coast Guard Sector New Orleans.

Since September 2005, Unified Command staff and contractors have collected waste, performed facility inspections, and conducted sampling in Beauregard, Jefferson Davis, Calcasieu, Cameron, Acadia, Lafayette, Vermilion, Iberia, St. Mary, St. Martin, Assumption, St. James, St. Charles, Terrebonne, LaFourche, St. Tammany, Orleans, Jefferson, Plaquemines, and St. Bernard Parishes. Efforts required approximately 1.2 million work hours. Results include:

The collection of:

- More than 1.3 million containerized hazardous materials (cleaners, pesticides, paints, and batteries), resulting in waste disposal exceeding 6.6 million pounds.
- More than 230,000 damaged white goods (refrigerators, freezers, washers, dryers, water heaters, air conditioners, stoves, ovens, microwave ovens, and nine dishwashers). Freon extracted from refrigerators and air conditioners was sent to local vendors for recycling.
- Nearly 43,000 damaged electronic goods (televi-sions, computers and audio equipment).
- More than 3,400 samples of water, soil, and air.

The sampling and assessment of:

- About 75 schools (both public and parochial).
- 1,500 potential chemical releases (emergency assessment only).

In addition, more than 1.6 million flyers were distributed to residents of southern Louisiana, providing information about drinking water, household hazardous waste, white goods, mold, and other potential environmental health hazards.

According to data current through December 24, 2005, the Unified Command of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Coast Guard, and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality have a workforce of 1,004 people in southern Louisiana assisting in hazardous materials response and removal. 550 of these workers were hired from the local workforce.

Providing opportunities for local people to participate in Louisiana's recovery is essential. "We benefit from local workers' knowledge of the area, the workers contribute to Louisiana's economy, and families help the area continue the return to normal," EPA Regional Administrator Richard E. Greene said. "It's a win-win for everyone."

Most local hiring has been done by environmental contractors and subcontractors employed by the Unified Command. Some workers are helping to collect household hazardous waste, process white goods, and prepare electronic waste for recycling. Others are retrieving containers from delicate wetlands and marshes. Some are scientists and technicians helping to keep environmental information up to date. Total workforce numbers vary from day to day as response needs change.

The response effort supports Louisiana's businesses. One contractor has used local firms and services to provide equipment and supplies. To date, its purchases total more than \$1.1 million. Contractor employees working with hazardous materials receive health and safety training, which is useful under current conditions and will be in future emergency situations. In addition, about 60 people are employed by a woman-owned small business.

For more information about the combined response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, please visit: <http://www.epa.gov/katrina/>, <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/>, or <http://www.uscgstormwatch.com/go/site/1008/>. Please contact the National Response Center at 800-

424-8802 to report any oil or chemical spills. Contractors who wish to know how EPA handles hurricane inquiries should visit: <http://www.epa.gov/Katrina/vendors.html>.

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Brownfields Revitalization

OSWER's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to cleanup abandoned properties that bring blight and decay to their surrounding communities. Many of these sites are brownfields, which means, by definition, that all or a portion of them have actual or perceived contamination and a real potential for reuse after cleanup. Through this initiative, OSWER provides grants of up to \$200,000 for assessment demonstration pilots and job training pilots. The assessment demonstration pilot grants are used to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models. The job training pilot grants provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field. In the projects described in this section, EPA worked with States, communities, and other stakeholders to deal with Brownfields. EPA's role was generally to fund the assessment and cleanup of contamination, while the other stakeholders worked to redevelop and reuse the sites.



GILA RIVER RESOURCE CENTER
DEDICATED TO THE WELLNESS AND CONTINUANCE
OF GILA RIVER COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Region 1

Groundwork Providence Brownfields Job Training Program– Providence, Rhode Island

Project Activity

The 2004-2006 Pawtucket/Providence Brownfields Job Training Program matches qualified workers with companies that clean up brownfield sites for the purpose of reuse and economic development. This program provides unemployed residents with the skills required to contribute to the redevelopment of nearby brownfield sites. The curriculum of the training is comprehensive and helps place participants in industries such as hazardous waste management, environmental remediation, lead abatement, and asbestos abatement. The program also provides workers with job development opportunities, ongoing case management, and referrals for basic skills training, such as math and English.

Partners and Roles

Key partners that assisted with recruitment efforts include SER Jobs for Progress/Youth Builder, Pawtucket Citizens Development Corporation, Dorcas Place, Urban League of Rhode Island, Federal Hill House, Community College of Rhode Island, and West Elmwood Housing. These organizations are located in the neighborhoods where the participants reside. The key partners for job placement and employment include Resource Options, Inc., Clean Harbors Environmental Services, Inc., PSC, Inc., Onyx Environmental, BCT Construction, and Mill City Construction.

Project Benefits

- The Brownfields Job Training program has trained 28 inner city residents who have been either directly impacted by brownfields in their communities or those who face under-employment or unemployment in the Providence and Pawtucket communities. The brownfields job training program prepares and certifies participants to enter the environmental industry as hazardous waste and emergency response operators, asbestos abatement supervisors, lead abatement supervisors, and construction laborers.
- Twenty-one of the Brownfields Job Training graduates have successfully obtained employment in the environmental industry.

Lessons Learned

- The need for additional housing and the desire to curb sprawl have allowed the Pawtucket/Providence area to realize its existing resources of land and labor. As the rebuilding of this city begins, it is important to include all residents in the revitalization process and that the benefits derived from brownfields redevelopment remain with the local residents living in brownfields-impacted communities.

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Region 1

Brownfields Nonprofit Cleanup Grantee Roundtable—Providence, Rhode Island

Project Activity

In July 2005, EPA's Office of Brownfields Cleanup and Redevelopment, in coordination with EPA Region 1, hosted a roundtable to foster a peer-to-peer technical information exchange among FY 2003 & FY 2004 nonprofit brownfields cleanup grantees. The goal of the roundtable was to provide nonprofit organizations engaged in brownfields redevelopment an opportunity to exchange ideas and solutions regarding many of the technical hurdles faced in carrying out successful cleanup projects. While projects differed in scope and had varying end-use goals (including a river cleanup and salmon preservation project, affordable housing, creation of a public park, soccer fields, and extension of a food bank), all of the projects were fundamentally similar in that they sought to provide services for the public good. Ultimately, the roundtable was successful, not only because it provided a forum for nonprofit organizations to share technical information related to cleanups, but also emphasized the importance of sound community involvement plans and their significance to larger issues of environmental justice in brownfields-impacted communities.

Partners and Roles

Partners included EPA's Office of Environmental Justice, the Office of Underground Storage Tanks, EPA's Technical Information and Integration Branch, the Office of General Counsel, EPA Regional Offices, State Brownfields Programs, the Trust for Public Land, and several nonprofit organizations. EPA coordinated this roundtable in an effort to increase the capacity of nonprofit organizations that were awarded brownfields cleanup grants by providing these organizations with a deeper understanding of the technicalities associated with implementing cleanup projects. These technicalities ranged from creating community involvement plans, addressing issues related to institutional controls, and estimating the cost of a cleanup, to envisioning an end-use for the benefit of the community and the environment.

Project Benefits

- Nonprofit organizations engaged in brownfields revitalization projects gain a better understanding of

technical issues, including financial, legal, environmental, and social dimensions, and the importance of community participation throughout all phases of a cleanup project.

- Nonprofit brownfields cleanup grantees further the goals of the Brownfields Program by cleaning up both urban and rural land and by minimizing risks to public health.
- Approximately 18 nonprofits attended the roundtable.

Lessons Learned

- With the passage of the Brownfields Law in January 2002, nonprofit organizations became eligible to compete and receive brownfields cleanup grants. It has become increasingly clear over the past few years that although nonprofit organizations involved in brownfields cleanup projects often lack the technical and financial capacity when carrying out brownfields cleanup projects, they are often more representative of the local community's interests. This often results in more sustainable and socially accepted end results.
- Nonprofit brownfields cleanup grantees need future forums to share ideas and increased technical assistance in implementing brownfields cleanup projects. Although the time and commitment needed to assist nonprofit brownfields cleanup grantees are sometimes significant, the result of providing technical assistance to these organizations proves valuable when capturing the concerns, support, and ideas of the community about redevelopment.

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The “Robertson on the River” Project-Taunton, Massachusetts

Project Activity

In October 2005, the “Robertson on the River” Project succeeded in converting the 6.6-acre historic Robertson Mill building into 64 affordable residential units and 18,000 square feet of commercial space for neighborhood businesses. The project is located in the Weir Village neighborhood of Taunton and was developed by the Weir Corporation, a nonprofit community development corporation. The project will provide riverfront greenspace along the Taunton River, including a playground and basketball court for community use. Funding assistance from the Brownfields program includes a \$500,000 Revolving Loan Fund Grant awarded to the City of Taunton and a \$52,000 Cleanup Grant awarded to the Weir Corporation. The project began work in November 2004.

The Village of Weir consists of just 15 percent of the total land area of the City of Taunton, yet contains approximately 31 percent of the city’s total population. This densely populated area encompasses two Community Development Block Grant target areas that have over 51 percent low-income households and is an Economic Opportunity area of the state. The poverty rate is 13.5 percent, which is higher than the rates of the City at 8.3 percent and the state at 8.9 percent. The Weir neighborhood has a higher minority population than the city, region, or state, with 45 percent of the city’s black population and 49 percent of the city’s Hispanic population residing in the area. Residents of this area are directly affected by the risks of living near brownfield properties.

Project Participants

Partners include EPA New England, the Massachusetts Department of the Environment, the City of Taunton, the Weir Corporation, the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development, the Massachusetts Housing Partnership, and other private funding sources. These partners provided financial assistance and technical oversight for the project, including funding through low income housing tax credits and state historic tax credits. Total project costs were \$16 million.

Project Benefits

- Beautiful and affordable riverfront apartments
- Increased green space along the Taunton River
- A cleaned-up brownfields property, which restored a historic landmark and added neighborhood business space to the Weir Village

Lessons Learned

- Partnerships with local residents, city officials, federal and state agencies, and private lending institutions are key to successful Brownfields projects. The WEIR Corporation worked closely and efficiently with the various federal and state agencies that provided either financial or technical assistance.
- Provide residents the opportunity to participate in the redevelopment process. For this project, the WEIR Corporation sponsored a charette-style visioning session for neighborhood residents and businesses to secure their support. It also developed a Weir Village Newsletter, which included a Brownfields Update Flyer. This flyer was an important tool for informing neighbors about site remediation, progress, project timeframes and public meetings. Additionally, the WEIR Corporation provided bilingual outreach to local residents.
- Relate the project’s goal with the City’s bigger overarching goal. The WEIR Corporation was able to secure the City of Taunton’s support for the project as a “smart growth” initiative because it fits with the city’s efforts to create sustainable development that will create viable and strong neighborhood centers.

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Region 1

Community Action Agency of Somerville's Head Start Project-Somerville, Massachusetts

Project Activity

The Community Action Agency of Somerville's (CAAS) Head Start Program has a new home on two former vacant lots in the city's densest neighborhood. Using an EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant of \$350,000 awarded to the city back in 1996, CAAS and the city worked together to assess all three sites for contamination. After the assessment work was completed, CAAS purchased the 5,265-square-foot property and began to remediate the site. EPA supported the cleanup phase of the project with an additional \$200,000 EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant in 2003, and a \$500,000 loan from EPA's Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund in 2004. Head Start and the City of Somerville also funded the cleanup. Construction funding came from other federal agencies and private sources. A third adjacent city-owned lot is currently being redeveloped as a community garden and a passive park with an EPA cleanup grant.

The CAAS Head Start program is a valuable and necessary resource in this low-income area. In Somerville, 12.5 percent of residents live below the poverty level, which exceeds the state average by 25 percent. Approximately 35 percent of the population speaks a language other than English. The area is designated as an Economic Target Area by the Massachusetts Economic Assistance Coordinating Council, while the neighborhood is designated as an Environmental Justice Zone by the state.

Partners and Roles

Partners include EPA New England, MassDEP, the City of Somerville, the CAAS capital campaign, the Head Start program, the Federal Administration Office of Children and Families, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development block grant program, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children, the Boston Community Capital Fund, and two anonymous private foundations. All of these partners provided funding for the Head Start Project. CAAS is the primary developer.

Project Benefits

- The facility opened in March 2005 with eight classrooms that serve a total of 126 children.
- Before building on the new site, Head Start classes were held at various locations throughout the city. The new centralized facility saves the program money and allows it to spend more on its unique early childhood education programs for children of low-income families. CAAS determined that it will save money on administration and transportation costs.
- By cleaning up these blighted properties and opening this educational facility, the city of Somerville and CAAS will restore pride in the neighborhood, improve the tax base for the city, and provide a valuable resource for the children of low-income families.

Lessons Learned

- Partnerships spawn innovation. For this project, CAAS and the City of Somerville agreed to swap parcels of land in order to secure two adjacent parcels of land required for the Head Start facility.

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Region 2

Brownfields Program Development in Puerto Rico

Project Activity

The municipalities of Puerto Rico have grappled with the challenge of abandoned, idled, or underused industrial and commercial facilities in their urban centers and industrial parks where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. Since 1997, EPA has been supporting a variety of activities to facilitate brownfield redevelopment in Puerto Rico, such as funding the Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board (EQB) initiative to develop and implement a Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP), an environmental cleanup program for brownfield sites. To provide comprehensive support for brownfield development, EPA also has partnered with the Governor's Office and EQB to convene an Inter-Agency Work Group, which during 2004-2005 held assistance meetings with municipalities throughout the Island.

Project Participants

The lead agency of the VCP development and implementation is the Puerto Rico EQB, which continues to receive assistance from EPA. EQB, in partnership with EPA, continues to reach out to key stakeholders in public agencies, municipalities, the private sector, and community groups to seek input on implementing the VCP in Puerto Rico.

The Inter-Agency Work Group has 14 participating federal and commonwealth agencies and regularly holds assistance meetings with communities. These meetings provide a forum for municipalities of Puerto Rico to discuss priority redevelopment projects, as well as challenges and resource needs. EPA and the other agencies provide useful information and conduct follow-up to address action items. To date, the Inter-Agency Work Group has met with more than 30 communities.

Project Benefits

- Stakeholder input in the VCP development is helping EQB design a program that is appropriate for Puerto Rico.
- The Inter-Agency Work Group is providing the coordination and resources necessary for successful brownfield redevelopment.

- Stakeholders, including the Governors office, municipalities, the private sector, and community organizations, all have a voice at the table.
- The outcome of these efforts will streamline brownfield redevelopment by providing model approaches, programs, and tools for public and private sector participation in hazardous waste site cleanup. Ultimately, this effort will allow Puerto Rico to reclaim brownfields for a variety of uses, including open space, housing, and economic development.

Lessons Learned

- Inter-Agency partnerships and strong local leadership are critical components of a successful strategy for brownfield redevelopment.

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Region 2

The Affordable Housing Development of Rheingold Gardens in Bushwick–Brooklyn, New York

Project Activity

In 1996, the City of New York received a Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot grant from EPA. The City's goals were to identify methods to accelerate the pace of cleanup and redevelopment of brownfield sites. The grant enabled the City to join with partners to explore issues that impede the reuse of brownfield sites and to test solutions.

The City selected five brownfield sites for assessment with their EPA grant. As of 2006, reuse projects are planned or completed at these sites and include waterfront open space projects in the Bronx and Queens, a recreational facility and marsh restoration project in Staten Island, and an affordable housing development in Brooklyn, which in 2005 was selected to receive the international Phoenix Award.

The former 6.7 acre Rheingold Brewery site in Bushwick, Brooklyn, is now Rheingold Gardens, an attractive affordable housing development that incorporated green building practices. Bushwick is a community that has suffered in past decades from arson, riots, and building abandonment and still is one of the city's poorest areas with one of the highest rates of public assistance. The development created 401 units of housing that is complemented by green space, new streets, and is patterned to fit with the existing neighborhood design and architecture.

Project Participants

Key to the project's success was city and state agency cooperation, community participation, an effective cleanup strategy, and an end-use that fulfills the community's desire and need for affordable ownership opportunities. An experienced affordable housing developer collaborated with a local not-for-profit organization to build new housing units with ground floor commercial space and a community facility. Financing involved a blend of private equity, public funds, and conventional bank financing. The project marks success in the community's goal of balancing land uses and creating a livable, mixed-use community that supports both industry and housing.

Project Benefits

- The seed funding provided by the Assessment Demonstration Pilot grant led to the development of 401 units of attractive affordable housing and community space.
- The project serves as a model of green building in affordable housing developments.

Lessons Learned

- EPA's involvement in the multi-stakeholder project was beneficial and is a model for other communities. In addition, the city's charette, intra-municipal coordination, and partnership with a local community organization were critical to the project's success.

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Region 2

Williamsburg Works' Environmental Technician Training–Brooklyn, New York

Project Activity

The goal of Williamsburg Works' Environmental Technician Training is to provide unemployed and underemployed people with new career opportunities. Williamsburg Works is a program of the St. Nicholas Neighborhood Preservation Corporation of Brooklyn, NY, which has received two Brownfields Job Training grants from EPA. St. Nick's is a multi-service community organization providing social services and employment training to the predominantly Hispanic and African-American community located in North Brooklyn. The median household income of the area is considerably lower than New York City's, reflecting a combination of low educational attainment and a need for training in marketable jobs.

Project Participants

Williamsburg Works partnered with local churches, community groups, and public housing tenant associations to recruit trainees. Key to their successful graduation and placement rates with environmental job training is the organization's non-EPA funded job readiness, life-skills training, social service support, and placement assistance. EPA provided technical assistance and guest speakers. The City of New York provided guest speakers and hosted field trips. Private sector entities also acted as technical advisors and provided guest speakers and technology demonstrations.

Project Benefits

- 191 unemployed and underemployed people completed Williamsburg Works' extensive training, which was more than planned.
- 112 people have been placed in the environmental field with an average wage above \$13.00 per hour; placement assistance is on-going. A number of the trainees have become members of skilled trade unions.
- By providing local residents an opportunity to receive environmental training, graduates entering the workforce have assisted in the cleanup of brownfield sites located throughout the New York City metropolitan area and have been recruited for

environmental response jobs across the country. Notably, in 2001, St. Nick's/Williamsburg Works helped to provide trained and skilled workers to assist in the World Trade Center cleanup activities at Ground Zero.

Lessons Learned

- It is critical for EPA to work closely with the grantee to ensure that the overall program, including recruitment, screening, training, and placement activities, supports the trainees and meets the demand for trained environmental technicians. The strategic approaches developed by this project are available to other communities and already have been shared with communities from around the country at forums such as the annual Hazardous Material Training and Research Institute (HMTRI) national workshop.

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Region 3

Redevelopment of Roberto Clemente Park–Lancaster County, Pennsylvania

Project Activity

The project's goal was to restore a 3.5-acre contaminated and abandoned inner-city lot in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, into a safe and functioning community ballpark and recreation area for the surrounding residents, the majority of whom are minority and low-income.

Partners and Roles

The Roberto Clemente Park project involved an extensive network of partners. The project was led by the Inner City Group with assistance from the Lancaster Weed and Seed Program. The Inner City Group is a coalition of neighborhood-based organizations that has the goal of revitalizing communities, and the Lancaster Weed and Seed Program is the first one in Pennsylvania. Other partners include Lancaster County, which provided the project with assessment assistance and cleanup planning using an EPA Brownfields Assessment Pilot grant, and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, which provided cleanup oversight. The construction of the park required multiple sources of funding. In total, project partners contributed nearly \$900,000 in public and private funding to the redevelopment of Roberto Clemente Park.



Project Benefits

- In keeping with the goals of the U.S. EPA Brownfields Program, this project resulted in the assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment of 3.5 acres of urban land.

- The project leveraged nearly \$900,000 in public and private funding to support the redevelopment of the community park.
- Roberto Clemente Park is the only park in this inner-city neighborhood—the oldest, poorest, and most culturally diverse area of Lancaster City—where one-third of the residents live in poverty and four out of five are Latino or African American. It is the only location where youth baseball leagues can hold their games.
- Once a blighted lot adjacent to an elementary school where crime was common, the park is now a source of community pride and has stirred interest and involvement in a larger revitalization plan for the neighborhood.

Lessons Learned

- Relying on grass roots public participation at each stage of the brownfields process calms feelings of resentment and existing ethnic tension in the community. Going into this project, many residents felt animosity toward the system that excluded them in past redevelopment efforts. However, by continuously soliciting participation from the community, the project generated an atmosphere of cooperation that facilitated the completion of the Park.
- Assessment and cleanup costs can be challenging for smaller redevelopment areas such as the one in Lancaster. Flexible and targeted characterization methods, such as targeted sampling, identifying and excavating 'hot spots,' and risk-based corrective action, can help achieve environmental restoration without imposing insurmountable financial burdens. Using this lesson, EPA Region 3 has attempted to incorporate innovative technical approaches into its brownfields grants.

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Region 4

Arcade-Westside Area Revitalization Project: A Community-Based Collaboration—Rock Hill, South Carolina

Project Activity

The decline of Rock Hill's textile industry in the past fifteen years has resulted in the severe and rapid deterioration of the Arcade-Westside Area. The area consists of four abandoned textile mills, a residential neighborhood, and several occupied and vacant small business buildings. The Hagins-Fewell Neighborhood, located in the Arcade-Westside Area, relied heavily on employment and other services from the textile mills and is now suffering tremendously from this loss. Distressed from educational, social, and economic deprivation and isolation, residents of this community began suffering from environmental and public health issues, such as unemployment, dilapidated housing, poor infrastructure, drug dealing and other types of crime, real and perceived environmental concerns from the burned down Arcade Textile mill, health disparities, and low educational attainment.

A number of activities have taken place in support of the Arcade-Westside Area Revitalization Project. EPA Region 4, in conjunction with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), sponsored an informational session in Atlanta to introduce the City staff and the EJ Inter-agency Working Group Project to EPA and other relevant federal agencies. Following the session, EPA Region 4 environmental justice and brownfields staff provided a capacity-building training in Atlanta for some Arcade-Westside neighborhood leaders and City staff who work with the neighborhood on a regular basis. This proved extremely beneficial because it not only provided these individuals with valuable information they have since used in their own community, but also created an opportunity for stronger relationships to develop with EPA Region 4. In addition, EPA and SCDHEC staff attended several meetings in Rock Hill to assist with implementing the Project.

Partners and Roles

There are over 50 partnerships that have contributed needed resources to the multi-dimensional resident-driven Arcade-Westside Revitalization Project. The U.S. EPA contributed significant amounts of funding and technical assistance to the redevelopment of four abandoned textile mills in the community.

The U.S. EPA awarded the City of Rock Hill with a \$200,000 Brownfields Assessment Grant in 2003. As a result, environmental testing and assessments have been completed or are underway on the following Arcade-Westside textile mill sites: Arcade Textile Mill; Rock Hill Body Company; and Rock Hill Cotton Factory.

The SCDHEC has agreed to give the City of Rock Hill \$465,000 in South Carolina Brownfields Revolving Loan funds to assist with the environmental cleanup of the Arcade Textile Mill. The City of Rock Hill participates in community outreach and has committed over \$600,000 for neighborhood improvements within the past two years. The Rock Hill Council of Neighborhoods (RHCN) participates in community outreach activities in the Arcade-Westside Area. They also participate in redevelopment planning activities for the Arcade Mill site and the 27 RHCN-owned vacant parcels surrounding the property. SCDHEC's Community Liaison facilitated several sessions with the community to help them identify strengths and weaknesses within the community.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has provided the City of Rock Hill funds and technical assistance for redevelopment planning of over 1.5 million square feet of brownfield/abandoned textile mill space in the Arcade-Westside Area's Textile Corridor.

The U.S. Department of Justice awarded the Hagins-Fewell and four other neighborhoods in urban Rock Hill an official recognition as a Weed and Seed site in May of 2005. In addition, U.S. DOJ awarded the urban



Rock Hill Weed and Seed site its first year of funding (approximately \$175,000) for law enforcement and community policing efforts that will “weed” out the crime, and for neighborhood restoration services that will “seed” in the community with positive opportunities. The Rock Hill Economic Development Corporation (EDC) provides expertise on job training and creation and coordinates negotiations for private investments in the community. Other organizations that are involved in the City’s revitalization efforts include the Urban Rock Hill Weed and Seed Steering Committee, the Boys and Girls Club of York County, and the Old Town Roundtable.

Project Benefits

- Residents and the Rock Hill Council of Neighborhoods are currently working with City staff and an urban planner to develop a site-specific reuse plan for redevelopment of the Arcade Mill site and surrounding 27 adjacent vacant parcels (owned by RHCN).
- Two private developers are building low-to-moderate income housing developments in the Hagins-Fewell neighborhood. One is a \$7.5 million investment with 72 units and the other is a \$2 million dollar investment with 19 units.
- Over the past two years, the Hagins-Fewell neighborhood has worked with its partners to secure status as an officially recognized Weed and Seed site and secure Weed and Seed funding of approximately \$175,000. Residents report that even their work with law enforcement alone on the development of these applications has helped reduce crime in their communities.
- Winthrop University’s College of Social Work has taken on a project each semester in the neighborhood that works directly with residents in the community. Projects have focused on adult services, youth after-school programs, and life skills development.
- In 2004, the Textile Corridor Master Plan was completed with a \$275,000 federal VA/HUD appropriation. The Textile Corridor Master Plan includes a feasibility study and physical assessment for the redevelopment of over 1.5 million square feet of textile mill space in the Textile Corridor section of the City’s Old Town urban core.
- The City of Rock Hill received a federal appropriation for \$400,000 for a trolley study that will begin

detailed work on environmental and structural assessments necessary for the trolley system’s physical construction. The trolley has been determined to be a major economic development catalyst for the Textile Corridor.

Lessons Learned

- Elected officials and management must be major partners in all environmental justice activities and fully understand the meaning of environmental justice. The Rock Hill City Council and City Manager took on environmental justice as a top priority within City projects and met with EPA environmental justice staff in Washington, DC, to discuss the Arcade-Westside Area Project. The City Manager assigned City staff in the Public Affairs Division with the specific EJ responsibility.
- True collaboration is essential for a large effort like the Arcade-Westside Area Revitalization Project to achieve progress.
- Using a variety of tools and communication mediums for public outreach and capacity-building initiatives is important to effectively reach the majority of residents in the community. Examples include door-to-door outreach, direct mail, workshops, neighborhood meetings, community block parties, media coverage, a government public access television station, and environmental/health education and empowerment.
- Active public participation in decision-making processes is critical to ensuring that all revitalization efforts are truly “grass roots,” and that capacity building is an ongoing activity. The resulting empowerment will help the residents sustain the project after all revitalization activities are complete.

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Region 5

The Hmong Funeral Home–St. Paul, Minnesota

Project Activity

In 2004, the St. Paul Port Authority used an EPA Brownfields grant to fund the cleanup of an abandoned dumpsite once used for the disposal of waste materials. The Port Authority purchased this property in the late 1960s after dumping operations ceased, and since then, the property has remained vacant.

The Twin Cities Metropolitan Area is diverse and has the largest Hmong population of any urban center in the country, with 58.3 percent of the state's Hmong population living in St. Paul. The Hmong is an Asian ethnic group that traditionally lives in the mountainous regions of southern China and adjacent areas of Vietnam, Laos, and Thailand. This demographic influenced the Port Authority's decision to sell the land to a developer with plans to construct the first facility specifically for Hmong funerals. The Hmong have rituals regarding death that are unique to their culture and have had difficulty finding facilities to accommodate their funeral needs in the United States. A Hmong funeral typically lasts three days and must be done properly to ensure a prosperous afterlife for the deceased. Family members prepare the body for burial and adorn it with objects to protect its soul from evil spirits as it journeys to the other world. The lack of facilities in the Twin Cities that are able to accommodate a Hmong funeral service has created a real problem for many Hmong residents who have had to wait up to a month to pay their respects to their loved ones. The wait is very expensive. In Hmong culture, friends and relatives gather at the home of the deceased as soon as word of the death spreads. It is up to the family to house and feed those who often come great distances to honor the person who died.

Redevelopment of the property into a funeral home started in March 2005 and was completed in August 2005. The design of the home permits multiple funeral services to be conducted at the same time. It also has an industrial kitchen and areas to prepare slaughtered cows, pigs, and chickens to be used in ritual sacrifice.

Partners and Roles

The City of St. Paul, the St. Paul Port Authority, and a Hmong-American developer, J. Kuo Vang, were key partners in the project. A brownfields cleanup grant of \$200,000 along with a Department of Employment and

Economic Development (DEED) grant, a Metropolitan Council grant, and St. Paul Port Authority general funds funded the cleanup of the contaminated site. J. Kuo Vang funded the redevelopment phase of the project.

Project Benefits

- The cleanup of 3.28 acres of vacant land once contaminated with petroleum, asbestos, lead, PAHs, and other metals
- Six full-time jobs leveraged
- The redevelopment of an abandoned lot that has been vacant for 30 years
- The first funeral home built in the nation specifically for Hmong services
- A cultural center that allows Hmong residents to continue their traditions and practices in the United States

Lessons Learned

- This project illustrates how the leveraging of limited resources resulted in the construction of a long overdue facility in the community. Public resources from the federal, state, and local levels funded the cleanup and private resources funded the development of the funeral home.
- Cultural sensitivity played a key role in advancing this project. Though the development of a funeral home may sound uncommon to some, partners involved in the effort recognized its cultural significance to the Hmong residents.

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Region 5

The Sterling Morton High School Project-Cicero, Illinois

Project Activity

In the last five years, School District 201 purchased seven adjoining industrial properties in Cicero, Illinois, to expand the Sterling Morton High School into a new freshman center. In fall 2002, the School District demolished the industrial buildings and removed four underground storage tanks under the oversight of Illinois EPA's voluntary cleanup program. After the completion of the property's cleanup, the School District constructed the new freshman center on this site. This center is an important addition to the community as it reduces the overcrowding at the main high school campus located at 2423 S. Austin in Cicero. This community has a large Latino population and will realize an improvement to its education system with the construction of this new facility. According to the Region 5 Superfund Environmental Justice Analysis, 33 percent of the residents closest in proximity to this site are low-income and 82 percent of the residents are minority.

The School District arranged for Phase I and Phase II environmental assessments to be performed for each of the seven properties. Costs are \$730,000 for phase I and \$800,000 for phase II. The School District also demolished the Economail, Anderson Elevator, and Chicago Gear Works buildings on three of the properties to allow for construction of the freshman center campus.

In the midst of performing the cleanup, the School District determined that the extent of soil contamination within the site was greater than originally anticipated from the various Phase I and Phase II environmental assessments. On November 26, 2003, the School District met with U.S. EPA to request assistance in completing the site cleanup activities. In the Spring and Summer of 2004, EPA conducted a time-critical removal action, which allowed the school building to be opened in August 2004 for approximately 1,800 incoming students.

Partners and Roles

The U.S. EPA enlisted the assistance of many people from the community, and local and state governmental agencies, including the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR), Cicero Township, Cicero Fire Department, the Illinois EPA, and School District 201. The Illinois EPA assisted with the initial phase of

the cleanup, while the U.S. EPA provided funding and technical assistance during the latter phase of the cleanup. The U.S. EPA also engaged in outreach efforts to inform the community of its planned activities in the neighborhoods surrounding the Sterling Morton High School site.

Project Benefits

- The project replaced an unsightly property that was comprised of seven industrial buildings with an 18-acre campus for 1,800 freshman high school students.
- The freshman center improves the quality of education in the District by reducing class size and increasing the time teachers can spend with individual students.
- The project engaged the community through public meetings to discuss sampling protocols, analytical results, and anticipated clean-up actions. Prior to the commencement of any clean-up activities, U.S. EPA distributed informational flyers in the neighborhood.

Lessons Learned

- Providing the community with bilingual factsheets and working together with both Spanish and English media helped to establish a direct line of communication between the residents and EPA.
- Public involvement needs to be an early and continuing part of the process. Public involvement for this project consisted of more than just a mailer or a public meeting near the end of the process.
- After being involved early, the public was able to provide insight into what their community would find acceptable in the way of cleanup. In this case, the community wanted a new high school that would provide a necessary enhancement that would fit harmoniously into the community.
- By involving media, local leaders, and elected officials, the community was able to speak with a united voice.

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Region 9

USTfields Pilot and Brownfields Grants at St. John Mission Site, Gila River Indian Community–Komatke, Arizona

Project Activity

Tribes in Indian Country are a traditionally underserved population that sometimes must struggle to attract the resources needed to overcome decades of environmental neglect. The project's goal was to assess and clean up known contamination from a former underground storage tank (UST) located on a piece of the 10-acre historic mission site and prepare the property for a new, much-needed community health facility. Preliminary cleanup actions allowed the Tribe to construct the Gila River Resource Center at the site, as well as maintain an existing Boys and Girls Club. The Center is dedicated to diabetes education and research. Eventual completion of the cleanup should allow for even more redevelopment on the site.



Partners and Roles

The project partner was the Gila River Indian Community, which was one of only 50 entities nationwide to receive funding under the USTfields Initiative in 2002. It also received funding under the Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup Grants program. The U.S. Congress, encouraged by Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House, authorized funds for the Center, which contributed substantially toward a total of \$6 million being raised for the Center's construction. The Tribe, with the assistance of EPA Region 9, is the principal actor in the project.

Project Benefits

- The Tribe assessed and initiated remediation at the St. John site. It installed a vapor barrier to mitigate

the migration of hydrocarbon vapor into the Gila River Resource Center, which was built on the site and opened in fall 2003. The Tribe completed assessment of the site and identified soil and groundwater contamination. The Tribe prepared a corrective action plan and will complete cleanup some time during FY 2006.

- The Tribe has a new diabetes center that is crucial for preventing and treating diabetes within the community. Pima Indians residing in the community have the world's highest recorded prevalence and incidence of type 2 diabetes, and the Gila River Community has been the subject of diabetes studies by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, National Institute of Health. Because of the prevalence of diabetes, a community diabetes center is crucial to the future of the Tribe.
- About 50 people are employed full time at the Center. Their income provides economic benefits for the community.
- Remediation was conducted so that the Tribe could continue to operate the Boys and Girls Club, which is important to providing a positive activity outlet for the Tribe's youth.

Lessons Learned

- A leak from a relatively small 1,000-gallon UST can create large problems, especially for an already underserved community.
- EPA grants can leverage other resources, including federal resources, for the benefit of Indian Tribes.
- It is important to maintain the lines of communication among all interested parties and provide project updates regularly.

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Superfund

In 1993, EPA announced reforms for its Superfund program that addressed concerns expressed by affected members of the public. These reforms fundamentally changed Superfund. Through partnerships with states, tribes, other federal agencies, local governments, communities, land owners, lenders, developers, and potentially responsible parties (PRPs) for contamination, EPA has improved the cleanup process. Now, cleanups are being done faster, without compromise to the principle that those responsible for pollution are held accountable.

Several of these reforms enhance public participation and prevent minority and low-income populations from bearing the brunt of pollution. This section of the report highlights environmental justice projects being conducted under the Superfund program to improve communication with stakeholders and to encourage greater involvement of all communities in the Superfund process. It includes projects where EPA is working in partnership with local governments, communities, developers, and others to rethink the reuse value of cleaned up properties.



Region 1

Fish Smart Campaign–New Bedford, Massachusetts

Project Activity

The Fish Smart Campaign educates the general public on the health risks associated with consuming PCB-contaminated seafood from the 18,000-acre New Bedford Harbor and Acushnet River Estuary, which comprises the New Bedford Harbor Superfund site. The campaign specifically targets women of child-bearing age, children, and the fishing community, and explains the health-based fishing ban in areas commonly used by subsistence fishermen and by low-income, minority families. The New Bedford Harbor Superfund site is one of the most significant Superfund sites in New England.

EPA, in partnership with local educational groups, sponsored a two-day teachers' training to provide teachers with the information and materials needed to incorporate Fish Smart Campaign information into their school curriculum. Educational partners also incorporate information about the danger of consuming PCB-contaminated New Bedford Harbor seafood in their own educational activities. School-age appropriate posters are being developed for local classroom distribution.

Local medical partners educate clients about the health risks from consumption of PCB-contaminated seafood and distribute educational materials developed by the state agencies and EPA. Medical Grand Rounds are held at the local hospital and health center to educate physicians and nurses on the health risks associated with PCB-contaminated seafood consumption. A meeting with New Bedford School nurses is scheduled to ensure the medical resources in the school environment are part of the Fish Smart Campaign.

EPA secured agreements with local marinas and bait shops to display posters and distribute pamphlets educating the fishing community about the fishing ban due to the health risks from consuming PCB-contaminated seafood. Pamphlets are mailed to over 4,000 people residing in the vicinity of the harbor and new easier-to-understand signs have been posted along the shore in popular fishing locations.

Partners and Roles

Partners include the New Bedford Sea Lab, the Lloyd Center for the Environment, UMass at Dartmouth, the local WIC office, the New Bedford Health Department, the Greater New Bedford Health Clinic, the New Bedford Immigrant Assistance Center, the Massachusetts Department of Health, and the Massachusetts Department of the Environment.

Project Benefits

- Greater outreach efforts increase the number of people aware of the health risks involved with consuming PCB-contaminated seafood.
- New Bedford-area residents are more likely to decrease their consumption behavior of PCB-contaminated seafood and consequently improve their health.
- The participation of the local partners is essential to the effectiveness and sustainability of the Campaign, as they are the ones who continue to educate the individuals in the long-term and work at the grass roots level.

Lessons Learned

- Ongoing outreach campaigns require dynamic partnerships with all parts of the community (the educational arena, the medical field, and the fishing community) in order to incorporate evolving outreach mechanisms that are effective in reaching the targeted audience. The Campaign is constantly changing and looking for new partners, strategies, and perspectives to inform its residents on the health risks associated with consuming PCB-contaminated seafood.

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Region 5

National Lacquer and Paint Cleanup—Chicago, Illinois

Project Activity

The project goal was to complete the cleanup of the former National Priorities List (NPL) site, where a defunct manufacturer of industrial lacquers and paints operated for over forty years. It is in an industrial, commercial, and residential area on the east side of the 7400 South block of Green Street. In 2003, EPA ordered an emergency removal of chemicals on the property, and in early 2004, the cleanup of this former NPL was underway.

The factory grounds and several dilapidated buildings on the premises were littered with thousands of rusting and leaking tanks, drums and buckets containing paint, waste solvents, acids, and resins. Many of the chemicals posed an explosion or fire hazard, especially when mixed. Inspectors discovered that many of the substances were stored together and the leaking liquids were intermingling. Neighborhood residents told EPA they observed children setting off fireworks on the site during the Fourth of July holiday. Inspectors also found evidence of drug and alcohol use on the premises. These conditions posed a real threat to the health of the residents living in adjacent neighborhoods. Demographics indicate that 44 percent of these residents are low income and 97 percent minority. The cleanup of the property lasted about six months and was completed in June 2004. Currently, the property is vacant with plans for the City to redevelop the site.

Partners and Roles

As part of the project, EPA enlisted the assistance from many people in the community, and local and state governmental agencies, including the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR), the City of Chicago (DOE), the Chicago Fire Department, the Illinois EPA, and community church leaders. EPA performed the cleanup at the request of the city and the state. The Chicago Fire Department helped EPA secure the premises, and community church leaders were instrumental in distributing outreach materials to residents.

Project Benefits

- Over 10,000 containers, including one-ton totes and laboratory bottles, were removed from the site.

- Approximately 70 large tanks, vats, and pits were drained, cleaned, or demolished.
- The cleanup reduces the health risks associated with exposure to the hazardous waste on the property.
- The property is no longer an inviting place for illicit activity and is no longer a blighted site of broken windows and dangerous structures.
- The City plans to redevelop the property to benefit the community. This will help the local economy by producing jobs for residents.

Lessons Learned

- Inform the public of the safety concerns and the activities surrounding the former NPL site through aggressive outreach.
- Use multiple forms of outreach to inform residents of the cleanup activity being performed and health risks associated with entering the site. The project distributed literature to residents and to community churches and went door-to-door to notify residents of the cleanup work. Furthermore, it asked residents to keep their children from entering the abandoned building due to unsafe conditions. This alerted the police department to be more vigilant when patrolling the site. EPA held two public meetings to discuss sampling protocols, analytical results, and anticipated cleanup actions.
- Target the population for which safety concerns are the greatest. Since neighbors had previously reported seeing children at the site on several occasions, EPA feared for their safety and focused outreach efforts in preventing their entry into the site. An information repository was established at the local library. This inspired an elementary school student to do a science project about the site, which helped EPA inform children of the hazards present at the site.

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Region 8

Utah Federation for Youth (UFY) 900 South Rail Line Hazardous Substances Research Project–Salt Lake City, Utah

Project Activity

Utah Federation for Youth (UFY) staff and interns spent over 1,000 hours recording hazardous material placard numbers from over 200 train cars that traveled through the low-income neighborhoods of Glendale and Poplar Grove. UFY staff members entered these plate numbers into a computer database to identify the substances that each train was transporting. With this information, the UFY interns researched the effects that a train accident or spill would have on the residents of the community, and determined whether an emergency response plan was in place to handle such a situation. This project focused on the substances that appear on the CERCLA Priority List of Hazardous Substances due to their high potential to cause adverse human health effects.

Partners and Roles

Partners included Salt Lake City’s Mayor Ross “Rocky” Anderson, the Salt Lake City Fire Department, the Sorenson Multi-Cultural Center Computer Clubhouse, the Environmental Careers Organization, the Union Pacific Public Relations Officer, the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, Community-at-Large Volunteers, the Poplar Grove Community Council, James Evans, a Utah State Senator, Third Sun Productions, and the Data Center of Salt Lake City. EPA funded this project with a grant and provided UFY with technical assistance.

Project Benefits

- UFY staff observed a total of 59 substances that were transported on the trains; five of which are on the CERCLA priority list [chlorine, ammonia, aluminum, toluene, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)]. This data can be used to inform the community of the potential hazards of passing trains. Fortunately, the most commonly transported substance on the trains was sulfuric acid, a substance that is not on the priority list. Each of the observed substances has the potential for causing harm to both the environment and people in the event of a large spill or leak.

- The youth presented their findings at community council meetings and published their results in a final report, which was announced at a press conference. The report included research results, an Emergency Response Plan, a step-by-step journal of how their proposed Emergency Response Plan can be replicated, a case study of a deadly train derailment that resulted in a chemical spill in rural Bexar County, TX, and recommendations on how communities can prepare themselves for such disasters.

Lessons Learned

- Get youths involved in the process; they are enthusiastic and dedicated to making the project a success.
- Large projects need help from the community. The youths participating in this project recognized that this type of effort requires the involvement of various stakeholders and skills, and cannot be done without this input. Therefore, they worked with community members, Salt Lake City Officials, and recruited volunteers.
- Public and environmental health information can be difficult to access. Since the youths involved in this project were not able to access the information, they decided to take action and obtain it themselves.

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Headquarters

Superfund Job Training Initiative (SuperJTI) Low Impact Development/ Restorative Landscaping Training Program–Washington, DC

Project Activity

The implementation of a restorative landscaping training program has become an essential part of an overall cleanup effort, particularly in regards to stimulating sustainable development through training and employment opportunities. Restorative landscaping, also known as Low Impact Development (LID), is the name given to a variety of landscaping and soil/plant maintenance practices designed to be environmentally sound and recognized as a remediation technology. This technology includes the construction and use of rain gardens, bioretention cells, porous pavements, green roofs on building and structures, and rain barrels and cisterns.

A SuperJTI training program that implemented a restorative landscaping project was offered to a group of unemployed or marginally employed District residents from the community surrounding the Washington Navy Yard Superfund Site. It also was integrated into the overall effort to clean up and restore the Anacostia River watershed, an important environmental goal for the District of Columbia.

This on-the-job training project resulted in the installation of the first commercial greenroof in the Washington, DC, area. Greenroofs, like trees, can help jurisdictions meet federal air quality standards. The greenroof was installed during the first two weeks of June and an opening ceremony was held on June 21, 2004. The 3,500 square-foot rooftop garden has 9,730 plants, a weather station, and an unplanted control area to compare temperatures, rainfall and runoff.

Partners and Roles

DC Greenworks, a general contractor, delivered the technical training and coordinated a planting team consisting entirely of training program participants from Covenant House, a non-profit youth services agency serving at-risk youths. The project was supported by grants from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Watershed Protection Division of the DC Department of Health. Training for the Covenant House youth, accomplished by OAI, Inc., was supported in part by the Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (OSRTI) and the Bridges to Friendship partnership.

Project Benefits

- Hands-on work experience provides trainees the basic technical skills necessary to work at Superfund sites or construction sites, or in other technically related jobs in the community.
- Eleven residents completed the training and were prepared for entry-level positions in the landscaping field.
- Eight trainees were accepted into the Washington Area Sewer Authority (WASA) summer internship program.
- Reducing storm water runoff, air pollution, and rooftop temperatures reduces building energy costs and extends the life of the roof.
- Students were empowered with an awareness of environmental health issues while also being trained to become gainfully employed in high-growth and high-paying jobs.
- Students were taught to work safely and to educate members of their communities.

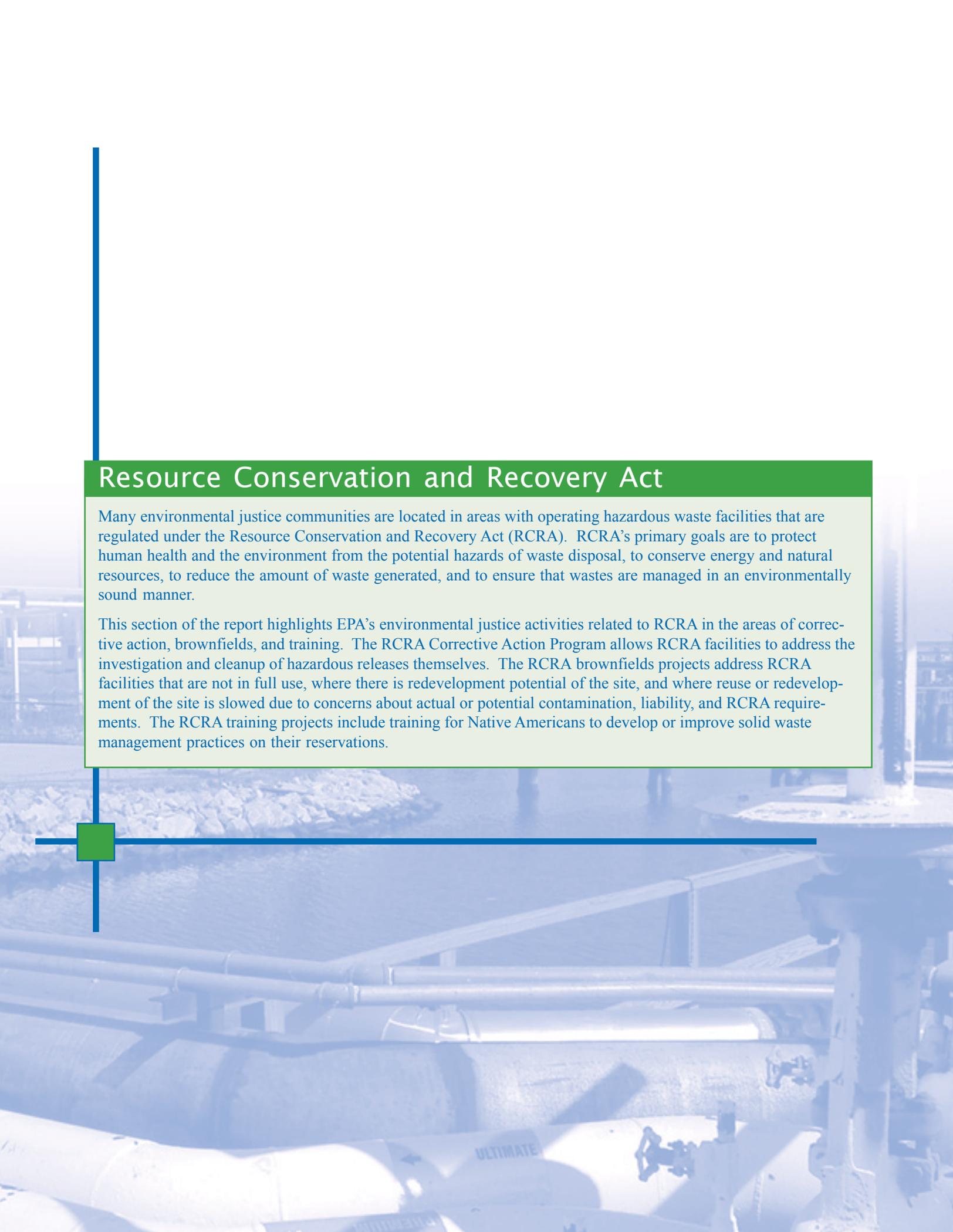
Lessons Learned

- Make certain the local jurisdiction has a local hiring clause to facilitate hiring from within the affected community.
- Have nonprofit organizations on board and fully committed to the process before training commitments are made.
- Utilize experts who have completed similar projects.
- Include substance abuse screening during the application process.

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Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

Many environmental justice communities are located in areas with operating hazardous waste facilities that are regulated under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). RCRA's primary goals are to protect human health and the environment from the potential hazards of waste disposal, to conserve energy and natural resources, to reduce the amount of waste generated, and to ensure that wastes are managed in an environmentally sound manner.

This section of the report highlights EPA's environmental justice activities related to RCRA in the areas of corrective action, brownfields, and training. The RCRA Corrective Action Program allows RCRA facilities to address the investigation and cleanup of hazardous releases themselves. The RCRA brownfields projects address RCRA facilities that are not in full use, where there is redevelopment potential of the site, and where reuse or redevelopment of the site is slowed due to concerns about actual or potential contamination, liability, and RCRA requirements. The RCRA training projects include training for Native Americans to develop or improve solid waste management practices on their reservations.

Region 3

Hydrofluoric (HF) Acid Handling Initiative–South Philadelphia and Chester, Pennsylvania

Project Activity

In April 2005, EPA undertook a hydrofluoric acid (HF) initiative to ensure that refineries storing HF are appropriately reporting their inventories and are taking steps to control or mitigate releases of extremely hazardous chemicals. The initiative was triggered, in part, by a local newspaper article detailing the potential harmful effects that could result from a release of HF. The initiative focuses on refineries that use HF and have Off-Site Consequence Analyses (OCAs), which indicate a high risk to human health in the event of a chemical release. In evaluating the types of refineries that utilize HF, EPA's Hazardous Site Control Division (HSCD) staff recognized that certain refineries were located in areas that were already subject to inordinate amounts of pollutant emissions or discharges from other co-located industrial facilities. The "worst case scenario" analyses for both of the facilities chosen for inspection under this initiative (Sunoco Oil, located in South Philadelphia, and ConocoPhillips, located in Chester, Pennsylvania) indicated that up to 25 miles of residential and industrial area surrounding the facilities, which are predominantly occupied by lower income minority populations, could potentially be impacted by a release. If a release occurred at one of these facilities, it could potentially affect as many as 4.4 million people living in the area.

Partners and Roles

The EPA Region 3 team that performed the inspections included Mike Welsh, Kevin Daniel, and Bill McHale. State and Local officials were asked to participate in the inspections, but were unable to attend.

Project Benefits

- The compliance assistance provided to the facilities during the inspections resulted in the facilities making significant changes to their processes, thereby reducing the risk of releases and making their facilities a safer environment for their workers and the surrounding communities.
- Inspections prompted both refineries to test their HF sensors more frequently and evaluate the use of safer chemicals in lieu of HF.
- Sunoco upgraded its safety training for visitors and personnel. It also expedited the completion of the emergency block valve system, the purchase of decontamination equipment, and the installation of security upgrades.
- ConocoPhillips installed a continuous vibration monitoring system on the HF pumps as a result of the inspections.
- These inspections contributed to EPA Region 3's overall GPRA accomplishment of performing 63 inspections in Fiscal Year 2005.
- Identified weaknesses were reported to facility personnel.
- EPA staff gained increased greater knowledge of facility processes.

Lessons Learned

- Since these inspections took place within weeks of each other and utilized the same personnel, EPA was able to make an accurate comparison of the refineries' safety processes, safety and risk management programs, safety equipment, and alkylolation unities.

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Region 3

Unannounced Facility Response Drills—South Philadelphia and Baltimore, Maryland

Project Activity

In FY05, the Hazardous Site Cleanup Division (HSCD) in EPA Region 3 conducted unannounced drills at four large oil storage facilities to test their oil spill response capability. HSCD conducted the drills at two facilities in the Baltimore area (CITGO Petroleum and BP America) and two facilities in the Philadelphia area (ST Services and Sun Oil Company). These facilities were chosen because they are located in areas already subject to an inordinate amount of industrial activity and they are in close proximity to residential neighborhoods. The combined number of residents living in the areas surrounding the Baltimore and Philadelphia facilities is greater than 5,000 and the majority is low income and/or minority. These four facilities were required to demonstrate their capability to contain or collect spilled oil in the event of an equipment failure. The purpose of the unannounced drills was to test notification procedures, equipment deployment, and other actions associated with a response to an oil spill.



Partners and Roles

The EPA team conducting the drills included Linda Ziegler, Ana Pomales, Arlin-Galarza, and Joseph Albert. EPA's team developed the drill scenarios and documented how the facilities responded to the drills. The U.S. Coast Guard also participated in the drills as an observer.

Project Benefits

- The unannounced drills provided valuable information both to EPA and the oil facilities. Specifically, the drills identified areas of improvement in the facilities' existing emergency procedures. ST Services and Sun Oil had initially failed to inform EPA Region 3 of the spill during the notification process. After the drill, both companies immediately implemented this change.

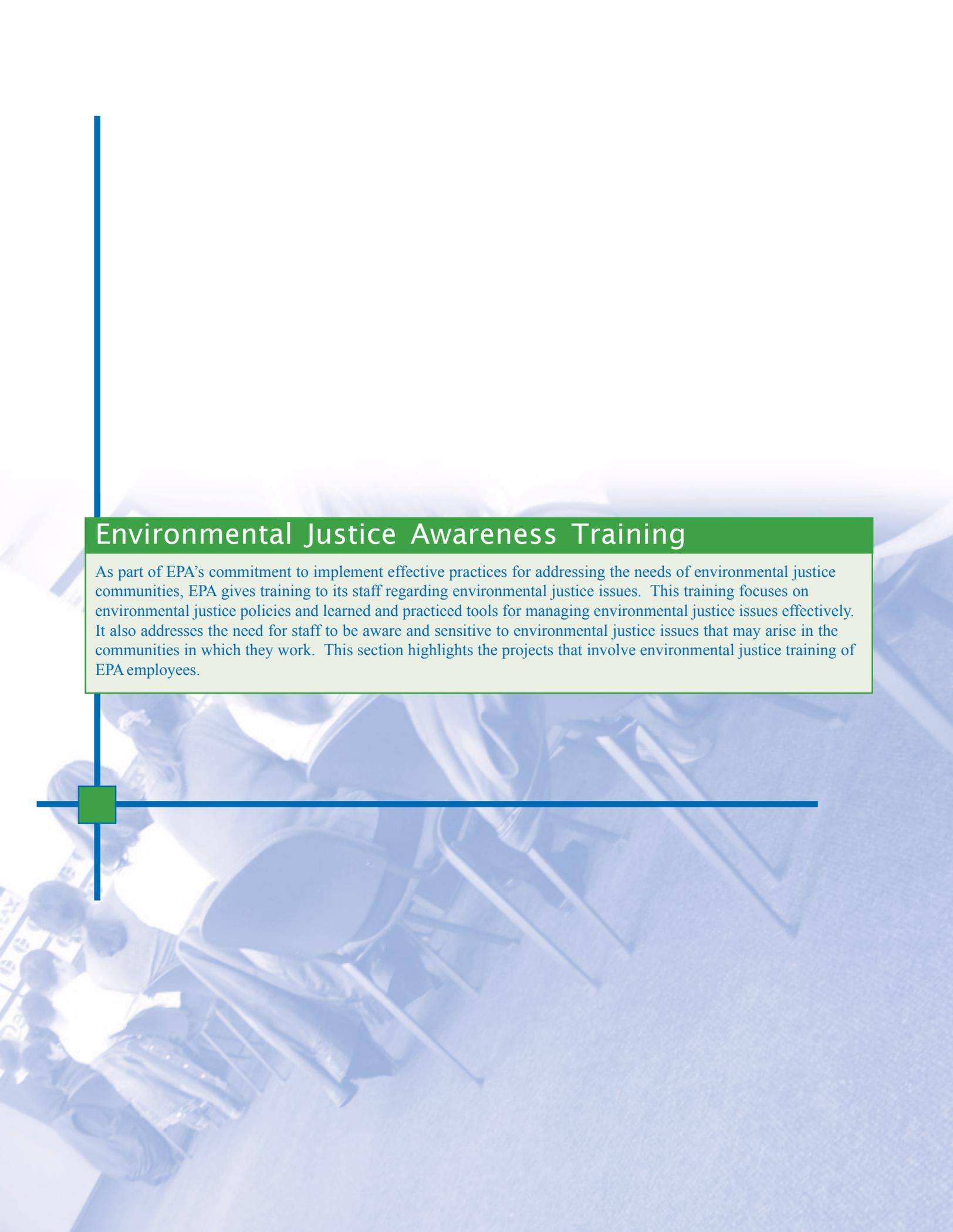
- As with the Baltimore facilities, it was noted that CITGO's Facility Response Plan and related maps did not have the plant's outfall identified nor was the location of the vessel launching pad or the local hospital annotated in the plan or maps. The company confirmed that such information would be added to its plan and maps.
- During the exercise at BP America, EPA observed that although BP's notifications were completed in a timely manner, their Oil Spill Removal Organization (OSRO) failed to deploy the containment boom within one hour of detection of the discharge and failed to have oil recovery devices on site within two hours of the detection of the discharge. This exercise allowed BP to see that their OSRO was not performing as required and they needed to make certain adjustments to their response plan.
- The performance of the unannounced drills contributed to EPA Region 3's overall accomplishment of 157 combined Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC)/ Facility Response Plan (FRP) inspections for the year.

Lessons Learned

- Compliance assistance provided to the facilities during the drills resulted in the facilities changing their Facility Response Plans and their notification procedures, thus making their facilities safer environments for their workers and the surrounding communities.
- Residents living in adjacent neighborhoods who already face the health and environmental effects associated with living near industrial activity were assured that potential risks from oil spills had been reduced.
- Selecting facilities located in highly industrial areas for unannounced drills assures a level of protectiveness commensurate to the level of industrial activity present in these areas.

Project Contact

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Environmental Justice Awareness Training

As part of EPA's commitment to implement effective practices for addressing the needs of environmental justice communities, EPA gives training to its staff regarding environmental justice issues. This training focuses on environmental justice policies and learned and practiced tools for managing environmental justice issues effectively. It also addresses the need for staff to be aware and sensitive to environmental justice issues that may arise in the communities in which they work. This section highlights the projects that involve environmental justice training of EPA employees.

Headquarters

EJ Training for New OSWER Employees and Outside Stakeholders—Washington, DC

Project Activity

OSWER (Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response) offered its one-day Fundamentals of Environmental Justice course to Americorps workers in the summer of 2005, and to new OSWER employees in the winter of 2005. It previously offered several open training sessions in 2004. This course introduces the concepts of environmental justice, including its definition, history, geographic information system (GIS) tools, tribal issues, and actual case studies. This multi-media interactive training course is part of EPA's ongoing diversity training efforts. It is also part of OSWER's ongoing efforts to train its staff to understand and better integrate environmental justice principles into its activities and programs.

Partners and Roles

The EJ training team is comprised of representatives from various OSWER and OEJ (Office of Environmental Justice) program offices.

Project Benefits

- Incorporating an early and continual awareness of environmental justice issues and concerns among OSWER staff by training 20 new employees.
- Participants will have the tools to integrate environmental justice considerations into OSWER's programs, projects, and activities.
- The course has promoted and reinforced the principles of environmental justice throughout OSWER and among external recipients of the training.
- A project to develop an EJ assessment methodology for Hazardous Waste Permitted Facilities evolved out of the Peer Clinic discussions.
- Americorps workers were trained to identify potential EJ issues in their service community and developed surveys and maps from interaction with local residents in that community.

Lessons Learned

- Catering the course material to the particular participants' work better engages participants and facilitates the learning process, while linking EJ principles to specific responsibilities of the participants.
- Interactive activities and visual learning tools, such as videos and flipcharts, create an atmosphere that is open to questions and information exchange.
- The Peer Clinic portion of the training has helped staff to identify specific actions that they can take to incorporate EJ considerations into their work.

Project Contact

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Community Involvement, Outreach, and Partnering

OSWER is committed to improving communications with communities and establishing trust of EPA in those communities. To do this, OSWER works in partnership with community representatives, states, cities, and federal agencies to develop strategies for promoting public participation and community involvement in its decision-making processes. Part of this process includes the development of communication and outreach tools that are effective in reaching the environmental justice communities that EPA serves. This section highlights EPA's environmental justice projects that focused on the development of partnerships with communities and other entities to develop effective communication and outreach materials.

Region 4

Environmental Justice, Community Education, and Advisory Project at the Savannah River Site (SRS)–South Carolina

Project Activity

The Environmental Justice, Community Education, and Advisory Project at the Savannah River Site educates communities about hazardous and radioactive waste management practices and cleanup methods and provides health effects information about these hazardous substances. The Citizens for Environmental Justice (CEJ) produces one to two radio shows per month that address the Savannah River Site (SRS) waste management and cleanup project. It also produces thousands of booklets, fact sheets, and pamphlets that explain the Savannah River Site's history, operations, and environmental programs, and the concept of environmental justice and methods of public participation. The CEJ has initiated dialogue with community leaders and members of the Department of Energy (DOE) and Congress on the Savannah River Site cleanup program.

One goal of the project is to improve environmental science curricula by encouraging students to pursue an environmental career through internships that will provide them with the skills to participate in environmental decisionmaking. The CEJ conducts much outreach on college campuses to expand this effort. Additionally, it conducts numerous workshops and meetings, some targeting young people, regarding the Savannah River Site cleanup program and public participation opportunities. Specifically, CEJ hosts the annual Bi-State Conference for hundreds of citizens, community leaders, and academics from Georgia and South Carolina.

Partners and Roles

The Department of Energy and EPA provide funding (\$150,000 annually from EPA) and oversight to the project. The Savannah State University (SSU) trains and mentors local teachers, as well as undergraduate and graduate students. The Citizens for Environmental Justice (CEJ) develops community capacity through training and outreach.

Project Benefits

- Community residents living near the Savannah River Site have a greater understanding of environmental issues.

- Community residents have been empowered to participate in environmental decisionmaking that impacts their lives.
- Greater trust and collaboration between environmental and public health issues has developed as a result of this project.
- Interns have a greater awareness of environmental justice and have become sensitive to the needs of special populations.
- The monthly radio shows produced by CEJ that address the Savannah River Site waste management and cleanup project reach an estimated 90,000 listeners.
- Savannah State University holds numerous Teaching Radiation Energy and Technology (TREAT) workshops in communities, which are attended by about 25 science teachers and community leaders per session. Each year, many student interns representing many states come to the Savannah River Site to study environmental science with an emphasis on radiation and DOE site contamination.

Lessons Learned

- Funding education and outreach projects through universities and environmental justice non-profit organizations is an effective way to build community knowledge and develop capacity to effectively participate in the cleanup process. In particular, curricula development and intern mentoring supports future environmental justice efforts.

Project Contacts

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Region 5

“The Wanakwi: Environmental Justice/Earth Keeper Project”–Central Upper Peninsula of Michigan

Project Activity

The project’s goal was to initiate a community burn-barrel education program emphasizing the environmental impacts and human health risks associated with dioxins and backyard burning; to conduct a clean sweep household hazardous waste collection and increase public education on household hazardous waste; to raise awareness about regional mercury impacts from municipal and commercial coal-fired electric power facilities, including local impacts from air emissions trading, long-range transport, and the Deer Lake Area of Concern; and to provide information about the Lake Superior Binational Program to stakeholders, including tribal and economically disadvantaged people in the Central Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Partners and Roles

The project partners included the Cedar Tree Institute, which was chosen to receive funding under the “Environmental Justice Small Grants Program,” the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, American Indian Coordinating Council of Marquette County, the Native American Student Association of Northern Michigan University, the Central Lake Superior Watershed Partnership, and seven regional faith denominations: Lutheran, Presbyterian, United Methodist, Episcopalian, Jewish, Roman Catholic, and Unitarian.

Project Benefits

- A household hazardous waste clean sweep collection (including mercury) collected over 47 tons of materials in one day. This amount exceeded the amount collected by the Delta County Waste Facility over the last seven years.
- Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm issued a Certificate of Tribute recognizing the important environmental benefit the project provided to the citizens of Michigan.
- Nine different faith leaders signed the Earth Keeper Covenant (“Manifesto”). This unprecedented agreement commits more than 200 congregations and reaches approximately 150,000 people (almost 2/3 of the population of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan) to educate and incorporate environmental projects regionally.

- A newsletter that included an article on the environmental impacts of burn barrels and airborne deposition of toxins was sent to 30,000 Upper Peninsula residents.
- The project had several press releases, including seven newspaper articles, one magazine feature, three television spots, and several public presentations.
- The project raised public awareness about the goals and objectives of the Lake Superior Binational Program, including working with the Binational Program as one of the four pledges on the Earth Keeper Covenant.
- The project supported the new mercury emissions reduction project at the Wisconsin Electric coal-powered Presque Isle power plant in Marquette. When completed, the project will reduce airborne mercury emissions by 95 percent.
- The project coordinated community groups, local units of government, conservation organizations, and seven faith traditions to support the goals of the Earth Keeper Project, and developed an electronic directory of cooperating organizations.

Lessons Learned

- Effectively utilizing established faith networks can contribute to a project’s success. By working with seven different faiths, Cedar Tree Institute’s information directly reached over half of the population of a 15-county region and 47 tons of hazardous waste were collected in one weekend. Cedar Tree Institute is now planning to use this growing faith network to disseminate other environmental and conservation information about land use, invasive species, and non-point source pollution. In short, accessing established faith networks can be far more effective than trying to develop a public environmental awareness program from scratch.

Project Contact

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Region 7

Neighborhood Environmental Small Grant Projects—Various Cities, Missouri

Project Activity

In 2005, EPA Region 7 awarded a \$15,000 grant to the Area Resources for Community and Human Services in St. Louis, Missouri, to increase resident and business participation in addressing solid waste reduction, recycling, pollution prevention, household hazardous waste disposal, and energy conservation in the 27th ward by 25 percent. EPA Region 7 also awarded the Madison County Health Department in Missouri a \$20,000 grant to educate the local community on issues related to lead-contaminated soil resulting from lead mining. The Madison County Health Department Roundtable educates the local community on lead hazards and ways to decrease these hazards within the community. Finally, EPA Region 7 awarded a \$25,000 grant to Bridging the Gap, Inc., in Kansas City, Missouri, for a neighborhood research project known as “Take it Back.” Participants of the project identified the types of waste in the community that were not being properly disposed of. With this information, they created a toolkit for neighborhood residents describing the proper disposal procedures for common types of household waste.

Partners and Roles

Many organizations participated in these environmental small grant projects. Area Resources for Community and Human Services worked with the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, the City of St. Louis Refuse Division, the St. Louis Science Center, the Community Air Project, Walnut Park Elementary, and Walbridge Elementary Community Education Center. The Madison County Health Department partnered with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the Missouri Department of Health and Human Services, the Madison County Commission, the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry, and the Madison County Health Department. Lastly, for the “Take it Back” project, Bridging the Gap, Inc., collaborated with the University of Missouri-Kansas City and the Ruskin Heights Neighborhood Association.

Project Benefits

- Twenty-five students participated in the ongoing after school and weekend Minority Junior Science Investigators program.



- A recycling center was set up in the city’s 27th Ward in St. Louis, giving 21 classrooms at Walbridge School access to recycling services.
- 51 percent of children less than six years of age in Madison County were tested for lead poisoning; this exceeded the goal of 45 percent.
- Through education, the number of children in Madison County with lead poisoning decreased from 16 percent in 2002 to 6 percent in 2003.
- 178 households participated in “Take it Back,” the neighborhood and environmental hazard research project.
- 19,232 pounds of waste and 500 tires were collected and properly disposed through the “Take it Back” project.
- 16.74 tons of leaves and brush were collected and mulched through “Take it Back.”

Lessons Learned

- Large sums of money are not always required to achieve environmental benefits. Limited funds encourage communities to utilize local resources and forge partnerships with organizations.
- The desire for a clean and safe environment is just as important to small communities as it is to larger metropolitan areas.

Project Contact

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Region 8

Community Pollution Prevention Outreach and Education Project—City of Laramie, Wyoming

Project Activity

Due to its rural setting, Albany County faces little pollution from heavy manufacturing and other industrial waste; rather, it faces more risk from household pollution. Trash collection services are not readily available and landfills are not easily accessible. As a result, residents have started to manage household waste on their own, primarily through incineration and secondarily by stockpiling waste on residential property. Groundwater contamination from private dumps has become a great concern. Stockpiled items, such as cars and refrigerators, contain dangerous chemicals that can leak into the ground and contaminate the Casper Aquifer, which translates into health risks for the community.

Through outreach and educational efforts, the Community Pollution Prevention Outreach and Education Project attempts to address the trend of stockpiling and incinerating waste products on residential property. The project funded two Household Hazardous Waste Days at an Albany County landfill. During these two days, the landfill fees were waived for County residents to dispose of tires, paints, solvents, pesticides and e-waste. Other long-term outreach efforts include advertising in the local paper and local cable TV, presenting to communities and schools, and distributing flyers. In smaller communities such as Laramie, word of mouth from the 20-member volunteer committee was a significant factor in increasing community participation.

Partners and Roles

The City of Laramie's Public Works Department, Utility Division, and Water Outreach Coordinator were responsible for water conservation and groundwater protection outreach. The Albany County Planning Department focused outreach efforts on low-income residents to educate them on importance of properly using and maintaining their septic systems to prevent groundwater contamination. The Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC), a 20-member volunteer committee, also assisted with outreach efforts by educating residents on the region's environmental concerns. The Laramie Rivers Conservation District

conducted a survey in which city/county residents ranked pollution on private property as one of the top environmental concerns facing the county. Other partners included the Laramie Economic Development Corporation, Towns of Rock River and Centennial, and the 9 Mile Water and Sewer District Neighborhood Association.

Project Benefits

- On one of the Household Hazardous Waste Days, the County landfill collected and recycled 11,118 pounds of electronics, 378 passenger/light truck tires, and six large truck tires. It also distributed 200 packets of waste paint hardener (a substance that mixes with paint to prevent it from leaking and contaminating the landfill) and recycling guides.
- An extension of the grant period allowed an additional collection of e-waste that generated another 7,152 pounds of electronics eliminated from disposal in the landfill. The \$8,316 grant funded the majority of the program and allowed the city to collect a much larger volume of waste than would have been possible without this assistance.

Lessons Learned

- There are hazards related to the disposal of material in landfills, and contamination of aquifers in and around areas of the landfill is possible. Furthermore, the storage of material above ground that comes in contact with stormwater is then absorbed and recharged into the aquifer.

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Region 8

Collaborative Forum on the Human Health Effects of Cotter Corporation Milling Uranium—Canon City, Colorado

Project Activity

The project's goal is to build capacity in the environmental justice community by educating representatives from all stakeholder groups living near the Lincoln Park Study Area Superfund site with environmental data and pertinent administrative processes.

Partners and Roles

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) is the lead agency in charge of monitoring and regulating Colorado industries working with radioactive materials. Other project partners include: Cotter Mill representatives; Citizen-At-Large members; local officials from city/county governments; Fremont County Independent Outreach Committee (FCIOC); Colorado Citizens Against Toxic Waste (CCAT); and Resolve, Inc. CCAT is a non-profit organization that promotes public involvement in policy decisions related to hazardous waste in the city. Resolve, Inc., facilitates and assists with many aspects of the forum.

Project Benefits

- The Collaborative Forum has met four times and the project is still ongoing (as of 11/1/05). The diverse stakeholder groups are planning to meet for the first time to establish common ground among the various advocacy positions, which are typically polarized either in favor of or against the uranium mill's continued operation. This meeting is a big accomplishment considering the divisive climate that previously existed in the community.
- The Forum encourages participation from all stakeholder groups to establish an open dialogue on the Lincoln Park Study Area Superfund site.
- The Forums provide the various groups with important environmental information related to the Superfund site.

Lessons Learned

- When handling a challenging group like the Collaborative Forum, you must remain constantly aware of changing attitudes. Each session brings new concerns to the table. Losing the support of a single participant can completely change the dynamic of the meeting, and the main topic discussed may be of prime interest to one group and of no interest to another.
- Meetings that are inherently contentious often times require a strategy that encourages an open and meaningful dialogue. Tactics, such as starting a discussion on a topic of mutual interest and utilizing an expert facilitator to mediate the meeting, may help in this type of setting. Much of this legwork is done by the facilitator as background work after the meeting. If any stakeholder group cannot make the set date and time, the group should provide another representative for that session.
- Often there are varied interests and levels of expertise within each group, so under this system the most appropriate representatives from each group would be "fielded" for a particular session. This helps to eliminate burnout among the participants and promotes a fresh, productive discussion at each meeting. It is strongly recommended that this method of organizing meetings be used more widely within the Agency and the communities it serves.

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Region 9

Landmark Agreement on Solid Waste Management for Havasupai Tribe-Grand Canyon, Arizona

Project Activity

The project goal was to find and implement a sustainable solid waste management program for the Havasupai Tribe that is protective of both human health and the environment and is culturally appropriate. The Havasupai reservation is located on the south rim of the Grand Canyon, approximately 75 miles northwest of Flagstaff, Arizona. Supai Village, located on the Canyon floor, is accessible only by helicopter, mule, or foot. Due to the extreme remoteness of Supai Village, the Tribe has traditionally disposed of wastes at the community open dump, which is burned on a daily basis, creating air, land, and groundwater concerns. White goods and other large items traditionally have been collected separately for eventual removal by helicopter.

The Havasupai Tribe has borne a disproportionate share of environmental hazards due to its remote canyon home. The air pollution created from daily burning of the open dump has been affecting the health of tribal members for many years. Many residents, including children, report respiratory ailments, including asthma and other breathing difficulties. Due to the location of the village and the flow of air currents through the dump area, toxic smoke from the burning dump drifts into homes and nearby buildings on a daily basis.

EPA Region 9 staff has been working with the Havasupai Tribal Council and Tribal environmental staff for many years to work towards a sustainable solution to the Tribe's ongoing issues with solid waste. Most recently, EPA staff developed and presented six solid waste options available to the Tribe for discussion. Each option was evaluated and compared with considerations in mind, including: initial and ongoing cost, environmental impacts, ease of regulatory compliance, and timeframe for implementation.

Partners and Roles

The Havasupai Tribe, EPA Region 9, the Indian Health Service, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs were all involved in this project. Funding to address solid waste concerns was provided by the Indian Health Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and/or EPA in 1997,

2001, and 2002. In addition, EPA Region 9 provided funding through the General Assistance Program (GAP).

Project Benefits

- After over nine years of working together to find a sustainable solution, the Tribal Council, Tribal staff, and EPA staff developed and agreed upon a plan to haul trash out of the canyon via mule and helicopter with a strong emphasis on recycling. This plan will utilize existing tribal mule hauling enterprises, which are owned and operated by Havasupai Tribal members. The Tribal Council and tribal staff's strong leadership and commitment to find a solution made the landmark agreement possible. A Tribal Resolution was signed in August 2005. After signing the resolution, the Tribe held several public meetings with its residents and haulers to determine the needs and concerns of the community for the new program. EPA was invited to attend one such meeting to answer questions about the proposed solid waste management program.
- Once implemented, the Tribe will no longer dispose of waste at the large community burn dump at the bottom of the Canyon, and approximately 196 tons of waste per year now will be disposed of at a municipal solid waste landfill. This new program will protect the Tribe's drinking and surface water and eliminate the creation of air pollution generated from the daily burning of the waste. Both environmental and health conditions in the village will greatly improve as a result of this project.
- The Tribe has begun to develop a long-term plan to ensure the new solid waste management program is sustainable, and can run on revenues generated by tourism or other innovative programs. This approach is empowering the Tribe and the community to take an active role in human health and environmental protection.

Lessons Learned

- This project serves as an excellent example of inter-agency and inter-Tribal cooperation. This project would not have been possible without the combined efforts of multiple stakeholders—including the Tribal Council, Tribal staff, Tribal members, EPA, BIA, and IHS—all working together towards a common goal.
- The Project illustrates the importance of persistence and patience when handling a difficult and contentious topic, such as waste management on tribal land. After nine years, all parties finally reached an agreement. The end result is one that serves both the Tribe's and EPA's needs to promote better environmental protection for all.

Project Contact

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Project Activity

The goal of this project was to reduce risks posed to community clinic patients and community residents from mercury-containing devices. Mercury is a persistent, bioaccumulative heavy metal toxin and a priority pollutant for reduction by EPA and states. The Partnerships for Mercury Pollution Prevention Project targeted medical clinics that serve low-income communities and the uninsured. Under this program, partners helped the clinics replace their mercury-containing devices (including some blood pressure cuffs and thermometers), clinic staff was trained on educating patients about mercury risks, and residents exchanged their mercury-containing thermometers for safe, non-mercury-containing devices. This project was supported by a U.S. EPA Pollution Prevention Grant.

Partners and Roles

Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) worked closely with clinics and community members to promote the thermometer exchange program and to educate clinics and community members about alternative devices. PSR provided training to clinic staff and helped procure non-mercury devices. The California Department of Toxic Substances Control served as the grant recipient and provided technical assistance to identify alternative non-mercury-containing devices. U.S. EPA Region 9 provided the pollution prevention grant funding and provided technical assistance to the project.

Project Benefits

- 28 participating clinics and 395 staff were trained on risk reduction for mercury.
- 37 pounds of mercury were removed from clinics.
- 6,500 non-mercury thermometers were distributed to patients resulting in 15 pounds of mercury collected from households.
- Mercury was diverted from the medical and municipal waste streams.
- 18,000 educational brochures in eight languages were distributed by participating clinics.

Lessons Learned

- Community clinics need additional assistance for mercury reduction. Unlike larger, private health systems, most community clinics do not have the staff or financial ability to make mercury reduction a priority. They need financial and technical assistance to reduce mercury-containing products, and to train staff on proper handling of mercury-containing devices. In addition, the partners found that they needed to provide ongoing assistance by checking back with the clinics several times to ensure new equipment was being maintained and calibrated correctly.
- Community clinics are key places to distribute environmental health information to EJ communities. This project revealed that the clinic staff is interested in providing environmental health information to their patients, who are almost exclusively low income or uninsured. The partners have been challenged to meet the demand by the clinics for information resources. In addition to mercury, participating clinics are working on educating patients about fish advisories, lead, pesticide exposures, and occupational exposures to jewelry and janitorial workers.
- There is a great need for more information to be distributed by clinics. The partners discovered that they did not have enough information resources to meet the needs of all the clinics. They would like to see additional federal and state funding to develop appropriate resources for the local residents. The resources distributed to the public should be written in simple terms and in multiple languages to better access all segments of the population. This project distributed materials in English, Chinese, Cambodian, Spanish, Thai, Vietnamese, Korean, and Japanese.

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Region 10

Duwamish River Festival for Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund Site—Seattle and King County, Washington

Project Activity

The Duwamish River Festival's goal was to provide information and involve the community in the Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund site, which affects multicultural neighborhoods. For the last five years, the site has been under remedial investigation. During this period, EPA has held public meetings to engage residents in discussion and activity surrounding the Duwamish Waterway Superfund site. Last year, the community requested an alternative to holding a formal meeting. Thus, EPA and its partners decided to organize a festival to draw greater attention to the Superfund site and increase participation in the process. EPA specifically hoped to attract residents that had never attended a prior meeting. The festival also served as a forum where pertinent information could be shared with residents, such as the health advisory about consuming fish from the Duwamish River. The festival was effective in reaching out to the Hispanic community. Organizers and festival goers provided such positive feedback on the festival, that plans are already under way for a second festival in 2006.



Partners and Roles

EPA coordinated the festival with a number of organizations, including the Washington State Department of Ecology, which shares community involvement responsibility for the site. Other participants included the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition (DRCC), which is the community advisory group for the site; the Lower Duwamish Waterway Group (LDWG), which consists of four parties with some responsibility for the cleanup (King County, the City of Seattle, the Port of Seattle, and The Boeing Company); and state and local health

agencies. EPA, Ecology, King County, and DRCC worked together on logistics and publicity, which included flyers in both English and Spanish. DRCC attracted neighborhood residents to the festival with Hispanic music and food, the Duwamish tribal dancers, and children's entertainment. King County provided a shuttle bus to take neighborhood residents to the festival, and Ecology provided a Spanish interpreter. DRCC, Ecology, and EPA provided kayak tours of the Superfund site. Most of these organizations also staffed informational booths and helped fund the festival.

Project Benefits

- The festival attracted a few hundred people, many of whom had never attended a Duwamish Superfund site event before. Among the new attendees were six Hispanic families. This was an increase from previous Hispanic attendance at Superfund meetings that were held in the community.
- The festival gave representatives of the various state and local agencies and organizations the opportunity to communicate with community members in an informal way.
- The event reinforced to the community EPA's continued commitment to involve the community during the cleanup of the Superfund site.

Lessons Learned

- A large community event, such as this festival, attracts a larger and more diverse audience than typical site meetings.
- To ensure a diverse attendance, provide entertainment to all age groups as an incentive for the whole family to attend. Also, distribute promotional festival materials in languages spoken in the community and arrange for ethnic food to be served and music to be played to attract more diverse members from the community.

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Region 10

2005 Portland Harbor Superfund Site Neighborhood Community Outreach—Portland, Oregon

Project Activity

Between September 2004 and September 2005, EPA participated in a number of activities to raise awareness in multicultural neighborhoods about ongoing work and opportunities related to the Portland Harbor Superfund Site. These events included the Portland Harbor Superfund Field Day in September 2004, presentations at seven neighborhood association meetings between July and October 2005, an informational booth with children's activities at the Arbor Lodge Neighborhood Fair in August 2005, the St. Johns Neighborhood Bridge Opening Festival in September 2005, and the North Portland Environmental Health Fair in October 2005. Neighborhood groups have expressed appreciation for EPA participation and the agency organizers plan to continue these efforts in the coming year.

Partners and Roles

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (OR DEQ) and the Oregon Department of Human Services (OR DHS) jointly hosted the activities. Other participants included the Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group and the Lower Willamette Group (LWG), which consists of ten parties that were involved with the cleanup. EPA, OR DEQ, OR DHS, and LWG worked together on logistics and publicity. The LWG provided jet-boat tours of the Superfund site. Most of the organizations also staffed informational booths.

Project Benefits

- For the Portland Harbor Superfund Field Day, EPA distributed invitations in Spanish, Russian, and Laotian. EPA also provided on-site interpretive services in these languages to attract more residents to the event.
- At the other neighborhood meetings and events, representatives of the agencies and other organizations had the opportunity to share information with community members informally and through interactive children's activities, including a watershed model play table and an educational fish tossing game.

Lessons Learned

- In spite of inclement weather, the Portland Harbor Superfund Field Day provided successful outreach to diverse groups. This experience demonstrated to agencies that hosting an exhibit at established neighborhood events is an effective way to reach a broad range of community members.

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Headquarters

Recommendations for Improving Stakeholder Relations Between Federal Facilities and Environmental Justice Communities

Project Activity

The goal of this project was to investigate common environmental justice (EJ) issues and concerns, and develop recommendations to address EJ issues and improve community involvement programs nationwide. Five federal facilities in South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, New Mexico, and Washington were used as case studies.

Partners and Roles

The Federal Facilities Working Group (FFWG) of the Waste and Facility Siting Subcommittee of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council conducted the site visits. The U.S. EPA provided \$165,000 in funding, plus staff support time. The Department of Energy and the Department of Defense provided access to their personnel and facilities.

Project Benefits

- The project created case studies that were valuable to the respective facilities, and resulted in five main workgroup recommendations. Within these five broad recommendations were more detailed recommendations with wide application to stakeholder involvement. These included cultural sensitivity training, broader use of translation services, capacity-building, provision of additional technical assistance, expanded input opportunities, and in particular, making greater efforts to show specifically how community input is addressed in facility decisionmaking.

Lessons Learned

- The use of multiple case studies to systematically evaluate the quality and success of DOE/DOD community involvement programs is a useful technique to identify means to improve community involvement (CI) implementation. For instance, community feedback during the site visits indicated that community advisory boards are not always fully representative of their diverse communities, and suggested that many of the traditional CERCLA CI techniques must be used to ensure full and open public participation.

- DOE/DOD should periodically and systematically check to ensure that Community Involvement Plans are being updated.
- All facilities should be implementing early and meaningful public participation activities (not just CERCLA minimums).
- Community preferences for methods of participation must be periodically confirmed through direct conversations with their members.
- Trained community involvement staff, not contractors, should oversee community involvement activities.
- Advisory boards must remain representative and effective.

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Glossary

Brownfields - Contaminated areas, usually within a city or urban area, that are being cleaned up for future industrial use. Areas cleaned up under a brownfields program often are subject to different requirements than sites cleaned up under the Superfund program.

Community - a set of people with some shared element, in particular a group of people who live, work, learn, or play in the same area. The substance of shared element varies widely, from a situation to interest to lives and values. The term is used to evoke a sense of collectivism.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) - Commonly known as Superfund, this Act established prohibitions and requirements concerning closed and abandoned hazardous waste sites, provided for liability of persons responsible for releases of hazardous waste at these sites, and established a trust to provide for cleanup when no responsible party could be identified.

Environmental Assessment (EA) - A preliminary analysis required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The EA is used to determine whether an activity supported by the federal government would significantly affect the environment. Public comments on the draft EA can be instrumental in convincing an agency that a federal action is required.

Environmental Justice - the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws and policies, and their meaningful involvement in the decision-making processes of the government.

Groundwater - The supply of fresh water found beneath the earth's surface, usually in aquifers, that supply wells and springs. Because groundwater is a major source of drinking water, there is growing concern over contamination from leaching agricultural or industrial pollutants or leaking underground storage tanks.

Hazardous Substances - EPA defines this in two ways: 1) any material that poses a threat to human health and/or the environment. Typical hazardous substances are toxic, corrosive, ignitable, explosive, or chemically reactive; or 2) any substance designated by EPA to be reported if a designated quantity of the substance is spilled in the waters of the United States or is otherwise released into the environment.

Hazardous Waste - Any waste that exhibits characteristics of ignitability, corrosivity, or reactivity. RCRA sets standards for the handling, storage, transportation, treatment, and disposal of hazardous wastes.

PCBs - Polychlorinated biphenyls, which are a mixture of individual chemicals that are no longer produced in the United States, but are still found in the environment. PCBs were used as coolants and lubricants in transformers, capacitors, and other electrical equipment because they don't burn easily and are good insulators. The manufacture of PCBs was stopped in the U.S. in 1977 because of evidence they build up in the environment and can cause harmful health effects. Products made before 1977 that may contain PCBs include old fluorescent lighting fixtures and electrical devices containing PCB capacitors, and old microscope and hydraulic oils.

Pollution - The contamination of air, water, soil, or food supplies by toxic and other pollutants.

Pollutant - Any substance introduced into the environment that negatively affects the usefulness of a resource or the health of humans, animals, or ecosystems. A pollutant could include chemicals released by a facility, household products used incorrectly, car exhaust, or other materials that could cause harm to humans or the environment.

Regulations - The rules developed by agencies that contain the details needed to implement the general requirements found in laws. Regulations are developed in draft first. The public has an opportunity to comment on regulations before they are finalized.

Removal Action - Short-term immediate actions taken to address releases of hazardous substances that require expedited response.

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) - This Act was enacted by Congress in 1976. RCRA's primary goals are to protect human health and the environment from the potential hazards of waste disposal, to conserve energy and natural resources, to reduce the amount of waste generated, and to ensure that wastes are managed in an environmentally sound manner.

Smart Growth - Environmentally-sensitive land development with the goals of minimizing dependence on auto transportation, reducing air pollution, and making infrastructure investments more efficient.

Solid Waste - Any solid, semi-solid, liquid, or contained gaseous materials discarded from industrial, commercial, mining, or agricultural operations, and from community activities. Solid waste includes garbage, construction debris, commercial refuse, sludge from water supply or waste treatment plants, or air pollution control facilities, and other discarded materials.

Subsistence - What is required to maintain life.

Superfund - The program operated under the legislative authority of CERCLA that funds and carries out EPA solid waste emergency and long-term removal and remedial activities. These activities include establishing the National Priorities List, investigating sites for inclusion on the list, determining their priority, and conducting and/or supervising cleanup and other remedial actions.

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