



Why Have Beyond Translation Forums?

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6 office in Dallas Texas, began having ***Beyond Translation Forums*** to proactively seek new opportunities to effectively engage the Hispanic community in becoming environmental stewards.

EPA realized that, in addition to translating documents into Spanish for outreach and education of the Hispanic community, it was important to improve the quality and availability of environmental and public health information (in English and Spanish) in a manner that is relevant to them.

Despite continuing population growth, the Hispanic community is largely under represented in shaping EPA's national and regional agendas. The Forums were created in order to address the need the Agency has to improve communication and create regional collaborations with the Hispanic community.

Who is the Target Audience?

The Forums welcome community leaders from grass-roots groups, non-profit organizations, health organizations, local and federal government, civic groups, business, media representatives, and academia.

EPA expects that improved communication among these participants will:

- Effectively address environmental challenges in the Hispanic community
- Maximize use of limited resources
- Encourage positive environmental behaviors among Hispanics
- Translate actions into success stories which will serve as models for the Hispanic community and other multilingual communities as well

The 2006 Beyond Translation Forum

On October 17-18, 2006, EPA Region 6 hosted the first ***Beyond Translation Forum*** in San Antonio, Texas. It brought, together a cross-section of more than 100 Hispanic leaders. Discussions focused on addressing environmental challenges and opportunities, exploring ideas for improving the Agency's service to Hispanics, and enhancing partnerships and networks.

As a result of the Forum, five workgroups were formed to address issues that emerged from the discussions as being priority areas in the Hispanic community. These workgroups topics are:

- Health and the Environment
- Environmental Awareness and Careers
- Recruitment of Hispanics
- Economic Opportunities
- Communications Network

The workgroups will report on their progress at the next Beyond Translation Forum.

When is the Next Forum?

On **October 10-12, 2007**, at the Hobby Marriot Hotel in Houston, Texas, EPA will conduct its second ***Beyond Translation Forum*** in partnership with Region 6 Department of Health and Human Services and Houston's Department of Health.

What are the Key Goals of this Year's Forum?

- Transfer best community awareness practices addressing environmental health issues
- Bring attention to the education and recruitment challenge in the science, technology, engineering, and math fields
- Provide most effective mechanisms to gain access to contracts, grants, and other resources
- Develop a strategy for ongoing community involvement

