

# CARE: Bringing Communities Together



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

# What is CARE?

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



# How CARE Works

1. Join Together

2. Identify Problems and Solutions

Level I Agreement



EPA Cooperative Agreements & Technical Support

Level II Agreement

4. Become Self-Sustaining

3. Implement Solutions/  
Reduce Risks

# CARE Goals

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

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



# Building an Effective Partnership

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



# [ CARE Strategies ]



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

# CARE Strategies for Making Decisions



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

# CARE Contacts

- **CARE Hotline**
  - 1-877-CARE-909
- **CARE Website**
  - [www.epa.gov/care](http://www.epa.gov/care)

