



Environmental Justice Achievement Award

State or Local Government



South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control



As citizens participate in DHEC's public participation listening session, each comment is written down and placed on "the wall."



David Baize, DHEC staff, facilitated discussion at DHEC's public participation listening session that Karen Irick, a South Carolina resident, participated in.

EPA is pleased to present a 2008 Environmental Justice Achievement Award to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) for its work to address environmental justice issues on behalf of communities throughout South Carolina.

DHEC works diligently to bring resources to communities, including helping to prepare grant proposals and supporting activities pursued via various grant programs. DHEC created a Public Participation Task Force that has worked to examine all state programs and increase its efforts to meaningfully involve the public in its decision-making processes.

DHEC was called upon to take the lead in the implementation of the South Carolina environmental justice law enacted on June 15, 2007. DHEC chairs the South Carolina Environmental Justice Advisory Committee, which studies and evaluates practices at all state agencies related to environmental justice during economic development and revitalization projects. The Advisory Committee is aiming to replicate the ReGenesis Collaborative Problem Solving Model, used in Spartanburg, in several other South Carolina communities. State pilot projects are now being defined in several communities. The Advisory Committee will complete its work by 2010.

