

# COMMUNITY HEALTH BUILDING: ENVIRONMENTAL APPROACH

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**Background and Aim:** The concept of environment focuses on that dimension of traditional concern to urban planning, and recently of increasing concern to the public--the quality of the physical environment natural and man-made. The aim of this project was to identify community environmental problem and to develop appropriate solutions to maintain and enhance the quality of life for the community citizens.

**Methods:** Action-Research Method was used for this project. The project was started with the organization of a committee with 15 community volunteers composed of city officials, environmental planning professions, and private citizens. The committee initiated its activities by discussing the steps to the process. These general guiding steps are proposed to facilitate the community health assessment process. The collection of environmental health issues from the community by using Community-as-Partner Model, with some modifications to meet local needs. The data collection methods include person-on-the street interviews, community randomized telephone surveys, and the use of key community professionals as informants.

**Results:** Two major environment problems defined for the community. (1) The lack of landscaping on the perimeter of roadways. (2) Visual clutter on the barrenness of the land. Implementations include utilize natural elements as points of street landscaping, transform barrenness land into community center. Suggestion: Community citizens should be committed to protecting the environment for future generations and implementing a full programme of measures to deliver on its ambitions for an eco-friendly economy.

**Conclusions:** This project is helping to create environmental awareness in the community; to built strong coalitions among the participants; and it is also helping to target the main environmental needs of the community. In addition, the strong positive community involvement indicates that the identified issues will be followed-up and the desired outcomes will be attained.