Urban Waters
National Training Workshop

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Lessons Learned from Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE)

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www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice
HISTORICAL CONTEXT

EJ Becomes a National Concern

National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC)

Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice

Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE)

What’s Next
The Early Years Confirmed Relationship between Siting and Socio-economic Status

- 1982 – Warren County – The Beginning of a National Movement
- 1983 US Government Accounting Office report
- 1987 United Church of Christ (UCC) Commission for Racial Justice national study
  - Toxic Waste and Race in the United States
Early Government EJ Actions

• EPA establishes the Office of Environmental Equity (later changed to Office of EJ)
  ✓ EJ Coordinators (Regions/HQTRS)
  ✓ National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC)
• **Clinton 1994 EO Environmental Justice 12898**
  ✓ Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low Income Populations
  ✓ Interagency Working Group on EJ established with EPA as lead
EPA Defines Environmental Justice As...

... 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.

EJ means that everyone enjoys the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards and equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, work, play and pray.
NEJAC Policy Implementation
http://www3.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/nejac/recommendations.html

• Model Plan for Public Participation (1996 and 2000)
• National EJ Roundtables (1996-1999)
• Environmental Justice, Urban Revitalization, and Brownfields: The Search For Authentic Signs Of Hope (1996)
• Fish Consumption and EJ (2002)
NEJAC Policy Implementation

- Promote Better Understanding Community Based Participatory Research Methods & Effective Interagency Cooperation
- Institute a “bias for action” through utilizing an EJ CPS Model
- Promote paradigm shift to community based approaches
- Efficient screening, targeting and prioritization methods/tools to identify communities needing immediate intervention
What was CARE?

CARE was a
- community-based
- community-driven program
- created to build local partnerships
- to help communities understand and
  - reduce risks from all sources of toxics;
What Did CARE Do?

- CARE brought together local partners - businesses, residents and local governments, etc. - to address their environmental problems and work together to find solutions.
  - Created local partnerships that leverage resources and sustain environmental health efforts over time

- CARE provided communities with funding, tools, and technical assistance for solution implementation, so that environmental exposures are reduced

- Addressed multimedia environmental problems

- Reduced risks to improve local public health and environment
From 2005-2009
What CARE Communities Did:

- Leveraged dollar-for-dollar EPA grant funding.
  - Communities leveraged **over $15M** from local and national sources.
  - Received in-kind donations of an **additional $2M**.
- Engaged over **1,700 partners** in local projects (local organizations, businesses, local and state agencies, universities, foundations, federal agencies).
- Visited over **4,000 homes** providing information and/or environmental testing
- Provided environmental information to:
  - Over **2,800 businesses**
  - Over **50,000 individuals**
- Engaged over **300 schools, 6,300 youth**
CARE issued 101 grants worth $16.1 million to 85 communities.
How CARE Worked

REGIONAL

CARE Regional Coordination Team
Co-Chairs:
R9 Mike Bandrowski,
R10 Sally Hanft,
R7 Kathleen Fenton

Regional Teams
Coordinators, Project
Officers, Technical Support,
Program Experts

Regional Training

NATIONAL

CARE Executive Team
Mike Shapiro, OW
Janet McCabe, OAR
Louise Wise, OCSPP
Barry Breen, OSWER
Key DRAs

Outreach/Communications
OW/OCSPP

CDC, ATSDR,
HUD, USDA
Collaboration

Tracking (New)
OW

Community Training, Tools,
Technical Assistance

Measures & Evaluation
OP

CARE Administrative Team
Co-Chairs:
Gale Bonanno, OW
Marva King, OAR

Grants
OAR/R5

OW/R8

OW

Level I and Level II
Support
OSWER/OW/R8

National Workshop

OW/R8
Examples of Businesses that were CARE Partners

- AB Trucking
- Alabama Power Company
- Arizona Chemical, LLC
- Ashland Inc.
- Bank of America
- Blue Sun Biodiesel
- Boeing
- Campbell Soup
- Churchill Transportation
- Connstep, Inc.
- Dole Fresh Fruit
- Durango McKinley Paper Company
- Eastman Kodak
- Energía, LLC
- Ford Motor Company/Rouge Plant
- General Dynamics, Inc.
- Goodrich Corporation
- Krapf Bus Company
- Pacific Gas & Electric Company
- Schwan Food Company
- Senath State Bank
- South Jersey Port Corporation
- Sprague Energy
- Suncor Energy
- U.S. Steel
- Waste Management, Inc.

Disclaimer: Listed for informational purposes only. No endorsement intended
Examples of Business Organizations That Were CARE Partners

- Chamber of Commerce Visioning Wichita-Sustainability Coalition
- Chinatown-International District Business Improvement Area
- Genesse Transportation Council
- Kenneth MO Chamber of Commerce
- Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce
- North Salina Community Development Group
- Southwest Detroit Business Association
- Rochester Green Business Network
- South Jersey Port Corporation
- West Oakland Commerce Association

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Strong Support for CARE

NAPA Report May 12, 2009:
• “CARE complements EPA’s traditional regulatory and enforcement efforts to provide additional targeted assistance to communities at highest risk.”
• “The CARE partnership engages the energy of the community and the expertise of EPA to identify and reduce pollutants…”
• “CARE makes EPA more responsive to communities needs and priorities through an emphasis on community-driven priorities.”

NEJAC Letter to Administrator:
• “CARE has already proven to be a high quality community tool that supports environmental justice”
• “...CARE Program is a community tool (EJ communities) need”
• “NEJAC is compelled to advise and encourage expansion of and increased funding for the CARE program by your Agency.”

Community Support:
• “CARE has given us a voice”
• “There would have been virtually no progress without the CARE partnership”
CARE Partnerships and EPA staff collaborated on these tools to help community-based groups:

- **The Roadmap:** A 10-step method for communities to assess and prioritize local risks

- **Community Guide to EPA’s Partnership Programs:** A guide of EPA voluntary programs of greatest benefit to communities

- **Grants Guide:** A compilation of funding sources for community environmental and public health activities

- **Promising Practices to Improve Community Performance and Sustainability:** Successful practices used by 14 CARE communities that improved performance and sustainability.

- **Measurement Tips & Resources for Community Projects:** How to measure progress made by community projects working to improve environmental health

- **Sustainability Checklist:** Ways to ensure the project continues to improve the environment after the EPA CARE funding ends.
CARE Next Steps

EPA’s Office of International Activities Partnership
• EPA Technical Assistance on the CARE Model
• June 2016 ReciclAção Project Workshop
• Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
EPA OEJ NEXT STEPS

• EJ 2020 Action Agenda (public comments due July 28th)
  https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/draft-environmental-justice-2020-action-agenda

• Tools
  – EJSCREEN
  https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/

• Grants/Technical Assistance
  • EJ Small Grants
  • EJ Collaborative Problem Solving Grants
  https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-grants-and-resources

• Technical Assistance Services for Communities
  https://www.epa.gov/superfund/technical-assistance-services-communities-tasc-program
NEJAC Youth Perspectives: Climate Justice

EPA requested NEJAC provide recommendations to assist the Agency in developing best practices for addressing climate change concerns, as highlighted from a youth perspective.
Contact Information

EPA’s EJ Blog
https://blog.epa.gov/blog/category/environmental_justice/

EPA’s EJ List Serve
https://lists.epa.gov/read/all_forums/subscribe?name=epa-ej

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