

# Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003

## Selected for Award

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831544-01-0 Grant Application ID 2003032 EPA Region: 1 State: MA  
Coalition for a Better Acre (CBA)

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### **Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving Model**

#### Issue

The area of focus for this project is a distressed neighborhood known as "the Acre" and 3 other neighborhoods (Back Central, Lower Highlands, and Lower Centralville) in Lowell, MA. The population is made up of 26% Hispanic; 26% Caucasian; 24% Asian (Cambodian); 19% Mixed Race; 6% African American. According to the 2000 Census, 36.8% of the residents in this area had incomes below the poverty line. The Lowell Asthma Coalition reports that a study of children enrolled in Head Start classes in Lowell found that nearly one-third, 32%, of the 3 and 4 year olds had difficulties with asthma. Air pollution in low-cost, rental housing is a major cause of rising asthma rates. The contributing factors to poor indoor air quality include lead paint problems, roach infestations, mold and dust. Another area of concern is reducing the solid waste generated in the city. Promoting a recycling program will prevent solid waste from ending up in landfills or incinerators that have a direct impact on environmental health. Furthermore, educating the public that leads to increased recycling of more toxic items will also improve the environment and public health.

#### Environmental Statutes

1. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
2. Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a)
3. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)

#### Goals

Residents will learn that there are steps that each person can take to address problems of indoor air pollution, solid waste disposal, and recycling, and that additional community-wide steps will be needed to successfully address the full array of factors creating indoor air pollution problems and other environmental and health problems. CBA would also like to facilitate a process by which residents use the CPS model to ensure the implementation of the city's 20 year Master Plan is done in a way that is responsive to the concerns of the city's minority communities.

#### Project

CBA will work with its partners to incorporate environmental and health considerations, and to involve disadvantaged communities into the decision-making process of the City of Lowell's Master Plan for housing redevelopment and revitalization. CBA will also work with community residents to encourage their use of natural, non-toxic cleaning products and practices to reduce exposure to lead paint and decrease the incidence of asthma. Additionally, the partners will carry out 8 education sessions on solid waste and recycling. The education and training activities will serve as a way to recruit people into participating in the large community deliberations leading to the City's Master Plan.

#### Partnership

Lowell Community Health Center, the Center for Family, Work, and Community, City Government, University of Massachusetts Lowell and Community Leaders. The project will bring the city's large Asian, Hispanic, and lower-income white communities together to play a role in major policy decisions in the city through the City of Lowell's Master Planning Process.

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# Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003

## Selected for Award

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831543-01-0 Grant Application ID 2003165 EPA Region: 1 State: MA  
Pioneer Valley Project Inc. (PVP)

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### ***Vietnamese Nail Salon Health Project***

#### Issue

Vietnamese-owned nail salons are a source of employment for low-income Vietnamese women. Vietnamese nail salons dominate the low-cost sector of this industry based on a captive workforce that lacks employment alternatives and uses illegal, low cost chemicals. Nationally, Vietnamese salons make up an estimated 40-50% of the market. As many as 300 salons beyond the Springfield, MA region employ Springfield residents. Nail technicians are often working 10-12 hours in poorly ventilated rooms with hazardous and volatile chemicals. Health hazards include miscarriages and reproductive disorders, damage to the nervous system, respiratory problems, and asthma. Lessons learned from this project may be replicated in other parts of the country since Vietnamese nail salons make up an estimated 40-50% of the nail industry, especially the low cost, quick "discount" salons.

#### Environmental Statutes

1. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
2. Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a)
3. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)

#### Goal

The primary objective is to resolve emerging conflicts between the expanding population of Vietnamese nail salons and health and safety regulators in order to protect the health of the Vietnamese nail technicians without driving away business. Currently, city and state regulators are working to increase regulations in an attempt to improve health and safety practices in this industry without understanding the socio-economic and cultural issues facing the Vietnamese population. The goal is to create a shared context for collaborative problem-solving by facilitating understanding among health providers, regulators, nail salon owners and technicians, and community leaders about the health concerns among low-income Vietnamese nail salon workers.

#### Project

PVP will work with its partners to develop city and state regulations to protect and improve the health and safety of salon workers exposed to the hazardous chemicals found in nail care products. PVP will also work with nail care technicians to raise their awareness of best practices regarding the safe use of these products. This project will involve the following activities: (1) the development of a working group of health care providers, nail salon owners and technicians, community leaders, and local regulators to work through a collaborative problem-solving process to assess and resolve health and related economic issues in salons; 2) the development and implementation of culturally appropriate education and technical assistance programs in Vietnamese; 3) the development of a demonstration salon that will model safe chemical management and reduction practices; 4) the identification of the most effective way for Vietnamese nail salons to work together to meet their common needs for affordable, less toxic products and ventilation equipment; 5) increased the capacity of health care providers that service the Vietnamese community to identify symptoms of chemical exposure to develop appropriate treatments and educate patients; 6) educating community leaders, the Vietnamese public and agencies that serve the community about the importance of safe management of chemicals in the nail industry; and 7) the development of a long-term strategy to educate and assist salons to improve chemical management practices based on the results of this project.

#### Partnerships

Vietnamese American Civic Association, Vietnamese Health Project at Mercy Hospital, Springfield Southwest Health Clinic, Springfield Health Department, Toxics Use Reduction Institute, MA Association of Health Agents, MA Association of Health Boards, Dorchester Occupational Health Initiative, the Healthy Cosmetology Committee, Buddhist Temple & Catholic Apostolate, nail salon owners and workers. Also have commitments to cooperate from health regulators such as Springfield Health Dept. & the Division of Occupational Safety and MA Health Officers Association.

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**Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003**  
**Selected for Award**

**EPA Grant ID:** EQ-831608-01-0    *Grant Application ID 2003052*    **EPA Region:** 2    **State:** NY  
Make the Road by Walking (MRW)

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***Bushwick Environment and Health Collaborative (BEHC)***

Issue

The community of Bushwick, Brooklyn is 65% Latino and 24 % African American. Over 40 % of the residents of Bushwick live below the poverty level, which is less than \$16,700 for a family of four, and almost 40 % rely on means-tested government benefits. Per capita income is under \$7,000 which is less than half the New York City average. The unemployment rate in Bushwick is over 20%; twice the amount in a city whose average is already among the highest in the nation. Bushwick's housing stock comprises many old and deteriorated buildings, mainly tenements with absentee landlords or tax-foreclosed properties owned by New York City. An August 1999 study showed that lead levels in residences in Bushwick's average site were 10 times higher than allowable. Children in Bushwick are exposed to high levels of lead in their drinking water, most likely from pipes and plumbing fixtures with lead solder. The sale of illegal pesticides in low-income communities, especially immigrant communities, is a major problem. Retail outlets in these neighborhoods often sell industrial strength pesticides to consumers for use at home.

Environmental Statutes

1. Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3)
2. Toxic Substance Control Act, Section 10(a)
3. Clean Air Act 103(b)(3)
4. FIFRA, Section 20(a)

Goal

To strategically plan and update current Environmental Justice Project campaigns by reexamining the needs of the community in regards to environmental and public health issues. These goals will be achieved through the development of a workshop curricula plan and a design proposal for a clinic.

Project

MRW and its partners will reexamine the environmental and health needs of the low-income, predominantly Latino and African-American community. The project intends to increase community and government involvement by focusing on current community concerns that include high levels of lead in drinking water, rat infestation, and illegal pesticides.

Partnership

The project will be accomplished through a partnership between Make the Road by Walking (MRBW), and Wyckoff Heights Medical Center. Make the Road by Walking will be the community-based organization that will serve as the communication, outreach and capacity building arm, while Wyckoff Heights will serve as the institutional partner supporting MRBW's educational and outreach campaigns. Other identified partners include the Williamsburg Brooklyn Asthma and Environment Consortium and Cornell University New York Presbyterian Hospital. A part of this project will involve the identification of other resources available at the neighborhood and city-wide level in order to develop networks larger than the current collaboration.

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**Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003**  
**Selected for Award**

**EPA Grant ID:** EQ-831545-01-0    *Grant Application ID 2003117*    **EPA Region:** 2    **State:** NY  
United Community Centers Inc. (UCC)

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***Environmental Justice in East New York - Working on Indoor & Outdoor Air Pollution to Manage Asthma in East New York***

Issue

East New York is a community of 170,000 inhabitants and is roughly comprised of 60% African Americans and 40% Latinos. Approximately 30% of the population is immigrant. East New York is mainly a low-income area with a substantial number of lower/middle income families. More than 30% of the families receive some form of public assistance and 27% of the households had incomes less than \$10,000 in 1999. East New York has the highest number of asthma hospitalizations and the highest number of acute respiratory infectious hospitalizations in Brooklyn.

Environmental Statutes

1. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
2. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)

Goal

The primary objective is to secure government and private business cooperation in an effort to reduce air pollution generated by trucks and buses located in the community and to determine the extent of the indoor and outdoor air pollution in order to inform parents about asthma, asthma triggers, and allergens.

Project

UCC will create an Environmental Council, composed of its partners, to conduct air sampling tests in schools, apartments, and community locations to determine the extent of indoor and outdoor air pollution in the community. The Council will help the community educate themselves about asthma, asthma triggers and allergens, and what can be done to minimize or eliminate indoor air asthma triggers.

Partnership

The Pratt Institute Center for Community and Environmental Development, the Local Development Corporation of East New York, the Morris L. Eisenstein Learning Center, and the Cornell Agricultural Extension. There are 3 locations that UCC knows of that produces significant levels of toxic emissions because of the buses and diesel trucks that move in and out of these areas although there may be others. One is the Industrial Park, the other is the MTA Bus Terminal and the third is Atlantic Avenue. One of the members of the Environmental Council is the liaison between the Industrial Park and the rest of the community. This relationship will facilitate the meeting with the business leaders of the Industrial Park. They will also meet with the Community Schools Board and ask them to join in the efforts to meet with the administrators of the bus terminal and officials in the MTA, and with the relevant officials in the Department of Transportation.

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# Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003

## Selected for Award

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831611-01-0 Grant Application ID 2003074 EPA Region: 3 State: MD  
Baltimore Community for Environmental Justice Inc. (BCEJ)

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### **Community Involvement in Urban Redevelopment**

#### Issue

The target community lives in a section of East Baltimore that is undergoing extensive urban redevelopment. As part of the redevelopment efforts, many older abandoned houses will be demolished. Such housing is likely to contain environmental hazards such as lead paint, asbestos, allergens, and molds. Relative to Baltimore City, East Baltimore has a lower mean family income; nearly twice as many families live in poverty and have higher rates of unemployment. Moreover, one in three families live below the Federal poverty level. Ninety-eight percent (98%) of the population is African American. Nearly two-thirds of the area's adult population have not completed high school. Housing vacancy rates are also high.

#### Environmental Statutes

1. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)
2. Toxic Substance Control Act, Section 10(a)

#### Goal

BCEJ's primary objective is to engage the community in partnership with various stakeholders involved in redevelopment to attain direct and meaningful community involvement in the planning and implementation of urban redevelopment activities; thereby ensuring that urban redevelopment is conducted in a manner that is safe and respectful of residents' needs and that a healthy environment is sustained during and after urban redevelopment.

#### Project

BCEJ with their partners will train community block monitors to perform block assessments to minimize environmental and safety hazards present during and after planned urban redevelopment activities. As part of the project, the partners will develop health education materials and presentations, and convene forums to be held in the community about environmental and public health issues. The project will build capacity and leadership development for addressing community concerns about current demolition practices by partnering with residents, city agencies, community organizations, and contractors.

#### Partnership

The partnership will include Baltimore Community for Environmental Justice, East Baltimore Development Inc. (EBDI), Prohealthsol Community Services Foundation Inc., Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, and Environmental Justice Community Board. EBDI was created in 2002, under the Mayor's initiative to oversee and coordinate the planning and implementation of redevelopment work in East Baltimore. This collaborative partnership will develop a public health model for urban redevelopment so that all parties will have meaningful input into EBDI's redevelopment process. Other partners who are not part of the formal partnership include the U.S. Housing and Urban Development and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. EBDI also has links to city agencies and will be helpful in bringing them in as potential partners.

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# Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003

## Selected for Award

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831546-01-0 Grant Application ID 2003141 EPA Region: 3 State: MD  
Park-Reist Corridor Coalition Inc. (PRCC)

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### **Park Heights Environmental Justice Project Creating a Model for Success**

#### Issue

In the Park Heights neighborhood of Baltimore, MD, there are over 65 auto-body shops, ranging in existence from 3 to 15 years. Most of them are situated on sites that were previously warehouses. One third of all shops had a spray booth present at operation locations. The chemicals that are used in the paint operations include ethyl acetate, toluene, aliphatic polyisocyanates, hexamethylene diisocyanates, etc. In addition to the potentially hazardous chemical exposures, inconsistent waste disposal practices have been identified. The nearby auto body shops contribute to the environmental and health problems in the community by their lack of compliance with EPA and OSHA regulations. Almost 50% of community residents, of whom 96% are African American, receive public assistance. The average income is between \$15,000 and \$24,000 with one-third of children living in poverty and in families headed by females.

#### Environmental Statutes

1. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
2. Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a)
3. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)

#### Goal

The primary goal of this project is to develop a more sustained process for environmental assessment within the community, improve communication, and the ability to address environmental justice problems in the Park Heights community. The process will focus on building the capacity of the auto body shops to increase their environmental compliance and understanding of health risks in the community that may be posed by their solid waste practices and air emissions. Auto body shops represent a critical part of Park Heights commerce and will be important to maintain in the City's Master Plan.

#### Project

PRCC, with its partners, will assist in the formation and support of a trade organization to represent the community's auto body shop owners in attaining regulatory compliance and understanding the impacts of their solid waste and air emissions practices. In addition, the project will utilize the city's master planning process to engage residents in an assessment of community environmental issues and resources for the positive development of the Park Heights community. PRCC will introduce several new activities to further raise awareness about the auto body shop efforts and to educate community residents about other environmental health issues. A proposed activity is the development of an environmental justice workgroup of community members to develop and implement educational efforts for children, youth, pregnant women, and the elderly.

#### Partnership

The partnership includes PRCC, the Northwest Baltimore Community Association, Community Congress (local businesses, faith-base orgs, law enforcement), Park Heights Community Health Alliance, Auto body repair shop owners, Caribbean Association of Park Heights, Maryland Department of Environment, EPA Region 3, Baltimore City, Morgan State University, and the University of Maryland.

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# Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003

## Selected for Award

**EPA Grant ID:** EQ-831612-01-0 *Grant Application ID 2003076*    **EPA Region:** 3    **State:** MD  
Washington Village/Pigtown Neighborhood Planning Council (WVPNPC)

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### **Operation: Clean & Healthy Neighborhood**

#### Issue

Washington Village/Pigtown is a racially mixed (46.9% African American, 46.9% white), inner city neighborhood in Southwest Baltimore. The area is 40% industrial, 60% residential and is home to an estimated 5,700 people living in 2,155 households. Half of these households have an annual income of less than \$15,000. Out of 4,265 residents over the age of 16, less than half are employed. Forty-six percent of Pigtown's residents who are 25 or older, have not graduated from high school or obtained a GED. The University of Maryland Baltimore School of Nursing conducted a study where 53.5% of the respondents said they or someone in their household had asthma. The Maryland Asthma Surveillance Report for 2002 reported that asthma hospitalizations for zip codes in the Washington Village/Pigtown community ranked in the highest 15 zip codes for Maryland from 1993 through 1998.

#### Environmental Statutes

1. Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a)
2. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)

#### Goal

The objective of WVPNP's project is to significantly reduce litter, trash, and dumping in the neighborhood, not only through clean ups, but also by reducing the problem at the source. These goals will be achieved by developing a sanitation campaign which will establish: (1) a sanitation workgroup; (2) a Pigtown Trash Manual that will provide information on how to properly dispose of refuse and unwanted goods; (3) information sheets informing residents of free city transfer stations where dumping is allowed; and (4) a "Tool Bank" which is an information storehouse for sharing clean up efforts.

#### Project

WVPNC in collaboration with its partners will involve the implementation of a sanitation campaign that will establish a sanitation workgroup, distribute a manual on proper trash disposal, offer residents information about free city transfer stations, and share information about cleanup efforts to reduce trash and create more green spaces throughout the community. The project will also increase the potential for investment and economic revitalization, bringing new business and new jobs to the community.

#### Partnership

The partnership includes the grant recipient, WVPNP, Baltimore City Forestry Division, Friends of Carroll Park, Maryland Department of the Environment, Open Gates, Parks & People Foundation, Paul's Place, St. Jerome's Head Start, Tri-Churches Housing, and University of Baltimore School of Nursing. A steering committee is envisioned for the partnership. In the beginning, it will be composed of the community-based organizational partners and residents, with the Maryland Department of the Environment and the University of Maryland lending technical expertise and support. However, other potential partners such as Baltimore City Departments of Planning and Public Works and the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods will be pursued as potential partners. The city, county, and state government offices will be especially helpful in linking the recipient to other organizations and community tools.

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**Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003**  
**Selected for Award**

**EPA Grant ID:** EQ-831547-01-0    *Grant Application ID 2003077*    **EPA Region:** 3    **State:** PA  
Village of Arts and Humanities Inc. (VAH)

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***Shared Prosperity Through Environmental Justice Initiative***

Issue

In the blighted section of North Philadelphia, where the Village is located, more than 40 years of economic decline have contributed to the area's vast tracts of vacant land and abandoned, deteriorating buildings. After demolition of existing structures, lots are often not properly capped, thus leaving toxic dust exposed to wind. Abandoned buildings contribute to air pollution as they deteriorate and expel materials contaminated with lead and other air pollutants. Hazardous wastes either existing in the lots or recently dumped on the abandoned land pose a threat of toxic contamination. The Village recognizes that asthma rates are high in the 19133/19122 zip code area of the community. Forty percent of the residents are African American and the median household income is just under \$14,000 with 41% of the households having incomes under \$10K. Thirty percent of refuse is burned in incinerators, polluting the air with toxic smoke and 70 % is buried in landfills, which can leak toxic chemicals to the soil and water. Many illegally dumped items contain hazardous wastes and pose a threat of toxic contamination to the air, land and water.

Environmental Statutes

1. Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a)
2. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)

Goal

The goal of the project is to improve vacant lot maintenance and sustain upkeep through a recycling program to eliminate toxic dust from uncapped vacant lots which contribute to the high asthma rates in the community. Through greening, improved conditions in vacant lots are much less susceptible to dumping which encourages proper waste disposal including recycling.

Project

VAH and its partners will engage communities to participate in the clean up and improvement of vacant lots into green spaces to improve Philadelphia's recycling rate and air quality. Some activities include: developing a Philadelphia Partnership Recycling Program; starting an after-school program with a design contest to promote awareness of the new recycling program; and offering teen internships to assist with recycling activities.

Partnership

Temple University Dept. of Geography & Urban Studies, Pennsylvania Horticulture Society, Women's Health and Environmental Network, Germantown Merchants Association (improve recycling strategies for local businesses), Friends of Fotteral Square (recycling education activities and implement on-site recycling at Fotteral Square Park for residents), and local government.



**Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003**  
**Selected for Award**

**EPA Grant ID:** EQ-831548-01-0    *Grant Application ID 2003002*    **EPA Region:** 3    **State:** VA  
Hands Across the Mountain Inc. (HAM)

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***Coal Country Water Quality and Environmental Justice Project***

Issue

The residents and communities that inhabit the three watersheds (McClure, Guest River, Upper Powell Watersheds) have significant social issues with respect to low-income, lack of education, and low employment rates. Resource extraction still has a major impact on the region, despite the fact that a majority of the coal mines are no longer active. Runoff from operational and abandoned mines contributes heavy metal and sediments to the streams of these watersheds and impacts both human and animal life. All 3 watersheds lack developed public water systems and septic systems. Many residents still draw water directly from local streams and rivers, the same rivers that receive "straight pipe" sewage from those homes and businesses. There are 11 stream segments in the 3 watersheds that are classified as "impaired" by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. Seven of those segments are impaired due to fecal coli-form contamination from human waste.

Environmental Statutes

1. Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3)
2. Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1442©(3)(A)

Goal

The goal is to enhance existing community organization partnerships and establish new partnerships with local, regional, state, federal, and private sector organizations to address public health issues affecting the community.

Project

HAM will work with a range of partners to identify and characterize the environmental and public health issues associated with straight pipe sewage and acid mine drainage, educate the community residents about the environmental and health effects from these impacts, and work to develop and implement the strategies necessary to successfully address these issues. Using preliminary inventories already compiled by the Coal County Watershed Coalition and other data sources, HAM will prepare an environmental health inventory of problem areas and community needs and desires for revitalization. It will be used to identify and prioritize projects, tract project progress, prepare background materials, and guide the design of the visioning process and workshop.

Partnership

Guest River, the Upper Powell River, and McClure River watersheds, LENOWISCO Planning District Commission, Department of Interior's Office of Surface Mining, the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the coal industry, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, and the community. Additional partnerships will be forged, and an organizational structure will be developed so that community-based and community-driven collaboration is the primary focus. Community-based collaboration will be augmented through layers of secondary partners (e.g., the Tennessee Valley Authority and coal industry and government partners such as the DOI and the Appalachian Regional Commission).



**Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003**  
**Selected for Award**

**EPA Grant ID:** EQ-831550-01-0    *Grant Application ID 2003058*    **EPA Region:** 4    **State:** AL  
West Anniston Foundation (WAF)

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***Health Education Coalition (HEC) Project***

Issue

The city of Anniston is 49% black and 49% white. Of the people within Anniston who are 25 years and older, 26% do not have high school diplomas. Over 20 of Anniston families live below the poverty level. There are major issues that Anniston is facing: (1) PCB exposure and contamination problems; (2) destruction of the nation's chemical weapons stockpiles at the Anniston Army Depot; (3) high levels of lead have been found at 270 properties in West Anniston; and (4) residents of West Anniston are suspicious of the government's commitment to their environmental and public health concerns. Because West Anniston is home for the Anniston PCB Superfund site and the Anniston Lead Superfund site, the citizens are primarily concerned with PCB contamination into the area's air, lakes, rivers and soil.

Environmental Statutes

1. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
2. Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a)

Goal

The primary goal is to educate the citizens, especially the youth, of West Anniston about PCB exposure. There is a cloud of fear among the residents resulting from misinformation and lack of understanding regarding environmental and public health issues, especially PCB exposure. Although West Anniston residents have some level of awareness of environmental problems, residents experience stress and anxiety about health threats that may not actually be imminent. By targeting the young people of West Anniston, the goal is to break the cycle of misinformation so that the citizens can make the best and most informed decisions regarding their health and environmental needs.

Project

WAF and its partners will form the Health Education Coalition. The Coalition will primarily focus on the development of a youth-driven, community-based video to educate the youth and community about PCB exposure under an overall health education agenda. The project will work with Anniston city schools to incorporate basic health education on PCB exposure, prevention and related health effects. Youth organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club and Concern for Children will also incorporate the video and other projects developed through HEC into their existing youth programs.

Partnership

Calhoun County Health Dept., Anniston City Board of Education/Anniston City School System, Family Services, Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce, Interfaith Ministries, Boys and Girls Club of East Central Alabama (help coordinate activities which provide health education to youth), Concern for Children (develop and implement "First Steps" program to incorporate health education for PCB exposure prevention geared toward first time parents), East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Corporation, St. Michael's Clinic, etc.

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**Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003**  
**Selected for Award**

**EPA Grant ID:** EQ-831619-01-0    *Grant Application ID 2003179*    **EPA Region:** 4    **State:** FL  
Fresh Ministries Inc. (FM)

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***Community Centered Environmental Education & Cleanup In East Jacksonville, Florida***

Issue

The East Jacksonville neighborhood is located to the northeast section of downtown Jacksonville, Florida in an area that has been in decline for over 60 years. The boundaries around the community are the Arlington Expressway, the railroad tracks near Ionia Street to the west, Eighth Street to the north, and the St. Johns River to the east. East Jacksonville comprises census tracts 4 and 5. According to the 2000 census, tract 4 has an African American population of 95.5%. Seventy percent of the population have an average annual household income of less than \$25,000. Census tract 5 has an African American population of 75.9%, and 36.1% of the population have an average annual household income of less than \$25,000. There are considerably more industrial uses next to residential uses than anywhere else in Jacksonville. Property conditions are in a deteriorating condition in many areas with numerous vacant lots.

Environmental Statutes

1. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)
2. Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3)
3. Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1442 ©(3)(A)

Goal

The primary objective of the project is to raise awareness of the environmental conditions and environmentally-related diseases in East Jacksonville by utilizing the "Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health". This tool will recognize environmental health as a foundation of public health practice and will be used to assist local public health agencies and their partners with addressing local environmental issues. Furthermore, this project will build upon a 2001 East Jacksonville Neighborhood Action Plan which did not focus on the potential problems caused by proximity of the residential areas to old heavy industry areas.

Project

FM and its partners will utilize the Protocol For Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health (PACE EH) as a planning tool to assist in the assessment of the environmental and public health needs of the East Jacksonville community. Through a series of workshops FM and its partners will educate the residents who have been affected by environmental exposures from industrial facilities in close proximity to their neighborhoods.

Partnership

The project will be accomplished through a partnership with Fresh Ministries, the City of Jacksonville and its various local government agencies and departments, the University of North Florida, the Duval County Health Department, and First Coast Black Business Investment Corporation. New partners will be identified and recruited to strengthen the partnership structure, and existing partnerships will be strengthened through the application of the PACE EH model and workshops with the community.



# Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003

## Selected for Award

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831606-01-0 Grant Application ID 2003042 EPA Region: 4 State: GA  
Harambee House Inc. (HH)

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### ***From Assessment to Action: Hudson Hill Community***

#### Issue

Hudson Hill is located on the west side of Savannah, Georgia. It is situated across the street from a paper mill, International Paper formerly known as Union Camp. From a recent survey conducted by Harambee House, many residents reported feeling that the neighborhood has been neglected and abandoned by elected officials and by the Community Development Corporation movement that seeks to revitalize and rebuild the community. In the last 10 years, residents have been plagued by an increase in drug traffic, gang activity, housing deterioration, high school dropouts and unemployment: while witnessing a decrease in health status, home ownership and property values, and economic growth. According to a summary statistics from the US census, the population within a three-mile radius of the International Paper company is 25,805. The racial characteristics of the community include 8,386 whites, 17,243 African Americans, and 176 from other races. Within this 3-mile radius, is the community of Hudson Hill. Hudson Hill has a population of 355, and 353 are African American. The unemployment rate is 13.30%, and 50.60% of the population fall below the poverty line. For the past 10 years, residents have complained about damage to their health and homes due to emissions releases from the paper mill. In Florida A&M University's Final Report to the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry in December 1999, 73% of the respondents stated that they believed that there was a problem with environmental contamination, and 64.9% believed that Union Camp/International Paper was polluting the community.

#### Environmental Statutes

1. Toxic Substance Control Act, Section 10(a)
2. Clean Air Act 103(b)(3)

#### Goal

The primary goal is to address health problems and damage to homes due to emissions releases from the International Paper Company. HH will conduct a community capacity-building program to mobilize and give voice to the Hudson Hill community to articulate their collective concerns, learn negotiation skills, and understand the points of contact, roles, and responsibilities of local, state and federal agencies.

#### Project

HH will collaborate with its partners to establish a process which includes a series of planning charettes. HH and its partners intend to empower the community and other stakeholders to design a Comprehensive Action Plan to address community health and environmental concerns associated with pollution from the neighboring paper plant. The project intends to fully engage the community in assessing its environmental/public health needs and concerns.

#### Partnership

The partnership includes the Chatham County Health Department, Savannah State University, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Florida A&M University, and the Neighborhood Improvement Association. The partners will be broken into a coordinating team and a communications team. The coordinating team facilitates all project activities, partnership meetings, and work schedules, while the communications team will distribute all information. Other teams and/or working groups may be developed over time to achieve project goals. The partnership also has the potential for growth. There is already engagement with other businesses, banks, government officials, academic institutions, civil and cultural organizations.

**Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003**  
**Selected for Award**

**EPA Grant ID:** EQ-831549-01-0    *Grant Application ID 2003066*    **EPA Region:** 4    **State:** MS  
Jesus People Against Pollution (JPAP)

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***Community First - Building Bridges for Inclusion***

Issue

According to the 2000 Census, the city's population is 6,603 with approximately 62% of the population Caucasian and 36% African American. The poverty rate is 30% with the median household income at \$14,926. Jesus People Against Pollution (JPAP) was founded to represent the residents in regards to the 1997 explosion at the Reichhold Chemical Plant in Columbia, MS. A 1999 survey of residents living by the Reichhold site showed that more than half of the respondents had symptoms/conditions of allergies, body aches, and itching of skin. Other problems include breathing problems, dizziness, infections, bad coughs, etc.

Environmental Statutes

1. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
2. Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a)
3. Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3)
4. Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1442©(3)(A)

Goal

This project seeks to address the many serious limitations of the data contained in the 1999 study. The most significant limitation of this data set is the substantial amount of missing data for the federal environmental statutes. The review of the 1999 study will begin a process for JPAP to strategize and collaborate in order to facilitate the relocation of the Web Quarter residents and the redevelopment of the Web Quarter for non-residential use.

Project

By utilizing the CPS model, JPAP will develop multi stakeholder partnerships to formulate a "vision to action" for the impacted community. This vision will include an action plan for the possible relocation of 150 to 200 families who surround the former chemical plant, as well as a plan to help secure lifetime environmental health services and monitoring for on-going treatment for affected residents.

Partnership

River Network, MS River Basin Alliance, Deep South Center for Environmental Justice, Jackson State University, and Green Management. A special effort will be initiated to include residents, business, and the private sector. A membership and outreach subcommittee will facilitate the inclusion of new partners.



**Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003**  
**Selected for Award**

**EPA Grant ID:** EQ-831618-01-0    *Grant Application ID 2003170*    **EPA Region:** 4    **State:** NC  
West End Revitalization Association (WERA)

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***"Lack of Basic Amenities": Links to Environmental and Health Disparities in Low Income and Minority Communities***

Issue

The target communities in Mebane, North Carolina include the West End Community, White Level Community and Buckhorn/Perry Community. Local governments and the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) planned the 119 bypass/interstate for 14 years without input from residents. 87% of the displaced homeowners would be low-income minority homeowners who were denied participation in the planning process. Many of these homeowners live on dirt paths, without safe city water or sewer services. These communities are 85-95% African American.

Environmental Statutes

1. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
2. Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3)
3. Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1442©(3)(A)
4. Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a)
5. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)

Goal

The primary objective of this project is to seek management and corrective action through community capacity-building and to engage the community in partnership with a variety of stakeholders in an effort to address environmental hazards during planned economic and social growth, and environmental revitalization.

Project

WERA will develop a collaborative process with its partners that encourages measures for the installation of safe water and sewer services, the clean up of toxic substance sites, and the improvement of air quality in Mebane's low-income communities and other comparable communities that do not have access to basic amenities. Grassroots training will assist residents to work collaboratively with local, state, and federal government officials.

Partnership

The partnership is formed by selecting organizations from the following sectors: (1) non-profit, non-governmental; (2) health; (3) legal; (4) research; (5) business; (5) housing; and (6) government. Some of the partners that have agreed to participate in the Collaborative Problem-Solving Program include the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Alston & Bird LLP; North Carolina State University; North Carolina Rural Communities Assistance Project; Churches Reuniting Our People; Haw River Assembly; Elon University; MDC Inc.; Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law; Orange County Health Department; Pantego Area Community Development; Concerned Citizens of Vance County Hwy 39 – North, Blue Springs/Hoke County CDC, and North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers.

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# Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003

## Selected for Award

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831551-01-0 Grant Application ID 2003037 EPA Region: 5 State: IL  
People for Community Recovery Inc. (PCR)

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### **Environmental Justice for Altgeld Gardens, Chicago, Illinois**

#### Issue

According to the Chicago Housing Authority, the Altgeld Gardens Public Housing Project population of nearly 4,500 is approximately 99% African American, with over 300 disabled residents and some 2,000 children under the age of 14. A third to one half of Altgeld's housing units stand dilapidated and vacant, and there are concerns about lead and asbestos in the buildings. The environment in and around Altgeld Gardens suffers from soil contamination from prior land uses and ongoing illegal dumping; air contaminants from area industry and highways; and water contamination from decades of industry outflow and landfill operations. Some challenges span environmental health conditions, housing, employment availability, transportation, industry, and land-use.

#### Environmental Statutes

1. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
2. Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a)
3. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)

#### Goal

The primary goal is to create an training center in Altgeld Gardens to serve as a focal point of community skills development and job training. The center would provide lab facilities, meeting and classroom space, and a base for conducting trainings, workshops, and research in a setting where the work would serve real and immediate needs throughout the Calumet River region. The center would expand on resident-led environmental activities and assist with many kinds of business incubation and education – such as gardens, food production, landscaping, a farmers market, greenhouses, renewable energy, and green manufacturing.

#### Project

PCR and its partners will create an "Environmental Justice Research and Training Center" that will provide skills development and job training to residents. The center will also serve as a hub for strategizing with a variety of stakeholders on the redevelopment of a "clean" industrial park, and production of educational materials focusing on environmental health.

#### Partnership

University of Wisconsin - Madison, Chicago State University Department of Geography/Calumet Environmental Resource Center, St. James Hospital Occupational and Environmental Health Center, Indiana Clean Manufacturing Technology and Safe Materials Institute, Institute for Local Self Reliance. Chicago's Department of Environment and the City of Chicago will also be engaged in the initiative. As the project is underway, PCR will work with local government in the smaller municipalities near Altgeld. Both the University of Wisconsin and Chicago State University offer research, administrative, and educational resources to PCR. In addition to commitments by university students, faculty and staff will work in the area and to assist PCR's efforts, these partnerships offer an important source of social "bridging capital" for the organization and local residents. The partnership with St. James Hospital and Dr. Herbert White will provide medical and epidemiological supervision and guidance. Both the Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR) and Purdue's Clean Manufacturing Technology and Safe Materials Institute (CMTI) will help PCR bridge gaps between industry/business and environmental/community-based organizations.

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**Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003**  
**Selected for Award**

**EPA Grant ID:** EQ-831552-01-0    *Grant Application ID 2003030*    **EPA Region:** 5    **State:** MI  
West Michigan Environmental Action Council (WMEAC)

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**Community Organizing Project**

Issue

The community of focus for this project is the Madison/Baxter, and Grandville Avenue communities. The 2000 Census shows that 66% of the neighborhood residents are African American and 27% are identified as Hispanic. More than half the area residents report income below the federal poverty level. The Kent County Health Department reported that 805 of the 1,195 children were screened for lead in 2002. Of those children screened, 28% (228 children) had elevated blood lead levels. Included in this target area are 5 city blocks reported as among those with the most lead poisoned children in the State of Michigan.

Environmental Statutes

1. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
2. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)

Goal

The overarching goal of the "Get the Lead Out" (GTLO) strategic plan, is to ensure community understanding of the causes of childhood lead poisoning and how to protect the children. The project will involve the development and implementation of a countywide community awareness strategy; and a geographically concentrated education campaign for at risk residents.

Project

WMEAC, in collaboration with its partners, will build the capacity of citizen groups in order to develop and implement a "peer to peer" training curriculum on lead awareness. Participation in the development of the curriculum will provide a practical and important opportunity for the citizen groups to help shape a pro-active response to the issue of lead within their communities. This approach will not only address residents' understanding of lead, but also expand their understanding of their neighborhoods, of available and missing resources, and of their potential role in the community as change agents.

Partnership

WMEAC, Community Leadership Institute, ¡Saquemos el Plomo!, Madison/Baxter Citizen Group. By year three, the Community Organizers will also work closely with the community trainers and "Get the Lead Out" to identify community institutions such as neighborhood organizations, faith based institutions, schools, service providers, and other community resources that will sponsor the "Peer to Peer" training program in their settings. This effort will bring other resources to the table to expand the capacity and sustainability of the lead prevention effort beyond the grant period.

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**Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003**  
**Selected for Award**

**EPA Grant ID:** EQ-831613-01-0    *Grant Application ID 2003094*    **EPA Region:** 6    **State:** LA  
Louisiana Environmental Justice Project (LEJP)

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***New Orleans Lead Education and Advocacy Development (NO LEAD) Capacity Building Project***

Issue

The target neighborhood for this project is in New Orleans' 8th Ward. This target area is a densely residential, African American neighborhood with a mix of low-income and working class families. To demonstrate the poverty in this community, 83 % of area high school students qualify for the Free Lunch program. In a Louisiana Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program/Childhood Blood Lead Surveillance System, a total of 580 Ward 8 children between the ages of 6 months and 5 years were screened for lead poisoning during 2002. Of these, 118 (20%) had at least one lead level result of 10 or more micrograms of lead per deciliter, which is almost 10 times the percentages estimated by the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.

Environmental Statutes

1. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)
2. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)

Goal

The primary objective is create a program, "NO LEAD", which seeks to significantly impact the rate of lead poisoning hazards in New Orleans' 8th Ward by coordinating the efforts of a number of participants to educate and to provide renovation work on affected properties.

Project

LEJP and its partners will establish a lead assessment program to provide information which will be used to develop the Pre-Apprentice and Math Tutorial programs that will involve the community's young adults in the renovation of homes with lead hazards. This will not only address the lead issue in the community but will empower local residents to participate in eliminating the lead problem themselves and will develop technical job skills for young adults in the environmental field.

Partnership

The partnership will include Louisiana Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, New Orleans Department of Housing and Neighborhood Development, ACORN Community Land Association of Louisiana, Mayor's Office of Environmental Affairs, New Orleans' Health Department, Tulane University Center for Applied Environmental Public Health & Lead Busters, Xavier University, Carpenter's Millwright and Piledrivers Apprenticeship and Training Program, Urbanheart After school Program, and Louisiana ACORN. In addition to these partners, the recipient is reaching out to businesses that provide contracting services, materials, cleaning, and other services that might assist families in making their homes lead safe. The project is also reaching out for funding via grants, city agencies, and banking institutions.



**Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003**  
**Selected for Award**

**EPA Grant ID:** EQ-831615-01-0    *Grant Application ID 2003118*    **EPA Region:** 6    **State:** TX  
Colonias Unidas (CU)

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***Community Solid Waste Management Project***

Issue

Las Lomas, the aggregated colonia of approximately 2,000 residents in which Colonias Unidas is located, has a poverty rate of over 75% among its families. Almost the same percentage of the community's adults have not gone to school beyond the ninth grade. Further impeding residents from institutional integration is the fact that Spanish is the dominant language of the households. Unemployment normally runs approximately five times above the national average. The border environment in which Colonias Unidas is situated exists as a jurisdictional gray area where two national and many local governments have yet to create a consistent system of environmental regulation. Though the public health situation has made improvements over the last twenty years due to the expansion of safe municipal water and wastewater collection, conditions in the colonias remain harsh as compared to the rest of the United States.

Environmental Statutes

1. Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a)
2. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
3. Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1442©(3)(A)

Goal

The primary objective of this project is to address the problem of disposing solid waste in the colonias. Dumping in and around the local colonias has posed a serious public health problem for the residents. Establishing the program, Colonias Limpias, will lead to a cleaner environment and to more informed and responsible citizens.

Project

CU, along with its partners, will establish a program, "Colonias Limpias," to address the problem of solid waste disposal and work for solutions. The program will produce a report on city and county waste management practices and foster community involvement to conduct cleanup efforts. Other activities will include bi-lingual education publications concerning waste management and broadcasts of informational videos on local cable access channels. Collaboration results are expected to bring effective ideas for new relationships that will support the revitalization of Colonias.

Partnership

The partnership will be a collaboration between Colonias Unidas, Starr County Government, Rio Grande City Government, Grande Garbage Company, Community Resource Group, Rio Grande City Consolidated Independent School District, and Texas A&M Cooperative Extension. The partnership will operate under a circular "web" model with Colonias Unidas at the center working with program partners on the periphery. Colonias Unidas will be the lead organization and serve as a focal point for all the partners. New potential partners can also be pulled into this partnership framework. The goal of this structure is both to leverage the resources of all parties to fulfill the goals set by the community members and to provide all partner organizations with better access to other entities who may be of a valuable service to them.

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# Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003

## Selected for Award

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831616-01-0 Grant Application ID 2003133 EPA Region: 6 State: TX  
Mothers for Clean Air (MfCA)

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### **Improving Environmental Quality through Collaboration: Reducing exposure of SE Houston residents**

#### Issue

The target community of Southeast Houston is 64% Hispanic, 23% White, 6% Asian and 3% African American. Nearly one-fourth of the households have incomes of less than \$15,000 per year. The community also has a young population with fairly low levels of formal education. Almost one-third are under 18 years of age and of those over 25, nearly one-third do not have a high school diploma. Southeast Houston is located outside the I-610 Loop and bordered by I-45 on the West, State Highway 225 on the North, the City of Pasadena in the East, and the City of South Houston in the South. Citizens have informally identified air pollution as a concern in their communities through visual observations, olfactory senses, associated health symptoms, and high incidence of specific diseases.

#### Environmental Statute

1. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)
2. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)

#### Goal

The primary objective of this project is to reduce exposure of residents to air pollution, empower residents to communicate with regulatory authorities to change their environment, and gain an understanding of community perceptions of cumulative risks. The project seeks to develop: (1) a training module for residents using air monitoring equipment to educate them on use and proper handling; (2) a plot map which will document the different air hazards within the community; (3) a community plan which will identify industries and government officials to be included in the growing partnership; and (4) a final consolidated report with results from the air sampling. These activities will lead to improved air quality conditions for the residents of Southeast Houston.

#### Project

MfCA will collaborate with local governments, universities, citizen organizations, elected officials, and industries to reduce risk exposure from air pollution. Southeast Houston residents will develop a 'Citizens Air Quality Tool Kit' for participating in a community-based air sampling program that will identify pollutants of concern and provide an aid to regulatory agencies. Among other items, the tool kit will contain: phone numbers and procedures; dates and times of public hearings; helpful hints for making oral public comments; sample letters for making written comments; and contact information for various stakeholders. When completed, the Citizens Air Quality Tool Kit will be posted on the Mothers for Clean Air website and will be presented at civic organizations and distributed to Southeast Houston residents through various community outlets. This kit will sustain the citizen involvement effort after the 3 year project period.

#### Partnership

The project will be conducted through a collaborative partnership between Mothers for Clean Air (MfCA) and the City of Houston Bureau of Air Quality Control, Harris County Pollution Control, the University of Texas Medical Branch, and Clean Air/Clean Lake. Working with the partners, MfCA will create a group called "Improving Environmental Quality through Collaboration" (IEQC) which will help residents articulate their concerns, provide them with tools to verify their concerns, and improve their communication skills so they can take their concerns to the regulatory agencies. IEQC will begin with two regulatory agencies, two universities, one citizens' group and community representatives but will later grow when it becomes more established. Other potential partners include state regulatory agencies, EPA, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, elected officials and industry, among others.

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**Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003**  
**Selected for Award**

**EPA Grant ID:** EQ-831553-01-0    *Grant Application ID 2003003*    **EPA Region:** 7    **State:** KS  
Oak Grove Neighborhood Association (OGNA)

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***Back to the Park: Collaborative Problem Solving on the Oak Grove Community***

Issue

Before becoming John Garland Park (a community park located in the Oak Grove neighborhood), the property operated as a landfill from 1972-1974 and accepted municipal and industrial waste. When the landfill was closed, it was covered with clean soil and used as a community park. In the late 1980s, however, the park was closed due to environmental concerns. The Kansas State Department of Health and Environment continues to monitor the site and work toward reducing seepage of contaminated water from the landfill and safely venting the methane gas to prevent migration and build-up in nearby homes. The Oak Grove neighborhood is located in the northeastern part of Wyandotte County in Kansas City, KS. There are 7,833 residents, 91% are African American, 8% are Caucasian and the other 1% includes Hispanics, Asians, American Indians, and others. According to the 2000 Census, the median household income for the area was approximately \$22,500, and 51% of households have an income of less than or equal to \$12,500.

Environmental Statutes

1. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
2. Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a)
3. Clean Air Act

Goal

The overarching goal is to move forward the community-driven redevelopment of John Garland Park.

Project

OGNA and its partners will create the "John Garland Park Task Force" to organize the necessary stakeholders in the community-driven redevelopment initiative and to monitor progress toward the goal of reopening the John Garland Park. The Task Force will develop a redevelopment plan for implementing the Oak Grove community's vision for John Garland Park, to include: (1) identifying and securing funding; (2) identifying and organizing human resources; and (3) assuring the redeveloped park is consistent with Oak Grove's vision, but will not compromise the safety and integrity of the landfill cap and monitoring systems.

Partnership

The partnership includes OGNA, Associated Youth Services, Kansas State University-Center for Hazardous Substance Research, Faith Lutheran Church, the County Commissioner Nathan Barnes and the Quindaro Ruins/Underground Railroad Site. Other stakeholders include Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City departments of Public Health, Parks and Recreation, Public Works, and Community Development.

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**Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003**  
**Selected for Award**

**EPA Grant ID:** EQ-831609-01-0    *Grant Application ID 2003063*    **EPA Region:** 7    **State:** MO  
Neighbors Assisting Neighbors (NAN)

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***Mid County Community Clean Sweep***

Issue

The inner-ring suburbs of St. Louis County have experienced a slow and steady decline over the past 50 years. Residents who continue to live in the small municipalities lying on the edge of the city are faced with deteriorating housing stock, closed businesses, vacant lots and municipal governments that cannot provide services because of a decreasing tax base which is used as a revenue source. The 2000 census reported a population of 23,201, a decrease from 31,599 in 1970. The community is 75% African American and the median income ranges from \$21,500 to \$49,286. Home ownership constitutes 69.60%, and the unemployment rate is 10.60%. One of the most pressing problems the community faces is an accumulation of refuse in sewers via ducts, on vacant lots, alleys, public right-of-ways, and common spaces.

Environmental Statutes

1. Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a)
2. FIFRA, Section 20(a)

Goal

The primary goals of this project are to (1) stem the loss of population within the inner ring suburbs of St. Louis County; (2) clean-up, reduce, and recycle solid waste; and (3) reduce reliance on insecticides and rodenticides. These goals will be achieved by conducting community clean-up campaigns, raising awareness about related health and environmental hazards, and establishing guidance and mentoring workshops to educate on the costs of solid waste and ways to address this problem.

Project

NAN along with its partners will develop the Mid County Community Clean Sweep project to coordinate 10 clean up efforts throughout the community targeting solid waste removal along river beds, on vacant lots, in alleys, on problem properties, and in common areas, improving the area's environmental outlook and promoting reuse and recycling through cleanup campaigns. Residents, business owners, and local public officials will mobilize to remove trash from their communities and establish a volunteer-based system for keeping the community free of waste, reducing the amount of waste, and recycling.

Partnership

The partnership will include NAN, Mid-county Partners for Progress, STEP Inc., The Green Center, University of Missouri, Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, St. Louis County Department of Planning, and St. Louis County Health Department. The inner-ring neighborhoods already express an interest in working with the recipient. Once they receive a request for clean up from the neighborhood, a community-wide meeting will invite residents, business owners and operators, and local officials to raise awareness about the clean up day. These meetings will not only serve as informational sessions but will be an opportunity for the recipient to bring in other potential partners.

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**Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003**  
**Selected for Award**

**EPA Grant ID:** EQ-831610-01-0    *Grant Application ID 2003071*    **EPA Region:** 8    **State:** CO  
Bessemer Association for Neighborhood Development (BAND)

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***Bessemer/Salt Creek Neighborhoods Environmental Health Initiative***

Issue

The two communities of Bessemer and Salt Creek are low-income, predominantly Latino and Native American minority communities. Bessemer is 70% Hispanic, and 63% of the residents have incomes less than \$25,000. Salt Creek is one of the oldest settlements in the area formed by Native Americans. It is an unincorporated neighborhood of 648 people bordering the Oregon Steel Mill to the East. In this neighborhood, 514 people or 79.3% are Hispanic, and another 29 people or 4.5% are American Indian. Both communities have been subject to disproportionate amounts of air pollution from heavy industry nearby. In addition to the existing mill and a coal-fired power plant, three facilities, including two major stationary sources and an aluminum smelter, are in various stages of permitting. Some residents report using well water for gardening and even drinking. This well water has been prohibited from use by the Health Department.

Environmental Statutes

1. Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1442©(3)(A)
2. Clean Air Act 103(b)(3)

Goal

The primary goal is to collaborate with the neighborhoods of Salt Creek, the University of Colorado-Pueblo and City/County Environmental Health to engage and educate the youth, elderly and local/government officials so they may understand the environmental and public health issues affecting their community.

Project

BAND will work with its partnering communities and other stakeholders to identify the range of environmental and public health issues facing the communities. This collaboration will prioritize the issues and select one or two issues to address with the other project partners.

Partnership

The partnership includes the Bessemer Association for Neighborhood Development, Citizens Alliance for Salt Creek Action, Citizens for Clean Air and Water in Pueblo/Southern Colorado, Pueblo City-County Health Department, and Colorado State University-Pueblo. Pueblo City-County Health Department and its connection with the state health department has a unique function in the partnership because it will help to identify additional partners through its various associations.

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**Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003**  
**Selected for Award**

**EPA Grant ID:** EQ-831554-01-0    *Grant Application ID 2003091*    **EPA Region:** 8    **State:** CO  
Groundwork Denver Inc.

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***The EJ Outreach Partnership (EJOP)***

Issue

The residents of the north Denver communities of Highland, Sunnyside, Elyria/Swansea, Globeville, Cole, Clayton, and the southern edge of Commerce City live in a heavily industrialized area with nearly 500 regulated facilities and 3 Superfund sites. This part of Denver is also a major transportation corridor with over 10,000 trucks passing through or idling in truck stops and nearby facilities. Over 70% of the residents are Latino with 26% speaking only Spanish. One-third of those who live in these neighborhoods are foreign born. To engage these residents, it is not enough to overcome the language barrier. Lack of trust, cultural differences, and educational barriers need to be overcome as well.

Environmental Statutes

1. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
2. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)

Goal

The goal of this project is to have a virtual or mobile center where the community may acquire information about the environmental and health hazards in their surrounding area. The project specifically targets some of the most marginalized residents of the area; families who use Spanish as their primary language and those who suffer from technological gaps. It is hoped that the Spanish-speaking community will become more engaged in the policy-making process that affects their environment and health.

Project

GD and its partners will establish "Centro de Salud Ambiental", a virtual center for environmental health that will provide environmental and health information to residents and create new impetus for problem resolutions in this diverse, Spanish-speaking community. The project aims to build powerful relationships by encouraging and interacting with local government and businesses.

Partnership

FrontRange Earth Force, Office of Councilperson Judy Montero, North East Metro Pollution Prevention Alliance (NEMPPA), Tri-County Health, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. In addition, the partners have agreed to enlarge and extend the funding for the project by looking at private industry and government for support for the project.

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# Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003

## Selected for Award

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831614-01-0 Grant Application ID 2003104 EPA Region: 9 State: CA  
Coalition for West Oakland Revitalization (CWOR)

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### **Neighborhood Environmental Indicators Project**

#### Issue

West Oakland is one of the poorest neighborhoods in the California Bay Area, in that 60% of the households earn less than \$25,000 per year. Forty percent (40%) of West Oakland residents report no working members in their household. In addition, over 50% of those 16 years and older are not in the labor pool. Forty-five percent (45%) have not graduated from high school. Only 13% have a college education, which is 30% less than Oakland and the Bay Area. According to the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Report, in 1998, West Oakland had the highest amount of toxic air pollution of any Oakland zip codes. The amount of air pollution released in West Oakland was nearly as much as the rest of Oakland combined. With the expansion of the Port of Oakland, diesel exhaust will increase dramatically as the 9,000 truck trips per day, that currently travel through and around West Oakland, are expanded to over 22,000 truck trips per day by 2010.

#### Environmental Statutes

1. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
2. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)

#### Goal

The primary objective is to reduce environmental impacts, particularly air pollution, to eventually lead to a reduction in negative health impacts. Updating indicators and identifying new indicator information will provide tools and an infrastructure to community members to assess the impact of their activities and take action in improving the air quality in and around their community.

#### Project

CWOR, in conjunction with its partners, will develop an Environmental Justice Resource Center, that will provide access to informational materials and environmental indicator reports to educate residents on air quality issues facing the community. The project will build technical and leadership capacity to ensure that the community will continue to use and track indicators to advocate for improvements in their environment.

#### Partnership

The Partnership will include Coalition for West Oakland Revitalization, the Environmental Science Institute, Pacific Institute, West Oakland Asthma Coalition, Oak Center Neighborhood Association, Attitudinal Healing, Environmental Justice Academy, East Bay Conservation Corps, Ethnic Health Institute, Urban Strategies Council, Bay Area Consortium for Quality Health Care, Habitat for Humanity, and Jubilee West. The different partners will form the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project (EIP) Committee, a cross-section of organizations, agencies, and community members. The EIP process formulates community goals in facilitated brainstorming sessions with community members to prioritize issues. When issues are identified, organizations within the committee conduct research and gather data to inform and educate community members. Then, training is conducted, and EIP representatives will work directly on community campaigns to address issues of concern.

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**Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003**  
**Selected for Award**

**EPA Grant ID:** EQ-831605-01-0    *Grant Application ID 2003039*    **EPA Region:** 9    **State:** CA  
Marin County Grassroots Leadership Network (MCGLN)

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***Marin Community Collaborative Project***

Issue

The communities to be served are Marin City (a section of the City of Sausalito) and the "Canal District" of the City of San Rafael, California. These communities are distinct in Marin County as they are populated almost exclusively by low-income persons of color as opposed to the surrounding population of Marin County, which is largely Caucasian and affluent. Marin City has a population of 2,500 and is geographically isolated from the other parts of Marin County with only one major artery for entrance and exit. The population is ethnically diverse with large East Asian, Hispanic, and African American populations. The population in the "Canal District" is largely Hispanic, with many households residing in over-crowded apartment units. The major health issue that concerns the residents is an anecdotally reported higher than average cancer rate. The social issues that exist in Marin City are an increasing sense of isolation and dislocation as the community experiences an ever-widening economic gap between newer homeowners and the public housing residents.

Environmental Statutes

1. Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3)
2. Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1442 ©(3)(A)
3. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
4. FIFRA, Section 20(a)

Goal

The overarching goals are to: (1) understand the reasons, and possible mitigating measures, for Marin County's high cancer rates; (2) involve populations that have been historically excluded from investigative studies and mitigating measures; and (3) bring community-building advocacy, and scientific access skills to two historically disempowered communities.

Project

MCGLN, in collaboration with its partners, will develop a community action plan to mitigate cancer risk factors identified by a hands-on study project on the incidence of cancer in the Canal and Marin City neighborhoods. The project will be facilitated by experienced consultants and will involve different activities including leadership training of community members.

Partnership

The partnership will include MCGLN and its three formal partners: (1) CWTI, Health and Disability Researcher; (2) Electric Clean; and (3) Isoji, a Marin City community organizing group. The recipient will also build upon the Marin Cancer Project which has collaborated with, and is able to provide access to, a wide range of individuals, communities, scientists, politicians, and government agencies. The Marin Cancer Project has already lined up a number of scientific professionals that have offered to collect and analyze data for this project free of charge.

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**Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003**  
**Selected for Award**

**EPA Grant ID:** EQ-831555-01-0    *Grant Application ID 2003137*    **EPA Region:** 9    **State:** CA  
Pacoima Beautiful (PB)

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***Pacoima Lead Poisoning Prevention Community Program***

Issue

Pacoima is located in the northeast San Fernando Valley in the city of Los Angeles. Eighty five percent of the population is Latino, 8% African American, and 7% Asian, Caucasian, and Native American. Forty six percent of all Pacoima residents live below the poverty line. Pacoima is an underserved, vulnerable, at-risk community, and the children are especially vulnerable to lead poisoning. According to the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, over 5,000 children in Pacoima under the age of 6 are likely to have high lead levels in their blood. Pacoima Beautiful began investigating lead issues in 1999, when it organized a community survey with Cal State University, Northridge faculty. Conducted in 21 Pacoima neighborhoods, the survey assessed community knowledge about environmental hazards and health. Results revealed that Pacoima families knew very little about lead-related problems.

Environmental Statutes

1. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
2. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)

Goals

Through community-focused and culturally appropriate educational outreach, the project is intended to increase the capacity of community residents to access screening services and improve resource networks to prevent and reduce lead hazards in Pacoima.

Project

PB, along with its partners, will produce and distribute a report on the findings from health care provider and housing surveys to advocate for more lead control and increase community capacity of residents to access educational and screening services regarding lead hazards in Pacoima. The project will encourage a long term multi-partnership engagement to support community health revitalization.

Partnership

Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, Valley Care Community Consortium, Northeast Valley Health Corporation, Neighborhood Legal Services of LA County, Cal State University Northridge, UCLA Family Medicine Dept., Coalition for Clean Air, and Healthy Homes Collaborative. As the project continues to expand both in scope and depth, Pacoima Beautiful continues to bring in other partners. For example, the UCLA Family Medicine Department, Coalition for Clean Air, and Healthy Homes Collaborative have recently joined the partnership.

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# Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003

## Selected for Award

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831556-01-0 Grant Application ID 2003070 EPA Region: 9 State: HI  
Anahola Homesteaders Council (AHC)

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### **Project Imua**

#### Issue

As Hawaii became a state, sugarcane production was the main source for employment on Kauai. In 2001, the island's largest sugar company, AMFAC, halted its sugar operations. The land has been used as a dump site for abandoned vehicles, hazardous waste materials, and discarded household goods. Streambeds have become contaminated and have become the breeding ground for invasive plants and an infectious disease called leptospirosis. Leptospirosis warnings are posted on trees along the Anahola River where recreational enjoyment and fish once flourished. For many Anahola residents, one of the most disturbing aspects of the environmental and public health issues facing the community is the uncertainty and lack of information that complicates discussion of these environmental and public health concerns.

#### Environmental Statutes

1. Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1442©(3)(A)
2. Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a)
3. Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3)

#### Goal

The primary goal is to engage the Anahola community in an understanding of Anahola's environment. As a result of the project, the community will be able to take ownership of the problems they face and work collaboratively to fix them.

#### Project

AHC will work with its partners and the local community to develop a Community Plan as a means of engaging in discussions with state and municipal officials to address the environmental and public health issues such as water pollution and soil contamination, as well as the socio-economic issues in Anahola, through site cleanup and redevelopment. The end product of the Community Plan will be a "living document" suitable for a Web site that permits the reader to "drill down into the document" to access the research, references and logs of the various Project Imua activities that provide background information and support the conclusions in the Plan.

#### Partnership

Local charter school, community (parents and other local citizens), County of Kauai, local real-estate developers (their vast development of the area is contributing to the poor water quality), local businesses (Heli USA has committed to providing helicopter service for aerial photos & transportation to remote locations), State of Hawaii Energy Resources Division, Hawaii Department of Health, Hawaii Office of State Planning, State Water Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency.

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# Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003

## Selected for Award

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831617-01-0 Grant Application ID 2003144 EPA Region: 10 State: OR  
Portland Northern Neighborhood Quality Coalition (EJAG)

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### ***Build collaborative group to address EJ issues in Northern sector of Portland to improve air quality***

#### Issue

The community encompasses 12 North/Northeast (N/NE) neighborhoods and contains some of the most racially diverse neighborhoods in Portland. Sixty-seven percent (67%) are African American, 19% Latinos, and 11% Native Americans. Poverty and unemployment rates are high in N/NE. In 11 of 15 census tracts, the poverty rate is 35% or more (with 3 tracts over 50% and 6 tracts between 40-50%). Thirty-six percent (36%) of children under six in N/NE live in poverty. The poverty rate among Native Americans is (53.5%); Latinos at (44%); African Americans (32.4%); and Whites (20.7%). Forty percent (40%) of households live on less than \$15,000 per year, and unemployment was measured at 12.4%, compared to 6.1% for Portland, as a whole. The community is home to more than 30 sites included on the Federal government's Toxic Release Inventory. Major highways and numerous highly-used thoroughfares cross the neighborhood, while both a municipal landfill and sewage treatment plant are located in North Portland.

#### Environmental Statutes

1. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)
2. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)

#### Goal

The primary objective of this project is to address the significant and disproportionate air pollution problems faced by the residents of the N/NE neighborhoods. By working collaboratively, the Environmental Justice Action Group (EJAG) and project partners will raise awareness of the sources of pollution and hope to create healthier outcomes by establishing trust between the community and agencies in support of implementing new and innovative processes to bring cleaner air to Portland and enhance the quality of life for all residents.

#### Project

EJAG and its partners will establish the "Portland Northern Neighborhoods Air Quality Coalition" to investigate and implement sustainable solutions to eliminate the disproportionate air pollution problems faced by residents caused by diesel fuel emissions. The process will include the creation of a video and community-based education program to increase understanding of air quality issues, the health impacts on the community and the sustainable solutions.

#### Partnership

The project will be accomplished through a partnership between EJAG, Oregon Solutions/National Policy Consensus Center, Northwest District Association H&EC, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Department of Transportation, and Portland State University. This partnership came into being through the realization that EJAG and Northwest District Association H&EC have been working independently with the Department of Environmental Quality when the two organizations share many similar concerns. The collaborative problem-solving partnership will be created by building upon the initial relationship between EJAG and Northwest District Association H&EC.

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# Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003

## Selected for Award

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831607-01-0 Grant Application ID 2003047 EPA Region: 10 State: WA  
Community Coalition for Environmental Justice (CCEJ)

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### **Health and Environmental Collaborative Project**

#### Issues

The community of focus for this project is South Park, White Center (West Seattle) and Beacon Hill. Beacon Hill is 83% Asian, South Park is 71% Latino, and White Center is 45% people of color. South Park is the most impacted by toxic waste dump sites and pollution generating facilities. The unifying concern of the three areas is the impact of 3 industries emitting high amounts of carbon monoxide which is a recognized developmental toxicant and suspected neurotoxicant. Other pollutants include lead, lead compounds, and nitrogen oxides. Lead and lead compounds are recognized as developmental toxicants, and nitrogen oxides are linked to respiratory illness. LaFarge Corp., Ash Grove Cement and Birmingham Steel were listed in the 2000 toxic release inventory data as being among the highest emitters of air toxins in these neighborhoods.

#### Environmental Statutes

1. Toxic Substance Control Act, Section 10(a)
2. Clean Air Act 103(b)(3)

#### Goals

The primary goal is to improve communication and collaboration between affected community members, health care providers, physicians, universities and policy makers for the purpose of making institutional change. CCEJ wants to reduce children's exposure to neurotoxicants while developing an action plan which includes pollution prevention strategies to reduce exposure.

#### Project

CCEJ, in conjunction with its partners, will create an action plan that will enhance communication, outreach, and education regarding air quality issues in three disproportionately impacted neighborhoods. Activities will include the development of reports and fact sheets, and the creation of a handbook for environmental health specialists and educators.

#### Partnership

The partnership will include Dr. Jordan Firestone at the University of Washington; John Ridgeway at the Washington State Department of Ecology; Elise Miller of the Institute for Children's Environmental Health; Dr. Ngozi Oleru at the Seattle King County. The objectives will be accomplished through the partnership between the Community Coalition for Environmental Justice and the University of Washington, the Institute for Children's Environmental Health, and Seattle's King County. Three committees will be created which include the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and the Child Health Advisory Committee (CHAC). The CAC will be the driving force of the work of the entire workgroup and will be comprised of residents of the impacted community and the Community Coalition for Environmental Justice.

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**Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003**  
**Selected for Award**

**EPA Grant ID:** EQ-831557-01-0    *Grant Application ID 2003016*    **EPA Region:** 10    **State:** WA  
Indochinese Cultural and Service Center (ICSC)

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***Asian Pacific Islander Environmental Awareness Project***

Issue

According to the 2000 Census in Pierce County, the Asian Pacific Islander population is 57,959. There are 20 or so sewer outfalls along the eastern shore of Puget Sound. There is also industrial discharge and runoff from freeways and parking lots that contain lead and other contaminants. This pollution contributes to high levels of mercury in the shellfish in the area that the Asian Pacific Islander community depends on for subsistence shellfish harvesting. Traditions, cultural differences, and misunderstandings have been identified as primary causes for many of the unsafe environmental practices among API communities. Paralytic shellfish poisoning pose serious health risks to SE Asian communities. For example, in August 2000, 9 Cambodian workers were hospitalized after eating mussels from a closed area on the Puget Sound.

Environmental Statutes

1. Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3)
2. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
3. Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act, Section 203

Goals

The primary objective will be to build and sustain strong working relationships among partners through the development of mechanisms that facilitate the provision of safe and sustainable harvesting practices and safe fish consumption. This will be done by increasing public awareness of dangers from mercury poisoning, unsafe harvesting practices, and non-point sources of pollution – including mercury and hazardous waste disposal, and building the capacity of the community to reduce exposure to these health risks.

Project

ICSC will work with its partners to establish state and local government policies and procedures for beach monitoring and a beach closure management plan that can be replicated and can successfully reach out to communities with limited English proficiency. ICSC will also work with partners to raise the Asian and Pacific Islander communities' awareness of safe and sustainable shellfish harvesting. This will include a Public Information and Notification Initiative described as public meetings, beach postings, public announcements, and other control mechanisms. Activities as part of the Management Plan include bio-toxin monitoring and sampling, training (rules and regulations for safe harvesting, sample collection, etc.), and sustainable harvesting.

Partnership

Korean Women's Association, Tacoma Pierce County Health Department, State of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, State of Washington Department of Health, Puget Sound Action team. Government partners include the Washington State Department of Health, which has reported the need to have access to the API communities as their traditional methodology of providing information is largely ineffective with Limited English Speaking communities.

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