



2010 CARE National Training Workshop Executive Summary

Workshop Overview

The 6th annual Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) National Training Workshop: Sustainability Through Local Solutions, held in San Diego, California from December 7 - 9, 2010, drew 262 participants, more than 110 of which were recipients of CARE and state environmental justice grants. The 2010 workshop theme, Sustainability Through Local Solutions, provided an opportunity to showcase and learn from solutions that have been developed in San Diego's CARE communities, as well as many other communities represented at the workshop. The workshop was co-hosted by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9 and the Environmental Health Coalition (EHC), a community organization that builds grassroots campaigns to confront the unjust consequences of toxic pollution, discriminatory land use, and unsustainable energy policies. The workshop was co-led by Ms. Gale Bonnano, Co-Chair for the CARE Program; Ms. Patricia Carey, Co-Chair for the CARE Program; and Ms. Marva King, CARE Grants Team Leader and Program Coordinator.

"The community-led projects CARE facilitates are making our neighborhoods healthier and stronger, one local solution at a time."
Lisa P. Jackson, EPA Administrator

"EPA's resources can be used wisely with programs like CARE, where all the Agency's programs can come together and provide knowledge and expertise."
*Michael Shapiro,
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator
EPA Office of Water*

The 3-day workshop featured four general sessions and 18 breakout sessions. Elizabeth Yeampierre, Executive Director, United Puerto Rican Organization of Sunset Park (UPROSE) and Chair of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council, served as the keynote speaker and discussed issues in Sunset

Listening to the Welcome Remarks



Park, New York, and effective community engagement. On Wednesday afternoon, participants attended a site visit, *Blighted Barrios to Green Zones: an Environmental Justice Tour* hosted by EHC. On the site visit, participants viewed environmental justice issues in Barrio Logan and National City. In addition, a Resource and Tools room allowed federal agency exhibitors the opportunity to network and establish partnerships with community grant recipients from across the country, and a Community Displays room showcased various community activities and accomplishments.

Workshop Highlights

Tuesday, December 7, 2010

A videotape featuring Lisa P. Jackson, EPA Administrator, was played, during which she thanked the participants for their commitment to protecting health and the environment. Despite EPA's progress over 40 years, there are still many low-income and minority communities where work remains to be done. The CARE program has celebrated many accomplishments, and it can lead

Tuesday Highlights and Key Points

- Statistics and research are valuable.
- Building good relationships is imperative for community partnerships.
- Empower youth – they will implement programs in the future.
- Health is a shared responsibility.
- Health care does not equal good health.
- Communities should be involved early in decision making processes.

communities to new solutions to make them healthier.

The following diverse set of presenters conducted a Town Hall Discussion, which allowed participants to discuss CARE issues from a community and EPA perspective and offer recommendations for how EPA can improve its support to community-based work:

- Diane Takvorian, Executive Director, EHC
- Amy Zimpfer, Associate Director, EPA Region 9 Air Division
- Nury Martinez, Executive Director, Paicoma Beautiful
- Michael Shapiro, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, EPA Office of Water
- Mathy Stanislaus, Assistant Administrator, EPA Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response

The general session *Building Healthy Communities: Achieving Environmental Health and Justice Through Local Solutions* provided an overview of the effectiveness of community-focused and cross-sector collaboration efforts to achieve sustainability. Carlton Eley, EPA Office of Policy, discussed several community projects to emphasize the correlation between public health and physical well-being, environmental justice, and economic health. Dr. Anthony Iton, M.D., The California Endowment, Senior Vice President, Healthy Communities, presented the results of several models that displayed a direct correlation between decreased life expectancy and increased poverty rates for various counties in California. Dr. Takvorian set the stage for Wednesday afternoon’s site visit by discussing elevated health disparities in Barrio Logan and its current mixed land uses.

The keynote speaker, Ms. Yeampierre, presented community involvement challenges in the Sunset Park neighborhood in New York. She discussed the importance of including families, especially the youth, in the community engagement process; challenges associated with community involvement in low-income areas; and how federal agencies can respect and work with communities.

The following breakout sessions were held on Tuesday afternoon:

- *Community Approaches to Risk Ranking and Prioritization*
- *Engaging Youth in Constructive Learning Experiences Leading to Local Solutions*
- *How to Access and Work with Federal Agencies*
- *Understanding the Steps of the CARE Roadmap and PACE EH*



Town Hall Discussion



Key Principles for Community Engagement

- Be inclusive – everyone should be involved in the decision making process.
- Emphasize the development and leadership of others.
- Allow people to speak for themselves.
- Work together in neutrality.

Elizabeth Yeampierre, Executive Director, UPROSE

Participant Recommendations for How EPA Can Improve Its Support to Community-Based Work as Presented during the Town Hall Discussion:

- Provide better (or electronic) access to resources developed by other communities.
- Rework evaluation materials and establish better metrics for quantifying local results.
- Identify methods for providing technical assistance to remote territories.
- Promote its success stories and to show that they are making a difference in communities.
- Foster connectivity with other partners, including states, to get them more involved in CARE projects.
- Provide access to cumulative impacts guidance and models.
- Get communities involved in EPA processes and decisions.
- Need to think about mentoring and training so that community environmental programs are sustained.

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Lisa Garcia, Associate Assistant Administrator for Environmental Justice, EPA, provided an update on EPA's Plan EJ 2014 during the *Race, Place, and Environmental Justice* general session. Dr. Manuel Pastor, Director, Program for Environmental and Region Equity, University of Southern California, presented information on spatial modeling that demonstrates disparities in minorities' exposure to hazards and risks.

The following breakout sessions were held on Wednesday morning:

- *Climate Change*
- *Green Zones for Environmental and Economic Sustainability*
- *How to Use Brownfields Funding*
- *Rural Issues and Solutions*
- *The Reality of Building and Maintaining Partnerships*

On Wednesday afternoon, participants attended the *Blighted Barrios to Green Zones: an Environmental Justice Site Visit*, hosted by EHC. During the visit, participants viewed environmental justice issues associated with mixed land use in the Barrio Logan and National City communities. The site visit was narrated by EHC personnel showing current community conditions and their plans to advance environmental justice and to promote sustainable communities. These communities have experienced elevated asthma and cancer rates, and other respiratory illnesses, because of their proximity to industry, fuel tanks, and railyards, as well as both automobile and port vehicle emissions. In addition, participants observed future sites of affordable housing and various transition zones. One stop along the visit was outside of a former chromium plating shop located adjacent to residences. In addition, participants went past an open recycling center that also was located among residential properties. The site visit concluded in Cesar Chavez Park, which was developed with San Diego's Barrio Logan community to offer a recreational pier, picnic and playground area, and green open space for active play.

Race, Place, and Environmental Justice



Plan EJ 2014: Five Cross-Cutting Areas for Environmental Justice:

- Rulemaking
- Permitting
- Compliance and enforcement
- Supporting community-based action
- Fostering administration-wide action on environmental justice

Wednesday Highlights and Key Points

- Community members should be active politically and go to zoning meetings.
- Historical land use planning affected Barrio Logan.
- Amortization ordinance is a fascinating approach and could be applied to multiple communities.
- Need resources to help technical experts communicate more effectively with communities.
- One participant noted that during the tour, she saw 20 bird species in a water course that the community had cleaned. Minorities and children should be encouraged to get involved in nature and science.
- 1950s zoning can have unanticipated impacts today.
- The research, data, and graphics on disparate impacts are enlightening.
- Communities should plan in advance for CARE Level 2 and their priorities.
- CARE provides a voice to the people.

Thursday, December 9, 2010

The following breakout sessions were held on Thursday:

- *Children's Environmental Health Protection - Tools and Resources*
- *Community Land Use Planning and Sustainability*
- *Engaging Business, Academia, Local Government and States and Their Roles in the Project*
- *Engaging Diverse Communities*
- *Grants 101*
- *Healthy Homes and Indoor Air Issues*
- *Life After CARE: What Does it Look Like in Practice?*
- *Successful Models of Community Organizing*
- *Urban Reforestation and Community Gardens*

The general session, *Funding After the CARE Grant Ends/ Program Building Income*, provided an overview of various communities that continue to build and sustain resources after CARE funding ends. Richard Moore, Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice, emphasized that the successful continuation of community improvement requires the effective use of resources, besides just funding. Ann Marie Wolf, President, Sonora Environmental Research Institute, discussed how her organization has diversified its resources and funding to continue conducting environmental health activities. Dr. Giovanna Di Chiro, Director of Environmental Programs, Nuestras Raices, Inc., discussed projects in Holyoke and reiterated the importance of developing new partnerships with local government, foundations, and organizations to leverage new funding sources.

Workshop Closing Remarks

Mr. Moore provided inspirational closing remarks at the end of the workshop and advised communities to learn to be self reliant and build organizations and initiatives that are self sustaining. In addition, it is important that in the process of helping one community, environmental injustice is not transferred to another community. Environmental disparities should be removed from all communities. If EPA, other federal agencies, and communities work together, we can make communities, states, countries, and the world a better place to live.

"There are more than 6 million substandard housing units nationwide, and children in these units are more likely to have elevated blood lead levels and be diagnosed with asthma."

*Dr. Sharunda Buchanan,
Director, Division of Emergency and
Environmental Health Services, National
Center for Environmental Health, CDC*

Thursday Highlights and Key Points

- CARE communities should develop a long-term strategy for sustainability at the beginning of the project.
- Developing partnerships is crucial to procuring new and diverse funding.
- Communities should not be reliant only on government, or any single source, of funding.
- Engaging youth in the CARE process enhances sustainability.

Funding After the CARE Grant Ends/ Program Building Income

