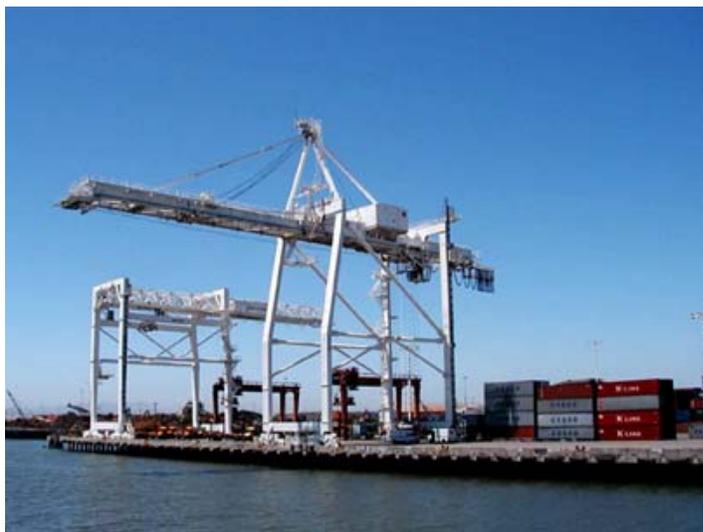




2007 Environmental Justice and Air Pollution Workshop

September 6 – 7, 2007

**Collaborative Track Agenda
Community Case Histories**



Cover photos

Upper right: Red Star Yeast factory (former). Closed in 2003. Prior to that was top stationary source in West Oakland for cancer-related risk.

Lower left: Cranes at Port of Oakland. Fourth largest container port in U.S., growth projected to double or triple by 2020.

**Environmental Justice and Air Pollution Workshop
Collaborative Track
Background Information**

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Case History: The Boston Safe Shops Project

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- Describe the impacted community (population, neighborhood, general statistics, history, etc).

Boston’s more than 500 automotive shops, located primarily in low-income communities of color, are a source both of well-paying jobs and of potential hazardous exposures to employees and residents. Safe Shops currently focuses on the neighborhoods of Dorchester, Mattapan and Roxbury. The table below summarizes some of the neighborhood demographics and health concerns in the target area.

Neighborhood	Roxbury	Dorchester		Mattapan
		North	South	
Pop. % non-White	85%	82%	67%	97%
Pop. % below poverty level	29.2%	22.9%	17.6%	17.5%
Asthma hospitalizations per 1,000 children under 5 (1999-2003)	14.8	13.7	11.4	9.9
Elevated blood lead levels (10 ug/dL or greater)	2.2%	4.4%	3.8%	2.8%
Number of Auto Shops	36	163		45

The Safe Shops Project works to reduce occupational and environmental health hazards without having to close these businesses.

- What are/were the problems affecting the community?

Auto body and repair shops produce hazardous waste, store flammable and hazardous materials, and release organic solvents and VOCs as regular business practice. Because of lack of zoning laws, auto shops are located in residential areas, next to schools and playgrounds. They are commonly transient businesses, making them sometimes hard to locate and regulate. Some of the auto body and repair hazards that impact the community are outlined in the table below:

Mechanical Repair Shop Hazards	Body and Paint Shop Hazards
Workers not using proper personal protective equipment (dust masks for working with solvents/paint, etc.)	Workers not using proper personal protective equipment (dust masks for working with solvents/paint, etc.)
Improper storage of flammable materials	Improper storage of flammable materials
Workers not adequately trained/informed –	Workers not adequately trained/informed –

no knowledge of MSDS, safety plan, etc.	no knowledge of MSDS, safety plan, etc.
Parts cleaning in uncovered solvent systems	Cleaning of paint guns releasing large amounts of solvent into the air
Improper and “off label” use of spray organic solvents	Spray painting outside of an enclosed spray booth
Improper storage of auto batteries, scrap metal, and spare parts	Heavy metals and vapors exposures from body work and cutting/welding
Improper labeling, storage, and disposal of hazardous wastes	Sanding and body work being done without dust capture devices or respiratory protection

These issues not only directly impact the people working within the shop, but sometimes result in exposures in a community that is already over burdened with health issues and toxic releases from other sources such as diesel busses or other polluting businesses.

• What partnerships were formed to address the problems and challenges?

The Safe Shops Project formed partnerships based upon environmental health, enforcement, and community. The public health entities (Boston Public Health Commission / partnering health centers) have the ability and resources to develop educational materials and help workers and community access health care and other resources. The community groups have the ability to raise awareness within the neighborhoods, conduct outreach with the workers and refer them back to the health centers and even help identify problem shops that need intervention. And finally, the enforcement partners (Inspectional Services Department) have the authority to gain access to shops that might turn other Safe Shops partners away and the experience to identify environmental or other violations. This three pronged approach is outlined in the diagram below:

Coordinated Safe Shops Approach



- **What were the major challenges the community faced or faces in overcoming the problems?**

During the roll out of the project, two major obstacles occurred. The first was addressing how to create a training program that was useful to the workforce.

The second was that it was extremely difficult to gain the trust of a workforce that is normally only used to dealing with enforcement agencies. Owners and workers would often turn away Safe Shops staff and partners.

- **How did the community overcome the challenges? If the community wasn't able to address the challenges, what were the impacts on the project? How did the project move forward?**

These two obstacles were addressed through focus groups and implementing our first tail gate training. First, we asked our enforcement partners to 'nominate' shop owners that might be interested in attending a focus group. We provided free dinner and gave each attendee a grocery store gift certificate as an incentive for attending.

The discussions centered on 1. What topics should be included in a training; 2. How do people learn best (video / posters / hand outs); and 3. How / Where / When should a training be conducted. We then held a separate worker focus group at a community health center. The worker and owner focus groups were held separately because workers might be less likely to disclose health concerns in front of their employer and because an immigrant workforce might be more hesitant to come to a government

building after work hours for a 'discussion'.

We were able to put together a training based upon the input gathered from shop owners and workers, as well as some feed back from the Inspectional Services Department about the common problems encountered in shops. We then chose one of the larger shops that had attended the focus group and asked them if they would host a training. During the training, another shop owner walked in and requested that we come to his shop next. It was not long after that shop owners and workers were recognizing Safe Shops staff and partners as the people who were helping them access resources such as health care, safer alternatives to toxic chemicals, and personal protective equipment.

- **What tools or methods did the community use that are transferable to other communities facing similar issues?**

One of the goals of the Safe Shops Project is to create tools that can be used to replicate this program in other communities. Some of the items we have created include:

- Sample focus group questions
- Shop environmental assessment questions and worker surveys
- Sample letters, flyers and outreach materials to auto shops
- A standard training curricula designed for auto body and auto repair shops
- A DVD of the Safe Shop training video Auto Shop Pollution Prevention: Protecting Your Environment, Your Employees, and Your Business that includes a Spanish/English menu option.
- A Safe Shops Tool Box (a laminated guide for environmental and occupational health and safety in the auto shop)

- **What were the major successes in the eyes of the community?**

Major successes in the eyes of the community include training over 440 auto shops workers on best practices in their work place. This resulted in real changes in behavior and shop conditions that improved health, such as an increase in the number of shops storing solvents in a labeled and closed container and an increase in the amount of workers using personal protective equipment.

Another success is the amount of shops that are using aqueous brake cleaner in place of aerosol, reducing exposure to asbestos and solvents. To date, 12 shops have adopted the aqueous brake cleaner through the Safe Shops Project. Other shops have adopted different methods of pollution prevention and implemented personal protective equipment after coming into contact with Safe Shops.

And most recently the Safe Shops Project was chosen as a 'Pilot Community' by the US EPA and CDC. This partnership will help Safe Shops be able to better quantify pollution prevention and measure the project's positive impact on the community.

Community Leader Bio Sketch: Tiffany Skogstrom is the Project Coordinator at the Boston Public Health Commission's Safe Shops Project. Tiffany works with employees at automotive businesses that are overburdened with toxic chemicals, have little or no protection measures, and no health care. She works to deliver education and health care to this workforce, and get a commitment from auto shop managers to establish pollution prevention measures in the work place. Tiffany is a New England Regional Environmental Leadership Program Fellow, and has worked with Massachusetts Jobs with Justice in the call for universal health care and organized toxics campaigns for Health Care Without Harm. Previously, she worked with Clean Water Action, MassPIRG, and advocated for children as a caseworker in an adolescent group home.

Contact Information for this CASE Study:

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Case History: Northern Manhattan: Fair Share or Lion's Share

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- **Describe the impacted community (population, neighborhood, general statistics, history, etc).**

Northern Manhattan, home to WE ACT's core constituency, is a densely populated neighborhood with over 600,000 people living in just 7.25 square miles of space. The demographics of the Northern Manhattan community show the highest concentration of both seniors and youth, two of the most vulnerable populations. Forty-four percent (44%) of residents identify as African-American, and 44% as Latino, primarily from the Dominican Republic. The ratio of women to men is 51% to 49%. In 1999 the median income ranged from \$14,896 to \$29,479. WE ACT was founded and incorporated in 1988 as the result of local community struggles around environmental threats and the resulting health disparities created by institutionalized racism and the lack of social and political capital

- **What are/were the problems affecting the community?**

Manhattan is a non-attainment area for clean air standards and ranks #1 in air toxics according to the EPA. Northern Manhattan which has glaring health disparities: #1 in the nation for asthma prevalence and mortality; its neighborhoods rank in the top 15 for new lead poisoning cases; and have high rates of obesity, diabetes, infant mortality, low birth weight, and developmental delays. Northern Manhattan is home to four neighborhoods: East, West and Central Harlem and Washington Heights/Inwood. Though it is 7.25 square miles, it hosts 2 sewage treatment plants that treat most of Manhattan's sewage; was then host to 6 of 8 of Manhattan's diesel bus depots which house 75 % of the buses with Manhattan routes; 5 diesel, garbage truck facilities; the operation of the only 24-hour Marine Transfer Station in Manhattan; and the use of Northern Manhattan communities as New York City's dumping ground for a host of other polluting facilities.

In 2003, the mayor initiated a new plan to overhaul the City's solid waste disposal system – which included the reopening and 300% expansion of the 135th Street Marine Transfer Station (MTS) which would result in 300 trucks entering the community to dump its waste at the MTS and the disproportionate impacts of Manhattan's waste being born by Northern Manhattan's community residents, though communities of color contribute the least to the waste stream.

- **What partnerships were formed to address the problems and challenges?**

WE ACT formed a coalition of 40 community-based organizations, churches, businesses, and elected officials located in Northern Manhattan called the Northern Manhattan EJ Coalition. Also participating were residents involved in WE ACT's organizing campaigns and trainings. Its mission was to initiate and implement a Northern Manhattan community planning process that would result in a just and equitable plan for waste disposal in New York City.

- **What were the major challenges the community faced or faces in overcoming the problems?**

Challenges included that the plan was (1) endorsed and driven- in some part- by the NYC EJ community which felt that the outer borough communities bore a disparate burden of 40 to 50 stations each in their neighborhoods which contributed to poor air quality and rising asthma rates. There was a value expressed that (2) each borough should bear the burden of its waste and not export to other boroughs but export out of the city by using the marine transfer stations located on waterfronts. The unintended consequence was that in elite Manhattan, an EJ community would bear the brunt. (3) Mainstream environmental groups supported the plan. Most stakeholders did not believe that the plan could succeed without the 135th St. MTS reopening. (4) Many residents did not believe that we could prevail.

- **How did the community overcome the challenges? If the community wasn't able to address the challenges, what were the impacts on the project? How did the project move forward?**

We communicated clearly to all city stakeholders our position and began to educate them about that position. We raised issues of equity and fairness and public health. We said that other communities in Manhattan had to take their share of this burden. We were persistent and consistent, and stayed engaged in all activities related to the solid waste plan not just issues directly affecting us. We had a moral edge because we could demonstrate the burden our community was bearing.

- **What tools or methods did the community use that are transferable to other communities facing similar issues?**

We began by showing support for key parts of the plan, by giving testimony and mobilizing residents to attend public hearings, and by documenting the past and future impacts through video presentations to City Council members, letters and postcards to the mayor and other electeds. We held a community conference to lay out a plan for what constituted a fair system, hosted community trainings, and educated elected officials.

- **What were the major successes in the eyes of the community?**

We won!

In October 2004 the Mayor announced that the 135th Street MTS would not be reopened. The City Council has voted to approve the solid waste plan which calls for reopening an MTS on the elite upper eastside near Gracie Mansion, the mayor's official residence. WE ACT has now received agreement from the city that the 135th St. MTS will revert to a community facility. WE ACT will develop a steering committee with city agencies and community stakeholders to develop a community vision for the 27,000 sq ft facility located on a pier at the Hudson River. We envision an environmental education facility, physical fitness gym, and other uses the community will recommend.

Community Leader Bio Sketch: Peggy Shepard is executive director and co-founder of West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc. (WE ACT). Founded in 1988, WE ACT was New York's first environmental justice organization created to improve environmental health and quality of life in communities of color. A recipient of the 10th Annual Heinz Award For the Environment, she is a former Democratic District Leader, who represented West Harlem from 1985 to April 1993, and served as President of the National Women's Political Caucus-Manhattan from 1993-1997. From January 2001-2003, Ms Shepard served as the first female chair of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and is co-chair of the Northeast Environmental Justice Network. She is a former member of the National Advisory Environmental Health Sciences Council of the National Institutes of Health and a member of the Environmental Justice Advisory Committee to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. Ms. Shepard serves on the Institute of Medicine's committee: Ethics of Housing-Related Health Hazard Research Involving Children, Youth, and Families.

Contact Information for this CASE Study:

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Case History: East Baltimore Revitalization Project

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- **Describe the impacted community (population, neighborhood, general statistics, history, etc.)**

Like many cities across America, the target area, East Baltimore, has faced a dramatic decline over the past half-century as the economy shifted from the industrial age to the information age. The target community is the section of East Baltimore that is undergoing extensive redevelopment. The target community is located just north of the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions campus that includes the Schools of Public Health, Medicine, and Nursing and the Hospital. This community has a long legacy of negative relations with JH such that a much-needed collaborative partnership effort devoted to capacity building and public health is essential. The relationship has been an exceedingly stormy one. This is one of the **most** economically disadvantaged areas of the City. Due to the reduction in manufacturing plants and employment due to closings, relocation and downsizing has led to the abandonment and isolation of this urban neighborhood. Shifts in the economy and in population patterns have resulted in clusters of highly concentrated minority and low-income communities, leaving them with large inventories of abandoned residential properties with little prospect for occupancy and neighborhoods with deteriorated housing. These thousands of abandoned and derelict houses will be razed/and or gut rehabilitated. Such housing contains multiple environmental hazards, including lead based paint and dust, asbestos, rats, cockroaches, allergens and molds

Nearly two-thirds of the area's adult population has not completed high school. Relative to Baltimore City, East Baltimore has a lower mean family income (\$25,458 v. \$37,355) nearly twice as many families in poverty (32% vs. 18.8%) and higher rates of employment (15.5% vs. 9.1%); one in three families lives below the Federal poverty level. Most (98% of the population is African American. Housing vacancy rates are also high (56%). Health problems in children, including asthma (over 1700 in East Baltimore) is overwhelming. Young children under the age of five years are at high risk of lead poisoning. During the late 1990s, 30% to 50% of tested children had blood lead (PbB) elevations.

- **What are/were the problems affecting the community?**

Because of the lack of respect, the unsafe practices of demolition by the City, there was no notification whatsoever of demolition scheduled for a particular area. The major problems affecting the community were the huge number of unbelievably deteriorated housing stock and the residents keen awareness of the horrendous results of the razing of these thousands of old houses, and the emitting of pollutants, lead and toxic dust into the community's environment during and after demolition. Most residents as well as worker were also keenly aware of the blatant arrogance of the City in it efforts to make way for the revitalization of the 88-acre site, the East Baltimore Revitalization Project.

• **What partnerships were formed to address the problems and challenges?**

There were an extraordinarily huge number of partnerships formed to address the problems/challenges. These included:

Community, residents;
Community-based Organizations,
Baltimore Community for Environmental Justice,
The Community Environmental Justice Partnership;
Businesses;
Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning,
Community Law Center;
The Clergy;
City Government: all departments of the City (Department of Housing and Community Development, Health Department, Planning Department, Police Department, The City Council, The Mayor, Baltimore Housing, et al.);
Maryland Department of the Environment;
Politicians: Cong. Elijah Cummings, Senator Milkulski;
Foundations: Annie E. Casey Foundation, Enterprise Foundation, Goldseker Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, MacArthur Foundation;
Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions;
Morgan State University,
Sojourner-Douglass College;
The Federal Government: Department of Housing and Urban Development, & the US Environmental Protection Agency, and the Independent Demolition Advisory Panel.

• **What were the major challenges the community faced or faces in overcoming the problem?**

The major challenge the community faced in overcoming the problem was *improving the method of demolition so that it promoted and protected the health of the community residents, demolition workers, and natural resources.*

• **How did the community overcome the challenges? If the community wasn't able to address the challenges, what were the impacts on the project? How did the project move forward?**

The community was able to overcome the challenge, the demolition challenge, by coming together and remaining completely dedicated/committed to structuring the demolition protocols in a way to obviate the emitting of hazardous lead dust, etc., into the area. **No matter what ensued, and there were some horrendously, exceedingly mean-spirited "battles", verbal of course, even a temporary moratorium for 18 months on demolition, we persevered.**

It is unfortunate, no matter, this is the real world; **we have on our team, a very minute group who are steeped, if I may, in railing against, railing at all of our efforts,** these are the only appropriate terms I am able to grab onto in describing their behavior, throughout the entire five years of this \$1.5 billion worthy endeavor; at any rate, we stayed the course, and, somehow, **the project moves on, methodically.**

Again: It continues to move on methodically. To move more deeper into our determination to do “what is proper and correct, and humane” if you will, we pulled together an Independent Advisory Panel – experts – to assist us in enhancing **the practice of safe and respectful demolition. These protocols were analyzed, tested, and approved by the Panel. The Panel came periodically, to the community and answered our questions, between testings and analyzing of the lead dust accumulation at our various pilot sites.**

To reiterate: “The Independent Advisory Panel was convened due to a need by the City and EBDI,” all the partners and stakeholders,” for protocol review so that the health of the residents of the neighborhood being demolished could be safeguarded.” This effort, incidentally, was funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the MacArthur Foundation. (From the Executive Summary of the Independent Advisory Panel Report on EBDI Enhanced Protocols and Demolition Activities – December 20, 2005)

- **What tools or methods did the community use that is transferable to other communities facing similar issues?**

Tools or methods: Tenacity. Determination. Listening.

If a question could not be answered at a meeting, the residents were assured they would get an answer at the next meeting. They, did indeed, get the answer at the next meeting. If the results sounded foreign to residents, a panelist would break down the results into examples in everyday language. The panel’s leader, Dr. Janet Phoenix, Chair, Coalition for Environmentally Safe Communities, assured the residents, if there was a need to be in touch with her at anytime to feel free to ring her, directly.

A Side Bar, please: In our determination to make the urban renewal experience less painful, if you will, **we all listened to each other.** This is to say: We, the residents listened to those implementing the bold undertaking, EBDI, AECF, the Independent Panel, et al. They, those in charge of the project, EBDI, AECF, JHMI, et al..., listened to us, the residents. All of this was incorporated into the plans and as a result, the EBRP is moving on methodically, with grand new approaches to urban renewal; offerings of benefits to residents being relocated that have never been done in the history of urban renewal, to homeowners as well as renters.

We have been asked by our coordinators of this conference, EJ/AIR, to keep our formats for our presentations to a certain limit, therefore, I am unable to give you the entire list of benefits and services passed on to residents. I speak to this with such

depth because, all my adult life I have involved myself in learning everything possible about urban renewal. Reading books by different folk from academia and other disciplines on urban renewal, in New York, San Francisco, Chicago, and a host of other cities.

Now, I am experiencing the phenomenon, right here in my community. Now, I have taken on the task of writing about urban renewal from a residents' point of view in my East Baltimore, chronicling this experience in a book. What we are doing here in my corner of East Baltimore, in my opinion, in my research, has never been doing before, I reiterate, in urban renewal.

The tools or methods, again, are Tenacity, Determination, and most especially, Listening to each other.

• What were the major successes in the eyes of the community?

The major successes in the eyes of the community were:

1) The most important one, to me: (This was also taken from the December 20, 2005, Panel's Executive Summary:) "While the committee could offer no guarantees to residents that they would be safe, they expressed their confidence that the protocol was thoughtfully and carefully constructed and therefore was likely to be far more protective of human health than standard demolition practices."

2) **Because our protocol is a living document, EBDI (East Baltimore Development Inc., the non-profit charged with the planning and implementation of the massive, bold undertaking) reserves the right to adjust the protocols and practices where warranted. Phases 2 and 3 are next.**

Finally, this is straight from my heart as a resident: Due to the fact I am an EJ Commissioner, there are 15 of us from around the City and State, on the Governors EJ Commission, we are attempting to have our Demolition Protocols legislated, which, will, enable their use citywide, statewide, hopefully nationally, and beyond.

Community Leader: Rosa Hart-Burenstine, Baltimore Coalition for EJ, Baltimore, MD
Email: Rosa21213@aol.com

Case History: West End Revitalization Association (Mebane, NC)

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- **Describe impacted community (population, neighborhood, general statistics, history).**

West End Revitalization Association (WERA)'s EJ communities are five low-income African American communities of about 500 houses, several 100-year old churches with cornerstones as early as 1868, Masonic Temple, and over 1,700 residents. The City of Mebane's population of 8,000 includes areas in Alamance County and Orange County. Mebane is sandwiched between the Triad (Greensboro, High Point, and Winston-Salem) and the Triangle (Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill) which total over three million people and about 30 percent are minorities. Mebane has doubled in size in ten years due to the Triad and Triangle planners searching for new and cheaper land for development on rural farm land and in small towns. The U.S. EPA Air Quality Campus in the Research Triangle Park, with 2000 employees, is just 25 miles from Mebane and part of this growth.

WERA was founded in 1994 when plans were revealed for construction of 119-bypass/interstate through the two historic African American communities, West End and White Level, just outside of Mebane. The highway corridor would take land for a new 27-mile four lane (to be expanded to 8 lanes in the future) interstate from I-85/40 to Danville, VA. North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) studies revealed that 87% of the property targeted would be low-income African-American houses, churches, and a Masonic Temple in West End and White Level. The City of Mebane, Alamance County, and NCDOT officials had approved the plans and sought funding from the Federal Highway Administration to use new infrastructure to destroy "home places", since slavery, that have been denied access to basic amenities which contributes environmental health hazards and health disparities.

- **What are/were the problems affecting the community?**

The highway planning had taken place for over fifteen years without public hearings and input from homeowners suffering for decades from the denial of basic amenities: a) safe drinking water, b) 50-to100% failure of backyard septic systems and no connection to sewage treatment plant block away, c) poor air quality and no stormwater management due to unpaved dirt paths rather than streets, d) furniture factory's underground storage tanks leaking toxic petroleum (cancer causing benzenes and xylenes), and city issued permits for construction of "affordable" housing on a 100-year old landfill contaminated with arsenic from chemically treated wood.

Alamance County along with several central North Carolina counties consistently fails EPA's Clean Air Act standards due to industry and diesel truck traffic on the existing I-85/40 'goods movement' corridor. WERA also documented the City of Mebane's non-compliance with the: a) Clean Water Act as a result of human sewage in community streams (over 300 times EPA minimal for E. coli and fecal coliforms); b) Safe Drinking Water Act when Mebane's municipal drinking water tested positive for E. coli and fecal

coliforms numerous times over several years; c) Solid Waste Disposal Act due to the city issuing building permits on top of a landfill in West End community; and d) and the Toxic Substances Control Act when the result of underground storage tanks leaking petroleum (cancer causing benzenes and xylenes) was hidden from residents for over thirteen years and has yet to be cleaned up.

• What partnerships were formed to address the problems and challenges?

In 1999, WERA and community residents filed administrative complaints at the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898. This and other legal actions resulted in a moratorium being placed on construction of the 119-bypass/interstate corridor and implementation of steps toward mitigation. Plans for corrective action were driven by data that documented how environmental hazards impacted the quality of life African Americans as well as devalued their property.

A WERA lead research and management team documented public health disparities from substandard to non-existent infrastructure. WERA initiated partnerships in order to implement U.S. EPA Region 4 Environmental Justice Small Grant (\$15,000 in 2001) and a Project EXPORT pilot grant from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (\$10,000 in 2003). University professors and graduate students helped train impacted residents as community research monitors who collected water samples for testing and analysis, the university virology lab, under a double-blind procedure in order to protect confidentiality and personal data. WERA partnerships were expanded with the support of an U.S. EPA Collaborative Problem-Solving (CPS) grant (\$100,000 from 2004-2007) and other public and private grantors (N.C Rural Economic Development Center, Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, Fund for Southern Communities, Next Generation of African American Philanthropists, and the N.C. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission).

WERA's CPS "Right to Basic Amenities" project supported development of new community-owned and managed research (COMR) methods (see COMR poster presentation for more details). CPS partnership consists of nine working groups involved in assessment, management, and corrective action. Working groups included representatives from impacted communities in Mebane, stakeholders from comparable N.C. communities, attorneys, environmental and public health research experts, and local/state/federal government officials.

• What were the major challenges the community faced or faces in overcoming the problems?

1. "Old south" fear was a barrier to mobilizing community action, without major civil rights organizations, black elected officials, or a major urban area media platform;
2. Blatant racial and outspoken discrimination in city council meetings, transportation public hearings, and distorted media reports of non-compliances to environmental justice and civil rights laws by local, state, and federal agencies and elected officials;

3. Demographic, infrastructure, and environmental hazards databases were very inaccurate in low-income minority communities. Even the experts did not know where to look; and
4. Some major university professors attempted to control WERA's data and results in order to raise millions of dollars for university projects.

• How did the community overcome the challenges? If the community wasn't able to address the challenges, what were the impacts on the project? How did the project move forward?

After four years of angry outbursts at city council meetings, transportation hearings, and visits to the N.C. General Assembly where many of our state representatives refused to meeting with African American voters, WERA sought redress under constitutional law by filing complaints at the U.S. Department of Justice, in Washington, D.C.;

Maintaining complaints placed a moratorium on the 119-bypass/interstate which is reducing air pollutants, saving homes in environmental justice communities, while leveraging block grants and matching funds for first-time installation of sewer services, housing, and street improvements;

WERA sought technical assistance and grants to setup a website (www.wera-nc.org) that told our story. Power point presentations and large posters to display photo, graphics, and scientific data for community viewing were also produced;

WERA developed the Community-Owned and Managed Research (COMR) model in order to maintain long-term control of raw data, disseminate research results, and validate formal presentations; and

WERA's board, staff, community volunteers, and partners, planned, organized, and facilitated semi-annual progress reporting workshops on environmental hazards assessment, management, and reduction/removal.

• What tools or methods did the community use that is transferable to other communities facing similar issues?

WERA's board was not organized to be politically correct, rather to give structured and united voices to and for impacted stakeholders. It is still all African Americans from Mebane's environmental justice communities. WERA partners provide quality technical assistance, much like a loosely structured advisory board.

Filing administrative complaints, legal inquiry and petition, and can be very useful legal strategies without litigation. Seeking accountability on technical grounds can support legal remedies;

WERA Community-Owned and Managed Research (COMR) model provided more effective results for solutions implementation than the community-based participatory research (CBPR) method or the traditional university lead approach. It requires a community-based organization that is willing to develop the capacity to take charge with attorneys, government officials, public health, and research experts in the room;

GIS and spatial data mapping, government census data, and EPA's risk assessments are invaluable; however, "groundtruthing" is necessary to document community stakeholder "common sense" knowledge and "life experience priorities."

• What were the major successes in the eyes of the community?

1. The 119-bypass/interstate "good movement" corridor that would serve a proposed 2600 acres industrial park, anchored a Ford Motor Company distribution plant, is still on moratorium. The NCDOT's Draft of the Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), required by U.S. EPA, has been delayed since 1999 due to efforts to minimize environmental impact on residents. The petroleum plume from leaking underground storage tanks threaten groundwater and lied in the 119-bypass corridor;
2. WERA and collaborating partners leveraged environmental hazards into corrective actions: first-time installation of sewer service with block grants and matching city funds; widening, ditching, and paving dusty dirt streets that improved access, air quality, and stormwater management; stopping construction of an "affordable" housing subdivision on top of a landfill contaminated with arsenic and other chemicals and industrial furniture manufacturing waste;
3. WERA's "groundtruthing" documentation and research uncovered human waste contamination in the City of Mebane's drinking water when city engineers had not reported health code violations to users for years; and
4. WERA's board, staff, and partners have made presentations and conducted training workshops for the: U.S. EPA's Office of Environmental Justice; Minority Health Conferences at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; American Public Health Association (APHA) Conferences; Community-Campus Partnerships for Health (CCPH); and articles scheduled for publication by the Johns Hopkins University Journal's Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education, and Action (Fall Quarter <http://www.press.jhu.edu/journals/>).
5. WERA's President Omega Wilson has been selected to serve on the U.S. EPA's National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC), and Advisory Committee for the Environmental Leadership Program – Southeastern Regional Network.

AmeriCorps*VISTA approved WERA as the only North Carolina sponsor site for volunteers/members with a focus on environmental health, awareness, and monitoring for low-income minority residents.

Community Leader Bio Sketch: Omega R. Wilson is President of the West End Revitalization Association – WERA of Mebane, N.C. Founding board chairman in 1994 when WERA incorporated as 501-(c)(3) non-profit community development corporation (CDC). Led board and staff through capacity building as a community-based environmental protection (CBEP) organization under U.S. EPA guidelines. Grant writer and project manager of community-own and managed research (COMR) model involving: University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill EXPORT Pilot study on health disparities; U.S. EPA Environmental Justice Small Grant – Region 4 on at risk well water from failing septic systems; and U.S. EPA Collaborative Problem-Solving Project on “Right to Basic Amenities” under public health statutes and environmental justice. Organized and facilitate several capacity building workshops on community-owned research, corrective actions for basic amenities, and legal strategies without litigation. Wilson is a current member of the U.S. EPA’s National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC), and Advisory Committee for the Environmental Leadership Program – Southeast Regional Network. Wilson’s educational background includes media and communications, community organizing, and environmental justice leadership.

Contact Information for this CASE Study:

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Case History: Detroiters Working For Environmental Justice

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- **Describe the impacted community (population, neighborhood, general statistics, history, etc).**

Detroit is home to 87% of the controlled and uncontrolled polluting facilities. In fact, Detroit is the preferred location for permitting the most undesirable environmental facilities for the entire state. Over 80% of Detroit's population is African American, 3% Latina and other minorities. According to the 2000 census, Detroit ranks number one as being the most segregated city in America.

- **What are/were the problems affecting the community?**

Unfortunately, this trend continues. After doing research in 1995, Dr. Bunyan Bryan, Professor at University of Michigan and Elaine Hockman of Wayne State University determined that Southeast Michigan is the hotspot for environmental problems in the state. Detroit has its share of Brownfields with a minimum estimated at 40,000. While pollution on land is an issue in Southeast Michigan air pollution is equally disturbing. Wayne County fail to meet the Clean Air Act standards on a regular basis. Health disparities for Detroit residents continue to be a challenge. For instance, African Americans in Detroit are five times more likely to be diagnosed with asthma compared to their white counterparts. In addition, Detroit's children rank among the top five in lead poisoning in the nation.

- **What partnerships were formed to address the problems and challenges?**

Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition (MEJC)
Detroit Urban Research Center (URC)

- **What were the major challenges the community faced or faces in overcoming the problems?**

Environmental health impacts remain a major challenge. Today, it is much easier for policy makers and community leaders to blame the victim rather than associated disparities with environmental exposures. Influential industry leaders are very effective in convincing the public that environmental protection equates to job jeopardy. And, finally, a barrier to these problems is the continual need to convince the regular resident that they can do something about these problems.

- **How did the community overcome the challenges? If the community wasn't able to address the challenges, what were the impacts on the project? How did the project move forward?**

In one instance in our efforts to convince Henry Ford Health System to shut down its medical waste incinerator, we were able to present credible information that provided a

cost effective strategy for eliminating incineration as a preferred waste management tool. This proved to be very effective. As a community we were seen as a resource not just an opponent.

In another instance, through the URC we have been able to produce good data that supports our position regarding diesel and truck traffic. Although, we have not been able to stop the proposed inter-modal freight terminal it has been effective in stalling the process. In doing so, the Michigan Department of Transportation has gone back to the drawing table many times and returned with new plans that reduced the proposed number of trucks from a high of 16,000 per day to 2,000 per, It is our hope to stop the proposed project altogether. There are very little public benefits.

- **What tools or methods did the community use that is transferable to other communities facing similar issues?**

Community based participatory research is a very effective approach to addressing the problems we face. If done correctly, it has great ability to impact public policy. In addition, credible information and good organizing strategies work well.

- **What were the major successes in the eyes of the community?**

The best success really was the shutting down of the Medical Waste incinerator. The community took this on with many obstacles but overcame them all in a relatively short time.

Community Leader Bio Sketch: Donele Wilkins has over two decades of experience in occupational and environmental health as an educator, consultant, trainer, administrator and advocate. In 1994, she co-founded and currently serves as the Executive Director of Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice (DWEJ), a non-profit organization addressing urban environmental issues in the City of Detroit. Ms. Wilkins has assisted several community organizations and put them on the correct path toward increasing their capacity to transform their communities. With her leadership, DWEJ was able to shut down the Henry Ford Hospital Medical Waste Incinerator. Donele sits on The Detroit Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments- transportation advisory committee, Founder and Co-Chair of the National Black Environmental Justice Network, Colin Powell Academy board of education and many other committees and forums.

Case History: Ponca City, Oklahoma and White Eagle Indian Community

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- **Describe the impacted community (population, neighborhood, general statistics, history, etc):**

The South side of Ponca City, OK is residential neighborhoods that are built in close proximity to the Conoco Phillips refinery as well as other industrial business. Those affected are mostly low income, minority residents. The ethnic make up of this area of town is primarily African American, Native American and Hispanic. Approximately 10,000 residents reside in this area of Ponca City.

The White Eagle Community is 6 miles south of Ponca City, and is the home of the Ponca Nation of Oklahoma. After forced removal from their native homelands in Nebraska, the Ponca Tribe was given “Indian Land” in present day Kay County Oklahoma. Over the years, the land base has dwindled to an approximate 10 square mile area, with many outlying rural residents. Within this 10 square miles lies Conco/Phillips, Continental Carbon Black, Ponca Iron and Metal, a metal smelter, a gravel cleaning facility, many open dumps, and the landfill for the City of Ponca City.

- **What are/were the problems affecting this community?**

High unemployment, and very low income affect residents of both of the above-mentioned areas. The Native American Community seems affected to the extreme by high rates of Diabetes, heart and respiratory illness, as well as many forms of cancer.

- **What partnerships were formed to address the problems and challenges?**

Ponca Tribal members have formed alliances with local farmers, members of the PACE Union (formerly locked out of Continental Carbon), local environmentalists, the Indigenous Environmental Network, and the Southern Justice League.

- **What were the major challenges the community faced or faces in overcoming the problems?**

The Industrial Corporations are ensconced within the political and social “norms” of Oklahoma. The economic impact of oil, and other industry in Oklahoma promotes the “Oil is King” mentality in the State. The residents of the state are so intertwined with the oil industry that the communities become inured to the pollution.

- **How did the community overcome the challenges? If the community wasn’t able to address the challenges, what were the impacts on the project? How did the project move forward?**

The challenges remain the same, and apathy within the community, as well as a basic lack of knowledge has made the struggle all the more challenging. The Ponca Tribe as well as many local residents adjacent to the Continental Carbon facility has joined a

lawsuit against the company. While the Tribe has not settled, many local residents have, and moved from their homes. Unfortunately, in many cases, settlements were not sizable enough to afford a move to an area not impacted by other industry, and in many cases White Eagle residents moved to the South side of Ponca City, only to face other woes. Settlements also were not inclusive of long-term medical care, and the impacts of this are yet to be seen. Many local residents, the Ponca Tribe, and local activists continue to struggle to educate the community, and keep the project moving ahead.

• What tools or methods did the community use that is transferable to other communities facing similar issues?

Forming alliances with other individuals, and organizations within the community facing the same risks, outside the normal ethnic, and or socio economic boundaries. Continued educational outreach to the public regarding the health risks, and long-term impacts of environmental pollution. As well as staging very public rally's and or gatherings to spread the work and the word throughout the community.

• What were the major successes in the eyes of the community?

1. The sense of empowerment and pride that was achieved through "Direct Action.
2. The educational outreach and support received from organizations outside of our immediate area.
3. The "Just Transitions" achieved.

Community Leader Bio Sketch: Casey Camp-Horinek is a member of the Ponca Nation of Oklahoma. A life long political and environmental activist, Casey has founded the Coyote Creek Center for Environmental Justice to educate and empower Native American Communities facing gross injustice through environmental pollution and the ensuing socio economic impacts. In the 1980's Casey worked directly with Cary Dickerson and Grace Thorpe to halt the infamous "Black Fox" power plant. In addition, Casey has marched with Caesar Chavez, worked actively with the American Indian Movement, and helped stop a hazardous waste facility from being built on the site of the historic Chilocco Indian School in North Central Oklahoma.

Contact Information for the Case Study:

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Case History: Pacoima Beautiful (Los Angeles)

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- **Describe the impacted community (population, neighborhood, general statistics, history, etc).**

Pacoima, California. (northeast San Fernando Valley, City of Los Angeles) 100,000 residents, 83% Latino, 8% African American, low income.

- **What are/were the problems affecting the community?**

Pacoima residents are impacted by the effects of pollution from both mobile and stationary sources. The community is surrounded by three freeways, bisected by a railroad line, has a small plane airport within its borders and is subject to fugitive dust from numerous toxic release sites, including landfills, primarily from the adjacent community of Sun Valley. Residents, many of whom live across the street or adjacent to conflicting land uses and businesses, have historically not been aware of the potential impacts of these uses on their health and on the health of their children.

- **What partnerships were formed to address the problems and challenges?**

The community began to come together around environmental health issues in 1999. Pacoima Beautiful, in partnership with four California State University faculty members, focused on reducing lead poisoning and other in home environmental hazards. Partnerships grew over the years to include local health agencies, other neighborhood organizations, and regulatory agencies.

- **What were the major challenges the community faced or faces in overcoming the problems?**

One of the greatest challenges has been getting businesses to voluntarily become interested or involved in environmental health issues. Few business owners are invested in the Pacoima community in any way let alone caring about neighboring residents.

For a long time, the majority of the residents were not interested in learning about environmental issues- most of the problems cannot be seen or touched and there was little patience for the intangible. That changed when residents learned about the potential impacts of pollution and various land uses on their health and that of their children. An additional challenge is that in a community of 100,000 people it is hard to reach all who need information.

Another challenge was that elected officials were unaware of the possible link between health and the environment. There was little or no focus on cause and effect.

- **How did the community overcome the challenges? If the community wasn't able to address the challenges, what were the impacts on the project? How did the project move forward?**

Education and information were and are the key to addressing the challenges.

Finding a few business champions is proving essential. The former President of the Chamber of Commerce has seen the value of addressing both health and economics and he has taken upon himself to convince others of the link. However, the process is very slow.

Elected officials were convinced when they heard from knowledgeable residents. The most knowledgeable group of residents are the youth in the community. One hundred thirty participate yearly, through Pacoima Beautiful, in environmental learning activities including community based participatory research. The youth share what they learn with their parents, other community members and elected officials. The elected officials are now supportive.

As a result of the voice of the youth being heard, all elected officials are addressing environmental health issues in their work.

The adult residents are now willing to learn and become involved but at a slower pace. The project is moving forward and is gaining momentum.

- **What tools or methods did the community use that are transferable to other communities facing similar issues?**

Research. Residents are encouraged and supported by Pacoima Beautiful staff to research the environmental issues that concern them. We build partnerships with residents, public officials, university faculty and other community organizations around research topics and stress the value of learning together. Through this process we all become "community researchers."

Education. We provide educational opportunities such as workshops, community tours, presentations and meetings for residents, from ages 14 up, and public officials, to help raise awareness about local environmental issues. We invite partners from various agencies and organizations to share their knowledge with all stakeholders.

Leadership Development. We provide opportunities for residents to develop leadership and communication skills such as public speaking and presentation skills in order to share what they learn with other residents and public officials in a knowledgeable and respectful way. Public officials appreciate this approach, they are not yelled at, but can participate in meaningful dialogues that often result in positive change.

Organizing. Through various organizing techniques, such as door to door outreach and presentations at schools, we reach out to bring together residents who don't usually

participate in public processes.

Pacoima Beautiful has had the benefit of two major grants from EPA that has given the work credibility and has resulted in support from several other sources.

• **What were the major successes in the eyes of the community?**

1. Created the only sustainable environmental health organization in the San Fernando Valley
2. Achieved our goals of hiring and retaining residents to staff the organization.
3. Provided tools to thousands of residents on how to actively reduce or prevent environmental health hazards in their homes.
4. Educated elected officials and other public officials on the need to include environmental health concerns in land use decisions in the community
5. Through the youth program, more than 500 youth in the community have built their leadership and job skills while addressing the community's environmental concerns.
6. Assisted more than 150 low income residents in Los Angeles in applying for grants from the City of Los Angeles to replace windows and doors containing lead in paint. Of those , 67 families are from Pacoima. The Pacoima families received grants totally \$850,000 thereby preventing more than 275 children from being exposed to lead poisoning.

Community Leader Bio Sketch: Marlene Grossman is the Executive Director of Pacoima Beautiful, a non-profit organization focusing on Environmental Justice and Environmental Health in the northeast San Fernando Valley community of Pacoima. Marlene co-founded the organization in 1996. Ms. Grossman has degrees in education, Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning from UCLA Marlene is currently a member of the Executive Committee of Pacoima Partners, active in the Healthy Homes Collaborative, and a member of the San Vicente Design Review Board. She has served on the boards of TreePeople, Coro Southern California and is a former appointee to the Los Angeles City Board of Zoning Appeal.

Case History: West Oakland

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- **Describe the impacted community (population, neighborhood, general statistics, history, etc).**

West Oakland. 25,000 residents, 93% people of color, low income.

- **What are/were the problems affecting the community?**

Problems include extraordinarily high rates of poverty, crime, and environmental health impacts such as asthma as well as intense redevelopment pressure with associated potential gentrification impacts. The community is completely surrounded by freeways and immediately adjacent to the Port of Oakland, which is projected to experience a tripling of goods movement by 2020.

- **What partnerships were formed to address the problems and challenges?**

The community came together in 2000-2002 and carried out a prioritization exercise in which it identified 17 environmental indicators. The community then formed partnerships with several environmental and health agencies, other neighborhood organizations, local businesses, truckers, labor and other sectors to tackle environmental health problems, with a primary focus on air toxics, diesel pollutants and land use. The current collaborative (also described below) has approximately 3 dozen active stakeholders.

- **What were the major challenges the community faced or faces in overcoming the problems?**

1. One of the largest challenges has been port-related impacts, as the balance of trade is driving a projected tripling of goods movement through California ports by 2020. Balancing community health against this economic momentum is a huge challenge and has required engaging the major economic players.
2. Getting the major economic players (the port, shippers) to come to the table and play in good faith.

- **How did the community overcome the challenges? If the community wasn't able to address the challenges, what were the impacts on the project? How did the project move forward?**

The community has co-convened, along with EPA the West Oakland Toxic Reduction Collaborative and made progress in the area of Healthy Homes and indoor air, health impact assessments, clean fuels, truck clean-up, brownfields and other port-related impacts.

- **What tools or methods did the community use that are transferable to other**

communities facing similar issues?

1. Collaborative approaches to level the playing field, get more decisions out on the table in a transparent basis.
2. The community has used EPA funding to seed, leverage and support funding from several other sources.

• What were the major successes in the eyes of the community?

1. Trucks: Engaged Port of Oakland and other parties to collaborate on clean-up of 2500 trucks serving the Port in ways that are equitable to all stakeholders. Worked with PG&E and other stakeholders in conversion of 11 trucks to NG; more conversions coming up. Alternative fuel infrastructure funded.
2. 25 plus residents have undergone train-the-trainer training for indoor air.
3. Consultation provided on land uses – senior center mitigation measures. Engaged City, Port and other stakeholders on land use plan to relocate truck services out of residential areas.
4. 85% risk reduction (by 2020) target put forward for port related diesel pollutants. Previous benchmark was "no net increase" in emissions.
5. Biodiesel business plan developed.
6. State brownfields program adopted into community co-lead collaborative structure; major turnaround in how program functions in this community.
7. Top ranking stationary source (risk) voluntarily shut down following lengthy negotiations over mitigation measures. Site now projected for mixed housing (market rate/low income.)

Community Leaders: Margaret Gordon and Brian Beveridge, Co-chairs of the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project, are residents of West Oakland. Brian is also Co-Chair of the West Oakland Toxic Reduction Collaborative, and he and Margaret co-chair several of the eight working groups making up the Collaborative. Their membership in numerous organizations and on numerous advisory boards at the local, regional and state levels is due in large part to their demonstrated leadership on the issues of environmental justice, goods movement and community health.

Case History: Harambee House (Savannah, GA)

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Case History Title: From Assessment to Action: Hudson Hill Community
Harambee House/Citizens For Environmental Justice

Impacted Community

Hudson Hill is a small neighborhood located in the Southeast Region of the United States in the City of Savannah, Georgia. It is an old community on the northwest part of the city, near the Georgia Port and the Savannah River. Hudson Hill is the neighbor to at least 17 industrial facilities with International Paper being the major source of air emissions for several decades. On its southern border is a major thoroughfare with constant heavy commercial truck traffic and is slated for expansion over the next few years. Hudson Hill is approximately 98 percent African American with a new Latin immigrant population that is growing fast. The population is approximately 883 residents.

Thirty-three percent of the population is estimated to be employed with 43 percent high school graduates and 22 percent having some high school, no diploma. The household income in 2005 was:

less than 15,000 = 28%
15-25,000 = 21%
25,000-35,000 = 14%

The estimated population living at or below the poverty line is over 30%.

Problems Affecting the Community

The Hudson Hill Community has been affected by the past practices of primarily International Paper. Thousands of pounds of certain air pollutants have been emitted over the past several decades. Residents continually complain of night and early morning releases of substances that damage the paint on their cars and homes – and believed to have negatively affected their health, the air and the soil. Air pollution is a major issue with dioxin topping the list of concerns.

A lack of scientific data, validated by trusted researchers and experts is affecting how residents, elected officials and other stakeholders perceive the problems and potential solutions.

Major health concerns are prevalent and include cancer of various types, respiratory diseases (particularly asthma), skin disorders and gastro-intestinal problems. According to school nurses, asthma is a primary cause of high absenteeism in the public schools. ADD and low academic performance have been identified by parents as a major challenge that need to be addressed immediately to help change the children's development.

Partnerships

A partnership of 11 organizations and individuals was formed in 2004 to help address the problems and challenges in the Hudson Hill Community. The partnership included:

- The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)
- Environmental Protection Division (State)
- Chatham County Health Department
- Savannah Development and Renewal Authority (City)
- Savannah State University
- Eastside Concerned Citizens
- Auto Works
- Tools for Change – Savannah
- Clark-Atlanta University
- Ultimate Magazine
- City Councilman Van Johnson
- Hudson Hill Residents
- US EPA – Region IV

Major Challenges in Overcoming the Problems

- internal community division/common vision
- expansion of partnership to include industry
- credible data

Overcoming the Challenges

The community continues to engage itself in overcoming their major challenges.

- New leadership has been elected and is attempting to develop a master plan for development in collaboration with key stakeholders
- Hudson Hill in collaboration with its partners continues to conduct outreach to the neighboring industry(s). International Paper agreed to serve on a community working group that is engaged through ATSDR in a health consultation with the aim of identifying potential pollutants of concern, exposure pathways and potential impacts to health and environment

In addition, the Collaborative Problem Solving Project funded by EPA Office of Environmental Justice produced a Comprehensive Action Plan that presents recommendations in four areas of concern: Environmental Health, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Job Training and Revitalization. The report's recommendations are supported by many residents and is being presented to the Hudson Hill Neighborhood Association Board of Directors for their endorsement for implementation.

Tools

- Community Based Participatory Action and Research
- Elements of the Collaborative Problem Solving Model
- Community Interns
- House meetings for residents
- Community driven activities including health fairs, health screenings, trainings, site visits/exchanges with peer communities (Regenesis of Spartenburg, SC)
- Food
- Involvement of youth
- CPS/CARE grants

Major Successes

- Health consultation being conducted by ATSDR
- Development of Comprehensive Action Plan
- International Paper participation in ATSDR working group for the Health Consultation
- CEMA (Chatham Emergency Management Association) agreement to develop community emergency response plan and conduct evacuation simulations
- Operation of the warning siren indicating emergency and/or emission
- Attention brought to the community of its issues
- Empowerment of women leaders
- Training of young people

Community Leader Bio: Dr. Mildred McClain is a teacher by love and choice. She has over 30 years of teaching and organizing experience. She has served as the Executive Director of the Harambee House/Citizens For Environmental Justice for the past 17 years. Dr. McClain is the founder of the Black Youth Leadership Development Institute which will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2008.

As an environmental justice organizer, Dr. McClain has traveled extensively throughout the United States and abroad advocating for environmental justice, neighborhood by neighborhood. She served as an official Community Based Organization delegate of the World Conference Against Racism and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, both held in South Africa. She presented testimony to the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland further introduction the Environmental Justice landscape for inclusion in their environmental and human rights agenda.

Dr. Mildred McClain is a leading activist on issues related to nuclear weapons production, transportation of nuclear waste, non-proliferation and public participation in the decision making processes of military and federal facilities. Dr. McClain served as a co-chair of Congressman James Clyburn's National Environmental Policy Commission for four years. She is also a Bannerman Fellow and received the Keystone Award for Leadership in the Environmental Justice field of work.

Environmental Justice and Air Pollution Workshop
Collaborative Track - Other Biographies
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Vernice Miller-Travis

Vernice Miller-Travis is executive director of Groundwork USA, a network of independent nonprofit environmental organizations that help communities use their assets to eliminate environmental poverty and become vibrant, healthier, and safer places to live.

As a former program officer of the Ford Foundation, she launched that institution's environmental justice portfolio in the United States. She was director of the Environmental Justice Initiative at the Natural Resources Defense Counsel from 1993 until 1999, served on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Environmental Justice Advisory Council from 1996 until 2001, and is co-founder of the West Harlem Environmental Action, a 17-year-old community-based environmental justice organization in New York City. The National Black Environmental Justice Network is a preventive health, environmental and economic justice network with affiliates in 33 states and the District of Columbia. Members include some of the nation's leading African-American grassroots environmental justice activists, community organizers, academics, researchers, lawyers, public health specialists, technical experts, and authors addressing the intersection of public health, environmental hazards, and economic development within Black communities.

Romel Pascual

Romel Pascual serves as the Associate Director for Environment for Los Angeles Mayor, Antonio R. Villaraigosa. From 2001-2004, as the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Justice for California Environmental Protection Agency, he led the Agency's effort to develop the state's first environmental justice program. Prior to joining the Mayor's Office, Romel managed the environmental justice program for USEPA, Region 9.

Romel's involvement with environmental issues began in community organizations and grassroots leadership, working with the Urban Habitat Program, a non-profit organization based in the Bay Area where he coordinated the Brownfields Leadership and Community Revitalization Project; and with the Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN) where he conducted research on the impacts of environmental pollution on communities.

He has a B.A. in Political Science from UCLA, and Masters in City and Regional Planning from UC Berkeley.

Shankar Prasad

Shankar Prasad, as Deputy Secretary for Science and Environmental Justice in California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA), provides advice and guidance

on California environmental health and scientific issues related to water, air, pesticides and waste. He also coordinates and oversees the Cal/EPA's activities related to children's health and environmental justice. When Dr. Prasad was Health Advisor at the California Air Resources Board, he played a key role in the Board's adoption of the environmental justice policies and actions as well as recent revision of the health-based PM standards. He serves on many federal and state scientific and policy review panels and is a member of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Committee's Working Group on Cumulative Impacts. Prior to his current position, he worked as Health Effects Officer at the South Coast Air Quality Management District for five years.

Dr. Prasad is a physician by training, and has spent five years as a clinician, three years conducting air pollution health effects research, and 14 years in planning research and environmental health policy development. He has worked in India and South America, and has lived in the United States for the last 20 years.

Harold Mitchell

Harold Mitchell represents the 31st District in Spartanburg County in the South Carolina Legislature. He is the Executive Director of Regenesiis. He attended S.C. State University 1984-85; University of South Carolina 1985-88; attending Dominion Bible College. Married to Wanda Dawkins Mitchell, he has two children, David Benjamin and Elizabeth Ann. He is a member of EPA's National Environmental Justice Advisory Council; BMW Comm. Adv. Council; State Competitive Initiative Task Force on Distress Com.; Bd. of Govs., Spartanburg Chamber of Commerce; Chairman of Spartanburg Housing Development; member of Dominion Community Church.

"Harold's great gift, aside from his tenacity, is the commitment to maintain close ties to the community that has borne the burdens of these circumstances. He regularly meets with individuals and groups, meets with the community controlled Board of Directors of ReGenesis and with other partners to ensure that everyone is kept abreast of developments. He is a collaborator and coalition builder."

- Glenice B. Pearson, President, The NonProfit Network, Inc., Columbia, S.C.

About Regenesiis:

ReGenesis, Inc. is a community-based non-profit organization that was formed in 1998 to address environmental health issues focused on environmental justice. The ReGenesis project combines the redevelopment of the Arkwright-Forest Park areas of Spartanburg and the clean up of two waste sites – The Arkwright Dump and the former IMC Fertilizer plant site. The project, initiated by ReGenesis, is known as the ReGenesis Environmental Justice Demonstration Project, and is focused on the redevelopment, revitalization, and re-use of a 500 acre area in Spartanburg, South Carolina. The project area lies under the jurisdiction of both the City and County of Spartanburg. (see: <http://www.regenesisproject.org/>)

Collaborative Track Representatives, Presenters and Moderators*

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Boston Safe Ships Project

Tiffany Skogstrom, Boston Public Health Commission**

Northern Manhattan: Fair Share or Lion's Share

Peggy Shepard, WE ACT For Environmental Justice**

East Baltimore Revitalization Project

Rosa Hart-Burenstine, Baltimore Coalition for EJ**

West End Revitalization Association (Mebane, NC)

Omega Wilson, West End Revitalization Association**

Brenda Wilson, West End Revitalization Association

Detroiters Working For Environmental Justice

Donele Wilkins, Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice**

Rachel Newman, Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice

Ponca City, Oklahoma and White Eagle Indian Community

Casey Camp-Horinek, Coyote Creek Center for Environmental Justice**

Pacoima Beautiful (Los Angeles)

Marlene Grossman, Pacoima Beautiful**

West Oakland

Margaret Gordon, West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project**

Brian Beveridge, Oakland Environmental Indicators Project**

Swati Prakash, Pacific Institute

Harambee House (Savannah, GA)

Dr. Mildred McClain, Harambee House

Ranowul, Harambee House

Tyrone Ware, Woodville Community

Wagon Mound, New Mexico

Sofia Martinez, Southwest Network for Economic and Environmental Justice

Other presenters, moderators

Vernice Miller-Travis, Groundwork, USA

Romel Pascual, Mayors Office, City of Los Angeles

Shankar Prasad, California Environmental Protection Agency

Harold Mitchell, South Carolina State Representative; Regenes Project

* Please see Workshop list of registrants for detailed contact information.

** Biographical information included in case history