



## Environmental Justice (EJ)?

EPA defines EJ to mean the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin or incomes with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.

In the summer of 1996, Bill Wetter, Director of Environmental Health and Protection and Dr. Melindo Roe, Director of the Department of Health sponsored a group of community residents because of expressed health concerns with the Chickasaw Lake, and chemical emissions from Rubbertown. The project was called the **West County Community Involvement Project. (WCCIP)**

**The core committee consisted of: Marinelle Moses (Office of health and the Environment)), Jennifer Saling (Lake Dreamland Neighborhood), Evelyn Glass (Chickasaw neighborhood), Tom FitzGerald (Ky. Resource Council), Tom Herman (Zeon Chemicals), Rev. Henry Humphrey (Parkland Neighborhood), Bob Bottom (Paddlewheel Alliance), Paris Anderson (Cane Run Neighborhood), Norman Robinson (MSD), Jonathan Miller (DuPont Dow), Rev. Louis Coleman (Justice Resource Center), Jodie Coxé (Algonquin/Chickasaw Neighborhood), Wendall Flener (Riverside Gardens Neighborhood), Peggy Bolton (Shawnee neighborhood), Marshall Gazaway (Park DuValle Neighborhood), Bobby Hickey (Portland neighborhood), Cathy Hall (Hallmark Neighborhood), Dan Hicks (Rohm and Haas) and Aaron Kent (Park DuValle Neighborhood). Pam Kenzer, facilitator**

The first meeting in the summer of 1996 of the WCCIP Task Force, Project Coordination Committee (PCC), and other concerned individuals, met at

Shawnee Lodge. County Commissioner Darryl Owens made introductory remarks. The PCC proceeded with introductions of participants assembled. Then the **work begin.**

From a series of three community forums the following was developed:

- The development of a Health Survey  
Results of the survey with 130 participants: Seventy seven (77%) of the respondents chose “air” as their top environmental concern. Cancer was the top health concern with 34.6% . Respondents ranged in age from 18 to 73 years old, with 55.5% of all respondents rating their health status as good or excellent, with an additional 28.4 % respondents rating their status as average. Only 15.1% stated that their status was below average.
  - An “Action Agenda”  
WCCIP identified 38 environmental issues. Prioritizing them as follows:  
Health effects from toxic emissions  
Particulate air pollution  
Vehicle emissions  
Health access needs  
Health assessment  
Cancer concerns
  - Completed Action Agenda presented to Mayor Jerry Abramson September 3, 1996.
- In 1996:
- An EPA \$312,000 Environmental Justice through Pollution Prevention (EJP2) grant was awarded to the University of Louisville to provide:

1. pollution prevention technical assistance
2. a forum for community

interaction.

3. Hiring of an EJ coordinator,
4. an office and Information Center presently located in the Nia Center, 2900 W. Broadway, Louisville,
5. radio and media outreach sponsorship
6. a workstation for residents
7. a repository for technical Reports and reference information

During the '96 –'98 grant process the work group decided air monitoring was needed to either validate or nullify the concerns of residents.

**The top priority for the Task Force became improving Air Quality.** Since July 1998 to present day, State **SENATOR GERALD NEAL** has shepherded state appropriations in excess of \$1,000,000 through the Kentucky Legislature’s budget, to provide support for air monitoring. An air lab was established, a chemist, John Metaxis was, hired. The lab is currently located in Ernst Hall.

The monitoring sites were chosen by members of the community, industry, EPA, state , UofL and Air Pollution Control District representatives. They are:

Farnsley Middle School  
Chickasaw Park,  
Louisville Firearms Training Center,  
Cane Run Elementary,  
Camp Ground Road and Ralph Avenue,  
UofL Shelby Campus and Otter Creek Park.

In 2001, the **WCCIP** became an independent 501(c) 3, non-profit organization. At that time, the name was changed the **West Jefferson County Community Task Force .**

MISSION:

**The WJCTF works under the principles of research, education, information and validation of subject matter particular to the environmental**

**concerns of residents, to empower them to make rational and informed decisions on ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ISSUES.**

**We strive to build coalitions and partnerships between community, business and public entities, to implement strategies to improve the quality of life.**

In 2001, the Task Force received a small \$15,000 Environmental Justice grant from the Environmental Justice Department to develop a community educational and informational outreach on the analyses results of the monitoring data. This was completed in May 2003.

In 2002, the Task Force received \$50,000 from the city to assist in air monitoring. More lab equipment was purchased and a student was hired to assist in the lab. The money was used to provide continued community outreach. **ALDERWOMAN CHERI BRYANT-HAMILTON** spearheaded the \$50,000 award.

In 2004, the Task Force received a \$25,000 Environmental Justice grant from the EPA to do a health survey for residents living in close proximity to Rubbertown to see if residents' perception of health issues were improving. Results given in October, 2006

Key accomplishments from 1998 to present, include:

- ❖ Initiated an air toxic study that found 18 chemicals above healthy standards, 5 of major concern, Butadiene, Carbontetrachloride, Acrylonitrile, chloroprene and chromium
- ❖ Primary partner with the U.S. EPA for Community Based-Environmental Protection (CBEP) EJ projects;
- ❖ Providing a forum for **Monthly community meetings** for dialogue and information gathering - since 1997.
- ❖ Educational outreach – television, radio, community presentations, and numerous newspaper articles;
- ❖ Environmental Information Office opened in 1997 for access to environmental and health information;

- ❖ Web site containing monitoring data, containing environmental and health information;
- ❖ Risk Management and Risk Assessment Plan completed in 2003 resulting in the **Mayor's STAR program**
- ❖ Provided financial incentives and recognition to industries and community groups for pollution prevention activities;
- ❖ Member of Steering Committee of the U.S. EPA Community Access Network (CAN) representing local communities.
- ❖ Member of Steering Committee of the CRN (Community Resource Network), a local Annie E. Casey sponsored data resource project for communities.
- ❖ Membership on the Metro Housing Counsel
- ❖ Membership on the Mayor's Air Quality Task Force
- ❖ Membership on the Mayor's Air Quality STAR Implementation Group
- ❖ Membership on the Mayor's STAR 5.30 group (small sources)
- ❖ Membership on the State Air Quality Task Force
- ❖ Regular attendance at the Annual National Environmental Justice Advisory Council meetings
- ❖ Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission Earth Day Award in 2002 for commitment and dedication to protecting the environment.

**To Participate**

The Task Force provides a forum for the community to meet and exchange ideas and concerns **every third Tuesday** at 6:00 p.m. at the Nia Center, 2900 W. Broadway. Included in the attendance to answer your questions, are representatives from local government, Metro Air Pollution Control District (APCD), Health Department, the Office of Environmental Issues as well as UofL and industry.

The **WJCCTF** has become recognized as one of the leading community organizations on environmental justice issues. State and local governmental officials defer to the organization as the most knowledgeable and effective force in addressing environmental concerns in the community. The Task Force has been recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as one of the best

environmental justice programs nationwide (NEJAC 2002), and was recognized by the Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission as one of the best environmental programs in the state.

**WHO IS RUBBERTOWN?**

American Synthetic Rubber Co.  
ATOFINA Chemicals Inc.  
Borden Chemical, Inc  
Carbide Industries LLC  
E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company  
DuPont Dow Elastomers L.L.C.  
Noveon, Inc  
OxyVinyls, LP  
PolyOne  
Rohm and Haas Co.  
Zeon Chemicals LP

The largest source of industrial emissions in the Jefferson County area is a petrochemical complex located in West Louisville known as Rubbertown. The complex is composed of 11 large chemical plants that account for approximately 20% of the state's total industry releases of air toxics and 42% of all industrial air emissions in Jefferson County. Also, the county's largest wastewater facility, **Morris-Forman Water Treatment Plant**, is located in close proximity to the Rubbertown area.

The Rubbertown complex began with the construction of an oil refinery by Standard Oil of Kentucky in 1918. In the 1930's, it was joined by two additional oil refineries – Aetna Oil and Louisville Refinery. These three refineries produced gasoline, kerosene, fuel, oil, naphtha, and petroleum coke. All three refineries have since been torn down and replaced with petroleum terminals. The extent of soil and groundwater contamination from these plants is unknown. From 1924 to 1959, Bond Brothers, the largest railroad tie manufacturer in the U.S., was located in the Rubbertown area as well, with an operation that pressure-treated 3 million railroad ties a year.

With the outbreak of World War II, the complex expanded significantly in size and in activity. In 1941, the U.S. Office of War Production contracted with National Carbide to construct a calcium carbide/acetylene gas plant, and

with the B.F. Goodrich Corporation to build an adjacent plant. That same year, E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company (DuPont) was contracted to build a Neoprene synthetic rubber plant. This plant converted acetylene gas to vinyl acetylene, which was then chlorinated to produce chloroprene, the monomer used to produce Neoprene. In 1945, Union Carbide built a plant in the complex to manufacture 1,3-butadiene from grain alcohol that was piped to Rubbertown from distilleries in Louisville. That same year, a consortium of five tire companies known as National Synthetic Rubber opened a plant to make styrene-butadiene rubber for tires needed in the war effort.

After the war, the federal government continued to operate the styrene-butadiene rubber plant until 1955, when it was auctioned off to a consortium of 20 rubber companies. That same year, DuPont built a Freon production unit next to its Neoprene plant. In 1960, DuPont built an additional unit to manufacture vinyl fluoride, the primary raw material used to manufacture the polymer product Tedlar.

The Union Carbide plant was sold in 1961 to Rohm and Haas Co. to produce acrylic plastic and related products. In 1979, Hexion Chemical Inc. opened a new facility to produce formaldehyde, urea-formaldehyde resins, phenolic resins, and adhesives. As a result of divisions, several facilities have the following new owners: Atofina Chemicals, DuPont Performers, Noveon, Oxy Vinyls, PolyOne and Zeon Chemicals.

**Products made in Rubbertown** are used in thousands of different products, including acrylic paint; adhesives for labels and stickers; disposable diapers; ink; caulk, floor polish; tissue paper; plastic car bumpers; plastic bottles; plastic toys, PVC and CPVC pipe and fittings, vinyl house siding, window glazing, wallpaper; carpet padding, carpet, upholstery, marine coatings, bridge paint, deck paint, anti-rust spray paints, covering for cable TV wires, electrical wire insulation and coverings; wire covering for cords on hair dryers and other appliances, weather stripping for window and doors, flexible plumbing fittings, automotive taillight lenses; medical devices such as premature infant incubators and intravenous devices, drive belts, gloves, wet suits, residential hot water plumbing, fire sprinkler systems and other industrial applications where high temperature or chemical resistance is required; irrigation systems for golf

courses, vehicles hoses, belts, and gaskets; O-rings, brake pads and shoes, automotive sealing applications, buried electrical cable insulation, shoe soles; military boots; clean room equipment for the computer industry interior walls of passenger aircraft, and fuel binders for space shuttle rocket boosters.

### COMMUNITIES REPRESENTED

- ❖ Portland
- ❖ Hallmark
- ❖ Shawnee
- ❖ California
- ❖ Russell
- ❖ Parkland
- ❖ Chickasaw
- ❖ Park DuValle
- ❖ Cane Run
- ❖ Shively
- ❖ Lake Dreamland
- ❖ Riverside Gardens

### FUNDING PARTNERS, Past and Present

- ❖ Jefferson County Health Dept.
- ❖ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- ❖ Commonwealth of Kentucky
- ❖ Metro Air Pollution Control District
- ❖ Metro Louisville
- ❖ University of Louisville

### THE Office and Information CENTER is located at:

**The NIA Center**  
**2900 W. Broadway, Ste 218**  
**Louisville, Kentucky 40211**  
**Telephone (502) 852-4609**  
**Fax (502) 852-4610**  
**Internet:www.wjctcf.org**  
**Arnita Gadson, Exec. Dir.**

**CONTACTS: 540-6000 - MSD Odors**  
**574-6260 - Dept of Solid Waste - Dumping**  
**574-6000 - Air Pollution Cont. Dist.- Chemical Odors**

**574-6520 – Jeff. Co. Health Dept**  
**574-6646 - Office of Environmental Issues**

**If you would like to become a part of our mailing list, please call and leave your name, address, and zip. If you would rather be on our email list, please call and leave your email address., or provide the information below and drop in the mail.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ St. \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing list Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
 Email list Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

**Meetings are open to everyone,**  
**Every third Tuesday,**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room,**  
**Nia Center, 2900 W. Broadway.**



Strategic Toxic Air Regulation

