

"President Bush and EPA are empowering communities with the tools they need to address their local environmental challenges," said EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson. "Through CARE, we are putting communities in the driver's seat to deliver their residents real environmental results."

The CARE program is a community-based, community-driven program that builds partnerships to help the public understand and reduce toxic risks from numerous sources. Examples of projects include addressing water quality in Puget Sound, helping to rebuild St. Bernard Parish in La., helping the Cherokee Nation deal with toxic waste, and reducing air toxics in Tucson.

There are two types of CARE cooperative agreements. The smaller Level I cooperative agreements are approximately \$90,000 each and will help establish community-based partnerships dedicated to reducing toxics in local environments. Level II awards are larger – approximately \$275,000 – and are designed to support communities like Boston, Montana's Indiana Tribes, and Marquette, Mich. that have already established broad-based partnerships and have identified the priority toxic risks in the community. These communities are further along in the CARE process and are prepared to measure results, implement the risk reduction activities, and become self-sustaining.

Level I grant recipients:

Alaska:

Nunakauyak Traditional Council, Nelson Island

Colorado:

The Citizens for Clean Air and Water in Pueblo/Southern Colorado, Pueblo

Georgia:

Harambee House, Savannah

Iowa:

The Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health, Cerro Gordo County

Louisiana:

St. Bernard Parish Government, St. Bernard Parish

Massachusetts:

Nuestras Raices, Mount Holyoke

Michigan:

SW Detroit Environmental Vision, SW Detroit

Oklahoma:

The Cherokee Nation

South Carolina:

The City of Rock Hill

Washington:

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, Pierce County

Level II grant recipients:

Arizona:

Sonora Environment Research Institute, Tucson

Massachusetts:
Boston Public Health Commission

Michigan:
The Central Lake Superior Watershed Partnership, Marquette

Montana:
Rocky Mountain College, Montana Indian County

New Jersey:
Clean Air Communities, Camden

Pennsylvania:
Pennsylvania State University, Philadelphia

More information about the 2006 CARE Cooperative Agreement Recipients:
<http://www.epa.gov/oar/care/community.htm>