



OSWER! Environmental Justice! Success Stories Report! (FY 2004-2005)!

Partnerships for Environmental Justice!



Note from OSWER's Assistant Administrator

The third edition of the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) Environmental Justice Success Stories Report (2004-2005) underscores OSWER's commitment to environmental justice. This updated report highlights OSWER environmental justice projects that have successfully addressed national and local environmental justice challenges through collaborative and creative approaches to problem solving. An important goal of this report is to share information on effective projects and programs, so that they might be emulated in other communities across the country. I hope that communities, environmental organizations, states, and EPA staff will continue to use this report as a source of innovative ideas and contacts for future collaborations.

In his November 4, 2005, memorandum, "Reaffirming the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's Commitment to Environmental Justice," Administrator Stephen Johnson "directs EPA to more fully and effectively integrate environmental justice considerations into its programs, policies, and activities." It has been, and continues to be, OSWER's policy that programs administered by OSWER demonstrate the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people from all cultures, races, and incomes. OSWER's commitment to environmental justice officially began with an OSWER directive, issued in 1994, that requires environmental justice to be considered in all of its programs, rulemakings, and activities.

Since 1995, OSWER has tracked and documented its environmental justice activities. OSWER tracked its environmental justice accomplishments in "Waste Programs Environmental Justice Accomplishments Reports" from 1994 to 1999, prior to the first "Environmental Justice Success Stories Report (FY 1999-2001)." In 2002, OSWER began to document the program's environmental justice successes by focusing on ways to promote partnerships, assess benefits, and incorporate lessons learned into program activities. In the last three years, since this report began to focus on successful efforts, other EPA offices and regions have begun to provide broader environmental training to their management and staff. In addition, the OSWER environmental justice implementation organizational structure is being emulated in other headquarters offices and two other offices have begun to recognize environmental justice accomplishments through the issuance of awards to staff. All these activities were previously highlighted in OSWER reports.

The success stories in this report illustrate how environmental justice considerations were incorporated into EPA's waste programs. They represent a sampling of OSWER's continued support, commitment, and accountability in addressing environmental justice issues. By applying the concepts of environmental justice to all activities sponsored by EPA's waste programs, OSWER has been recognized as a leader in the eyes of the public, according to comments made by federal advisory committee members and others. Consequently, the projects and partnerships represented in these success stories are worth emulating widely across the Agency.

We will continue to recognize that a variety of partnerships and collaborative problem-solving approaches are integral to the future of our efforts to protect human health and the environment for all Americans. Through these efforts we will continue to generate positive results in all of our work.

Sincerely,

Susan Parker Bodine, Assistant Administrator
Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response

What is Environmental Justice?

Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment means that no group of people, including a racial, ethnic, or a socioeconomic group, should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local, and tribal programs and policies.

Environmental justice communities are minority and/or low income communities that often are excluded from the environmental policy setting and/or decision-making process and are subject to a disproportionate impact from one or more environmental hazards. These communities experience a disparate implementation of environmental regulations, requirements, practices, and activities.

Environmental justice is about real people facing real problems and designing practical solutions for challenging environmental problems. The environmental justice movement advocates programs that promote environmental protection within the context of sustainable development. Using various methods, including traditional knowledge about the ecosystem and community mobilization, the environmental justice community has become an imposing force in the protection of both urban and rural environments.

Table of Contents

Featured Story

Region 6 Environmental Response Unified Command to Continue in 2006	8
---	---

Brownfields Training and Revitalization

Groundwork Providence Brownfields Job Training Program–Providence, Rhode Island	12
Brownfields Nonprofit Cleanup Grantee Roundtable–Providence, Rhode Island	13
The “Robertson on the River” Project–Taunton, Massachusetts	14
Community Action Agency of Somerville’s Head Start Project–Somerville, Massachusetts	15
Brownfields Program Development in Puerto Rico	16
The Affordable Housing Development of Rheingold Gardens in Bushwick–Brooklyn, New York	17
Williamsburg Works’ Environmental Technician Training–Brooklyn, New York	18
Redevelopment of Roberto Clemente Park–Lancaster County, Pennsylvania	19
Arcade-Westside Area Revitalization Project: A Community-Based Collaboration–Rock Hill, South Carolina	20
The Hmong Funeral Home–St. Paul, Minnesota	22
The Sterling Morton High School Project–Cicero, Illinois	23
USTfields Pilot and Brownfields Grants at St. John Mission Site, Gila River Indian Community–Komatke, Arizona	24

Superfund

Fish Smart Campaign–New Bedford, Massachusetts	26
National Lacquer and Paint Cleanup–Chicago, Illinois	27
Utah Federation for Youth (UFY), 900 South Rail Line Hazardous Substances Research Project–Salt Lake City, Utah	28
Superfund Job Training Initiative (SuperJTI) Low Impact Development/Restorative Landscaping Training Program–Washington, DC	29

RCRA - Resource Conservation & Recovery Act

Hydrofluoric (HF) Acid Handling Initiative–South Philadelphia and Chester, Pennsylvania	32
Unannounced Facility Response Drills–South Philadelphia and Baltimore, Maryland	33

Environmental Justice Awareness Training

EJ Training for New OSWER Employees and Outside Stakeholders–Washington, DC	36
---	----

CIOP - Community Involvement, Outreach, and Planning

Environmental Justice, Community Education, and Advisory Project at the Savannah River Site (SRS)–South Carolina	38
“The Wanakwi: Environmental Justice/Earth Keeper Project”–Central Upper Peninsula of Michigan	39
Neighborhood Environmental Small Grant Projects–Various Cities, Missouri	40
Community Pollution Prevention Outreach and Education Project–City of Laramie, Wyoming	41

Collaborative Forum on the Human Health Effects of Cotter Corporation Milling Uranium–
Canon City, Colorado 42

Landmark Agreement on Solid Waste Management for Havasupai Tribe–Grand Canyon, Arizona 43

Reduction of Mercury in Community Clinics–California 45

Duwamish River Festival for Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund Site–Seattle and King County,
Washington 46

2005 Portland Harbor Superfund Site Neighborhood Community Outreach–Portland, Oregon 47

Recommendations for Improving Stakeholder Relations Between Federal Facilities and Environmental
Justice Communities 48

Glossary 49

Index of Projects by Office or Region 51



Featured Story



Featured Story

Region 6 Environmental Response Unified Command to Continue in 2006

Hurricane Katrina brought unprecedented destruction to the Gulf Coast in August 2005. The huge storm surges, widespread wind damage, and the flooding of New Orleans displaced hundreds of thousands of people, damaged thousands of homes beyond repair, and disrupted thousands of businesses. New Orleans was particularly hard hit, as its levees broke, flooding large parts of the city and costing the lives of over 1,300 individuals. Officials are now in the process of rebuilding the Gulf Coast. Since the hurricane, personnel from EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response have been working tirelessly in the Gulf coastal areas as an integral part of the federal response team.

Personnel from the multi-agency unified command in Metairie, Louisiana, have made significant accomplishments in the assessment, investigation, and oversight of the environmental cleanup efforts in southeast Louisiana since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Unified command agencies, along with their local, state, and federal partners, have recovered about seven million pounds of hazardous material, disposed of eight million tons of debris, and recovered four million gallons of oil.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, under the Presidential Natural Disaster Declaration, activated emergency environmental resources to address hazardous materials and oil spill issues. This multi-agency effort, organized under the National Response Plan, is comprised of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the U.S. Coast Guard. The operations are based at a closed Louisiana Technical College facility.

"We have effectively managed the disposal of eight million of the 22 million tons of debris generated by the hurricanes [January 2006]," said Chuck Brown, LDEQ assistant secretary. "As we continue our cleanup efforts in 2006, our partners are committed to properly disposing of each waste stream in the most efficient and environmentally sound manner."

The Coast Guard, along with its agency partners, responded immediately following Hurricane Katrina to six major and three medium spills totaling about eight million gallons of oil. The spills all resulted from storm damage to facilities. Since then, the Coast Guard has

recovered about four million gallons of oil. The remaining oil was naturally dispersed, evaporated, or burned off in a process known as in-situ burning. In addition, pollution investigation teams responded to more than 100 spill reports. Residual oil cleanup efforts continue at the following facilities: Sundown East in Potash, Louisiana; Bass Enterprises Production Company Cox Bay facility at mile marker 35 on the Mississippi River; and Bass Enterprises Production Company at mile marker 36 in Pointe a la Hache, Louisiana.

"Our Coast Guard men and women, agency partners, and countless other environmental response personnel have done an extraordinary job under very difficult circumstances. Their passion and dedication to this cleanup effort is certainly recognized by many, and their commitment will carry them through the monumental task of clean up, restoration, and future protection of the Gulf Coast environment," said Capt. Frank Paskewich, commanding officer of Coast Guard Sector New Orleans.

Since September 2005, Unified Command staff and contractors have collected waste, performed facility inspections, and conducted sampling in Beauregard, Jefferson Davis, Calcasieu, Cameron, Acadia, Lafayette, Vermilion, Iberia, St. Mary, St. Martin, Assumption, St. James, St. Charles, Terrebonne, LaFourche, St. Tammany, Orleans, Jefferson, Plaquemines, and St. Bernard Parishes. Efforts required approximately 1.2 million work hours. Results include:

The collection of:

- More than 1.3 million containerized hazardous materials (cleaners, pesticides, paints, and batteries), resulting in waste disposal exceeding 6.6 million pounds.
- More than 230,000 damaged white goods (refrigerators, freezers, washers, dryers, water heaters, air conditioners, stoves, ovens, microwave ovens, and nine dishwashers). Freon extracted from refrigerators and air conditioners was sent to local vendors for recycling.
- Nearly 43,000 damaged electronic goods (televi-sions, computers and audio equipment).
- More than 3,400 samples of water, soil, and air.

The sampling and assessment of:

- About 75 schools (both public and parochial).
- 1,500 potential chemical releases (emergency assessment only).

In addition, more than 1.6 million flyers were distributed to residents of southern Louisiana, providing information about drinking water, household hazardous waste, white goods, mold, and other potential environmental health hazards.

According to data current through December 24, 2005, the Unified Command of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Coast Guard, and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality have a workforce of 1,004 people in southern Louisiana assisting in hazardous materials response and removal. 550 of these workers were hired from the local workforce.

Providing opportunities for local people to participate in Louisiana's recovery is essential. "We benefit from local workers' knowledge of the area, the workers contribute to Louisiana's economy, and families help the area continue the return to normal," EPA Regional Administrator Richard E. Greene said. "It's a win-win for everyone."

Most local hiring has been done by environmental contractors and subcontractors employed by the Unified Command. Some workers are helping to collect household hazardous waste, process white goods, and prepare electronic waste for recycling. Others are retrieving containers from delicate wetlands and marshes. Some are scientists and technicians helping to keep environmental information up to date. Total workforce numbers vary from day to day as response needs change.

The response effort supports Louisiana's businesses. One contractor has used local firms and services to provide equipment and supplies. To date, its purchases total more than \$1.1 million. Contractor employees working with hazardous materials receive health and safety training, which is useful under current conditions and will be in future emergency situations. In addition, about 60 people are employed by a woman-owned small business.

For more information about the combined response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, please visit: <http://www.epa.gov/katrina/>, <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/>, or <http://www.uscgstormwatch.com/go/site/1008/>. Please contact the National Response Center at 800-

424-8802 to report any oil or chemical spills. Contractors who wish to know how EPA handles hurricane inquiries should visit: <http://www.epa.gov/Katrina/vendors.html>.

Contact

Olivia Balandran
EPA Region 6
balandran.olivia-r@epa.gov

Brownfields Revitalization

OSWER's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to cleanup abandoned properties that bring blight and decay to their surrounding communities. Many of these sites are brownfields, which means, by definition, that all or a portion of them have actual or perceived contamination and a real potential for reuse after cleanup. Through this initiative, OSWER provides grants of up to \$200,000 for assessment demonstration pilots and job training pilots. The assessment demonstration pilot grants are used to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models. The job training pilot grants provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field. In the projects described in this section, EPA worked with States, communities, and other stakeholders to deal with Brownfields. EPA's role was generally to fund the assessment and cleanup of contamination, while the other stakeholders worked to redevelop and reuse the sites.



GILA RIVER RESOURCE CENTER
DEDICATED TO THE WELLNESS AND CONTINUANCE
OF GILA RIVER COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Region 1

The “Robertson on the River” Project–Taunton, Massachusetts

Project Activity

In October 2005, the “Robertson on the River” Project succeeded in converting the 6.6-acre historic Robertson Mill building into 64 affordable residential units and 18,000 square feet of commercial space for neighborhood businesses. The project is located in the Weir Village neighborhood of Taunton and was developed by the Weir Corporation, a nonprofit community development corporation. The project will provide riverfront greenspace along the Taunton River, including a playground and basketball court for community use. Funding assistance from the Brownfields program includes a \$500,000 Revolving Loan Fund Grant awarded to the City of Taunton and a \$52,000 Cleanup Grant awarded to the Weir Corporation. The project began work in November 2004.

The Village of Weir consists of just 15 percent of the total land area of the City of Taunton, yet contains approximately 31 percent of the city’s total population. This densely populated area encompasses two Community Development Block Grant target areas that have over 51 percent low-income households and is an Economic Opportunity area of the state. The poverty rate is 13.5 percent, which is higher than the rates of the City at 8.3 percent and the state at 8.9 percent. The Weir neighborhood has a higher minority population than the city, region, or state, with 45 percent of the city’s black population and 49 percent of the city’s Hispanic population residing in the area. Residents of this area are directly affected by the risks of living near brownfield properties.

Project Participants

Partners include EPA New England, the Massachusetts Department of the Environment, the City of Taunton, the Weir Corporation, the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development, the Massachusetts Housing Partnership, and other private funding sources. These partners provided financial assistance and technical oversight for the project, including funding through low income housing tax credits and state historic tax credits. Total project costs were \$16 million.

Project Benefits

- Beautiful and affordable riverfront apartments
- Increased green space along the Taunton River
- A cleaned-up brownfields property, which restored a historic landmark and added neighborhood business space to the Weir Village

Lessons Learned

- Partnerships with local residents, city officials, federal and state agencies, and private lending institutions are key to successful Brownfields projects. The WEIR Corporation worked closely and efficiently with the various federal and state agencies that provided either financial or technical assistance.
- Provide residents the opportunity to participate in the redevelopment process. For this project, the WEIR Corporation sponsored a charette-style visioning session for neighborhood residents and businesses to secure their support. It also developed a Weir Village Newsletter, which included a Brownfields Update Flyer. This flyer was an important tool for informing neighbors about site remediation, progress, project timeframes and public meetings. Additionally, the WEIR Corporation provided bilingual outreach to local residents.
- Relate the project’s goal with the City’s bigger overarching goal. The WEIR Corporation was able to secure the City of Taunton’s support for the project as a “smart growth” initiative because it fits with the city’s efforts to create sustainable development that will create viable and strong neighborhood centers.

Project Contact

Carol Tucker
EPA Region 1–OSRR
tucker.carol@epa.gov

Region 5

The Sterling Morton High School Project-Cicero, Illinois

Project Activity

In the last five years, School District 201 purchased seven adjoining industrial properties in Cicero, Illinois, to expand the Sterling Morton High School into a new freshman center. In fall 2002, the School District demolished the industrial buildings and removed four underground storage tanks under the oversight of Illinois EPA's voluntary cleanup program. After the completion of the property's cleanup, the School District constructed the new freshman center on this site. This center is an important addition to the community as it reduces the overcrowding at the main high school campus located at 2423 S. Austin in Cicero. This community has a large Latino population and will realize an improvement to its education system with the construction of this new facility. According to the Region 5 Superfund Environmental Justice Analysis, 33 percent of the residents closest in proximity to this site are low-income and 82 percent of the residents are minority.

The School District arranged for Phase I and Phase II environmental assessments to be performed for each of the seven properties. Costs are \$730,000 for phase I and \$800,000 for phase II. The School District also demolished the Economail, Anderson Elevator, and Chicago Gear Works buildings on three of the properties to allow for construction of the freshman center campus.

In the midst of performing the cleanup, the School District determined that the extent of soil contamination within the site was greater than originally anticipated from the various Phase I and Phase II environmental assessments. On November 26, 2003, the School District met with U.S. EPA to request assistance in completing the site cleanup activities. In the Spring and Summer of 2004, EPA conducted a time-critical removal action, which allowed the school building to be opened in August 2004 for approximately 1,800 incoming students.

Partners and Roles

The U.S. EPA enlisted the assistance of many people from the community, and local and state governmental agencies, including the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR), Cicero Township, Cicero Fire Department, the Illinois EPA, and School District 201. The Illinois EPA assisted with the initial phase of

the cleanup, while the U.S. EPA provided funding and technical assistance during the latter phase of the cleanup. The U.S. EPA also engaged in outreach efforts to inform the community of its planned activities in the neighborhoods surrounding the Sterling Morton High School site.

Project Benefits

- The project replaced an unsightly property that was comprised of seven industrial buildings with an 18-acre campus for 1,800 freshman high school students.
- The freshman center improves the quality of education in the District by reducing class size and increasing the time teachers can spend with individual students.
- The project engaged the community through public meetings to discuss sampling protocols, analytical results, and anticipated clean-up actions. Prior to the commencement of any clean-up activities, U.S. EPA distributed informational flyers in the neighborhood.

Lessons Learned

- Providing the community with bilingual factsheets and working together with both Spanish and English media helped to establish a direct line of communication between the residents and EPA.
- Public involvement needs to be an early and continuing part of the process. Public involvement for this project consisted of more than just a mailer or a public meeting near the end of the process.
- After being involved early, the public was able to provide insight into what their community would find acceptable in the way of cleanup. In this case, the community wanted a new high school that would provide a necessary enhancement that would fit harmoniously into the community.
- By involving media, local leaders, and elected officials, the community was able to speak with a united voice.

Project Contacts

Thomas Cook
EPA Region 5-Superfund
cook.tom@epa.gov

Joe Munoz
EPA Region 5-Superfund
munoz.joe@epa.gov

Superfund

In 1993, EPA announced reforms for its Superfund program that addressed concerns expressed by affected members of the public. These reforms fundamentally changed Superfund. Through partnerships with states, tribes, other federal agencies, local governments, communities, land owners, lenders, developers, and potentially responsible parties (PRPs) for contamination, EPA has improved the cleanup process. Now, cleanups are being done faster, without compromise to the principle that those responsible for pollution are held accountable.

Several of these reforms enhance public participation and prevent minority and low-income populations from bearing the brunt of pollution. This section of the report highlights environmental justice projects being conducted under the Superfund program to improve communication with stakeholders and to encourage greater involvement of all communities in the Superfund process. It includes projects where EPA is working in partnership with local governments, communities, developers, and others to rethink the reuse value of cleaned up properties.

Headquarters

Superfund Job Training Initiative (SuperJTI) Low Impact Development/ Restorative Landscaping Training Program—Washington, DC

Project Activity

The implementation of a restorative landscaping training program has become an essential part of an overall cleanup effort, particularly in regards to stimulating sustainable development through training and employment opportunities. Restorative landscaping, also known as Low Impact Development (LID), is the name given to a variety of landscaping and soil/plant maintenance practices designed to be environmentally sound and recognized as a remediation technology. This technology includes the construction and use of rain gardens, bioretention cells, porous pavements, green roofs on building and structures, and rain barrels and cisterns.

A SuperJTI training program that implemented a restorative landscaping project was offered to a group of unemployed or marginally employed District residents from the community surrounding the Washington Navy Yard Superfund Site. It also was integrated into the overall effort to clean up and restore the Anacostia River watershed, an important environmental goal for the District of Columbia.

This on-the-job training project resulted in the installation of the first commercial greenroof in the Washington, DC, area. Greenroofs, like trees, can help jurisdictions meet federal air quality standards. The greenroof was installed during the first two weeks of June and an opening ceremony was held on June 21, 2004. The 3,500 square-foot rooftop garden has 9,730 plants, a weather station, and an unplanted control area to compare temperatures, rainfall and runoff.

Partners and Roles

DC Greenworks, a general contractor, delivered the technical training and coordinated a planting team consisting entirely of training program participants from Covenant House, a non-profit youth services agency serving at-risk youths. The project was supported by grants from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Watershed Protection Division of the DC Department of Health. Training for the Covenant House youth, accomplished by OAI, Inc., was supported in part by the Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (OSRTI) and the Bridges to Friendship partnership.

Project Benefits

- Hands-on work experience provides trainees the basic technical skills necessary to work at Superfund sites or construction sites, or in other technically related jobs in the community.
- Eleven residents completed the training and were prepared for entry-level positions in the landscaping field.
- Eight trainees were accepted into the Washington Area Sewer Authority (WASA) summer internship program.
- Reducing storm water runoff, air pollution, and rooftop temperatures reduces building energy costs and extends the life of the roof.
- Students were empowered with an awareness of environmental health issues while also being trained to become gainfully employed in high-growth and high-paying jobs.
- Students were taught to work safely and to educate members of their communities.

Lessons Learned

- Make certain the local jurisdiction has a local hiring clause to facilitate hiring from within the affected community.
- Have nonprofit organizations on board and fully committed to the process before training commitments are made.
- Utilize experts who have completed similar projects.
- Include substance abuse screening during the application process.

Project Contacts

Pat Carey
EPA Headquarters—OSWER/OSRTI/CIOB
carey.pat@epa.gov

Tipawan Reed
OAI, Inc.



Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

Many environmental justice communities are located in areas with operating hazardous waste facilities that are regulated under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). RCRA's primary goals are to protect human health and the environment from the potential hazards of waste disposal, to conserve energy and natural resources, to reduce the amount of waste generated, and to ensure that wastes are managed in an environmentally sound manner.

This section of the report highlights EPA's environmental justice activities related to RCRA in the areas of corrective action, brownfields, and training. The RCRA Corrective Action Program allows RCRA facilities to address the investigation and cleanup of hazardous releases themselves. The RCRA brownfields projects address RCRA facilities that are not in full use, where there is redevelopment potential of the site, and where reuse or redevelopment of the site is slowed due to concerns about actual or potential contamination, liability, and RCRA requirements. The RCRA training projects include training for Native Americans to develop or improve solid waste management practices on their reservations.



Environmental Justice Awareness Training

As part of EPA's commitment to implement effective practices for addressing the needs of environmental justice communities, EPA gives training to its staff regarding environmental justice issues. This training focuses on environmental justice policies and learned and practiced tools for managing environmental justice issues effectively. It also addresses the need for staff to be aware and sensitive to environmental justice issues that may arise in the communities in which they work. This section highlights the projects that involve environmental justice training of EPA employees.

Headquarters

EJ Training for New OSWER Employees and Outside Stakeholders—Washington, DC

Project Activity

OSWER (Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response) offered its one-day Fundamentals of Environmental Justice course to Americorps workers in the summer of 2005, and to new OSWER employees in the winter of 2005. It previously offered several open training sessions in 2004. This course introduces the concepts of environmental justice, including its definition, history, geographic information system (GIS) tools, tribal issues, and actual case studies. This multi-media interactive training course is part of EPA's ongoing diversity training efforts. It is also part of OSWER's ongoing efforts to train its staff to understand and better integrate environmental justice principles into its activities and programs.

Partners and Roles

The EJ training team is comprised of representatives from various OSWER and OEJ (Office of Environmental Justice) program offices.

Project Benefits

- Incorporating an early and continual awareness of environmental justice issues and concerns among OSWER staff by training 20 new employees.
- Participants will have the tools to integrate environmental justice considerations into OSWER's programs, projects, and activities.
- The course has promoted and reinforced the principles of environmental justice throughout OSWER and among external recipients of the training.
- A project to develop an EJ assessment methodology for Hazardous Waste Permitted Facilities evolved out of the Peer Clinic discussions.
- Americorps workers were trained to identify potential EJ issues in their service community and developed surveys and maps from interaction with local residents in that community.

Lessons Learned

- Catering the course material to the particular participants' work better engages participants and facilitates the learning process, while linking EJ principles to specific responsibilities of the participants.
- Interactive activities and visual learning tools, such as videos and flipcharts, create an atmosphere that is open to questions and information exchange.
- The Peer Clinic portion of the training has helped staff to identify specific actions that they can take to incorporate EJ considerations into their work.

Project Contact

Kent Benjamin
EPA Headquarters—OSWER
benjamin.kent@epa.gov



Community Involvement, Outreach, and Partnering

OSWER is committed to improving communications with communities and establishing trust of EPA in those communities. To do this, OSWER works in partnership with community representatives, states, cities, and federal agencies to develop strategies for promoting public participation and community involvement in its decision-making processes. Part of this process includes the development of communication and outreach tools that are effective in reaching the environmental justice communities that EPA serves. This section highlights EPA's environmental justice projects that focused on the development of partnerships with communities and other entities to develop effective communication and outreach materials.

Region 8

Collaborative Forum on the Human Health Effects of Cotter Corporation Milling Uranium—Canon City, Colorado

Project Activity

The project's goal is to build capacity in the environmental justice community by educating representatives from all stakeholder groups living near the Lincoln Park Study Area Superfund site with environmental data and pertinent administrative processes.

Partners and Roles

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) is the lead agency in charge of monitoring and regulating Colorado industries working with radioactive materials. Other project partners include: Cotter Mill representatives; Citizen-At-Large members; local officials from city/county governments; Fremont County Independent Outreach Committee (FCIOC); Colorado Citizens Against Toxic Waste (CCAT); and Resolve, Inc. CCAT is a non-profit organization that promotes public involvement in policy decisions related to hazardous waste in the city. Resolve, Inc., facilitates and assists with many aspects of the forum.

Project Benefits

- The Collaborative Forum has met four times and the project is still ongoing (as of 11/1/05). The diverse stakeholder groups are planning to meet for the first time to establish common ground among the various advocacy positions, which are typically polarized either in favor of or against the uranium mill's continued operation. This meeting is a big accomplishment considering the divisive climate that previously existed in the community.
- The Forum encourages participation from all stakeholder groups to establish an open dialogue on the Lincoln Park Study Area Superfund site.
- The Forums provide the various groups with important environmental information related to the Superfund site.

Lessons Learned

- When handling a challenging group like the Collaborative Forum, you must remain constantly aware of changing attitudes. Each session brings new concerns to the table. Losing the support of a single participant can completely change the dynamic of the meeting, and the main topic discussed may be of prime interest to one group and of no interest to another.
- Meetings that are inherently contentious often times require a strategy that encourages an open and meaningful dialogue. Tactics, such as starting a discussion on a topic of mutual interest and utilizing an expert facilitator to mediate the meeting, may help in this type of setting. Much of this legwork is done by the facilitator as background work after the meeting. If any stakeholder group cannot make the set date and time, the group should provide another representative for that session.
- Often there are varied interests and levels of expertise within each group, so under this system the most appropriate representatives from each group would be "fielded" for a particular session. This helps to eliminate burnout among the participants and promotes a fresh, productive discussion at each meeting. It is strongly recommended that this method of organizing meetings be used more widely within the Agency and the communities it serves.

Project Contacts

Nancy Reish
EPA Region 8, EJ Program
reish.nancy@epa.gov

Ted Linnert
EPA Region 8—Lincoln Park Study Area Superfund Site
linnert.ted@epa.gov

Region 9

Landmark Agreement on Solid Waste Management for Havasupai Tribe-Grand Canyon, Arizona

Project Activity

The project goal was to find and implement a sustainable solid waste management program for the Havasupai Tribe that is protective of both human health and the environment and is culturally appropriate. The Havasupai reservation is located on the south rim of the Grand Canyon, approximately 75 miles northwest of Flagstaff, Arizona. Supai Village, located on the Canyon floor, is accessible only by helicopter, mule, or foot. Due to the extreme remoteness of Supai Village, the Tribe has traditionally disposed of wastes at the community open dump, which is burned on a daily basis, creating air, land, and groundwater concerns. White goods and other large items traditionally have been collected separately for eventual removal by helicopter.

The Havasupai Tribe has borne a disproportionate share of environmental hazards due to its remote canyon home. The air pollution created from daily burning of the open dump has been affecting the health of tribal members for many years. Many residents, including children, report respiratory ailments, including asthma and other breathing difficulties. Due to the location of the village and the flow of air currents through the dump area, toxic smoke from the burning dump drifts into homes and nearby buildings on a daily basis.

EPA Region 9 staff has been working with the Havasupai Tribal Council and Tribal environmental staff for many years to work towards a sustainable solution to the Tribe's ongoing issues with solid waste. Most recently, EPA staff developed and presented six solid waste options available to the Tribe for discussion. Each option was evaluated and compared with considerations in mind, including: initial and ongoing cost, environmental impacts, ease of regulatory compliance, and timeframe for implementation.

Partners and Roles

The Havasupai Tribe, EPA Region 9, the Indian Health Service, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs were all involved in this project. Funding to address solid waste concerns was provided by the Indian Health Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and/or EPA in 1997,

2001, and 2002. In addition, EPA Region 9 provided funding through the General Assistance Program (GAP).

Project Benefits

- After over nine years of working together to find a sustainable solution, the Tribal Council, Tribal staff, and EPA staff developed and agreed upon a plan to haul trash out of the canyon via mule and helicopter with a strong emphasis on recycling. This plan will utilize existing tribal mule hauling enterprises, which are owned and operated by Havasupai Tribal members. The Tribal Council and tribal staff's strong leadership and commitment to find a solution made the landmark agreement possible. A Tribal Resolution was signed in August 2005. After signing the resolution, the Tribe held several public meetings with its residents and haulers to determine the needs and concerns of the community for the new program. EPA was invited to attend one such meeting to answer questions about the proposed solid waste management program.
- Once implemented, the Tribe will no longer dispose of waste at the large community burn dump at the bottom of the Canyon, and approximately 196 tons of waste per year now will be disposed of at a municipal solid waste landfill. This new program will protect the Tribe's drinking and surface water and eliminate the creation of air pollution generated from the daily burning of the waste. Both environmental and health conditions in the village will greatly improve as a result of this project.
- The Tribe has begun to develop a long-term plan to ensure the new solid waste management program is sustainable, and can run on revenues generated by tourism or other innovative programs. This approach is empowering the Tribe and the community to take an active role in human health and environmental protection.

Lessons Learned

- This project serves as an excellent example of inter-agency and inter-Tribal cooperation. This project would not have been possible without the combined efforts of multiple stakeholders—including the Tribal Council, Tribal staff, Tribal members, EPA, BIA, and IHS—all working together towards a common goal.
- The Project illustrates the importance of persistence and patience when handling a difficult and contentious topic, such as waste management on tribal land. After nine years, all parties finally reached an agreement. The end result is one that serves both the Tribe's and EPA's needs to promote better environmental protection for all.

Project Contact

Heather White
EPA Region 9–Waste Management Division
white.heather@epa.gov

Region 10

Duwamish River Festival for Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund Site—Seattle and King County, Washington

Project Activity

The Duwamish River Festival's goal was to provide information and involve the community in the Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund site, which affects multicultural neighborhoods. For the last five years, the site has been under remedial investigation. During this period, EPA has held public meetings to engage residents in discussion and activity surrounding the Duwamish Waterway Superfund site. Last year, the community requested an alternative to holding a formal meeting. Thus, EPA and its partners decided to organize a festival to draw greater attention to the Superfund site and increase participation in the process. EPA specifically hoped to attract residents that had never attended a prior meeting. The festival also served as a forum where pertinent information could be shared with residents, such as the health advisory about consuming fish from the Duwamish River. The festival was effective in reaching out to the Hispanic community. Organizers and festival goers provided such positive feedback on the festival, that plans are already under way for a second festival in 2006.



Partners and Roles

EPA coordinated the festival with a number of organizations, including the Washington State Department of Ecology, which shares community involvement responsibility for the site. Other participants included the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition (DRCC), which is the community advisory group for the site; the Lower Duwamish Waterway Group (LDWG), which consists of four parties with some responsibility for the cleanup (King County, the City of Seattle, the Port of Seattle, and The Boeing Company); and state and local health

agencies. EPA, Ecology, King County, and DRCC worked together on logistics and publicity, which included flyers in both English and Spanish. DRCC attracted neighborhood residents to the festival with Hispanic music and food, the Duwamish tribal dancers, and children's entertainment. King County provided a shuttle bus to take neighborhood residents to the festival, and Ecology provided a Spanish interpreter. DRCC, Ecology, and EPA provided kayak tours of the Superfund site. Most of these organizations also staffed informational booths and helped fund the festival.

Project Benefits

- The festival attracted a few hundred people, many of whom had never attended a Duwamish Superfund site event before. Among the new attendees were six Hispanic families. This was an increase from previous Hispanic attendance at Superfund meetings that were held in the community.
- The festival gave representatives of the various state and local agencies and organizations the opportunity to communicate with community members in an informal way.
- The event reinforced to the community EPA's continued commitment to involve the community during the cleanup of the Superfund site.

Lessons Learned

- A large community event, such as this festival, attracts a larger and more diverse audience than typical site meetings.
- To ensure a diverse attendance, provide entertainment to all age groups as an incentive for the whole family to attend. Also, distribute promotional festival materials in languages spoken in the community and arrange for ethnic food to be served and music to be played to attract more diverse members from the community.

Project Contact

Cindy C. Schuster
EPA Region 10—CIPP
schuster.cindy@epa.gov

Glossary

Brownfields - Contaminated areas, usually within a city or urban area, that are being cleaned up for future industrial use. Areas cleaned up under a brownfields program often are subject to different requirements than sites cleaned up under the Superfund program.

Community - a set of people with some shared element, in particular a group of people who live, work, learn, or play in the same area. The substance of shared element varies widely, from a situation to interest to lives and values. The term is used to evoke a sense of collectivism.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) - Commonly known as Superfund, this Act established prohibitions and requirements concerning closed and abandoned hazardous waste sites, provided for liability of persons responsible for releases of hazardous waste at these sites, and established a trust to provide for cleanup when no responsible party could be identified.

Environmental Assessment (EA) - A preliminary analysis required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The EA is used to determine whether an activity supported by the federal government would significantly affect the environment. Public comments on the draft EA can be instrumental in convincing an agency that a federal action is required.

Environmental Justice - the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws and policies, and their meaningful involvement in the decision-making processes of the government.

Groundwater - The supply of fresh water found beneath the earth's surface, usually in aquifers, that supply wells and springs. Because groundwater is a major source of drinking water, there is growing concern over contamination from leaching agricultural or industrial pollutants or leaking underground storage tanks.

Hazardous Substances - EPA defines this in two ways: 1) any material that poses a threat to human health and/or the environment. Typical hazardous substances are toxic, corrosive, ignitable, explosive, or chemically reactive; or 2) any substance designated by EPA to be reported if a designated quantity of the substance is spilled in the waters of the United States or is otherwise released into the environment.

Hazardous Waste - Any waste that exhibits characteristics of ignitability, corrosivity, or reactivity. RCRA sets standards for the handling, storage, transportation, treatment, and disposal of hazardous wastes.

PCBs - Polychlorinated biphenyls, which are a mixture of individual chemicals that are no longer produced in the United States, but are still found in the environment. PCBs were used as coolants and lubricants in transformers, capacitors, and other electrical equipment because they don't burn easily and are good insulators. The manufacture of PCBs was stopped in the U.S. in 1977 because of evidence they build up in the environment and can cause harmful health effects. Products made before 1977 that may contain PCBs include old fluorescent lighting fixtures and electrical devices containing PCB capacitors, and old microscope and hydraulic oils.

Pollution - The contamination of air, water, soil, or food supplies by toxic and other pollutants.

Pollutant - Any substance introduced into the environment that negatively affects the usefulness of a resource or the health of humans, animals, or ecosystems. A pollutant could include chemicals released by a facility, household products used incorrectly, car exhaust, or other materials that could cause harm to humans or the environment.

Regulations - The rules developed by agencies that contain the details needed to implement the general requirements found in laws. Regulations are developed in draft first. The public has an opportunity to comment on regulations before they are finalized.

Removal Action - Short-term immediate actions taken to address releases of hazardous substances that require expedited response.

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) - This Act was enacted by Congress in 1976. RCRA's primary goals are to protect human health and the environment from the potential hazards of waste disposal, to conserve energy and natural resources, to reduce the amount of waste generated, and to ensure that wastes are managed in an environmentally sound manner.

Smart Growth - Environmentally-sensitive land development with the goals of minimizing dependence on auto transportation, reducing air pollution, and making infrastructure investments more efficient.

Solid Waste - Any solid, semi-solid, liquid, or contained gaseous materials discarded from industrial, commercial, mining, or agricultural operations, and from community activities. Solid waste includes garbage, construction debris, commercial refuse, sludge from water supply or waste treatment plants, or air pollution control facilities, and other discarded materials.

Subsistence - What is required to maintain life.

Superfund - The program operated under the legislative authority of CERCLA that funds and carries out EPA solid waste emergency and long-term removal and remedial activities. These activities include establishing the National Priorities List, investigating sites for inclusion on the list, determining their priority, and conducting and/or supervising cleanup and other remedial actions.

Index of Projects by Office or Region

CIOB

Superfund:

<i>Superfund Job Training Initiative (SuperJTI) Low Impact Development/Restorative Landscaping Training Program–Washington, DC</i>	29
--	----

FFRRO

Community Involvement, Outreach, and Planning:

<i>Recommendations for Improving Stakeholder Relations Between Federal Facilities and Environmental Justice Communities</i>	48
---	----

IPCO

Environmental Justice Awareness Training:

<i>EJ Training for New OSWER Employees and Outside Stakeholders–Washington, DC</i>	36
--	----

Region 1

Brownfields Revitalization:

<i>Groundwork Providence Brownfields Job Training Program–Providence Rhode Island</i>	12
<i>Brownfields Nonprofit Cleanup Grantee Roundtable–Providence, Rhode Island</i>	13
<i>The “Robertson on the River” Project–Taunton, Massachusetts</i>	14
<i>Community Action Agency of Somerville’s Head Start Project–Somerville, Massachusetts</i>	15

Superfund:

<i>Fish Smart Campaign–New Bedford, Massachusetts</i>	26
---	----

Region 2

Environmental Justice Awareness Training:

<i>Brownfields Program Development in Puerto Rico</i>	16
<i>The Affordable Housing Development of Rheingold Gardens in Bushwick–Brooklyn, New York</i>	17
<i>Williamsburg Works’ Environmental Technician Training–Brooklyn, New York</i>	18

Region 3

Brownfields Revitalization:

<i>Redevelopment of Roberto Clemente Park–Lancaster County, Pennsylvania</i>	19
--	----

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act:

<i>Hydrofluoric (HF) Acid Handling Initiative–South Philadelphia and Chester, Pennsylvania</i>	32
<i>Unannounced Facility Response Drills–South Philadelphia and Baltimore, Maryland</i>	33

Region 4

Brownfields Revitalization:

<i>Arcade-Westside Area Revitalization Project: A Community-Based Collaboration–Rock Hill, South Carolina</i>	20
---	----

Community Involvement, Outreach, and Planning:

Environmental Justice, Community Education, and Advisory Project at the Savannah River Site (SRS)–South Carolina 38

Region 5

Brownfields Revitalization:

The Hmong Funeral Home–St. Paul, Minnesota 22
The Sterling Morton High School Project–Cicero, Illinois 23

Community Involvement, Outreach, and Planning:

“The Wanakwi: Environmental Justice/Earth Keeper Project”–Central Upper Peninsula of Michigan 39

Superfund:

National Lacquer and Paint Cleanup–Chicago, Illinois 27

Region 6

Region 6 Environmental Response Unified Command to Continue in 2006 8

Region 7

Community Involvement, Outreach, and Planning:

Neighborhood Environmental Small Grant Projects–Various Cities, Missouri 40

Region 8

Community Involvement, Outreach, and Planning:

Community Pollution Prevention Outreach and Education Project–City of Laramie, Wyoming 41
Collaborative Forum on the Human Health Effects of Cotter Corporation Milling Uranium–Canon City, Colorado 42

Superfund:

Utah Federation for Youth (UFY), 900 South Rail Line Hazardous Substances Research Project–Salt Lake City, Utah 28

Region 9

Brownfields Revitalization:

USTfields Pilot and Brownfields Grants at St. John Mission Site, Gila River Indian Community–Komatke, Arizona 24

Community Involvement, Outreach, and Planning:

Landmark Agreement on Solid Waste Management for Havasupai Tribe–Grand Canyon, Arizona 43
Reduction of Mercury in Community Clinics–California 45

Region 10

Community Involvement, Outreach, and Planning:

Duwamish River Festival for Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund Site–Seattle and King County, Washington 46
2005 Portland Harbor Superfund Site Neighborhood Community Outreach–Portland, Oregon 47



www.epa.gov/oswer

