

2013 U.S. EPA Community Involvement Training Conference:

The Next Generation of Community Involvement

Conference
Booklet



Coming to Boston, July 30 - August 1, 2013



www.epa.gov/ciconference

Welcome to the thirteenth U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Community Involvement Training Conference hosted by the EPA Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, EPA Office of Water, and EPA Region 1. The theme of this year's training conference is *The Next Generation of Community Involvement*. EPA has a responsibility to engage in a meaningful dialogue with an ever increasingly aware society. Strong community-based programs are vitally important to support the Agency's efforts to protect human health and the environment. This training conference will allow you to connect with people and organizations who may become your partners in the future. In addition, you will be able to learn about technological tools that will facilitate your community involvement work.

The training conference planning committee has worked hard over the past year to organize a high quality training conference that includes interesting, culturally diverse, and interactive sessions that will provide an unparalleled training and educational experience. This year's training conference features twenty-four 90-minute information sessions and sixteen three-, four-, and seven-hour training sessions as well as plenary sessions featuring guest speakers with a variety of experience in community involvement. For those who like to view first-hand the impact of effective community involvement, we have scheduled four field trips in the Boston area. As with past conferences, we have included a poster and technology demonstration session, exhibits, and time for networking to add value and fun to the experience.

This booklet provides key information about conference activities and transportation options. In accordance with the [EPA Green Meetings and Conferences Policy](#) to reduce waste, we do not plan to distribute this document at the training conference. However, we will have multiple copies of this booklet and presentation abstracts available for viewing in each meeting room and at the registration area. Should you want a copy for yourself, we suggest you print this document to bring with you to the conference.

We sincerely hope you enjoy the training conference and that you leave Boston with new ideas and approaches for meeting the needs of your communities.

Laura Knudsen, 2013 Conference Co-Chair
U.S. EPA Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response

Elana Goldstein, 2013 Conference Co-Chair
U.S. EPA Office of Water

Pamela Harting-Barrat, 2013 Conference Co-Chair
U.S. EPA Region 1



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Conference At-A-Glance

Tuesday, July 30	
7:00–8:00 am	Registration/Welcome
8:00–9:45 am	Plenary Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Welcome: Curt Spalding, Regional Administrator of U.S. EPA Region 1 (New England) ▪ Opening Remarks: Gina McCarthy, Administrator of the U.S. EPA ▪ Keynote Presentation: Jeanne DuBois, Executive Director of Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation ▪ Open-Time Session Topic Discussion for Wednesday <i>(only if additional topics are needed)</i>
9:45–10:00 am	Break
10:00–11:30 am	90-Minute Information Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Eliciting Occupant Preferences for Vapor Intrusion Risk-Management-Decision is Community Involvement ▪ Meeting People Where They Are – The Importance of Targeted Communication ▪ Social Media: Is it Right for Your Community? ▪ Technical Assistance Can Enhance Community Involvement, Communication, and Inclusion ▪ Using Crowdsourcing to Advance Environmental Justice ▪ Streamed Session: Working Effectively with Locally Elected Officials
11:30 am–12:45 pm	Lunch (On Your Own)
12:45–2:15 pm	90-Minute Information Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coastal Cultural Collaboration in the Gullah/Geechee Nation ▪ Getting Community Engagement Tools in the Hands of Practitioners ▪ How Mobile Apps Can Encourage Community Involvement in Supporting Clean Waterways and Beaches ▪ LEAPs of Faith: Lessons from the Leaders in Environmental Action Pilot Initiative ▪ “Oh, Now I Get It!”: Communities Learning By Doing ▪ Streamed Session: Koppers: What Would You Do?—Chaos to Communication
2:15–2:30 pm	Break
2:30–5:30 pm	Field Trip: Mystic River Watershed Tour Field Trip: Fairmount Line Project <hr/> Three-Hour Training Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EJSCREEN: Learning about EPA’s New Nationally Consistent Environmental Justice Screening Tool – EPA ONLY ▪ Innovative Ways of Involving Environmental Justice Communities in EPA Decision-Making ▪ Pictures Speak 1,000 Words: Advanced Video for Community Involvement Practitioners ▪ Transit-Oriented Justice (TOJ): Not About Us Without Us
6:00–8:00 pm	Poster Session & Technology Demonstrations/Evening Reception <i>(provided by hotel)</i>



Wednesday, July 31	
7:00–8:00 am	Registration/Welcome
8:00–9:30 am	<p>90-Minute Information Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assessment and Communication in Complex Exposure Environments ▪ Collaborating for Success in an Environmental Justice Community-35th Avenue Site ▪ Innovative Partnerships and Community Engagement: Case Studies from the Department of Defense ▪ National Peer Matching Program for Native American Tribes and Alaskan Native Villages ▪ Revolutions Begin with a Spark: Rub Guerilla Marketing and Memes Together and Watch Your Outreach Catch Fire! ▪ Streamed Session: Outreach and Environmental Justice Tactics for Connecting with Hispanic Communities
9:30–9:45 am	Break
9:45–11:15 am	<p>90-Minute Information Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Art of Community Engagement and Involvement ▪ Is Meaningful Community Involvement Radical? A Case Study of the Duwamish River ▪ Planning for Participation: Trends and Opportunities with Community Involvement Plans ▪ Raising Awareness and Action on Climate Change in Urban Communities ▪ Using Intercollegiate Debates to Inform and Engage the Public ▪ Streamed Session: Promoting Community Involvement with Little to No Outreach Budget!
11:15–11:30 am	Break
11:30 am–12:30 pm	60-Minute Open-Time Sessions (<i>please see page 5 for more information</i>)
12:30–1:45 pm	Lunch (On Your Own)
1:45–5:45 pm	<p>Field Trip: The Food Project</p> <p>Field Trip: Condor Street Urban Wild Site/East Boston Sea Level Rise, Climate Justice Tour</p> <hr/> <p>Four-Hour Training Sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Citizen Journalism and the EPA ▪ Color-Coding: Going Beyond the Numbers ▪ Critical Community Engagement: Addressing Urgent Environmental Crisis Using Case Study ▪ Master Class in Risk Communication and Cultural Diversity



Thursday, August 1	
8:00–9:00 am	Plenary Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation of Poster Awards ▪ Keynote Presentation: Dr. Julian Agyeman, Chair of the Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning, Tufts University ▪ Closing Announcements
9:00–9:15 am	Break
9:15 am–12:15 pm	Three-Hour Training Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Capacity Building Tools to Move From Division to Dialogue ▪ The Moment of Oh! When People Are Ready to Make Decisions <hr/> 7-Hour Training Sessions (Part 1 – Morning Session) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advanced Risk Communication and Media Skills ▪ Be Prepared: Know What to Say and How to Say It ▪ Collaborative Learning – An Expert Practice for Community Involvement in a Changing Climate ▪ Strengthening Community Engagement Across EPA: Knowledge & Skill Building
12:15–1:30 pm	Lunch (On Your Own)
1:30–5:30 pm	Four-Hour Training Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Risk Communication: Messaging to Build Trust and Understanding ▪ The Strength of Community Framework: A Model for Engaging Immigrants in Creating Environmentally Healthy Communities <hr/> 7-Hour Training Sessions (Part 2 – Afternoon Session) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advanced Risk Communication and Media Skills ▪ Be Prepared: Know What to Say and How to Say It ▪ Collaborative Learning – An Expert Practice for Community Involvement in a Changing Climate ▪ Strengthening Community Engagement Across EPA: Knowledge & Skill Building

Changes to Your Registration?

Once at the conference, you may check at the registration desk to see if it is possible to change your session selections.



Conference Activities

Plenary Sessions

Tuesday morning's plenary session will begin with a welcome by EPA Regional Administrator Curt Spalding, followed by opening remarks by Gina McCarthy, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

These remarks will be followed by a keynote presentation from Jeanne DuBois, Executive Director of the Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation.

Thursday morning's plenary session will be highlighted by a keynote presentation from Dr. Julian Agyeman, Chair of the Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning at Tufts University. This plenary session will also include award presentations and closing announcements.

Information and Training Sessions

This year's conference includes twenty-four 90-minute information sessions on a variety of topics and sixteen training sessions, varying in length from three to seven hours. All of the seven-hour sessions are being held Day 3 of the conference - Thursday, August 1.

Poster Session/Technology Demonstration and Networking Session

Posters and technology demonstrations will be showcased during a special evening reception (provided by the hotel) on Tuesday, July 30th from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. During this time, presenters will be available to discuss their poster or technology demonstration with attendees.

Poster Topics

Poster presentations will cover topics related to involving communities in the protection of the environment through outreach, education, or public participation. Posters may cover a current project, lessons learned from an activity or project, a successful approach the presenter has implemented to meet community needs, useful evaluation techniques used for community involvement work, or an innovative approach for dealing with a challenging situation.

Technology Demonstration Topics

Demonstrations of several technologies will be presented during this time. Technology demonstrations will present new tools, technologies, and software applications that attendees can apply to their community involvement work.

Open-Time Sessions

The agenda includes time for up to seven 60-minute "Open-Time" sessions. During these sessions, conference participants will have an opportunity to get together to discuss specific topics or listen to a presentation. The specific topics for these sessions will be proposed by registered participants in advance of the training conference, and all registered participants will have the opportunity to vote on their top choices before the training conference begins. Once the topics are selected, a meeting room will be assigned for each open-time session where participants can gather. The agenda for this time slot will be updated accordingly and posted to the central bulletin board at the training conference. If you are a registered participant at the training conference you will be updated via email regarding how and when to submit your ideas for the "Open-Time" sessions and when to vote on these ideas.



Hotel and Travel Information

Hotel

The conference is being held at the:

Westin Boston Waterfront Hotel

425 Summer Street

Boston, MA 02210

Phone: (617) 532-4600; Toll Free: 1-888-627-7115

The hotel is within minutes of Boston Logan International Airport. It is near the Boston Waterfront District that includes numerous dining options and night life. Nearby attractions include the Boston Harbor Walk, Tea Party Museum, New England Aquarium, and the JFK Library. It is also a short cab, water taxi, or T train ride from Back Bay, the Financial District, and plenty of other Boston attractions.

Amenities: The hotel's 793 guest rooms feature the Westin Heavenly bed and bath products, cable 32-inch flat-panel HDTVs with cable, iron and ironing board, hair dryer, fitness center (cardiovascular equipment & free weights), and a heated indoor pool (towels provided).

Hotel Parking: Self-parking is \$34 per night with in and out privileges. There are also numerous parking lots around the Westin that offer inexpensive parking options. For more information on those lots, please visit: <http://bestparking.com> and enter the Westin's address: 425 Summer Street.

Transportation

From Boston Logan International Airport:

The Westin Boston Waterfront Hotel is located three miles from the airport. There are several options for getting to and from the airport and hotel.

Transit: Silver Line (SL1 Line): The Silver Line Bus is the most convenient option and your best connection to and from the Airport and hotel with drop-off and pick-up directly in front of each airport terminal. There are no shuttle transfers and the bus has plenty of room to store your luggage. Fare costs \$2.50 per ride and can be purchased at nearby fare vending machines using cash or a credit card. The hotel is located on the MBTA Silver Line at the World Trade Center stop. Once at the World Trade Center stop, proceed 2 levels up to the Mezzanine level. The hotel is located at the end of the foot bridge on Summer Street, next door to the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center.

Taxi: Fares between the airport and Westin are approximately \$23.00, excluding tax and tip. Taxis may be found outside all terminals at Boston Logan International Airport.

Water Taxi: To get to the water taxi dock, take the #66 bus, which provides free transportation to the dock and is accessible outside all terminals. The fare to take the water taxi is \$10 one way, paid upon boarding. Exit the water taxi at the World Trade Center stop. The Westin is approximately two blocks from the pier.

Around Boston: The subway (the "T") is the easiest way to get around the Boston area. Weekdays and Saturday, the T opens at 5:35 a.m., and begins closing at some stations at 12:15 a.m. The schedule varies on Sundays. Trains run every 6-14 minutes depending on the time of day. The fare is approximately \$2.00-\$2.50 one-way (depending on your arrival time and destination) and a Linkpass for unlimited travel can be purchased for \$70. Additional information about Boston's subway is available at: <http://www.mbta.com/>



Driving Directions

From Logan Airport and Points East

Follow signs out of Boston Logan International Airport to Interstate 90 West/Massachusetts Turnpike West by way of the Ted Williams Tunnel. Take Exit 25 to South Boston. Keep right at the fork and exit onto Congress Street. Turn right on D Street. Turn right on Summer Street and the hotel is on the left.

From North

Take Interstate 93 South to Exit 20A towards South Station. Turn left at the light onto Summer Street. The hotel is approximately 0.7 miles ahead on the right just past the convention center.

From West

Take Interstate 90 East to Exit 24A (South Station). Go straight onto Atlantic Avenue. Turn right onto Summer Street. The hotel is 0.7 miles ahead on the right, just past the convention center.

From South

Take Interstate 93 North to Exit 20 (South Station). Turn right at the end of the ramp onto Kneeland Street and then take the 2nd left onto Atlantic Avenue. Turn right on Summer Street and the hotel is approximately 0.7 miles ahead on the right.

Green Meeting Policy

As in past years, the Community Involvement Training Conference aims to be more environmentally friendly. Some of the things we are doing to reduce the environmental impact of the conference include:

- Reducing printed conference documents by distributing documents through email and the conference website and minimizing handouts during the conference.
- Holding our traditional "Tote-Bag Exchange" instead of procuring a new tote bag for conference participants. Plan to bring new or gently used tote-bags to use for yourself or to trade.
- Encouraging conference participants to use public transportation or share rides when traveling between the airport and the hotel.
- Working with the hotel to recycle newspapers, beverage containers, and other items.
- Providing non-bottled water during conference events and activities.

EPA Green Meeting and Conferences Policy, May 1, 2007

"The mission of the EPA is to protect human health and the environment. We expect that all Agency meetings and conferences will be staged using as many environmentally preferable measures as possible. Environmentally preferable means products or services that have a lesser or reduced effect on the environment when compared with competing products or services that serve the same purpose."



Session Abstracts

Tuesday, July 30: 8:15–9:45 a.m. (Plenary Session)

The conference kicks off with a welcome address from EPA senior leaders, followed by opening remarks by Gina McCarthy, Administrator, U.S. EPA. This session also will include a keynote presentation by Jeanne DuBois, Executive Director of Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation.

Tuesday, July 30: 10:00–11:30 a.m. (90-Minute Information Session)

Eliciting Occupant Preferences (for Vapor Intrusion Risk-Management-Decisions) is Community Involvement

Presenters: Jim Dilorenzo, Region 1, Alana Lee, Region 9, and Henry Schuver, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, U.S. EPA; Lenny Siegel, Center for Public Environmental Oversight

Topic Area: Non-traditional Community Involvement Strategies

Level: All levels

The occupants of buildings potentially exposed to toxic subsurface vapors are at risk from actual exposure, yet they have not routinely been involved in the inevitable risk-managing decisions to either: continue investigation efforts (attempting to definitively 'confirm' or deny vapor intrusion [VI] potential) or; take more preventive actions to ensure protection from (all soil gas) VI hazards. While some well-resourced communities figure it out on their own and decide to engage themselves in the risk management decisions being made, traditionally the transition from VI investigation/assessment/research to risk management decision making has been considered to be primarily a late-stage and regulator-only decision for which less well-resourced building occupants/communities may have little awareness or input (i.e., it has not been considered a community involvement issue). This information-session, based on two role-playing scenarios, explains why and how the building occupants/stakeholders/communities should and could be empowered by ensuring that they are fully aware of, and are able to compare, the benefits and trade-offs for each of the two alternative courses of action. These case studies also show how occupants/stakeholders can have recurrent opportunities to provide direct input/preferences on any risk-managing decision between further investigations and taking more preventive and protective (physical and/or institutional vapor control/mitigating) actions. In summary, routine and early occupant involvement in risk-managing decisions to either continue investigating or take risk-minimizing actions, should be considered an important part of meaningful community involvement, and could help maximize the benefits to all parties involved with VI concerns.

Meeting People Where They Are – The Importance of Targeted Communication

Presenters: Rachel Potter and Lynsy Smithson-Stanley, Climate Nexus

Topic Area: Non-traditional Community Involvement Strategies

Level: All levels

The U.S. population is large, complex, and made up of diverse communities that can be identified in many different ways – location, employment, and faith to name a few. To effectively engage with an audience or community on environmental and climate change issues is challenging, and success requires that you recognize who they are, and use communications to meet them where they are.

Climate Nexus is a non-profit communications group that focuses on climate change and clean energy issues in the US. We use our communications expertise and access to the best and latest research on climate science to identify and connect with audiences across the country in targeted ways that resonate with their value systems. We don't



Tuesday, July 30: 10:00–11:30 a.m. (90-Minute Information Session) *Continued*

do grassroots activism, but we do work to facilitate organic, on the ground climate action by demonstrating that climate change is affecting all our lives right here, right now.

This session will show you why communications is an important part of inspiring action, and how tailoring the way you communicate to different audiences can really maximize your chance of success. With a mix of presentation, video and group activity, we promise a fun, interactive conversation that will leave you with an improved knowledge of:

1. Why it is important to meet people where they are;
2. Why diverse communities have different communications needs and how to meet those needs;
3. How to design your own targeted communications program.

Social Media: Is it Right for Your Community?

Presenter: Jeanethe Falvey, Region 1, Kay Morrison, Region 10, and Jessica Orquina, Office of Web Communications, U.S. EPA

Topic Area: Communication and Collaboration through Technology; Cultural Diversity, Cultural Competency, and Environmental Justice; Non-traditional Community Involvement Strategies; and Facilitating Effective Collaboration

Level: Introductory, All levels

Perception is reality. In the ever-challenging cross roads of communicating to your audience about a particular issue or topic, you may be up against background perceptions about your agency or organization. Faced with more work and less time to do the job, channels of communicating are more likely to break down. It can be difficult to keep up with the demand and in defeated weariness valiant intentions of actually reaching and effectively engaging with your audience falls far short of both their and your expectations: compounding negative perceptions.

Social media is not the answer, but it could be one answer. This session will briefly dive into some options that are available at your fingertips. We will give a brief overview of social media tools that EPA is actively using; discuss key pros, cons, and case studies; and even leave you with a game of life you'll (hopefully) never forget.

Technical Assistance Can Enhance Community Involvement, Communication and Inclusion

Presenters: Peter deFur and Laura Williams, ESC, LLC

Topic Area: Communication and Collaboration through Technology; Cultural Diversity, Cultural Competency, and Environmental Justice; Non-traditional Community Involvement Strategies; and Facilitating Effective Collaboration

Level: All levels

Technical assistance for communities is available through more than one EPA program. The Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) program and the Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) program are the two most common and widely used means of assistance. Some states (i.e. Washington) have comparable programs. Other options may be available through foundation grants or other programs. Wisely selecting and applying the expertise of technical advisors can enhance community involvement in many ways. Technical knowledge and understanding empowers the community and can lead to improved outcomes for the community. This session will explore critical characteristics of technical assistance that are most useful, including scientific knowledge, timeliness, public understandability, flexibility, accessibility and openness. Specifically, the scientific information needs to be accurate and current; technical assistance needs to be available early in the project; the technical information must be explained in understandable terms and in a "user-friendly" format; and the technical team needs to be open to other perspectives and new information, especially from community members. These characteristics of technical assistance then create a collaborative partnership among all those who are working with the community, fostering participation and enhancing cooperation. These issues will be examined by the presenters and the participants in this session.



Tuesday, July 30: 10:00–11:30 a.m. (90-Minute Information Session) *Continued*

Using Crowdsourcing to Advance Environmental Justice

Presenters: Charles Lee, Office of Environmental Justice, and Richard Wayland, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, U.S. EPA; and Darin Dinsmore, Crowdbrite

Topic Area: Communication and Collaboration through Technology; Cultural Diversity, Cultural Competency, and Environmental Justice; Non-traditional Community Involvement Strategies; and Facilitating Effective Collaboration

Level: All levels

“Crowdsourcing” refers to a process that harnesses the collective intelligence of large numbers of people to solve problems collaboratively, by distributing tasks, assessing quality and processing work in parallel through on-line and mobile platforms in combination with meetings and workshops. These processes have the potential to tackle complex environmental challenges by engaging stakeholders, including those from historically underrepresented groups, in ways that promotes transparency, civic engagement, social equity, and collaborative team building. For these reasons, crowdsourcing is potentially an important tool to advance environmental justice. This session will highlight how crowdsourcing can accomplish this goal in two areas: (1) community planning and revitalization, and (2) citizens’ science and environmental monitoring. The session will feature an on-site demonstration of Crowdbrite’s platform, and case studies of two projects in San Francisco and Mexico City in disadvantaged communities where this platform has been used. In addition, the session includes a discussion of EPA’s efforts to promote the development of the next generation of mobile, low-cost environmental monitoring and the potential for crowdsourcing to add value to citizens’ science and environmental monitoring efforts, including perspectives on clearly defining the role of such efforts and ways the derived information can be used.

Working Effectively with Locally Elected Officials

Presenters: Doug Gutro, Region 1, and Frances Eargle, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, U.S. EPA

Topic Area: Facilitating Effective Collaboration

Level: Intermediate

A clear understanding of what local governments do and how they work is an important first step in making valuable links between the community and its local government. A stronger understanding between local government and community groups will help develop partnerships to build healthy and environmentally safe communities. This workshop will explore ways to build a process that works toward building a common goal: to strengthen the social, environmental and economic well-being of a community.

This 90-minute presentation will provide practical guidance and training on the public engagement process with locally elected officials. Participants will learn the importance of including elected officials in the loop, using their networks as a facilitative outreach for engaging communities throughout the process, and maintaining a continued informational loop. The participants will hear from locally elected officials and engage them in dialogue on how best to work with a fact pattern to simulate different perspectives and learning styles. Local officials will provide stories and tools to assist the participants in analyzing and formulating the best strategies to use in each situation. Participants in the program will help design outreach strategies for working with locally elected officials. This workshop also will utilize case studies that will illustrate the learning points and help participants to more thoroughly grasp concepts.



Tuesday, July 30: 12:45–2:15 p.m. (90-Minute Information Session)

Coastal Cultural Collaboration in the Gullah/Geechee Nation

Presenters: Chief Queen Quet Marquetta Goodwine, Carlie Towne, and Glenda Simmons-Jenkins, Gullah/Geechee Nation

Topic Area: Cultural Diversity, Cultural Competency, and Environmental Justice; Non-traditional Community Involvement Strategies; and Facilitating Effective Collaboration

Level: All levels

The Gullah/Geechee Nation exists from Jacksonville, NC to Jacksonville, FL. This unique African based cultural group is inextricably tied to the land and the Intercoastal Waterway. Thus, since chattel enslavement to the present time, this group has developed methods of cultural sustainability and worked on living in balance and harmony with the environment. That lifestyle has come to be encroached upon due to various types of environmental damage ranging from overbuilding to overharvesting of the waterways due to climate change. The mechanisms of adaptability that the Gullah/Geechee Nation has developed are not called upon by those creating the environmental protection legislation and most of the Gullah/Geechee population has not been brought into the circles of environmental justice (EJ). Thus, where there are brownfields, Superfund sites, and other toxic areas in the more urbanized areas of the Gullah/Geechee Nation, the native people of this culture are often left to suffer without realizing what is infecting their communities. Meanwhile on the Sea Islands, the Gullah/Geechee traditionalists that live from the land and the waterways can see the steady erosion happening before them, but have no means to come to the table with the people within the governmental agencies that have mandates to restore and protect these lands. This session will help all those that would like to connect with more diverse groups to be able to learn methods that will bridge the communications gap between indigenous and minority groups and others in the EJ community.

Getting Community Engagement Tools in the Hands of Practitioners

Presenters: Ellen Manges, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, U.S. EPA; and Nicole Nakata, Association of Schools of Public Health

Topic Area: Other; Creating an EPA Community of Practice for EPA Staff Working with Communities

Level: All levels

The EPA Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) Community Engagement Initiative (CEI) is focused on aiding OSWER and regional offices to meaningfully engage local communities and stakeholders in their projects. This session will introduce and demonstrate two new, web-based activities developed by OSWER that will be useful to anyone conducting community engagement activities: the Community Engagement Network (CEN) and the Community Engagement (CE) Tools Framework. The CEN is meant to be an online collaborative space that provides EPA staff with tools and guides, technical assistance resources, CE training opportunities, subject matter contacts and promising practices. Through the CEN, OSWER will promote the CE Tools Framework which will reference and demonstrate the many existing or new community engagement tools and processes that have been updated or developed through the CEI. The CE Tools Framework will enable EPA staff to easily access and use the tools for project specific work. The CE Tools Framework covers three major areas of community engagement: planning, delivering information, and providing technical assistance.

How Mobile Apps Can Encourage Community Involvement in Supporting Clean Waterways and Beaches

Presenters: Travis Loop, Office of Water, U.S. EPA; Julie Reichert-Nguyen, Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE); Krystyn Tully, Lake Ontario Waterkeeper; and Jared Criscuolo, Below the Surface

Topic Area: Communication and Collaboration thru Technology

Level: All levels

Are the local lakes, rivers, streams, beaches, and swimming holes clean and healthy in your community? How can



Tuesday, July 30: 12:45–2:15 p.m. (90-Minute Information Session) *Continued*

your community find and use available data and information to encourage the protection and restoration of these waters for future generations? In today's society, mobile applications on smart phones and tablets offer a great way to quickly share and communicate data and information that can address these sorts of environmental questions. This session will take an in-depth look at three water-related apps, described below, and how they can be used to encourage community involvement in protecting and restoring local waterways and beaches.

- The *How's my Waterway* mobile website app helps you find information on the condition of your local waterways, what is being done to protect and restore those waterways, and what you can do to help.
- The *SwimGuide* app (<http://www.theswimguide.org>) helps you find your closest beaches, know at a glance which ones are safe for swimming, and share your love of beaches with friends, family, and your community.
- The *Riverview* app (<http://belowthesurface.org>) lets you share pictures of your favorite river, lakes, and surf breaks as you join a community to "explore with a purpose."

Participants are encouraged to bring smart phones/ tablets and to download or bookmark the apps before the session.

Koppers: What Would You Do? - Chaos to Communication

Presenters: L'Tonya Spencer and Scott Miller, Region 4, U.S. EPA

Topic Area: Communication and Collaboration through Technology

Level: All levels

This session, using a little humor along the way, presents a case study of EPA's community involvement efforts at the Koppers Superfund Site. The presenters will show YouTube videos produced by the community to describe various aspects of Superfund and their message(s) and communication to us; discuss how we responded to the variety of efforts they used to communicate (good and bad) with us; describe what we did to recover trust and communication with the community, local officials, Potentially Responsible Party (PRP); and present lessons learned.

LEAPs of Faith: Lessons from the Leaders in Environmental Action Pilot Initiative

Presenters: Sheryl Good, Region 4, U.S. EPA; Karen Sprayberry, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control; Lasima Turmon, Community Development and Improvement Corporation; and Reverend Brendolyn Jenkins, The Imani Group, Inc.

Topic Area: Non-traditional Community Involvement Strategies

Level: All levels

Has your community continually experienced challenges and setbacks with 1) building capacity within the organization to address the myriad of issues that many communities with environmental justice concerns have, 2) identifying and prioritizing activities and concerns, and 3) securing resources to ensure that the work of the organization continues and thrives? If you answered yes to one or more of the above questions, this workshop is for you.

Four unique and distinct, grassroots organizations in South Carolina participated in a three-year initiative piloted by the South Carolina Department of Environmental Control (SCDHEC) and the U.S. EPA to build capacity, advance environmental justice, community development, and sustainability within their communities and collectively throughout the state. Over the three-year period, each organization received technical assistance and guidance to overcome their unique organizational and community challenges.

Representatives from two of the pilot organizations, SCDHEC, and EPA will discuss the Leaders in Environmental Action Pilot (LEAP) and share information on the collaborative, problem-solving approach that was used to assist the organizations in addressing their concerns. Participants will learn from the *LEAPs of Faith* DVD chronicling the LEAP effort, as well as participate in a group exercise using worksheets from "A Sustainability Workbook for Environmental Justice Communities: Lessons from the Leaders in Environmental Action Pilot Initiative," a workbook developed as a result of the LEAP project.



Tuesday, July 30: 12:45–2:15 p.m. (90-Minute Information Session) *Continued*

“Oh, Now I Get It!” – Communities Learning By Doing

Presenter: Ethan Contini-Field, TERC
Topic Area: Non-traditional Community Involvement Strategies
Level: All levels

After getting a stack of water test results, a concerned mother asks, "Does arsenic in the pond behind my house mean... my kids will get cancer?" You take a deep breath and start explaining about the testing process, parts per billion, sampling, risk assessment... but you can see her eyes glazing over. Interpreting test results and risk assessment is hard enough for someone with a graduate degree -- how do you explain them to someone with a high school diploma?

Building on two decades of research into how adults understand math and science, the "Statistics for Action" project at TERC has spent the past four years developing resources, activities, tools, and guides that environmental professionals can use to help communities:

- Understand frequently-used terms, units, and concepts in environmental data
- Analyze data to choose their priorities strategically
- Assess health risks
- Base their advocacy campaigns on real data

In this training, we'll demonstrate a few of the fun and engaging activities you can use with community groups so they can learn by doing, not just by listening. We'll review some of the other "Statistics for Action" activities and resources that groups can use on their own, before you meet with them -- if they understand the units and basic test results before you get there, your time with them can be more productive. We also will show materials available for free on the web at sfa.terc.edu.

Tuesday, July 30: 2:30–5:30 p.m. (Three-Hour Training)

EJ SCREEN: Learning about EPA's New Nationally Consistent Environmental Justice Screening Tool

OPEN TO EPA EMPLOYEES ONLY

Presenters: Heather Ross, Region 1, April Nowak, Region 8, Jasmin Muriel, Office of Environmental Justice, and Tai Lung and Yolanda Sanchez, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, U.S. EPA
Topic Area: Cultural Diversity, Cultural Competency, and Environmental Justice
Level: All levels
CEUs: .30 **CLPs:** 3

EJ SCREEN is a new web-based Geographic Information System (GIS) tool, created to bring national consistency to the data and methods the Agency uses to identify communities with potential environmental justice concerns. The tool includes information on 12 environmental burdens and 6 demographic factors, at the Census block group geographic level or 0.5-, 1-, or 3-mile buffer ring around a geographic point. EJ SCREEN is a preliminary step to characterizing communities as having potential EJ concerns; it's not an "easy button." Therefore, the outputs from EJ SCREEN should be combined with local and experiential knowledge to aid Agency staff decisions on identifying communities with environmental justice concerns.

This session will: 1) give an overview of EJ SCREEN; 2) share examples on how to use the tool for a geographically-based project; 3) discuss what additional information, training, or support EPA staff may want to aid them in the Agency priority of using EJ SCREEN; and 4) offer an experiential case study exercise on using EJ SCREEN to help characterize a community.



Tuesday, July 30: 2:30–5:30 p.m. (Three-Hour Training) *Continued*

Innovative Ways of Involving Environmental Justice Communities in EPA Decision-Making

Presenters: John Ray and Roberta Ray, Montana Tech of the University of Montana

Topic Area: Cultural Diversity, Cultural Competency, and Environmental Justice

Level: All levels

CEUs: .30 **CLPs:** 3

This presentation focuses on discussing innovative techniques to reach out to and involve environmental justice communities in EPA decision-making. While environmental justice communities are not all the same and we need to avoid stereotyping, the workshop will feature discussion as well as hands-on experiential exercises to enable the participant to develop and implement their own innovative and specific strategies and tactics for promoting environmental justice in their area. An example of such innovation has occurred in Butte, Montana. Central Butte is also the site of the Butte Priority Soils Superfund site and has an extraordinarily high number of low-income citizens. A central feature of this Superfund cleanup is the Residential Metals Abatement Program. This program has developed innovative methods for reaching out to and involving low-income citizens in the program, which is voluntary, and in the Superfund cleanup in general. The lessons learned in Butte will be shared with conference participants.

Pictures Speak 1,000 Words: A Video Primer for Community Involvement Practitioners

Presenters: Dominic Frederico and Pam Avery, Conover + Company Communications

Topic Area: Communication and Collaboration through Technology

Level: Intermediate

CEUs: .30 **CLPs:** 3

We live in a visual age, and more and more people are turning to video, rather than text, for the information they need. Today's public involvement efforts must factor in the use of compelling visuals, including video, when informing and engaging stakeholders about important projects and developments. This three-hour hands-on session is for EPA staffers who regularly create video for projects in their regions. Participants should bring video equipment or video-adapted smart phones to use in class. Attendees will:

- Review how to make the most of the equipment available, whether it's a camcorder or an iPhone.
- Practice setting the stage for an effective video shoot (background visuals, sounds, potential distractions.)
- Practice the 6 shots that tell the story (wide angle, medium shot, close up, etc.).
- Learn the fundamentals of creating B-roll for the news media.
- Review and critique sample videos.

Each attendee will receive a "Pictures Speak 1,000 Words Video Primer" Review guide. This course can accommodate up to 15 participants who will join the instructors on an on-site video "shoot."

Transit Oriented Justice (TOJ): Not About Us Without Us

Presenters: Russ Adams, Alliance for Metropolitan Stability; Malik Holt Shabazz, Harrison Neighborhood Association; Carol Swenson, District Councils Collaborative of Saint Paul & Minneapolis; and Va-Megn Thoi, Asian Economic Development Association

Topic Area: Cultural Diversity, Cultural Competency, and Environmental Justice; Non-traditional Community Involvement Strategies; and Facilitating Effective Collaboration

Level: All levels

CEUs: .30 **CLPs:** 3

In the Twin Cities region, powerful equity coalitions have formed to unite communities of color, small businesses and low-income communities along transitway corridors. These efforts seek to capture the economic potential and social benefits represented in public transit investments. These coalitions work across issue sectors, geography,



Tuesday, July 30: 2:30–5:30 p.m. (Three-Hour Training) *Continued*

culture, race and ethnicity boundaries to allow communities to **plan for and benefit from** bus and rail projects. Who decides and who benefits from these public investments? How can community groups and government agencies successfully bridge their differences to fashion better project outcomes?

This session will feature Environmental Justice leaders who are working with communities to establish equitable hiring practices and innovative workforce development programs to help small businesses survive and thrive along rail corridors; connect neighborhoods to a broader transit grid; secure community benefits; improve local engagement efforts; and deploy equitable development strategies. Audience members will be encouraged to participate in the conversation and to jointly explore with the panel members the challenges of applying an Environmental Justice lens to our shared work. We will invite participants to share their successes and lessons learned in interactive breakout sessions, as well as full group discussions. This session will examine why simply investing in Environmental Justice community engagement leads to better project results.

Tuesday, July 30: 2:30–5:30 pm (Field Trips)

Buses for the field trips will pick up and drop off outside the D Street doors on the corner of Fargo and D Streets. The D Street doors are located directly opposite the escalators on the Concourse level. Buses will be departing at 2:30 on Tuesday.

Mystic River Watershed Tour

The Mystic River Watershed is one of the most densely populated urban river watersheds in the country and drains an area of approximately 76 square miles and 21 municipalities north of Boston. It is home to three superfund sites and several environmental justice communities. The Mystic River Watershed is challenged by water quality problems including elevated bacteria levels, excessive nutrients, contaminated sediments, and industrial pollution. EPA began issuing the Mystic River Watershed an annual report card grade for bacterial water quality in 2006, and in 2009 created the Mystic River Watershed Initiative Steering Committee. The Steering Committee, whose mission is to work together toward improved water quality and increased access to public open space, is comprised of federal, state, and local partners that meet regularly to work together on watershed projects. This tour will showcase several sites within the Mystic River Watershed that demonstrate the importance of enforcement efforts, monitoring and data collection, and municipal partnerships to the work of EPA and partners. At the stops EPA staff and/or a local partner will be on hand to discuss the significance of the site as well as how EPA and the local community worked together to achieve success. Further information can be found at: www.epa.gov/mysticriver

Fairmont Line Project

The Fairmont Collaborative is led by three Boston Community Development Corporations (CDCs): Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation, Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation, and Southwest Boston Community Development Corporation. The CDCs and their allies have joined forces to focus their efforts on developing strong, vibrant and diverse communities along the new extension of the Fairmount/Indigo line. The four new stations at Four Corners/Geneva Avenue, Talbot Avenue, Newmarket, Blue Hill Avenue/Cummins Highway, and (possible) future stops planned for Columbia Road and River Street, will provide equitable access to public transportation for more than 90,000 people that live within walking distance of the Fairmont line. The communities along the Fairmont line use public transit four times more than the regional average, and have been disproportionately impacted by the foreclosure crisis. In 2008-09, between 65-70% of all foreclosures in Boston took place in the service areas of the Fairmont Collaborative, increasing the need for continued access to affordable housing for low income families. EPA has provided funding to clean up more than 30 Brownfields sites within a half-mile of the new and renovated stations and will be providing technical assistance to a Green Jobs Incubator on a former Brownfield. The goals of the Fairmont Collaborative include:

- Transit equity for their communities through the new additional stations fair fares, improved service, and rapid transit service.



Tuesday, July 30: 2:30–5:30 p.m. (Field Trips) *Continued*

- Joint planning for smart growth and transit-oriented development, targeted specifically at low income populations.
- Strong civic engagement before, during and after development projects in every neighborhood.
- Preventing the displacement of current residents by maximizing housing affordability and increasing access to employment.
- Increasing green, open space for residents to enjoy along the Fairmont Greenway, and providing new access to parks, playgrounds and the Neponset River.

The Fairmont Collaborative will lead a bus tour of the transit corridor providing information on the new transit stations, key parcels redeveloped or slated for redevelopment, implementation plans for the Fairmont Greenway, and information about the community involvement with the City of Boston, MBTA transit system, and federal partners.

Wednesday, July 31: 8:00–9:30 a.m. (90-Minute Information Session)

Assessment and Communication in Complex Exposure Environments

Presenters: Alan Woolf, Boston Children's Hospital; Susan Korrick, Harvard School of Public Health; Jon Levy, Boston University School of Public Health; Emily Oken, Brigham and Women's Hospital; and Kathleen Nagle, Region 1, U.S. EPA

Topic Area: Cultural Diversity, Cultural Competency, and Environmental Justice

Level: All levels

Complex exposure environments present interesting challenges to researchers in terms of study design, recruitment, and communication of findings and their implications in diverse communities. Researchers from the Harvard School of Public Health, Boston University School of Public Health, and Harvard Medical School will provide examples of the challenges of assessment and communication in three different but related exposure environments. In the first example, a single exposure (PCBs) will be discussed in the context of high public interest and community concern. In the second example, located in the same community (New Bedford, MA) as the first, multiple chemical exposures and other risk factors are evaluated simultaneously, with varying abilities for individuals or the community to influence or change exposures. In the final example, the route of exposure (fish consumption) may result in both an adverse exposure and a nutritional and health benefit.

Other topics to be discussed include issues related to recruitment, retention and long-term sustainability of a cohort living near a Superfund site, the design of a community-based participatory research study involving cumulative risk assessment, and the intersection of vulnerability with social, ecological, economic and political factors. Following the talks, a Q&A session will be held with the speakers. One focus of the discussion is the translation/generalizability of the presented exposure environment scenarios.

Collaborating for Success in an Environmental Justice Community - 35th Avenue Site

Presenters: Stephanie Brown, Region 4, U.S. EPA; Don Lupo and Maxine Parker, City of Birmingham; and Carolyn Hunter and Cheryl Vaccarello, Tetra Tech, Inc.

Topic Area: Facilitating Effective Collaboration

Level: All levels

EPA Region 4 has worked to build successful collaborations among residents, the city government, religious leaders, and local Neighborhood Associations. The merits of our success are demonstrated by the trust that has been built between the Agency and the community. The 35th Avenue Superfund site is complex because access agreements are needed from 1,900 residential properties to complete the soil sampling efforts in North Birmingham. The large number of properties requiring access is further complicated because EPA is obtaining access, scheduling sampling, and sampling properties simultaneously. Additionally, groups of residents are being



Wednesday, July 31: 8:00–9:30 a.m. (90-Minute Information Session) *Continued*

represented by law firms and the number of residents who are represented as well as the law firms involved is dynamic. EPA immediately set out to garner support from Birmingham Mayor William Bell and Councilor Maxine Parker. EPA received full support from Mayor Bell and Councilor Parker, who publicly encouraged residents to return access agreements and cooperate with EPA in their sampling efforts. Collaborating with Mayor Bell, EPA has hosted several public meetings which were attended by over 200 people. The Mayor's Office also helped EPA with door-to-door outreach activities. Outreach efforts included participation from over 120 volunteers from the City of Birmingham and the organization Hands-On-Birmingham. Volunteers gathered information on over 700 properties where access is needed.

Innovative Partnerships and Community Engagement: Case Studies from the Department of Defense

Presenters: Paul Holland, Rebecca Rubin, and Richard Engel, Marstel-Day LLC

Topic Area: Non-traditional Community Involvement Strategies

Level: Intermediate

Are you looking for examples of innovative, collaborative federal programs and processes that can be used to promote sustainable land use, protect natural resources and preserve the ecological health of your community or region? Through its legislative authority and programs, the Department of Defense has developed comprehensive and inclusive processes to identify and engage all levels of the public and private sector in helping to create military-compatible land uses that protect natural resources and ecosystem health, and promote sustainable economic development. By applying these processes, the Department of Defense has minimized risks to its mission, engaged diverse community stakeholders, and learned that community stakeholders often provide significant contributions to the conservation process, resulting in stronger outcomes. This session will focus on three areas of successful stakeholder outreach and engagement initiated by the Department of Defense: 1) the Conservation Conveyance (Title 10 USC 2694a), 2) the Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (Title 10 USC 2684a), and 3) the Community Planning and Liaison Officer position. Panel speakers will address the variety of stakeholders engaged through these authorities and positions, the strong internal and external communication skills required to execute these activities, and the process for encouraging conflict management and resolution between the diverse interests involved in these environmental challenges.

National Peer Matching Program for Native American Tribes and Alaskan Native Villages

Presenters: Charles Bearfighter Reddoor, U.S. EPA; and Stephen Pendleton, Maka Tribal Environmental Department

Topic Area: Non-traditional Community Involvement Strategies

Level: All levels

The session will identify the essential elements and the value of a peer matching program, describe the process communities go through, describe why they are successful, suggest how it fits into adult learning, and give examples of successful community peer matches.

In this case, peer match technical assistance capitalizes on the diverse strengths of members of nearby communities and helps them collectively develop options for action, identify resources, build relationships and establish a community knowledge base. Working together peers can build new knowledge and find solutions though their combined expertise more cost effectively than hiring a specific subject expert or consultant. Adults learn best within the context of their own experiences and frame their own work to what others are doing. The process builds a collegial and motivated team atmosphere where peers learn from their own colleagues, each with specific contributions to the community involvement. The National Peer Match Program is a voluntary exchange of information between members of tribal communities where one tribe contributes its knowledge to assist the needs of one (or more) other tribes.



Wednesday, July 31: 8:00–9:30 a.m. (90-Minute Information Session) *Continued*

The interactive format of this presentation provides attendees an exceptional opportunity to exchange ideas, share experiences, collaborate on viable solutions and develop options for future peer match opportunities.

Outreach and Environmental Justice Tactics for Connecting with Hispanic Communities

Presenters: Jose Redmond Giron and Jonathan Essoka, Region 3, U.S. EPA

Topic Area: Communication and Collaboration through Technology; Cultural Diversity, Cultural Competency, and Environmental Justice; Non-traditional Community Involvement Strategies; and Facilitating Effective Collaboration

Level: All levels

Teaching Our Future: Participants will be inspired by this 2-year outreach project launched by EPA Region 3. Through non-traditional, non-regulatory approaches, this EPA team sought to teach elementary students in North Philadelphia the language of science. The school ranges from kindergarten to 4th grade and enrolls an average of about 290 children, 94% of whom are Hispanic. Through hands on mentoring and guidance, the R3 team helped to set up a school recycling program, construct an on-site urban garden, hold conferences in support of the science curriculum, present scientific disciplines to the children as career options, introduce them to EPA (who we are and what we do) and present the children with multi-ethnic role models. In the second part of this presentation, participants will engage in a dialogue with the presenters to explore innovative approaches to engaging redevelopment stakeholders in understanding and adopting successful outreach, specifically focused on Environmental Justice (EJ) issues. The current climate necessitates that the land redevelopment community, consisting of academic, developer, financial and local government representatives, actively involve residents whose neighborhoods are targeted for redevelopment, in the planning and decision-making process. Discussion will center on how outreach and EJ principles can be applied to Lehigh Valley, an ethnically diverse region with a large Hispanic population whose ability to successfully do outreach is saddled by reoccurring issues due to language barriers, lack of trust, and cultural differences. The presentation also will touch on methods to encourage community members to participate in planning processes by creating authentic bonds, valuing local knowledge, and shaping projects that clearly demonstrate value to residents.

Revolutions Begin with a Spark: Rub Guerilla Marketing and Memes Together and Watch Your Outreach Catch Fire!

Presenter: JC Ward, Greenville County

Topic Area: Non-traditional Community Involvement Strategies

Level: All levels

Traditional outreach is failing to reach an increasingly distracted public. The days of educational booths and informational brochures are passing into history. Effective community engagement will soon require an innovative approach; a revolution. Public relations in the private sector use unexpected strategies such as guerrilla marketing, campaign memes and nanocasting and focus on expending time, energy and imagination rather than a big marketing budget.

In this session, you will learn techniques needed to harness your outreach spark to spread your educational message. Guerrilla marketing takes advantage of novelty, getting the public's attention. The session features examples of such techniques and allows participants to generate guerrilla tactics for your communities. Our group will work together to create compelling slogans that call the public to environmentally-friendly action.

Our session also will explore the wonderful world of memes. A meme is a single word or picture that conveys an entire story and has become the fastest way to use social media to reach an audience. The session summarizes characteristics of exceptional memes and ways your communication can benefit from them. Session participants will be asked to contribute their opinions throughout the lecture. You will view samples of environmental campaigns and messaging and express your opinion of them through a mock focus group exercise. You will leave with the knowledge, ideas, and techniques to help you use nontraditional public relations strategies to start your own community engagement revolution.



Wednesday, July 31: 9:45–11:15 a.m. (90-Minute Information Session)

The Art of Community Engagement and Involvement

Presenters: Robin Joseph, Association of Schools of Public Health; and Kara Belle and Marcia Kargbo, Office of Children's Health Protection, U.S. EPA

Topic Area: Communication and Collaboration through Technology and Facilitating Effective Collaboration

Level: All levels

This session will aid participants in defining various types of community and community involvement. EPA's recently released *Voluntary Guidelines for States: Development and Implementation of a School Environmental Health Program* will be used to exemplify how EPA's Office of Children's Health Protection (OCHP) developed a process for community engagement with numerous resource constraints. Attendees will learn how OCHP navigated the nuances and challenges of community involvement at the federal, state, and local levels. This interactive session will provide a forum for an open discussion around the challenges (e.g., resource limitations and community buy-in) and opportunities that exists throughout the community involvement process. Participants will learn how to: 1) establish and maintain open lines of communication; 2) build sustainable partnerships; 3) identify effective processes for community involvement; and 4) develop a lasting connection between their professional position and personal community roles which will enhance their community involvement experience.

Is Meaningful Community Involvement Radical? A Case Study of The Duwamish River

Presenter: Alberto Rodriguez, Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition/TAG

Topic Area: Communication and Collaboration through Technology; Cultural Diversity, Cultural Competency, and Environmental Justice; Non-traditional Community Involvement Strategies

Level: All levels

Everybody is using Environmental Justice "lingo" these days (Equity, Inclusiveness, Cultural Competency, etc.). The efforts to deal with the issues that affect underserved communities are the center of attention on national news. We are talking, sometimes even boasting and congratulating ourselves, about how we are finally doing "what's supposed to be done" and "how it's supposed to be done"... but do we really even know what we are talking about? Do we fully understand these terms? Are our community involvement strategies, education efforts, outreach work plans, public processes and institutional controls effective, or do we need to change, re-think and completely recreate the ways we do things? Most importantly, do the decisions we make reflect the communities' needs, wants, and what they deserve and are entitled to? Do our decisions reflect community values and concerns? Are they respectful of affected communities' choices and cultures? We will try to answer these questions by taking a close look at the community involvement strategy used in Seattle, WA during the public comment period for the Duwamish River Superfund site. We also will briefly review some of the "common" terms mentioned above, learn about the history and complex issues for this site and its affected communities, as well as other stakeholders' interests, and discuss how EPA and the community conducted one of the most robust and holistic community involvement plans in the nation.

Planning for Participation: Trends and Opportunities with Community Involvement Plans

Presenters: L'Tonya Spencer, Region 4, and Yolanda Sanchez, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, U.S. EPA

Topic Area: Cultural Diversity, Cultural Competency, and Environmental Justice; and Facilitating Effective Collaboration

Level: Introductory

Community Involvement Plans (CIPs) outline a site-specific strategy to enable meaningful community involvement throughout the Superfund cleanup process or for any geographically-based initiative. This seminar will present new concepts to develop CIPs and strategies for using a team approach. The presenter will use her award-winning Superfund CIP-of-the-Year as both a learning tool and a springboard to illustrate new guidance to develop CIPs.



Wednesday, July 31: 9:45–11:15 a.m. (90-Minute Information Session) *Continued*

The presentation highlights the innovative techniques and various structures of CIPs and provides a broader view of effective community engagement that applies to all EPA programs, including the OneEPA concept. Attendees will leave with an understanding of how effective community engagement efforts are organized, how effective CIPs are supported by EPA guidance and regulations, and how planning for participation can support the expansion of EPA's traditional outreach efforts.

The two presenters include a seasoned Community Involvement Coordinator working at the regional level and an EPA Community Engagement Initiative (CEI) team leader.

Promoting Community Involvement with Little to No Outreach Budget!

Presenter: Karen Edwards, Office of Water, U.S. EPA; Matthew Everett, CSC

Topic Area: Communication and Collaboration through Technology; Non-traditional Community Involvement Strategies; and Facilitating Effective Collaboration

Level: All levels

Budgets are tight and everyone needs low- or no-cost methods to engage communities and encourage involvement in voluntary programs. EPA's Water Security Division is blazing ahead on the multimedia front by using a variety of innovative no-cost and low-cost strategies to reach stakeholders and engage partners. Whether you're promoting water resiliency, environmental protection, or any other community-based program; this workshop is for you!

Learn the difference between blogs, Tweets, Facebook status updates, and other communication platforms -- and how to use them to promote your efforts. Find out who is using what types of technology and what it is that appeals to different demographics about each. See some of the many ways the Water Security Division is successfully reaching drinking water and wastewater utilities, *and the communities they serve*, to promote water preparedness and climate resilience; including: Tweets about the Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool; a YouTube video about Community-Based Water Resiliency; and blogs promoting water preparedness and resiliency during Severe Storm and Hurricane Preparedness Weeks. We will also share information on an internal multimedia outreach guide that can be used as a model for others who want to use a range of multimedia tools.

Register for this exciting training session to hear and see how we capitalize on these innovative new tools to reach our audience and learn how you can promote your programs on a shoe-string budget, too!

Raising Awareness and Action on Climate Change in Urban Communities

Presenter: Stacey Johnson-Pridgeon and Sandra Brownell, Region 1, U.S. EPA

Topic Area: Cultural Diversity, Cultural Competency, and Environmental Justice

Level: Introductory, Intermediate

Although there has been discussion and activity around climate change issues at the national, state and municipal level, urban residents have not been directly engaged and informed on this issue. Urban residents across the country are exposed to significant environmental and public health hazards every day including lead poisoning, rat-infested vacant lots, contaminated urban rivers, and asthma exacerbated by poor indoor and ambient air quality. The risks of climate change threaten to add an additional burden to the cumulative, disproportionate, and inequitable health risks to urban residents and will further degrade the quality of the air, water, and land in urban populations - especially those close to the coastline. As a result, EPA Region 1's Urban Environmental Program developed a specific presentation and education program targeted to simplify the complex topic of climate change into an easily-understood message that leaves the audience informed and empowered to take action to reduce risks, reduce energy use, increase recycling, and save money. The Urban Environmental Program has worked collaboratively across many EPA programs to develop and deliver this message successfully to hundreds of urban residents in New England, and is further evolving to include additional information including emergency preparedness. Topics covered during the presentation include the basic science of climate change, health impacts, energy, recycling, community engagement techniques and tools for audience engagement and participation.



Wednesday, July 31: 9:45–11:15 a.m. (90-Minute Information Session) *Continued***Using Intercollegiate Debates to Inform and Engage the Public****Presenters:** Bryan Goodwin, Office of Water, U.S. EPA; and Tim O'Donnell, University of Mary Washington**Topic Area:** Non-traditional Community Involvement Strategies**Level:** All levels

Organized debating events hosted by federal agencies can promote public awareness and engagement on controversial issues. The Agency provides the topic and forum and nationally ranked intercollegiate debate teams research and present the arguments, both pro and con. The strength of their arguments is rated by neutral judges. The format and the lack of bias of the debate teams are inherently trustworthy, entertaining the audience while also encouraging open-minded attention, and inspiring action that comes from understanding.

This information session will present our experience with introducing and using debates as a new and innovative method to inform and educate the public. This includes describing the process for setting up a debate and sharing best practices and protocols we developed to assist others in organizing debates of their own. We will share the experience of debates organized for the April 2008 EPA Earth Day Debates, the April 2009 National Beach Conference, and the August 2009 Community Involvement Training Conference. We also will demonstrate an actual debate by college students.

We also will share the tangible benefits that debates offer, including: (1) access to a talented pool of college students; (2) high profile deliberation on issues central to an organization's mission; and (3) education and inspiration of the public on the salient competing arguments arising from controversial issues.

Wednesday, July 31: 1:45–5:45 p.m. (Four-hour Training)**Citizen Journalism and the EPA****Presenters:** Pam Avery and Minna Lehtinen, Conover + Company Communications**Topic Area:** Communication and Collaboration through Technology**Level:** All levels**CEUs:** .38 **CLPs:** 3.8

Twitter, Digg, Facebook, YouTube, Flickr, Skype. Welcome to the new world of social media. It's a medium that takes many forms, including blogs, podcasts and instant messaging, to name a few. Today, anyone with a modern cell phone can become a "citizen journalist" and transmit information about your organization's project or issue faster than any news release can be written or released. This four-hour tutorial offers a map of the social media landscape and ways EPA staff can deploy social media techniques within the EPA's social media guidelines. Participants will learn:

- What social media is and isn't.
- Fundamentals of communicating via social media outlets – the do's and don'ts.
- How organizations effectively deploy social media tools and techniques.
- Ways to use social media within the context of the EPA's guidelines.
- EPA's current guidelines for social media use.

During a group exercise, participants will develop messages on relevant case studies for use on social media sites such as Twitter and Facebook. Participants will receive a customized EPA Guide to Social Media.



Wednesday, July 31: 1:45–5:45 p.m. (Four-hour Training) *Continued*

Color-Coding: Going Beyond the Numbers

Presenters: Emily Zimmerman and Elise Jakabhazy, Region 1, Alexander Mandell, Region 3, and Yolanda Sanchez, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, U.S. EPA

Topic Area: Non-traditional Community Involvement Strategies

Level: All levels

CEUs: .38 **CLPs:** 3.8

EPA often receives criticism that their communication of sampling results is too technical and do not meet the needs of the public. In this 4-hour training session, we will explore color-coding, a visualization tool to help Agency staff present sampling data more effectively. This technique uses a color coded scale, associated with the degree of protective action, to display sampling results and provide recommended protective actions that the affected public can take, based on the level of contamination.

First, this session will introduce the color-coding framework. This will include two case study presentations from two Regions who pilot tested color-coding at Superfund remedial and emergency response sites. Second, there will be a small-group activity to practice developing a color-coded scale and foster discussion on the challenges involved.

Critical Community Engagement: Addressing Urgent Environmental Crisis Using a Case Study

Presenters: Kristina Peterson, University of New Orleans; Jordan Allen, Colorado State University; Shirley Laska, Center for Hazards Assessment, Response and Technology (CHART); and Chief Albert Naquin, Isle de Jean Charles Tribe

Topic Area: Facilitating Effective Collaboration

Level: Intermediate

CEUs: .38 **CLPs:** 3.8

The logic and process of the Participatory Action Research (PAR) method will be discussed as a model that is essential in problem solving of critical environmental issues. The more urgent the issue the more important the building of trust, relationships and reflection between and among stakeholders. Because the process enhances cultural competency of both the agency and the community, the result is to have new skill sets in which to hear and understand the issues from each other's perspective, which mitigates stress and mistrust. This process gives the ability of comfortableness of confronting issues that emerge from the process. When the perspective and cultural framing of the various stakeholders are understood, the collaborative process is enhanced and tension between parties is diminished. The layers of issues that are interwoven in urgent environmental concerns often provoke many a response from the various players, yet without a way to engage, reflect and apply local, agency and academic knowledge, the engagement can be volatile at best. Our team will present a case study of the process used in an urgent and pressing environmental issue in a region that has been layered with various types of disasters and environmental degradation, and through that study help the participants reflect on their own experiences.

Master Class in Risk Communication and Cultural Diversity

Presenter: Vince Covello, Center for Risk Communication

Topic Area: Cultural Diversity, Cultural Competency, and Environmental Justice

Level: Intermediate, Advanced

CEUs: .38 **CLPs:** 3.8

This training will focus on cross-cultural skills needed to be an effective risk and crisis communicator. Participants will learn the skills needed to:

- Deal confidently with people and organizations from other cultures



Wednesday, July 31: 1:45–5:45 p.m. (Four-hour Training) *Continued*

- Deliver convincing messages to diverse audiences
- Engage in effective dialog and information exchanges with diverse audiences
- Respond effectively to difficult questions and challenging situations derived from cultural differences

Upon completion of the training, participants will be able to:

- Review existing risk and crisis communication plans, activities, and practices for cultural competency
- Describe the skills, knowledge, behaviors and attitudes needed to be a culturally competent risk and crisis communicator
- Describe the attitudes, values, and biases that can influence success in communicating risk across cultures in emergency and non-emergency situations
- Recognize the difference between intent and impact in cross cultural conversations about risk
- Analyze case studies for the attitudes, values, and biases that influence success in communicating across cultures

Topics to be covered include:

- words, images and situations that suggest cultural or ethnic stereotypes
- negative implications of symbolism and usage that could offend people or reinforce bias
- language with questionable racial or ethnic connotations
- different cultural meanings assigned to:
 - symbols
 - signs
 - words
 - different cultural standards conversation
 - different meanings of colors and images

The training will be highly interactive. It will include analysis of case studies and practice sessions. It also will include discussion of risk and crisis communication challenges raised by differences in ethnicity and race.

Wednesday, July 31: 1:45–5:45 pm (Field Trips)

Buses for the field trips will pick up and drop off outside the D street doors on the corner of Fargo and D Streets. The D Street doors are located directly opposite the escalators on the Concourse level. Buses will be departing at 1:45 on Wednesday.

The Food Project

Since 1991, the Food Project (TFP) has built a national model of engaging young people in personal and social change through sustainable agriculture. Each year, they work with over 150 high school students and thousands of volunteers to farm on 40 acres in eastern Massachusetts. Food from their farms is distributed through the community supported agriculture programs and farmers' markets, and donated to local hunger relief organizations. The Food Project is excited to welcome participants to their Boston location in the Dudley Street neighborhood to learn more about The Food Project's approaches to growing a thoughtful and productive community of youth and adults from diverse backgrounds who work together to build a sustainable food system. Specifically, participants are invited to choose one experience from the following options:

1. **Dudley Greenhouse**, a 10,000 square-foot operational greenhouse that functions as a community space and a year-round learning center for local residents and gardeners. While at the Greenhouse, participants will have an opportunity to work with staff on maintenance and harvesting activities, while also learning about the programming and production activities that go on throughout the year.
2. **Dudley Neighborhood tour** led by TFP interns in which participants will learn more about the community and neighborhood solutions through community organizing, community land trusts, environmental restoration and food production projects as tools for neighborhood change.



Wednesday, July 31: 1:45–5:45 p.m. (Field Trips) *Continued*

3. **Urban Farm** experience offering participants an opportunity to join the urban farmer and interns for a chance to get their hands dirty at the urban farms on Cottage and Langdon Streets.
4. **Food for Thought and Action** workshop, led by TFP interns, focusing on food systems, food justice and healthy eating. Participants will have an opportunity to learn more about the impact of local and global food systems on the economy, environment and community.

Further information can be found at: <http://thefoodproject.org/>

Condor Street Urban Wild Site/East Boston Sea Level Rise, Climate Justice Tour

While struggles for environmental justice continue, an emerging priority in East Boston is addressing the challenges of climate change. This field trip will explore how the threat of rising sea levels can both exacerbate and advance community efforts for environmental justice. In a bus tour of the East Boston community, we will examine multiple dimensions of vulnerability to sea level rise and consider a variety of solutions. Tour sites will include a former industrial space transformed into a park, a proposed waterfront development, a public housing project, and a public beach adjacent to the airport. We will use a hands-on exercise to visualize projected sea level rise and discuss an array of adaptation strategies including building design, engineered barriers, landscape flood mitigation, urban design, land use planning, policy tools, and social institutions. For the participants that register for the community service portion, the trip will culminate with a visit to the Condor Street Urban Wild, where participants will help pick up trash and other debris around the park.

The Condor Street Urban Wild was the first public park along the Chelsea Creek. The 4.5-acre site was owned by a series of industrial companies, but for decades, it lay abandoned, contaminated, and fenced off. The City of Boston purchased the site in 1980 and designated it an "urban wild," aiming to transform it into a safe, attractive, accessible nature area. Due to lack of funding, however, it took over 20 years for the community to revitalize this property. In December 2000, the Urban Environmental Initiative proposed the Condor Street Urban Wild as a Supplemental Environmental Project for Waste Management of Massachusetts. The project aimed to provide much needed green and open space to the residents of the surrounding communities. The project recreated salt marsh and upland habitats, as well as created a path and boardwalk system for safe public access to the Chelsea Creek.

Thursday, August 1: 8:00–9:00 a.m. (Plenary Session)

During this plenary session, the Poster Session award winners will be announced, followed by a keynote presentation by Dr. Julian Agyeman, Chair of the Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning, Tufts University. His discussion is titled "Just Sustainabilities: Re-imagining Equality, Living within Limits."

Thursday, August 1: 9:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m. (Three-hour Training)

Capacity Building Tools to Move From Division to Dialogue

Presenters: Cheryl Little, Sarah Malpass, Michael Lythcott, and Vernice Miller-Travis, Skeo Solutions

Topic Area: Communication and Collaboration through Technology and Non-traditional Community Involvement Strategies

Level: All levels

CEUs: .3 **CLPs:** 3

This session presents three capacity building tools that can help diverse stakeholders move from divisive conflict to collaboration: 1) study circle dialogues, 2) building cultural competence, and 3) collaborative problem-solving. Study circle dialogues, developed by Everyday Democracy, is a process that empowers groups through education.



Thursday, August 1: 9:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m. (Three-hour Training) *Continued*

The dialogues use homegrown facilitators and tailored discussion guides to lead small groups of local residents through visioning and strategic planning over a period of several weeks. Participants then form action teams to implement change.

The Building Cultural Competence tool examines the role of culture in our lives as individuals and as members of groups and organizations. Through small and large-group exercises, participants explore different cultural perspectives and common sources of conflict. The tool provides an opportunity for community residents and potential partners to build new cultural competencies, enhance their cultural fluency, and interact comfortably with each other.

The Collaborative Problem-Solving tool helps groups reach consensus on contentious issues. It teaches diverse groups the skills to approach problem-solving in a collaborative, consensus-oriented manner. Participants learn to identify positions and interests, understand types of conflict and personal conflict styles, and develop a common language for furthering their conversations around seemingly intractable conversations.

The training will focus on real-world projects through lightning talks that explain all three tools. Participants will then have an opportunity for in-depth tutorials on how to use two of the tools guided by a trainer and an experienced community member who can share their experiences for building capacity for collaboration.

The Moment of Oh! When People Are Ready to Act!

Presenters: John Blakinger and Greg Ranstrom, CivilSay

Topic Area: Cultural Diversity, Cultural Competency, and Environmental Justice; Non-traditional Community Involvement Strategies; and Facilitating Effective Collaboration

Level: All levels

CEUs: .3 **CLPs:** 3

When people in the community don't believe there is a problem, they will not voluntarily act. If they are compelled to act ... well, then they will resist, confront and oppose. This resistance often results in political, legislative and/or legal action that costs time and money and creates hard feelings in the community. As a frontline public engagement practitioner, you can avoid these pitfalls by applying the individual engagement curve and seven core principles described in the book, "The Moment of Oh!"

At the conclusion of this interactive session you will be able to quickly identify where an individual stands on an issue and where he/she falls on the engagement curve. You can then help individuals – and the larger community – overcome their natural reaction to resist change by learning from other community members who recognize a need to act. This approach has been successfully employed in a highly contentious groundwater protection situation in rural Central Oregon that has experienced 30 years of studies, ordinances, recall elections, fired politicians and lawsuits. "The Moment of Oh!" is an extremely effective approach to achieving smarter communities that make better decisions.

Thursday, August 1: 1:30–5:30 p.m. (Four-hour Training)

Risk Communication: Messaging to Build Trust and Understanding

Presenters: Keith Fusinski, Region 5, Sophia Serda, Region 9, and Yolanda Sanchez, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, U.S. EPA

Topic Area: Non-traditional Community Involvement Strategies

Level: Intermediate

CEUs: .38 **CLPs:** 3.8

"(M)ost of the cases of successful communication with the public...did not rely on innovative methods to explain the data, but instead focused on improving the interaction with the public (National Academies of Science, 1989)."



Thursday, August 1: 1:30–5:30 p.m. (Four-hour Training) *Continued*

Successful risk communication improves the base of accurate information, begins to build a relationship of mutual understanding, and accurately identifies the underlying concerns, values, and beliefs of the affected residents. Messaging is a process to: characterize the community and their underlying concerns; predict questions likely to be asked; and prepare clear, concise answers to those questions, tailored to the stakeholders underlying concerns.

Coupled with knowledge in risk perception and skills in communication, message mapping can be a useful framework to develop a risk communication strategy for long-term environmental cleanup. First, we will present concepts of risk perception (i.e., outrage factors) and common biases in decision-making involving risk from a non-technical perspective, and explore aspects of appreciative listening. Students will be guided through a listening assessment and exercise. Then, we will discuss the technique of messaging and why it is useful for long-term environmental cleanup programs. Students will practice developing a message map on a controversial issue. We will end with a general discussion on how to use this framework to answer difficult community stakeholder questions regarding risk, including: Is it safe? What does a risk of 10^6 mean? What is “background”?

The Strength of Community Framework: A Model for Engaging Immigrants in Creating Environmentally Healthy Communities

Presenter: Kien Lee, Community Science
Topic Area: Cultural Diversity, Cultural Competency, and Environmental Justice
Level: Introductory
CEUs: .38 **CLPs:** 3.8

This session will teach participants about the Strength of Community Framework and its use for engaging immigrants in promoting environmentally healthy and sustainable communities. The Framework is grounded in theories of social capital, intergroup relations, immigrant integration, and systems change. It is an asset-based approach to community engagement that identifies and builds on the strengths of a community, such as its civic and social support institutions. Specifically, participants will learn about how immigrant communities are organized socially to support their members, and the civic institutions through which immigrants can be reached and engaged. Participants will become familiar with different methods for assessing the strength of immigrant communities as part of the process for designing and implementing strategies to create environmentally healthy and sustainable communities. These include measures of sense of community, organizational capacity, community capacity, and other unobtrusive methods. By effectively engaging immigrants in environment-related issues, immigrants will naturally have the opportunity to become familiar and involved with the civic structures and processes of their municipality, city, and county, as well as those of this country -- thereby becoming increasingly integrated into their home and place of residence -- a prerequisite for the continued improvement of the communities in the United States that are becoming increasingly diverse.

Thursday, August 1: 9:15 a.m.—5:30 p.m. (Seven-hour Training)

Advanced Risk Communication and Media Skills

Presenter: Vince Covello, Center for Risk Communication
Topic Area: Facilitating Effective Collaboration
Level: Advanced
CEUs: .68 **CLPs:** 6.8

In this training, participants will learn advanced skills needed to:

- Deal confidently and persuasively with journalists in all media settings (for example, sit down interviews, press conferences, and ambush interviews)
- Handle the media professionally in an emergency or crisis
- Deliver convincing messages to the media using risk communication principles



Thursday, August 1: 9:15 a.m.—5:30 p.m. (Seven-hour Training) *Continued*

- Master the use of risk communication templates
- Respond effectively to difficult informational questions
- Respond effectively to challenging or aggressive questions

The training will include discussion of (1) message development techniques; (2) preparing for media interviews; and (3) media traps and pitfalls. The training will focus on the development of message maps for use in media settings. Topics to be covered include:

- An overview of message mapping, risk communication, and the media
- Steps involved in developing a message map
- Case studies of the use of message maps in media settings
- How to use message maps for improving media interactions
- Message mapping tools
- Visual material for message maps
- Credibility transference
- Using message maps in practice
- Working effectively with partners in developing and delivering message maps through media channels

Be Prepared: Know What to Say and How to Say It

Presenters: Pam Avery and Dominic Frederico, Conover + Company Communications

Topic Area: Communication and Collaboration through Technology; Non-traditional Community Involvement Strategies; and Facilitating Effective Collaboration

Level: All levels

CEUs: .68 **CLPs:** 6.8

What you say and how you say it is critical to getting the right information out to your many stakeholders. This intensive course is designed to give community involvement practitioners the confidence they need to explain their work and to talk about tough issues to a wide range of audiences, including community members and leaders, the general public and the news media.

Participants will learn how to prepare for public meetings and news media encounters and how to communicate effectively—even during a crisis. They'll also learn how the news media work and how to effectively incorporate social media approaches into their community participation efforts. This highly interactive course features customized scenarios relevant to each participant's programs or projects; one-on-one videotaped sessions with professional interviewers; a group training exercise; and video case studies that demonstrate how to win at interviews.

The course is limited to 15 participants who must commit to attend the workshop. Participants will be contacted by email prior to the conference and asked about their spokesperson experience, current or relevant projects or issues, public meeting experience, and any encounters they've had with the news media. Participants will receive a customized spokesperson/media training manual at the conclusion of the course, and a DVD of the on-camera sessions will be sent to participants after the conference.

Collaborative Learning- An Expert Practice for Community Involvement in a Changing Climate

Presenter: Christine Feurt, University of New England

Topic Area: Communication and Collaboration through Technology

Level: All levels

CEUs: .68 **CLPs:** 6.8

Collaborative Learning is a versatile and practical approach to community involvement. It is used to engage the public and build effective stakeholder teams to identify shared goals and develop action oriented strategies for



Thursday, August 1: 9:15 a.m.—5:30 p.m. (Seven-hour Training) *Continued*

achieving those goals. Using the Salmon Falls Watershed Collaborative, winner of the 2012 US Water Prize, as an example, you will learn how to apply the four phases of Collaborative Learning to your work. You will learn how to conduct a stakeholder assessment and how to use situation mapping with participants to build shared understanding, identify sources of conflict, and reveal opportunities for making progress to improve a situation. You will learn and practice three skills critical for community involvement that is respectful of cultural diversity: active listening, skillful discussion, and appreciation of mental and cultural models. Moving community partnerships from awareness to collaborative action can be accomplished with the six-step “From Ideas to Action” process of Collaborative Learning. You will learn this process and receive the worksheets you need to implement this powerful process in your work. Evaluating community involvement and facilitating on-going partnerships benefits from audience polling technology and careful analysis of community input. The benefits of applying qualitative data analysis methods to evaluate, categorize and prioritize community input will be discussed. The training concludes by acknowledging the challenges faced by change agents and ways you can design your community involvement to take advantage of the five most powerful qualities of ideas that capture the hearts and minds of communities to foster change.

Strengthening Community Engagement Across EPA: Knowledge & Skill Building

Presenters: Sarena Seifer, Community-Campus Partnerships for Health; Sacoby Wilson Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health; Omega Wilson, West End Revitalization Association; and Susan Gust, Community Activist and Small Business Owner, Minneapolis, MN

Topic Area: Facilitating Effective Collaboration

Level: Introductory, Intermediate

CEUs: .68 **CLPs:** 6.8

The goal of this interactive session is to enhance the ability of EPA staff to engage communities in their work, whether that work is research, technical projects, rulemaking or permitting. The session is intended for EPA staff who are interested in deepening their understanding and practice of community engagement and fostering a community engagement learning community within the Agency. Facilitators from EPA and Community-Campus Partnerships for Health bring a wealth of experience and expertise in community engagement, community-based participatory research, community owned and managed research, environmental justice, and ecological health. In January 2013, two longer versions (1.5 days each) were successfully piloted with about 70 EPA staff from the Office of Air and Radiation and the Office of Research and Development. In this session, participants will be introduced to foundational principles of community engagement; the continuum of community engagement approaches; case studies of community engagement in EPA research, technical projects, rulemaking and permitting; practical tools and strategies for community engagement; and a toolkit of community engagement resources. By creating a sense of community during the session, participants will leave with a network for continued peer learning.



2013 U.S. EPA Community Involvement Training Conference Workgroup

The individuals listed below have provided an incredible amount of time, energy, and dedication to planning the 2013 U.S. EPA Community Involvement Training Conference. If any names have been left off the list below, we sincerely apologize.

The 2013 U.S. EPA Community Involvement Training Conference Co-Chairs - Laura Knudsen, Elana Goldstein, and Pamela Harting-Barrat - would like to thank the following people who made this training event possible:

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