



Community Engagement and Environmental Justice

2020 NACAA Joint Permitting
and Enforcement workshop

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Presentation Overview

- **Agency Vision and Mission**
- **Environmental Affairs Priorities**
- **Community Engagement and Environmental Justice Staff**
- **Community Engagement Strategies & Benefits**
- **History of Environmental Justice in South Carolina**
- **Environmental Justice Guiding Principals**
- **Environmental Justice Lunch & Learn**



Agency Vision and Mission

- **Vision:**

“Healthy people living in healthy communities”

- **Mission:**

“To improve the quality of life for all South Carolinians by protecting and promoting the health of the public and the environment”

Environmental Affairs Priorities

- **2019 Four C's:**

- **Customer Service**
- **Compliance Assistance**
- **Continuous Improvement**
- **Community Engagement (with EJ lens)**

Environmental Affairs 2020 Priorities

- **Environmental Justice/Community Engagement**
- Collaborative Partnerships
- Sustainable Funding of All EA Programs
 - Highest priority
 - Air Program – emission fees declining

Community Engagement & EJ Staff

Lawra Boyce
Community
Engagement
Coordinator
for EA

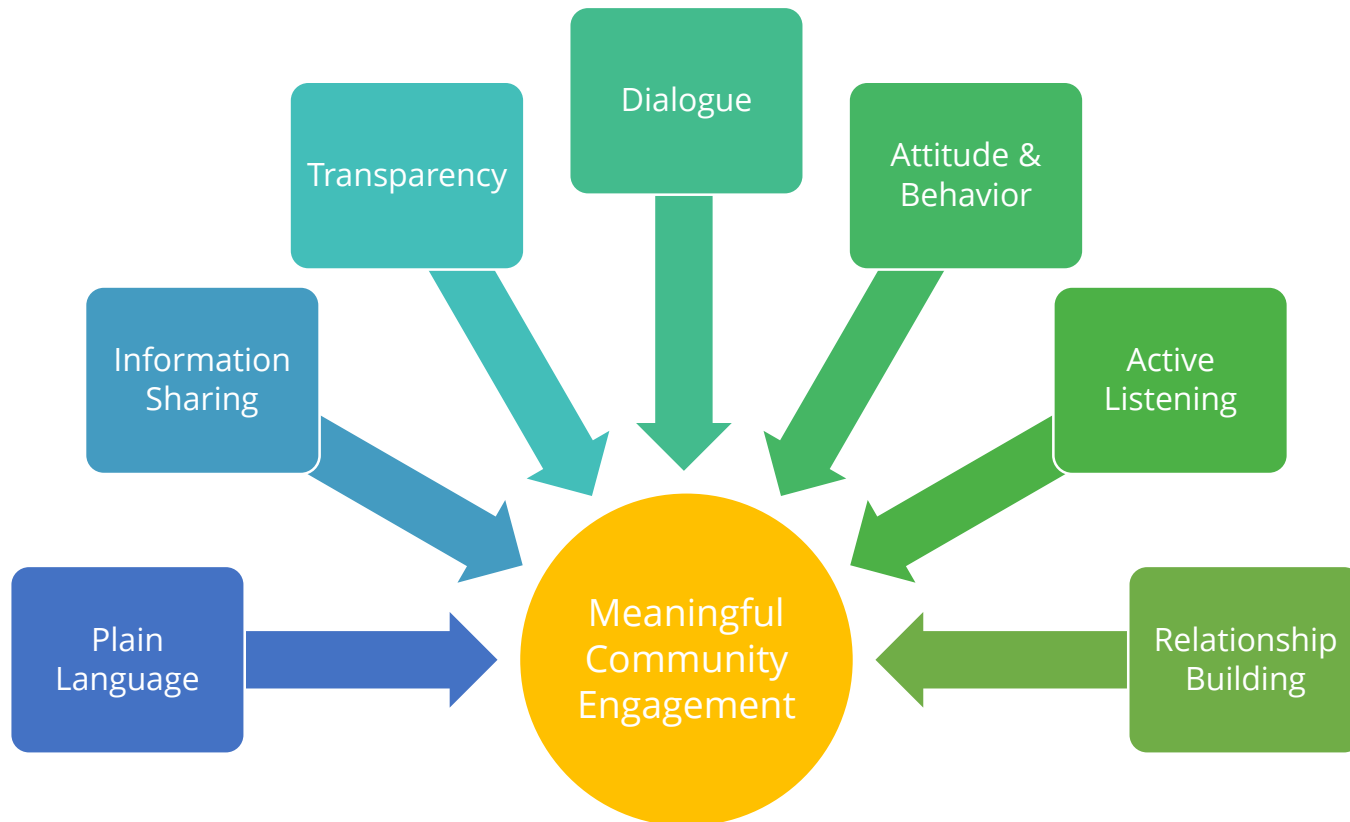
**Jocelyn
Walters-
Brannon**
Water

Keisha Long
EJ Coordinator
for EA

**Monica
Taylor**
Air

Donna Moye
Land &
Waste

Meaningful Community Engagement



Examples of Community Engagement Strategies for Companies

- Community **Investment**
 - Distribute flyers or ads
 - Donate to local charities
 - Encourage employee's involvement in local events
- Community **Involvement**
 - Host public meetings or "open houses"
- Community **Integration**
 - Establish a stakeholder advisory board

Stakeholder advisory boards

- Diverse
- Fixed membership
- Meet regularly
- Charged with specific goals
- Report to known entity

Possible Benefits of Community Engagement

- Learn local knowledge, experience, and history
- Reduce chance of last-minute permit appeals
- Address concerns that may be outside of scope of environmental regulations
- Develop relationships with future workforce



Environmental Justice in South Carolina

- In 2007, Act 171 mandated a governmental EJ Advisory Committee
- Advisory Committee consisted of 12 agency heads (or their designees) and 3 academia members
- Major tasks of Advisory Committee:
 - study and consider existing practices at state agencies related to environmental justice in economic development and revitalization projects in the State
 - make recommendations for economic development and revitalization projects
- https://www.scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/media/document/EJ_AdvisoryFinalReportCombined.pdf (final report)



SC's Environmental Justice Definition

- Advisory Committee developed SC definition
 - Added to EPA's definition

Environmental Justice ...

The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures and income with respect to the development, adoption, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies ***in working towards increasing prosperity of all South Carolinians.***

What is an “EJ Community”?

- We allow communities to identify themselves as EJ communities
 - No specific criteria
- Treat all communities the same



EJ Guiding Principles

1. Ensure that Environmental Justice Communities are Routinely Considered Throughout Decision-Making Processes
2. Proactively Build and Strengthen Relationships with Communities by Sharing Information, Providing Technical Assistance, and Identifying Resources
3. Proactively Promote Partnerships Between Communities and Other Stakeholders
4. Encourage and Facilitate Capacity Building and Collaborative Problem Solving Within Environmental Justice Communities
5. Strengthen Agency's Leadership with the Goal of Sustaining Environmental Justice within SC DHEC

Environmental Justice Lunch & Learn



Come learn how a community worked together to address environmental justice issues and became a national model recognized by EPA.

Special Guests:

- **Harold Mitchell**
Founder, ReGenesis Community
Development Corporation

- **Cynthia Peurifoy**
Former EPA Region 4 EJ

Wednesday, February 19th
Noon | Peoples Auditorium

Collaborative problem-solving, in the context of environmental justice, involves proactive, strategic, and visionary community-based processes that bring together multiple parties from various stakeholder groups (e.g., community groups, all levels of government, industry, and academia) to develop solutions to address local environmental and/or public health issues.” - EPA’s CPS Model Manual



ReGenesis Community Project

- Started in Spartanburg, SC (Arkwright Community)
 - 96% African American community
 - 2 superfund sites
 - Fertilizer plant (45 acres)
 - Dump site (30 acres)
 - 4 Brownfield sites (textile mill, multiple dumps (over 30 acres))
 - 1 active chemical plant
- Example of how grant funding and collaborative partnerships can totally revitalize an EJ community
 - healthcare center, grocery store, recreation center, affordable new homes, golf course, STEM school
- <http://rcdc.us/>

Planned Future EJ Activities

- EJ Action Plan
- EJ Staff Training

Resources

- Community Engagement
 - <https://www.scdhec.gov/environment/community-engagement>
- Environmental Justice
 - <https://www.scdhec.gov/environmental-justice-ej>
- EPA's EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving (CPS) Model Manual
 - 7 CPS Elements
 - <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-04/documents/ejproblemcollaborativesolvingmodel.pdf>



Contact Us



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