Community Action for a Renewed Environment

PROMOTING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

September 26, 2011

What is CARE?

CARE is a community-based, community-driven program created to build **partnerships** to help **communities** understand and reduce risks from all sources of pollution using grant funding and technical assistance.

The CARE Process

CARE helps communities access technical support and build capacity to reduce toxics through collaborative action at the local level. CARE helps communities:

(1) Join together in partnerships with local government, organizations and industry.

(2) Develop a comprehensive understanding of the sources of environmental pollutants and set local environmental priorities;

(3) Carry out projects to reduce risks through collaborative action at the local level, and

(4) Ensure self-sustaining partnerships and capabilities so that it leaves behind organized stakeholder groups and a structure to continue to improve human health and the local environment.

COMMUNITY

Level I Agreement

1. Join Together

2. Identify Problems and Solutions

4. Become Self-Sustaining

Level II Agreement

3. Implement Solutions/Reduce Risks

EPA Cooperative Agreements and Technical Support

CARE's Origin

- **CARE launched in 2005, influenced by a number of factors**:
  - ○ **NAPA evaluations**: Need changes to "stovepipe structure," need cross-media, better efforts in communities.
  - ○ **Low-income communities**: EPA regulations and programs were NOT impacting local (their) pollution problems, and not addressing small and diverse area sources.
  - ○ **2004 NEJAC**: EPA should "initiate community-based collaborative, multi-media, risk –reduction pilot projects" in EJ communities.
  - ○ **Build on Success**. Success with regional CARE-like projects to give targeted assistance to high-risk communities; Lessons learned from CBEP, Targeted Watershed, EJ, P2

Strong Support for CARE
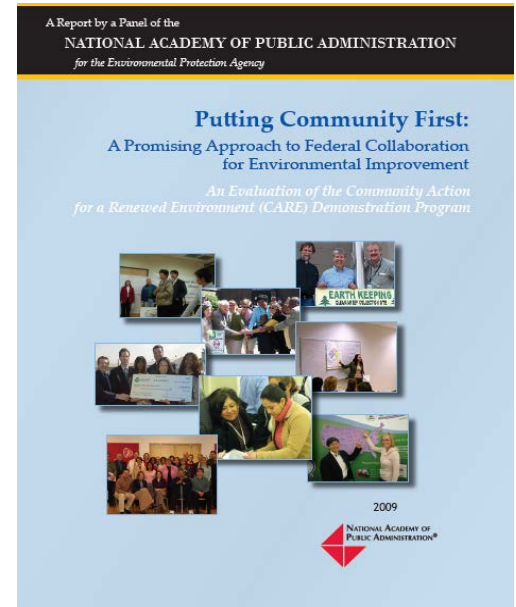
NAPA Report May 12, 2009:

- *"CARE complements EPA's traditional regulatory and enforcement efforts to provide additional **targeted assistance to communities at highest risk.**"*
- *"The CARE partnership engages the energy of the community and the expertise of EPA to identify and reduce pollutants..."*
- *"CARE makes EPA more responsive to communities needs and priorities through an emphasis on community-driven priorities."*
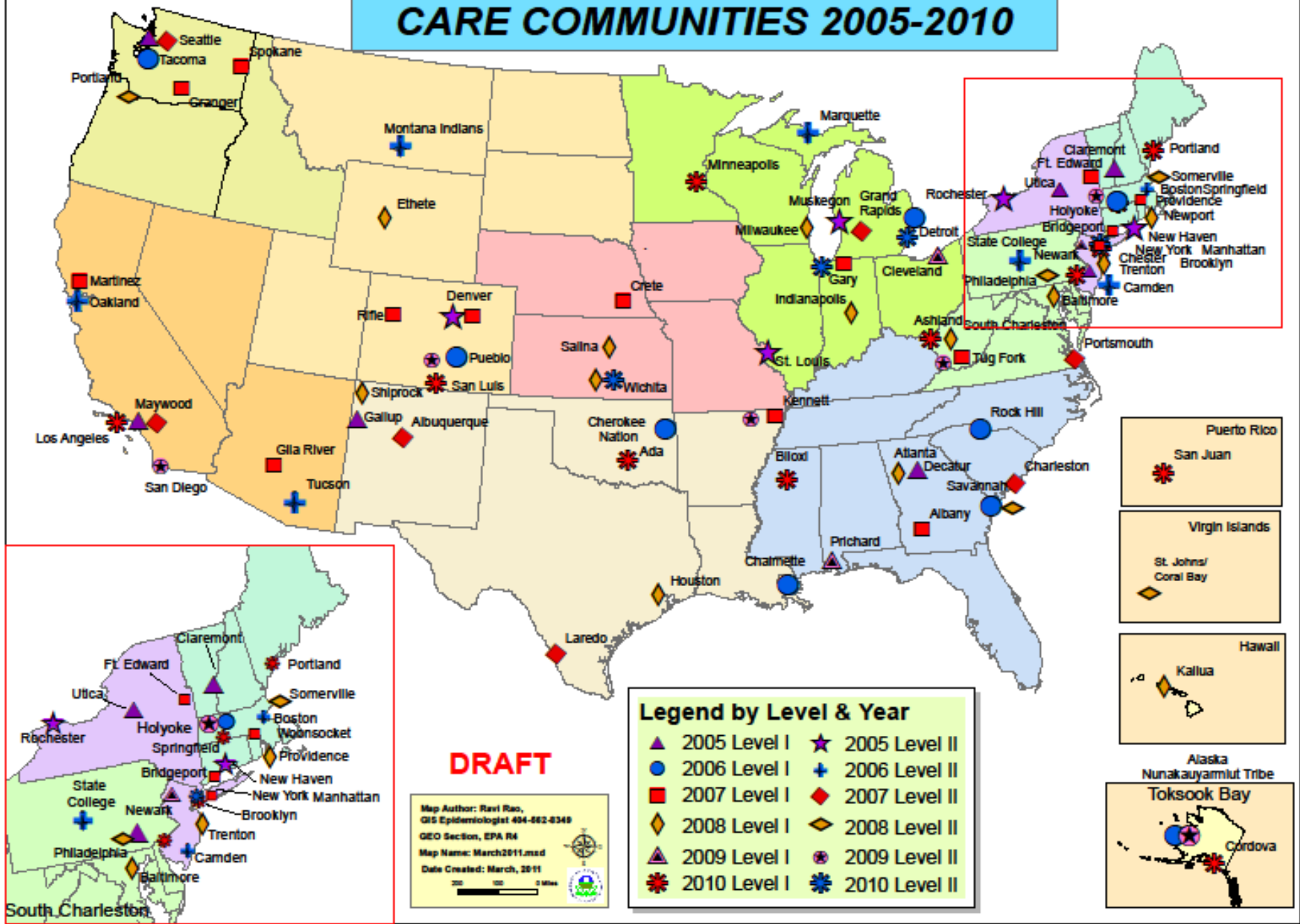
NEJAC Letter to Administrator:

- *"CARE has already proven to be a high quality community tool that supports environmental justice"*
- *"...CARE Program is a community tool (EJ communities) need"*
- *"NEJAC is compelled to advise and encourage expansion of and increased funding for the CARE program by your Agency."*

Community Support:

- *"CARE has given us a voice"*
- *"There would have been virtually no progress without the CARE partnership"*

A Report by a Panel of the
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
for the Environmental Protection Agency

Putting Community First:
A Promising Approach to Federal Collaboration
for Environmental Improvement

An Evaluation of the Community Action
for a Renewed Environment (CARE) Demonstration Program

2009

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION®

CARE COMMUNITIES 2005-2010

Map labels (main map):

Seattle, Tacoma, Spokane, Portland, Granger, Montana Indians, Ethete, Marquette, Minneapolis, Muskegon, Grand Rapids, Rochester, Claremont, Ft. Edward, Portland, Utica, Somerville, Boston, Springfield, Providence, Newport, Milwaukee, Holyoke, Bridgeport, New Haven, State College, Newark, New York, Manhattan, Chester, Brooklyn, Trenton, Philadelphia, Camden, Baltimore, Cleveland, Detroit, Gary, Indianapolis, Ashland, South Charleston, Portsmouth, Denver, Rifle, Crete, Salina, St. Louis, Pueblo, San Luis, Shiprock, Wichita, Kennett, Rock Hill, Martinez, Oakland, Maywood, Los Angeles, San Diego, Gallup, Albuquerque, Gila River, Tucson, Cherokee Nation, Ada, Biloxi, Atlanta, Decatur, Charleston, Savannah, Albany, Prichard, Chalmette, Houston, Laredo, Tug Fork

Puerto Rico — San Juan

Virgin Islands — St. Johns/Coral Bay

Hawaii — Kailua

Alaska Nunakauyarmiut Tribe — Toksook Bay, Cordova

South Charleston (inset)

DRAFT

Legend by Level & Year

▲ 2005 Level I	★ 2005 Level II		
● 2006 Level I	✚ 2006 Level II		
■ 2007 Level I	◆ 2007 Level II		
◆ 2008 Level I	◇ 2008 Level II		
▲ 2009 Level I	✷ 2009 Level II		
✳ 2010 Level I	✸ 2010 Level II		

From 2005-2009 CARE Communities Have:

- Leveraged dollar-for-dollar EPA grant funding.
    - Communities leveraged **over $15M** from local and national sources.
    - Received in-kind donations of an **additional $2M.**
- Engaged over **1,700 partners** in local projects (local organizations, businesses, local and state agencies, universities, foundations, federal agencies).
- Visited over **4,000 homes** providing information and/or environmental testing
- Provided environmental information to:
    - Over **2,800 businesses**
    - Over **50,000 individuals**
- Engaged over **300 schools**, **6,300 youth**

CARE Level I Projects

- **Portland, ME (2010)**

- **Wichita, KS (2008)**

- **Spokane, WA (2007)**

- **All three communities had a community driven process and gathered data from multiple sources (local, state, and federal)**

Portland, ME

- Project served City of Portland (62, 561)

- Utilized CARE 10-step Roadmap (http://www.epa.gov/care/library/20080620roadmap.pdf)

- Employed community health outreach workers to help facilitate data collection.

- Outreached to harder-to-reach population.

- Brainstormed /Identified multiple environmental concerns

- Selected issues that resonated in every focus group

Portland, ME – Priorities

- **Ranked and prioritized by environmental media by sensitive population, high mortality health effects, etc.**

- **Water: Contaminant spread due to flooding, runoff/sewage overflow, and illegal dumping into sewers**

- **Air: Emissions from idling vehicles and human exposure to common chemicals**

- **Land: Household/consumer safety, lead paint and soil contamination, reduced open green space, and bike safety.**

Wichita, KS

- **Project serving inner-city Wichita (200,000)**

- **Utilized the Nominal Group Technique (a process allowing for group brainstorming and participation from everyone)**

- **Generated a community driven a 92-page list of local environmental concerns after 52 discussion groups**

- **Prioritized 19 concerns, using a zero-to-five scale, in terms of risks to the environment, health and economy; urgency for action, and the perception of community interest in addressing each issue**

Wichita, KS -- Priorities

- Established 25-member Environmental Leadership Council with three sub-committees—Air, Water and Waste—that categorized the 92 pages of local environmental concerns into 19 issues

- 19 issues were reduced to 3 concerns for addressing in CARE Level II as:

  - Poor waste management

  - Pollution in the Arkansas River

  - Mobile source air emissions

Spokane, WA

- **Project served Spokane County (425,000)**

- **Utilized Protocol for Accessing Excellence in Environmental Health (PACE-EH)**
  http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/CEHA/background.htm

- **Developed "issue profiles" on identified data and presented community health indicators at project meetings to help understand and locate corresponding data**
  www.communityindicators.ewu.edu

- **Included most vulnerable community members by targeting families at high risk of childhood lead poison (e.g., families in poverty, household income, and age of home)**

Spokane, WA - Priorities

- Identified and grouped environmental risks by built environment, land use, water, food, indoor air, and air toxics. The decided priorities were:

- Built Environment (included land use)

- Indoor Environment -- Lead
  - Tested 820 kids with 11% exhibited elevated blood lead levels
  - Educated 1300 families on health effects, exposure factors and symptoms

- Water Quality

14

Thank You!

Portland: Rhona Julien (julien.rhona@epa.gov)

Wichita: Kathleen Fenton
     (fenton.kathleen@epa.gov)

Spokane: Sally Hanft (hanft.sally@epa.gov)

CARE Co-Chair: Marva E. King
     (king.marva@epa.gov)

See CARE Website: http://www.epa.gov/care