

# **A Partnership With Promise**

***Using A Collaborative, Community-Based Approach in  
Spokane County to Reduce Exposure to Toxics***



**The Lands Council  
Spokane Regional Health District  
CEHA Workshop  
October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
Yakima, WA**

# Outline

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- How It All Began
- Environmental Health Assessment
- EPA CARE Grant
- Lead Community Partnership
- Built Environment Community Partnership
- Health Impact Assessment
- Next Steps

# How It All Began...



- Forming an initial partnership: The Lands Council and Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD)
  - Assessed capacity, identified potential funding, attended PACE-EH training together
- SRHD Capacity Development Funds (\$20,000)
  - Developed contract, defined roles, outlined project deliverables

# Environmental Health Assessment

- Surveys
  - Telephone
    - 400 respondents in Spokane County, age 18+
    - **Top Issues:** Land use, surface water quality, and outdoor air quality
  - Community
    - 30 questionnaires distributed to local community groups
    - 50% neighborhood response rate
    - **Top Issues:** land use, urban design, and toxins

# Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health (PACE EH)

1. Determine Community Capacity
2. Define/Characterize the Community
3. Assemble a CEHA Team
4. Define the Goals, Objectives, and Scope
5. Generate List of EH Issues
6. Analyze Issues with Systems Framework
7. Develop Indicators
8. Select Standards
9. Create Issue Profiles
10. Rank Issues
11. Set Priorities for Action
12. **Develop Action Plan**
13. **Evaluate Progress and Plan for the Future**



# And the Winners Are...

- Lead
- “Built Environment” and How it Affects People’s Physical Health



## EPA Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE)

- CARE grants assist communities in forming sustainable, collaborative, problem-solving partnerships to reduce toxics
- Level I Grantee
  - \$77,500 for 2 years (2007-9)

# CARE Road Map



1. Build a Partnership
2. Identify Community Concerns
3. Identify Community Vulnerabilities
4. Identify Community Assets
5. Identify Community Concerns for Immediate Action
6. Collect and Organize Information
7. Rank Risks and Impacts
8. Identify Potential Solutions
9. Set Priorities for Action and Begin Work
10. Evaluate Results and Become Self-Sustaining

# Lead Community Partnership

- TLC, City of Spokane, SRHD, Spokane Neighborhood Action Programs (SNAP), Gonzaga University, DOH, CTED
- Timeline, coordinated activities
- DVD documentary with Community-Minded TV
- National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>): KHQ-TV “Success by Six” (telephone help lines, news story), School District #81, blood lead screenings, articles in neighborhood newsletters, print ads, etc.
- Dovetails with EPA Targeted Lead Grant!

# Built Environment Community Partnership

- Individual Interviews
- 3 Issue Categories
  - **Active transportation** (e.g. walking, bicycling, public transit)
  - **Green building and energy efficiency**
  - **Land use** (e.g. Smart Growth)
- Community Forum and follow-up meeting



# Built Environment Community Partnership

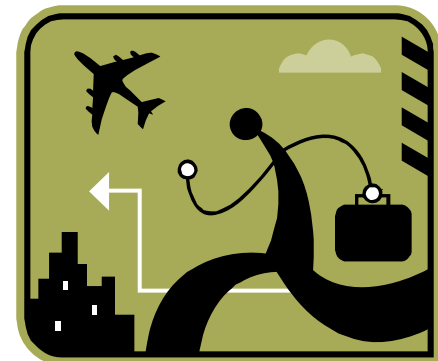
- Initial partners: SRHD, City of Spokane, WSU Interdisciplinary Design Institute, WA Department of Ecology, Spokane Regional Transportation Council (SRTC), Spokane Home Builders Association (SHBA), Greater Spokane, Inc., Downtown Spokane Partnership (DSP), YMCA, Futurewise, Bicycle Advisory Board
- Built Environment “Coalition?”
- City of Spokane Mayor’s Sustainability Task Force
  - Outreach Partners Team

# Built Environment Targets

- Increase bicycle trips 5% and pedestrian trips 15% in 10 years
- 5% annual increase in “Built Green” certification for new residential home development in next 3-5 years
- Maintain urban growth areas (UGAs) as currently adopted for the next 10 years
- Increase health awareness in decision-making by at least 10% in 5 years

# Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

- A combination of procedures, methods, tools, and processes by which policies, plans, programs, and projects are evaluated as to their potential effects on the health of a population
- Places public health on the agenda, results in better-informed decisions with respect to health, aids in addressing environmental justice and other inequalities, promotes collaboration, and encourages sustainable development.
- “New” concept, no current legal requirement
- ***Use HIA as a tool to determine which actionable items will best meet targets***



# Rapid HIA Example

- **Downtown Spokane Plan Update: Pedestrian Strategy of Multi-Modal Transportation**
  - **Target:** Increase bicycle trips 5% and pedestrian trips 15% in 10 years
  - **Possible actions:**
    - One-way conversions
    - Sidewalks and crosswalks
    - New pedestrian connections
    - Pedestrian zone conversion
    - Centennial Trail
  - **Rapid HIA:** “Design for Health” Preliminary Checklist; Human Impact Partners (HIP) Worksheet

# Next Steps



- Identify possible action items for each of 4 targets
- Determine (using HIA or other means of assessment) which actions will best help us to reach targets
- Create work plan for chosen actions
- Monitoring, evaluation, additional funding

# Thank You!

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