

EPA EJ Small Grant Final Report
Building Community Capacity to Protect Air Quality and Environmental Health
Conducted by the Diesel Health Project
DHP-FY15-EJ SGP

Contents of this Report

This report describes the purpose of this project, its goals, its planned and actual results, the substantial additional value created by the EPA EJ Small Grant that funded the project, and the actual vs. planned budget expenditures.

Purpose of the Project

The purpose of this project was to build an interdisciplinary and collaborative regional coalition, CleanAirNow, focused on environmental health issues, and to help overburdened communities in KCK build sustainable capacity to identify environmental justice problems, enhance problem-solving, and protect themselves from air pollution, particularly traffic related air pollution from freight transportation.

Three Project Goals

The goals of the EPA EJ project “Building Community Capacity to Protect Air Quality and Environmental Health” were to (1) train community residents on the health risks of goods movement air pollution, particularly diesel exhaust emissions, and how they can reduce exposure; (2) Identify the most overburdened neighborhoods, and train and work with them collaboratively to identify Issues, define visions, and set goals;(3) and build long term collaborative relationships through the CleanAirNow (formerly MoKan Clean Air) coalition.

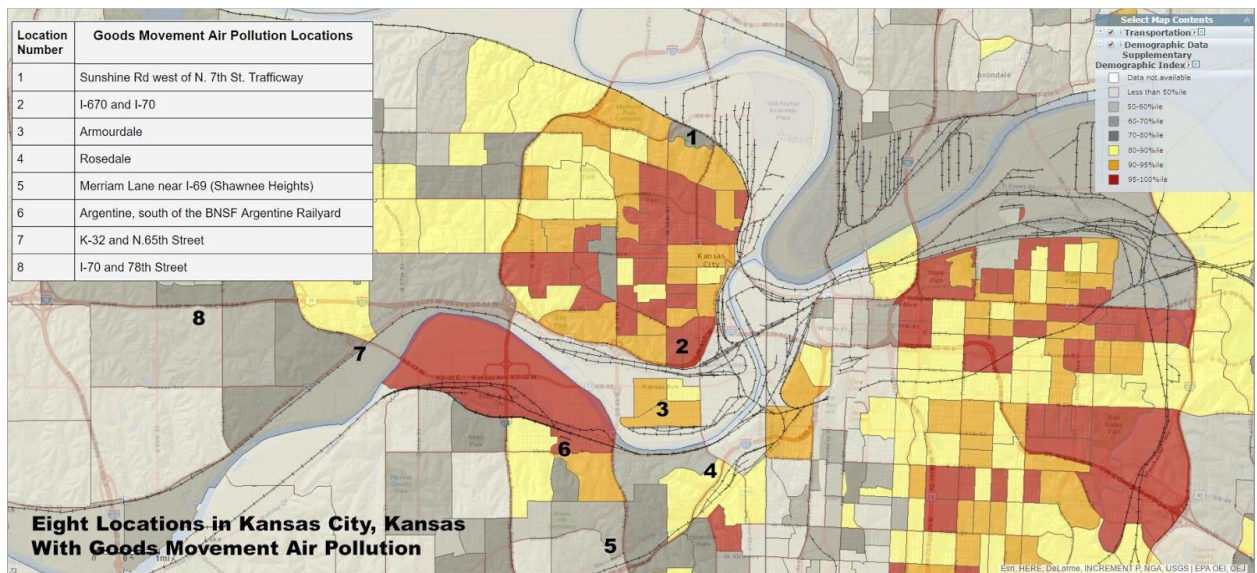
This grant helped us achieve those goals, and laid a foundation for continuing work currently underway.

Planned vs. Actual Results

Our planned results were four-fold: (1) identification of the neighborhoods most overburdened by goods movement air pollution; (2) residents in the three most overburdened neighborhoods trained regarding the risks of diesel exhaust exposure, how they can reduce their personal and family exposure, and how they can work together to improve the health of the community; (3) use the CPS model to collaboratively identify issues, develop a vision and set goals in those neighborhoods, 4) develop collaborative relationships between and among KCK community groups, CleanAirNow, community health organizations, environmental, public health, and other academic programs throughout the region, as well as with other members of the national Moving Forward Network.

We achieved the following results:

1. Identification of the neighborhoods most overburdened by goods movement air pollution. Based on air quality monitoring done prior to the commencement of the grant, visual and map surveys, and conversations with residents during meetings and training sessions, we identified eight neighborhoods most overburdened by goods movement air pollution, as shown in the map below, and focused many of our training activities in and near those neighborhoods.



2. Residents in the three most overburdened neighborhoods trained regarding the risks of diesel exhaust exposure, how they can reduce their personal and family exposure, and how can work together to improve the health of the community



To provide the best training possible, we developed a 25-page training package and script for trainers, “How to protect your family and community from the health risks of diesel exhaust and other air pollution”, along with fliers and related material.

Besides provide training on the nature of air pollution, its sources, its health effects, and health and other information specific to Wyandotte county, we added something often not included in Goods Movement training - practical information on what residents can do to reduce the health risks of air pollution. With information learned through interview with city planners and from other sources, we included tips on how they can protect themselves and their family, and what they can ask their

government and local businesses to do to protect the community.

Our training exceeded our workplan targets in several ways, including the number of training sessions we delivered (18 vs. 4), the number of neighborhood and other groups for which we provided training (16 vs. 4), and the number of individuals trained (327 vs. 100),



Additionally, we translated our training slides into Spanish, and taught a class in Spanish, something we we had not proposed to do.

We held two types of classes - full classes, with a deck of 25 training slides, which lasted 90 minutes or longer, and abridged classes, typically 30 minutes long, done with a script, but without a formal presentation. The table below provides more details.

Neighborhood Group or City-wide Organization	Date	Length	Number of People Trained
East Argentine Neighborhood Association	5/17/2016	Full	12
El Centro (City-wide)	3/28/2017	Full (Spanish)	14
El Centro (City-wide)	4/12/2017	Full	22
El Centro (City-wide)	4/27/2017	Full	25
Hilltop Neighborhood Association	6/6/2016	Abridged	10
Kensington Community Area Watch	2/23/2016	Abridged	12
NAACP, City-wide		Full	35
Neighbors on Watch	3/9/2016	Abridged	11
Night Against Crime	8/2/2016	Abridged	50
Northeast Optimist Club	4/7/2016	Abridged	7
Organization for Community Preservation	10/11/2016	Full	19
Parkwood Colony	4/19/2016	Abridged	13
Quindaro Homes	7/18/2016	Full	13
Rosedale Tower Crime Watch	6/13/2016	Abridged	20
South Argentine Neighborhood Association	5/17/2016	Full	13
Strugglers Hill - Roots	8/11/2016	Abridged	13
Villa Argentina Neighborhood Group	5/17/2016	Full	13
Youthbuild Open House (KCK Housing Authority)	6/17/2016	Abridged	25
Total Trained			327

3. Collaboratively identify issues, develop a vision and set goals in those neighborhoods

During the course of the 18 training sessions we held, we learned that open-ended conversations and question and answer interaction were more productive than formal planning sessions, as envisioned in the CPS process. Rather than strictly follow the process, we applied its principles to informal discussions and Q&A sessions that were very useful in helping us determine how best to conduct this project, and how build on it in the future. Findings and conclusions:

Findings

- Many and perhaps most people we spoke with were unaware of the risks of diesel exhaust and other air pollution. Many were aware that Kansas City in general has cleaner air than many cities, but unaware of the dangerous levels of air pollution that can be found near the BNSF Argentine Railyard and other freight hubs, and along major truck routes.
- Few if any of the KCK residents in our training sessions were aware of the simple actions they could take to reduce their exposure to air pollution, such as traveling on less congested and polluted roads, and monitoring ozone forecasts and reducing outside activities as advised.
- Few of our attendees had ever thought much about trying to ask their local government to take basic actions to protect them from diesel exhaust pollution, such as passing and enforcing a city ordinance and to reduce idling by heavy duty diesel trucks, or establish truck routes that protect neighborhoods.
- Most of the attendees care very much about the health of their families, and are willing to take actions to reduce their exposure to air pollution when they can.

Conclusions

- The Diesel Health Project or CleanAirNow, our new coalition (see next section), should update our educational materials with the results of our previous and future air quality testing, as well as the results of the currently ongoing EPA Kansas City Transportation and Local-Scale Air Quality Study.
- As described below, this grant helped us build relationships with community, health, and other organizations in Kansas City, Kansas. We need to build on our successes, and bring more KCK organizations into the CleanAirNow coalition.

4. Developed collaborative relationships between and among KCK community groups, CleanAirNow (formerly the MoKan Clean Air Coalition), community health organizations, environmental, public health, and other academic programs throughout the region, as well as with other members of the national Moving Forward Network.

Two of our team members are residents of KCK, and made it possible for us to interact and communicate with hundreds of people and many organizations during the course of this project. To achieve this we did the following and more:

- Began monthly meetings of the CleanAirNow coalition, signed up many members, and shared information with many others. The coalition is ongoing and growing.
- Joined the Wyandotte County Healthy Environment Coalition, participated and continue to participate in monthly meetings.
- Entered into a written agreement with the Historic NorthEast Midtown Association for

participation in CleanAirNow coalition and the national Moving Forward Network.

- Hosted an open house at the Argentine Community Center,
- Staffed information tables and participated in other ways at numerous community events, including the Argentine Silver City Day Celebration, anti-crime events, Rosedale Development Association's Healthy Halloween event, and the "Racism, The Environment, & Its Solutions" seminar at the KCK Junior College.
- Arranged participation in a webinar on community-driven air pollution monitoring with El Centro director and experts at Comite Civico del Valle and other organizations in Imperial County, CA.
- Worked with the KCK Housing Authority, the Livable Neighborhoods organization, and other governmental organizations.

Additional value created by this EJ Small Grant

As pleased as we at the Diesel Health Project are about what the EPA EJ Small Grant allowed us to accomplish during the period of performance, it created even more value by laying the foundation for work that will continue for many years.

The Diesel Health Project already had a core competency in community-driven air monitoring, which was not part of this grant. By making it possible for us to develop and refine a 25 page package of training slides in English and Spanish, EPA has enabled us to develop a resource that we can use in the future, and tailor for other cities and counties. By combining citizen science air monitoring and education, we can not only learn from the data, but can teach and learn from our students.

Two examples will illustrate the value of this. We have one initiative underway and another under discussion that will build on the work we did for this grant. We are currently working with a team of seven interns in Lawrence, Kansas to conduct air monitoring and are doing the research needed to tailor our training package for Lawrence. We have proposed a similar project in several cities in Kansas with a national nonprofit, and are in discussions about funding.

Budget - Planned vs. Actual

We conducted this project within budget, and received the help of many interns from the University of Kansas, including a full time intern for one semester. We received at least 1000 hours of no-cost support from these interns, who created maps, identified community groups, met with local organizations, conducted research, and carried out many other activities.

DHP-FY15-EJ SGP-Budget									
	OMB Object class	Work-Plan objs.	Unit cost	Quan- tity.	Hourly	Hours/ week	Hours	Total Planned	Total Actual
Project Manager	Contractual Services	1,2,3,4			52	6.16	320.25	\$16,653.00	\$16,650.00
Project Manager (donated time)	Contractual Services	1,2,3,4				4	208	\$0.00	\$0.00
Project Management Technician (donated time)	Contractual Services	1,2,3,4			10	4	221	\$0.00	\$0.00
Community Organizer/trainer	Contractual Services	1.2.3.4			15		244	\$3,660.00	\$3,660.00
Community Outreach Manager	Contractual Services	1,2,3,4			25		200	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Project Management Consultant	Contractual Services	1,2,3,4	\$291.67	12 mo.				\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
Bookkeeper/Admin Support	Contractual Services	1,2,3,4						\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
								\$29,813.00	\$29,810.00