



Partnerships for Environmental Public Health

Strengthening a Dynamic Environmental Public Health Network for Tomorrow:

Advancing science through critical reflection

Accomplishments

The PEPH program brings focus and coordination to NIEHS extramural environmental public health activities. It facilitates interactions among NIEHS program staff and promotes greater connections among grantees. Since the inaugural PEPH meeting, we have made important advances. Following are some quick highlights:

1. **PEPH Evaluation Metrics Manual.** After two years of intense, interactive work, the Evaluation Metrics Manual (EMM) is complete! As you may recall, the EMM was developed in response to expressed needs of our university and community partners. To ensure that grantees and community members are comfortable using the EMM, we are developing training materials to build the capacity of NIEHS staff and our extramural partners.
2. **Communication Workshop.** In July 2011, grantees and federal partners spent one day focused on communication capacity building. Grantees shared their common approaches and identified next steps and opportunities. Participants highlighted the importance of inter-disciplinary partnerships; the need to understand culture and context of communication; the need to consider the ways of using new forms of technology to communicate; and the challenge of addressing the gap between “health” and “environment.”
3. **Engaging Policy Makers Workshop.** In September 2011, we convened a day-long workshop in collaboration with the annual University of Iowa Hansen Award Lecture. Participants discussed the ways in which we work with policy makers. A particular focus was on the similarities and differences between rural and urban issues. A central take-home message emerged: an effective strategy for engaging policy makers requires placing a local, human face on the science. Participants also highlighted the environmental public health importance of the U.S. Farm Bill.
4. **PEPH Webinar Series.** We established the PEPH Webinar series in 2010 to promote interactions among PEPH grantees, to increase awareness of common issues and approaches, and to explore emerging issues. In 2011, we hosted 11 webinars on a wide range of topics with a mix of presenters from within and outside PEPH. The 2012 series promises to be even better with an engaging slate of topics. We hope that you will contribute to this series.
5. **PEPH Resource Center (V2.0).** The Resource Center now has 341 registered users and 192 materials, of which 31 have been posted to the NIEHS public website. We have enhanced the on-line tool to improve its utility. Users can “Like” and provide feedback on materials within the PEPH Resource Center. We have computers at the registration table so you can check out the enhancements and set up an account if you don’t have one.
6. **PEPH e-News.** We have over 600 registered recipients of the PEPH e-News! It is a tool for disseminating information about grantee accomplishments, funding opportunities, and other activities of interest to members of the growing PEPH network. Your contributions will add value to the document. If you have news that you would like to share with others within the PEPH network, please send us those items. The PEPH e-News, [current](#) and [past issues](#), is available on-line. To sign up to receive the PEPH e-News, please send a note to PEPH@niehs.nih.gov.
7. **PEPH Conceptual Model.** We have changed the PEPH conceptual model from an “umbrella” to a “network.” The “umbrella” concept made sense at the beginning as we established PEPH. It helped us define and focus our initial set of programs and projects. Over the past two years, through reflection and examination of PEPH, it is clear that PEPH fosters dynamic connections on common approaches, strategies, and topics. As such, it became evident that a “network” model is more appropriate to the goals and objectives of PEPH.