

Environmental Justice

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NIEHS Trainers' Exchange
March 2012



EJ Course piloted in 3 MWTP Courses

2010

- 40 LA City workers – Green Building Retrofit Jobs
- ARRA stimulus funds for jobs created by LA Apollo Alliance ordinance

Fall 2011

- 20 participants – 14 placed in jobs so far

Spring 2012

- 21 participants (currently underway)



• **UCLA-LOSH**

Green Jobs
Health & Safety
Environmental
Justice

• WERC or
other
partners

Computer
Science
Math
English

• LA Trade
Tech
College

Carpentry
Electricity
Plumbing
HVAC

Job Screening
Work
Equipment

• Work
Source
Center

Popular Education Framework

- ▶ Start with people's reality & build on their experiences to understand the big picture
- ▶ Provide marketable skills to meet the need for jobs
- ▶ Health & Safety Skills to protect self, co-workers, family, community
- ▶ Hands-on, engaging, critical thinking activities in classroom & field → leadership/civic engagement



Workers map hazards & ID solutions at work and in communities

Environmental Justice Objectives

Objectives:

- ▶ Define two key concepts of environmental justice (EJ)
- ▶ Explain the event that triggered the environmental justice movement
- ▶ Describe at least two regional examples of environmental injustice and action taken by environmental justice organizations

Strengthen skills:

- ▶ Critical analysis
- ▶ Teamwork, group dynamics and facilitation
- ▶ Public speaking
- ▶ Reading & comprehension
- ▶ Application of math skills
- ▶ Reading maps & interpreting spatial relationships
- ▶ Leadership and opportunities for civic engagement



Environmental Justice Activities

- What does environment means to you (small groups draw)
 - Environmental Justice – live/work/play
- EJ in LA: Unequal Exposure DVD
- EJ Case studies –
 - Warren County & EJ Movement;
 - La Montaña – LA
 - Timeline
- Mapping your Community
- Field trip
 - Toxic Tour
 - Tree People
- Asthma, Lead – (guest speakers)



EJ Case Studies – PCBs, Warren County & EJ Movement



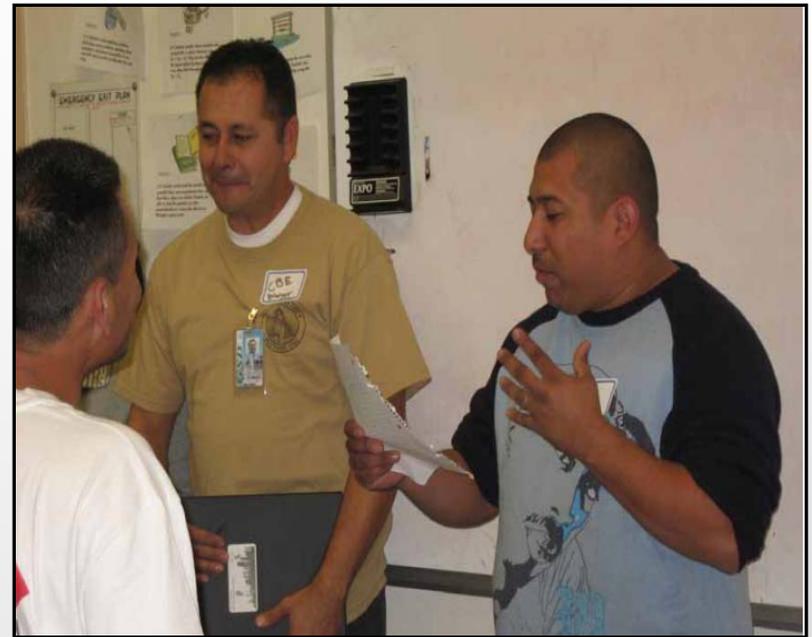
PCB dumping, 1978, N. Carolina – Start of EJ Movement



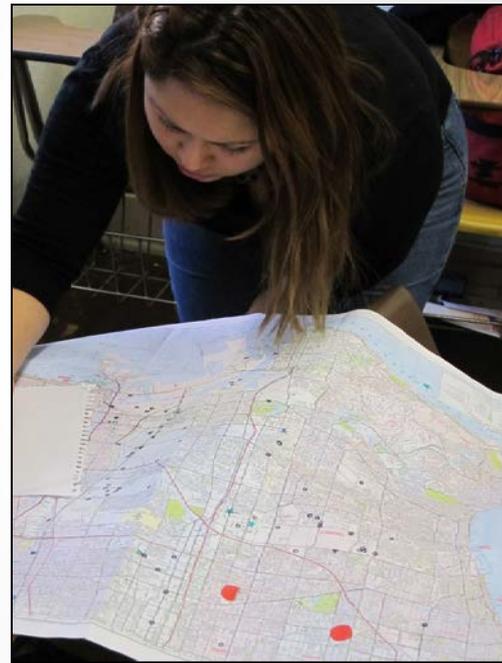
EJ Case Studies – in our back yard



Moving La Montaña: EJ in Southeast LA



MAPPING LA COMMUNITIES: ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS & RESOURCE ORGANIZATIONS



Field Trip – EJ in LA: Toxic Tour



EJ Partner CBE Tour
Guide



Refineries next to
homes

“After actually seeing these devastating conditions [on the LA toxic tour], I was left with the question: ‘What can I do to help?’”

Field Trip – EJ in LA: Tree People



Demo:
Water conservation



LEED-Certified
Green Building

Workers want to be engaged....

“The main thing....is how important it is for us as a people and as a nation to come to grips with the fact that we are endangering our ability to remain on this planet and that if we do not take care ...the harm will be irreversible.”



“ We live here, we are invested in this great city. We love LA, we want to serve and ensure that this city never dies.”

LA City Green Building Retrofit Training Group