Environmental Health Literacy: The Evolution of a New Field

Date: June 24, 2014
Time: 1:00-2:00 p.m. EDT

Description:
Environmental health literacy (EHL) is an emerging and evolving concept that bridges shared theories from the fields of risk communication, environmental health science, behavioral science, evaluation, communications, public health, and the social sciences. The process of becoming environmentally health literate entails raising scientific literacy, environmental literacy, and numeracy among the general public while increasing awareness of specific exposures and their potential health effects. For nearly 15 years, NIEHS has supported numerous grant programs to advance the translation and communication of environmental health research findings to increase the understanding of the relationship between environmental exposures and human health and to build the capacity of individuals to act on that information. While NIEHS programs have supported the development of communication strategies, environmental health messages, and informational materials, little has been done to examine their impact or to understand the elements of successful environmental health messages. As a new field, methods to raise EHL are in development; therefore, attention to the evaluation of these approaches and validation of their effectiveness is needed.

In this webinar, we will hear from two recognized experts who will set the context for EHL by highlighting the relationship between health literacy and improved health outcomes, as well as how other fields contribute to EHL research. They will offer lessons learned and recommendations that could be applied to the evolving field of EHL.

Presentations:

**Health Literacy Definitions, Disparities, and Health Outcomes: Lessons for Environmental Health**
Michael Paasche-Orlow, M.D., Boston University

**Connecting Disciplines to Inform and Develop the Emerging Field of Environmental Health Literacy**
Anna Hoover, Ph.D., University of Kentucky