Creating, Collecting and Telling Our Stories: Tools for Multi-Stakeholder Engagement

Data Worksheet

What is the goal of your document?

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Who is your target audience?

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What type of data do you want to collect?	**Where will you get the data? Who will you need to partner with to get the data?**	**How will you display your information for maximum impact?**

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Please break into teams of 4 – 8 people. Each team should use a scenario to go through the data collection worksheet. Use the short description of the problem identified by the community to figure out what data you want to collect, who might have that data, how you want to represent the data and the goal of your document.

(All of the scenarios were taken from the EPA document Promising Practices (June 2010). For more information visit the link http://www.epa.gov/care/library/CARE_Promising_Practices.pdf)

Scenario 1
New Haven, CT

Concerned about a mix of air quality, land use, and water quality issues, New Haven, Connecticut, a community with environmental justice concerns, was searching for ways to develop a comprehensive air, water, and land stewardship program. The city used its CARE grant to hire an environmental engineer to manage environmental initiatives and coordinate a broad range of projects that "greened" municipal operations and created the regulatory framework for a sustainable community. Now the city views environmental stewardship as one of its core missions.

Scenario 2
Marquette, MI

People living in Marquette, Michigan were faced with elevated levels of mercury entering Lake Superior, as well as other threats to water quality, including the improper disposal of pharmaceuticals and electronic waste (e-waste). The challenge for the community was identifying the sources of this contamination and engaging local businesses and residents to implement change.

Scenario 3
Kent County/Grand Rapids, MI

In Grand Rapids, where 20 percent of children live below the poverty line, data showed high rates of childhood asthma (caused by tobacco smoke, pests, mold, and other air pollutants), lead poisoning, mercury exposure, and carbon monoxide poisoning caused by poorly functioning appliances. Focused on creating "healthier homes for healthier children" in Kent County, Michigan, the West Michigan Children's Environmental Health Initiative (CEHI), a collaboration of community-based and advocacy organizations, together with federal, state, and local government agencies, began to tackle these problems.

Scenario 4

Boston, MA

The Boston Public Health Commission had been struggling for years with how to tackle the health and safety problems associated with about 600 automotive shops disproportionately located in low income, minority neighborhoods. Case files painted an alarming picture of improperly stored chemicals and wastes, hazardous waste disposal, uncontrolled releases of hazardous chemicals into the air, and unsafe working conditions. These dangerous work practices were taking a toll on employee health through environmental hazards and direct physical injury. Unfortunately, the city could not shut down these shops without severe financial repercussions.

Scenario 5
Wheeling, WV

Citizens in the Central Appalachians have often described themselves as "forgotten," as they watched aid and assistance come and go over the generations. When armed with scientific knowledge, however, they felt empowered to make informed environmental health decisions.

Scenario 6
St. Louis, MO

A number of low-income neighborhoods in St. Louis were impacted heavily by air pollutants, including diesel particulate matter. Grace Hill Settlement House, a nonprofit organization in St. Louis and a CARE grantee, engaged citizens in reducing a range of indoor and outdoor air toxics. Grace Hill successfully brokered among local interests to leverage community resources and build new relationships in the community.

Scenario 7
Pueblo, CO

In Pueblo, Colorado, air emissions of mercury from the steel mills and a power plant comprised more than half of the mercury emissions in the state. A coal-fired power station was under construction, and a limestone strip mine and coal-fired cement kiln were in their first year of operation. In spite of or perhaps because of this legacy, Pueblo neighborhoods never came together to resolve air pollution issues.

Scenario 8
West Oakland, CA

Entirely surrounded by freeways and located directly adjacent to the Port of Oakland, the fourth largest container port in the United States, West Oakland was the community most highly impacted for air toxics in the San Francisco Bay area. Using its CARE grant, the West Oakland Toxic Reduction Collaborative successfully broadened an existing set of stakeholders and established a structure in which to operate.

Scenario 9
Rochester, NY

Residents living in Rochester were exposed to some of the highest levels of toxic emissions in the northeast. Lead, household hazardous materials, air pollution from mobile and stationary sources, water pollution, mercury, radon, pesticides, and indoor air pollutants, were among the issues that residents faced. Like many communities across the country, Rochester did not have the means to access information on toxic pollutants; much less access it in a form they could understand.

Scenario 10
Tucson, AZ

Southern metropolitan Tucson is a low-income, predominantly Latino community heavily impacted by air toxics emissions from commercial businesses in the residential areas as well as lead and asthma problems. For years the community unknowingly consumed drinking water from a contaminated aquifer and was affected physically and emotionally by the experience. The community felt disenfranchised by the minimal input they had in the groundwater remediation efforts underway, and people developed a distrust of the government.

Scenario 11
Bay Point, CA

The city of Bay Point, California, is an environmental justice area of concern that has been disproportionately impacted by toxic emissions from industrial facilities, refineries, railroad lines and a heavily used highway, as well by drinking water contamination. Although toxic health exposure had been documented, community residents had not been adequately engaged on these issues, and
a plan for action needed to be developed.

Scenario 12
Seattle, WA

With more than 40 different ethnic groups, the International District of Seattle is one of the oldest and most ethnically diverse neighborhoods in Seattle, Washington. Addressing issues such as air toxics as well as lead paint, mold, and asthma within such a diverse community presented challenges, but also presented a wealth of resources to

leverage the variety of backgrounds and perspectives. In this community, the majority of residents and business owners are immigrants with limited English proficiency, almost 50 percent of the population lives below the poverty level, and many are elderly.

Scenario 13
Billings, MT

The American Indian communities of Fort Peck, Fort Belknap, Northern Cheyenne, and Crow shared similar environmental challenges including emissions from coal-fired power plants; close proximity to mining activities, cement plants, and abandoned mines; leaking underground storage tanks; hazardous and non-hazardous waste; water quality and indoor air problems. Located in remote areas and with few services and little environmental protection infrastructure, the tribes felt isolated. They knew they could benefit from a collaborative process and structure such as CARE to address their environmental issues.

Scenario 14
Los Angeles, CA

Pacoima, a low-income community in Los Angeles, California, was heavily impacted by air and land pollution. Abandoned, contaminated properties located near residential areas were a particular cause of concern. Cleaning up these sites was essential in order to reinvest in them, increase the local tax base, facilitate job growth, and create a healthier, safer community.