



EPA Region 7 Environmental Justice Quarterly Community Stakeholder Meeting

**May 16, 2024
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.**

Housekeeping

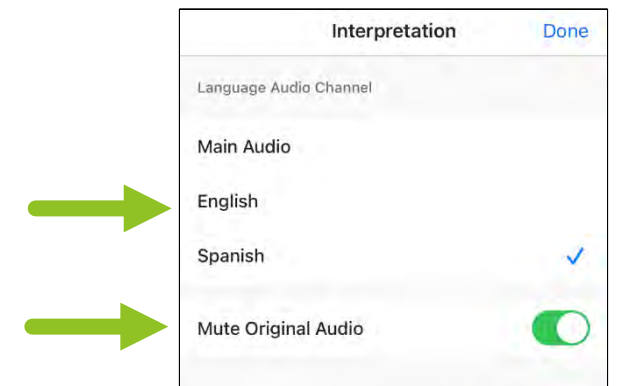
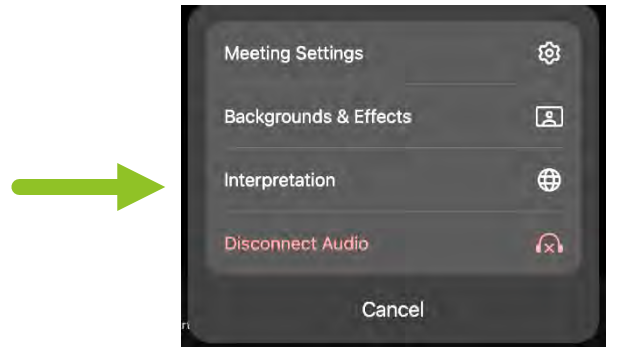
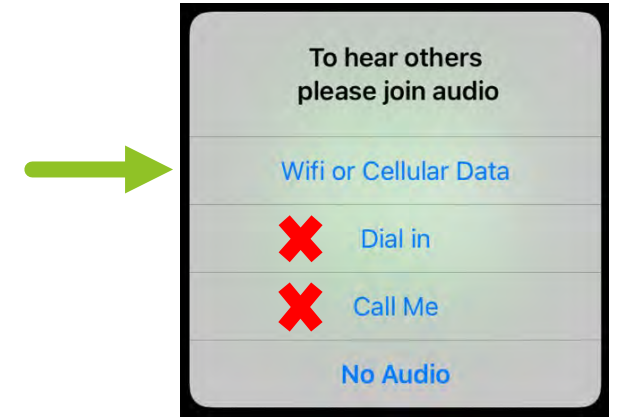
- ▶ Welcome! Please select your preferred language by clicking on the interpretation icon on at the bottom of your screen. **(English speakers must also select English.)**
- ▶ ¡Bienvenido! Si necesita interpretación, seleccione el idioma que prefiera haciendo clic en el botón de interpretación situado en la parte inferior de la pantalla.



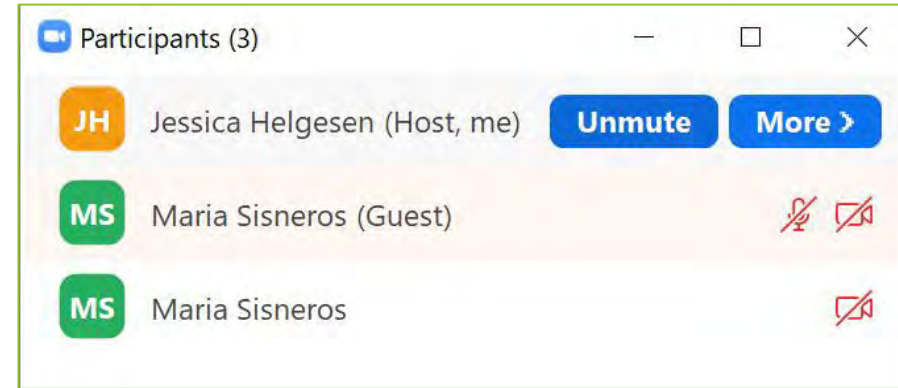
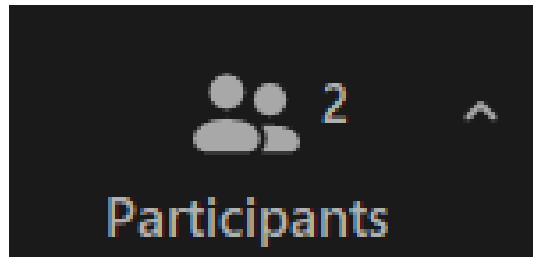
- Turn on **closed captioning** by selecting the “CC” icon.
- Toll-free call-in number is: **833-568-8864**. Meeting ID is **161 861 3917**.
- If you are attending by phone only and doesn't have access to the chat function, please send your questions or comments to R7-EJ-Stakeholders@epa.gov.

Language Support in the Zoom Mobile App

- ▶ To use interpretation services, you must select the **Wifi or Cellular Data** option when you join. You cannot use “Dial in” or “Call me.”
- ▶ Press the three dots above **More** in the control panel.
- ▶ Press the **Interpretation** icon.
- ▶ Select your preferred language (Español or English).
- ▶ Tap the toggle to **Mute Original Audio**.
- ▶ Click **Done**.



Participant Name Change



- ▶ In your meeting/webinar controls (bottom bar), click **Participants**, and a pop-up box will allow you to see everyone in meeting.
- ▶ **Change your Name:** In pop-up box, select **More** , then click on “**Rename**”

Please Ask Questions.

- ▶ You can ask questions through the Q&A box.
- ▶ Please type technical difficulties in the Chat box, and we will troubleshoot issues with you.
- ▶ Brownfields or Superfund site-specific questions can be added to the Q&A, and someone will reach out to you after the meeting.
- ▶ We will not be taking questions from the press during this meeting.

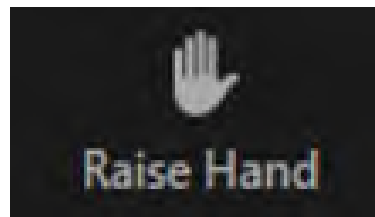


Technical difficulties

Questions

Verbal Questions

- ▶ We will offer Q&A during the meeting.
- ▶ Please raise your hand using the 'Raise Hand' button in your Zoom control panel.
- ▶ You will be given the ability to unmute yourself, which you can do by clicking on the mute/unmute button.
- ▶ We will prioritize verbal questions from community members in EPA Region 7 (Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, and Nine Tribal Nations).



← Raise hand to ask verbal questions



Welcome & Purpose

*LaTonya Sanders, Acting Chief
Community Engagement Branch*

EPA Region 7 Covers nine tribal nations and four states



Mission: To Protect Human Health and the Environment

Goals for EJ Community Stakeholder Meetings

1

Hear directly from communities about the issues you're facing and learn about your **priorities**.

2

Be available to look into questions or concerns raised and **relay information** to appropriate EPA Region 7 experts.


3

Share EPA EJ updates and grant opportunities with communities as applicable.

4

Provide community members with the **opportunity to connect with others** working on similar issues.

Agenda

- ▶ **Environmental Justice, Community Engagement & Environmental Review Division Update & Priorities**
 - ▶ **Asthma Awareness Month Information and Resources**
 - ▶ **Kansas City Community, Equity, & Resiliency Roadshow**
 - ▶ **How to Apply for Funding and Eligible Activities**
 - Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program
 - Environmental & Climate Justice Community Change Grant Program
 - ▶ **EJ Grantee Spotlights:**
 - Springfield Community Gardens, Springfield, MO
 - Center for Rural Affairs, Lyons, NE
 - ▶ **General Q&A**
- 



New EJ Division Update & Priorities

*Dave Cozad, Acting Director
Environmental Justice, Community Engagement &
Environmental Review Division*



Asthma Awareness Month

Information and Resources

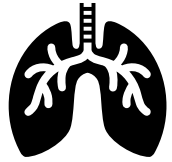
*Molly Schreiner, MPH
Indoor Air Quality and Outreach Coordinator
Air and Radiation Division*

Overview

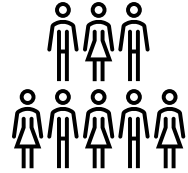


- What is Asthma Awareness Month?
- How may it impact you?
- What's EPA Region 7 doing?
- Resources

What is Asthma Awareness Month?



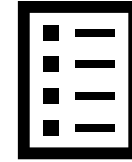
EPA seeks to raise awareness on asthma during Asthma Awareness Month in May



Asthma is a serious, sometimes life-threatening chronic respiratory disease that affects the quality of life for more than 25 million Americans, including an estimated 4 million children.



Although there is no cure for asthma yet, asthma can be controlled through medical treatment and management of environmental triggers.

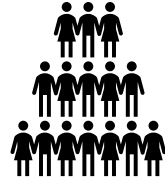


EPA is committed to educating all Americans for everyone to know what asthma is, how the environment can affect asthma patients, and how to manage environmental asthma triggers with an asthma action plan.

How Can it Impact You?



Anyone can get asthma.



25 million people have asthma in the United States



About **3 students** in an average classroom of 30 have asthma.



1 out of every 10 school-aged children suffering from asthma



Asthma accounts for more than **10.5 million missed school days** each year in children aged 5 to 17.

How is Region 7 spreading awareness?

- Posting to social media accounts (Instagram, Twitter and Facebook)
- EPA Region 7 posted an interview with Carla Smocks, a retired R7 Employee on her personal experience with asthma. The interview can be found [here](#).
- Press-release to be released to the community of EPA Region 7 (attach link once posted)
- To help further raise awareness this year, through the month of May, EPA Region 7 is participating in the [Step It Up Challenge](#) to boost physical activity while helping our region compete against similarly sized locations agencywide.

Information and Resources:

- [Asthma Fact Sheet](#)
- [Asthma Resources One-Pager \(PDF\)](#).
- [Asthma Triggers](#)
- [AirNow.gov](#)
- [NoAttacks.org](#)
- [Federal Agencies and Organizations Addressing Environmental Asthma](#)
- [Asthma Community Network](#)
- [Financing In-Home Asthma Care](#)
- [Asthma Publications](#)
- [Asthma Resources](#)
- [Managing Asthma in the School Environment](#)
- [National Environmental Leadership Award in Asthma Management](#)
- [Indoor Air Quality \(IAQ\) in Schools](#)
- [IAQ Tools for Schools Program](#)
 - The [IAQ Tools for Schools Action Kit](#) helps schools identify, resolve and prevent indoor air quality problems using low and no-cost measures.
 - [View on-demand training webinars.](#)
 - [Find an IAQ Champion.](#) Schools and school districts have demonstrated a strong commitment to improving children's health by promoting good IAQ practices.

Thank you!

Any Questions?

Molly Schreiner

Schreiner.molly@epa.gov

913-551-7228

<https://www.epa.gov/asthma>



Kansas City Community, Equity, and Resiliency Road Show Update

*Dr. Larissa Mark, Partnerships and Collaboration Division
Office of Environmental Justice & External Civil Rights*

*Ahmad Perez, Special Assistant for Implementation and
Climate Justice, Office of Air & Radiation*



**COMMUNITY,
EQUITY &
RESILIENCY**

**Building Environmental and
Climate Justice through Engagement**

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Dr. Larissa Mark
BIL/IRA Lead, OEJECR

Ahmad Perez
Special Assistant for
Implementation and Climate
Justice, OAR



COMMUNITY, EQUITY & RESILIENCY

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

RESOURCES TO HELP COMMUNITIES

epa.gov/community-equity-resiliency

RESOURCES TO HELP COMMUNITIES

Online resource hub for communities.

OVERVIEW

The new online hub:

- Highlights IRA program information and provides easily-digestible infographics and snapshot videos
- Aggregates available EPA IRA technical assistance resource programs into one location for ease-of-access
- Showcases Federal geospatial data tools that help drive environmental and climate justice



Community Equity & Resiliency CONTACT US

- Community Equity & Resiliency Home
- Engagement Opportunities
- Regional Roadshows
- Resources to Help Communities**

Resources to Help Communities

The Inflation Reduction Act and other new [Investing in America](#) funding opportunities provide once-in-a-lifetime financing and resources to help communities, especially those that are low-income and disadvantaged, confront the climate crisis and reduce pollution.

Historic Funding Opportunities

The Community, Equity & Resiliency

Technical Assistance Hub

EPA's Inflation Reduction Act funded

Data Tools Driving Environmental & Climate Justice



Air Pollution Monitoring of Methane Emissions

Landfill Gas (LFG) is a natural byproduct of the decomposition of organic waste (ex: food scraps) in landfills.

LFG is approximately **50% methane**, which is a potent greenhouse gas (GHG) — it's 28x more effective than CO2 at trapping heat in the atmosphere.¹

12%

of all U.S. greenhouse gas emissions is methane.²

15%

of methane emissions come from landfills.

In 2021, methane from U.S. landfills equated to the total CO2 emissions of **13.1 million homes' energy use for 2021.**

EPA's funding for **air pollution monitoring** will support ways to **reduce potent methane emissions.**



COMMUNITY, EQUITY & RESILIENCY

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

NATIONAL VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

epa.gov/community-equity-resiliency



VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

November 6 – November 14

OVERVIEW

A national virtual open house was the second phase of this initiative.

The Virtual Open House concluded with:

12 panels and fireside chats

25 featured community leaders and activists

3600 registrants

PANELS

No One Left Behind: The Climate Crisis in Rural Communities	11/6/2023
Driving Community Success: Unleashing Potential with Technical Assistance	11/6/2023
Community-led Change with Grants Opportunities	11/7/2023
The Inflation Reduction Act: Youth and the Climate Crisis	11/8/2023
Charging Ahead: Building Sustainable Communities with Electric Vehicle Infrastructure	11/8/2023
Green Jobs, Diversity & Just Transition	11/9/2023
Voyage to Justice	11/9/2023
Uncovering the Challenges of Unincorporated Communities	11/13/2023
Building Stronger Futures: Tribal and Indigenous Communities and the Inflation Reduction Act	11/13/2023
Community Engagement: Building Strong Communities Through Collaboration	11/14/2023

FIRESIDE CHATS

Hot, Crowded and Unhealthy: The Effects of Heat and Infrastructure on Black and Brown Communities	11/9/2023
Fresh Air, Fresh Start: Redefining Health & Equity	11/14/2023



COMMUNITY, EQUITY & RESILIENCY

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGIONAL ROADSHOW

epa.gov/community-equity-resiliency



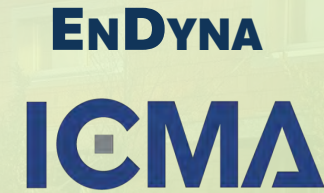
REGIONAL ROADSHOW

In-person informational events on new IRA programs.

CONTINUING ENGAGEMENT

Each event helps to answer:

1. What are these programs?
2. What support is out there?
3. Who should I work with?



Albany, NY
January 18, 2024

San Bernardino, CA
February 16, 2024

Commerce City, CO
March 5, 2024

Phoenix, AZ
April 23, 2024

Florence, SC
May 13, 2024

Kansas City
May 28, 2024



REGIONAL ROADSHOW KANSAS CITY



WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY

ICMA

INTERNATIONAL CITY/COUNTY
MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

ENDYNA

GREGG/KLICE COMMUNITY CENTER

1600 East 17th Terrace Kansas City, MO 64108

MAY 28, 2024

5:00-7:30 PM CST

<https://www.epa.gov/community-equity-resiliency/regional-roadshows>

Question and Answer Session

Let's Hear From You!

Any questions for previous speakers?

Add your questions to the Q&A box or raise your hand.





Update on EPA Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmakers Program in Region 7

*Marisa Valdez, Special Advisor for Implementation
Office of Environmental Justice & External Civil Rights*

Historic EJ Grants through the Inflation Reduction Act

1. Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (EJ TCTAC's) Program – www.heartlandej.org is the R7 TCTAC page.
2. Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmakers Program (EJ TCGM)
3. Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program (EJ CCG)

EJ Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program

TCGM cooperative agreements are collaborations between EPA and 11 grantmakers around the nation to reduce the burden of the federal grants application process and distribute federal funds to potential applicants working to address environmental justice issues.

1,000+ Thriving Communities Subgrants distributed by grantmakers will:



Support capacity-building through assessment, planning and project development.



Increase efficiency and reduce barriers to accessing federal grant funding.



Encourage meaningful involvement of community members in decision-making that may affect their communities.

EJ Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program (TCGM) Selectees

Proposed Geographic Area	Legal Business Name	Submitter's State	Grant Office
Region 1	Health Resources in Action	MA	Region 1
Region 2	Fordham University	NY	Region 2
Region 3	Green & Healthy Homes Initiative Inc.	MD	Region 3
Region 4	**Research Triangle Institute	NC	Headquarters
Region 5	The Minneapolis Foundation	MN	Region 5
Region 6	*Texas Southern University	TX	Region 6
Region 7	Reference Central National GM		NA
Region 8	JSI Research and Training Institute, Inc.	CO	Region 8
Region 9	Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs (SEE), Inc.	CA	Region 9
Region 10	Philanthropy Northwest	WA	Region 10
National GM East [Regions 1-3]	*Institute for Sustainable Communities	VT	Headquarters
National GM West [Region 8-10]	Climate Justice Alliance	CA	Headquarters
National GM Central [Region 4-7]	**Research Triangle Institute	NC	Headquarters

Funding Options & Types of Projects for Future Grantmaker Subawardees

Phase 1 Assessment Projects up to \$150,000 (1 year)

Ex: Research (that is incidental to the project design) • sampling • testing • monitoring • investigations • surveys and studies • public education

Phase 2 Planning Projects up to \$250,000 (1-2 years)

Ex: Planning • Partnership-building • Public outreach and education • Coordination with community stakeholders to address environmental issues • Training activities for community organizations and community members • Projects and activities to spur community involvement (e.g., cleanups of vacant lots) • Smaller land purchases & acquisitions that require less than half the total amount of subgrant

Phase 3 Development of Projects up to \$350,000 (2 years)

Ex: Project Development • Blueprints for construction or cleanup projects, schematics, and technical development • Work to get permits in place directly related to an environmental project • Smaller land purchases and acquisitions that require less than half of the total amount of subgrant funding • Implementation of project plans • Public outreach and education

***A limited number of \$75,000 non-competitive fixed-amount subawards will be available for severely capacity-constrained CBOs to access.**

EJ Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program (TCGM) Subgrants

Applicants eligible to apply for Thriving Communities subgrants this fall include:

- Nonprofit organizations, community-based and grassroots nonprofit organizations
- Tribal governments (both federally recognized & state-recognized) and intertribal consortia
- Local governments
- Institutions of higher education
- Native American Organizations
- Puerto Rico
- US Territories
- Freely Associated States (FAS)

Ineligible subrecipients include:

- Individuals
- For profit businesses
- State governments

Grantmaking Program Subgrant Eligible Activities

Monitoring of **effluent discharges** from industrial facilities

Improving **food access** to reduce vehicle miles traveled

Illegal dumping activities, such as education, outreach, & small-scale clean-ups

Environmental **job training** for occupations that reduce greenhouse gases & other air pollutants

Fenceline **air quality** monitoring

Small **cleanup** projects

Pesticides & other **toxic substances**

Air quality & asthma

Environmental justice **training for youth**

Lead & asbestos contamination

Healthy homes that are energy/water use efficient & not subject to indoor air pollution

Water quality & sampling

Stormwater issues & green infrastructure

Emergency preparedness & disaster resiliency



Brief Update on EPA's Environmental & Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program

Janel Kemp, Environmental Protection Specialist

Grants Management Division

Office of Environmental Justice & External Civil Rights



Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program

Through the Inflation Reduction Act, EPA will invest about \$2 billion for environmental and climate justice activities benefiting communities most impacted by climate change, legacy pollution and historical disinvestments.



The Community Change Grants are designed to:



Engage disadvantaged communities in government processes.



Invest in place- and community-based initiatives.



Reduce pollution with community-led pollution monitoring, prevention and remediation.



Increase climate resilience and community capacity to respond to environmental and climate justice challenges.



Community Change Technical Assistance Program

Through the Inflation Reduction Act, EPA's \$200 million technical assistance program will help eligible entities apply for and manage Community Change Grants.

<https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/inflation-reduction-act-community-change-grants-program>

Environmental & Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program



Total Funding

\$2 billion - single largest investment in environmental justice going directly to communities in history

Open Now until **Nov 21, 2024**

March 2025: initial award selections

June 2025: anticipated start for initial selections



Track I

- \$10-20 million each, 150 awards
- Community-driven investments for change
- Maximum 3 years

Track II

- \$1-3 million, 20 awards
- Meaningful engagement for equitable governance
- Maximum 3 years

Who can apply?

A partnership between at least two community-based non-profit organizations (CBOs).

A partnership between a CBO and one or any combination of the following:

- 1) Federally-Recognized Tribe
- 2) Local Government
- 3) Institution of Higher Education

More details can be found [here](#)

Community Change Grants Types of Eligible Activities



Climate

Climate resilience and adaptation



Air Quality

Community-led air and other (including water & waste) pollution monitoring, prevention, and remediation



Green Jobs

Workforce development that supports the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions & other air pollutants



Community Engagement

Facilitating the engagement of disadvantaged communities in State and Federal advisory groups, workshops, rulemakings, and other public processes



Heat

Mitigating climate & health risks from urban heat islands, extreme heat, wood heater emissions, and wildfire events



Technology

Investments in low- and zero-emission and resilient technologies and related infrastructure



Indoor Air

Reducing indoor toxics and indoor air pollution

Change Grant Technical Assistance

- **Community Change Technical Assistance (CCTA)**

- Broad-based pre-award and post-award TA
 - Specialized support for the CCG (TCTACs are for general requests)
 - Submit an on-line [TA Request Form](#)
 - Call to make a TA Request or ask questions: 1(800) 540-8123
 - Email: EJ_TechAssist@epa.gov
-
- Individualized support- help with development of grant application (but can't write the application), project planning and development, outreach and engagement, and general capacity building.
 - Recordings for past webinars are available via www.communitychangeTA.org

Stay connected!

For up-to-date information on national Environmental Justice funding opportunities, events, and webinars, subscribe to EPA's Environmental Justice listserv by sending a blank email to: join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov.

For more info on EJ grants or technical assistance go to:
<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-grants-funding-and-technical-assistance>



Spotlight on EJ Grant Recipients

*Springfield Community Gardens, Springfield, MO
Maile Auterson, Founding Executive Director*

*Center for Rural Affairs, Lyons, NE
Kirstin Bailey, Senior Project Associate*

Springfield Community Gardens

Maile Auterson, Founding Executive Director



SPRINGFIELD
COMMUNITY GARDENS



Springfield Community Gardens & Urban Farms

SCG's Urban Farms host community members and farmer incubator program participants at:

2 Market Farms

Cox Health Hospital Farm

17 Community Gardens

Community Test Kitchen



Internship Program

The 4-Week (16 Total Hours) Internship Program introduces regenerative agriculture and growing in the Ozarks through field work at SCG farm locations, and workshops led by industry professionals.

The majority of participants were between the ages of 31-40; approximately 15% identified as active military or a veteran; 68% were female; 26% identified as persons of color; (and this represents nearly 10% more people of color than represented in the overall population.)



Springfield Community Gardens offers two short term programs at our urban farm incubators for those interested in jumpstarting careers in regenerative agriculture.

Springfield Community Gardens is grateful to our program partners.

Farmer Apprenticeship

- Paid: Living Wage
- 40 hours per week for nine months
- Workshops and training (in-person and remote) with industry professionals
- Mentorship by SCG farmers
- Land acquisition opportunities
- Completion certificate

Farmer Internship

- Unpaid
- Four hours per week for one month
- In-person workshops and training with industry professionals
- Completion certificate

Email anneliese.kerr@springfieldcommunitygardens.org for more

information or to apply. Please apply soon to secure your spot on the wait list.

Connect with us online on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube or through our website at springfieldcommunitygardens.org.



Results

- 100% completion with 26 graduates
- Intern hired as processing manager at Cox Health hospital farm
- Two interns are teachers at the Darr Ag Academy at Springfield Public Schools
- A 2023-24 EPA Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving grant continues the program with a 4-week and 16-week internship for 108 interns.

Center for Rural Affairs

Kirstin Bailey, Senior Project Associate

Purpose & Goals

Purpose: Water and Garden Soil Testing for Rural Latino Families

Goals:

- ❖ Rural Latino families understand water and soil contamination issues that could affect them
- ❖ Rural Latino families and small-scale farmers understand how to prevent water and soil contamination at their homes and farms
- ❖ Participants learn to access resources and technical service providers who can help them overcome water and garden soil issues
- ❖ Targeted areas Lexington, Columbus, West Point and Grand Island

Activities

- Outreach to targeted communities regarding learning circle trainings.
- Trainings are focus on soil and water contamination. These can be done at community gardens, farms, public water and private wells.
- Demonstrations will done during these trainings, such as soil and water testing.
- Publishing, creating and promoting videos showcasing water/soil testing sampling and reading tests

Activities (cont.)

Twenty-four Latino participants need to:

- ▷ Learn about water and soil quality issues
- ▷ learn to test and read water results
- ▷ learn to test and read soil results

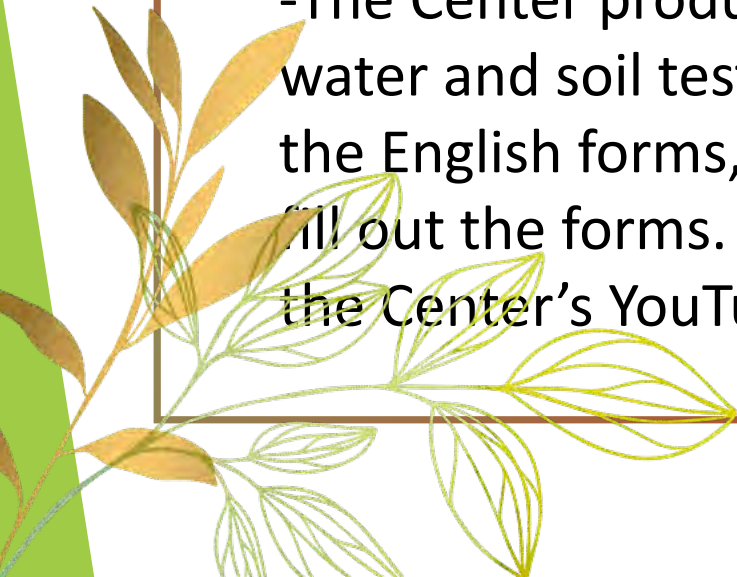
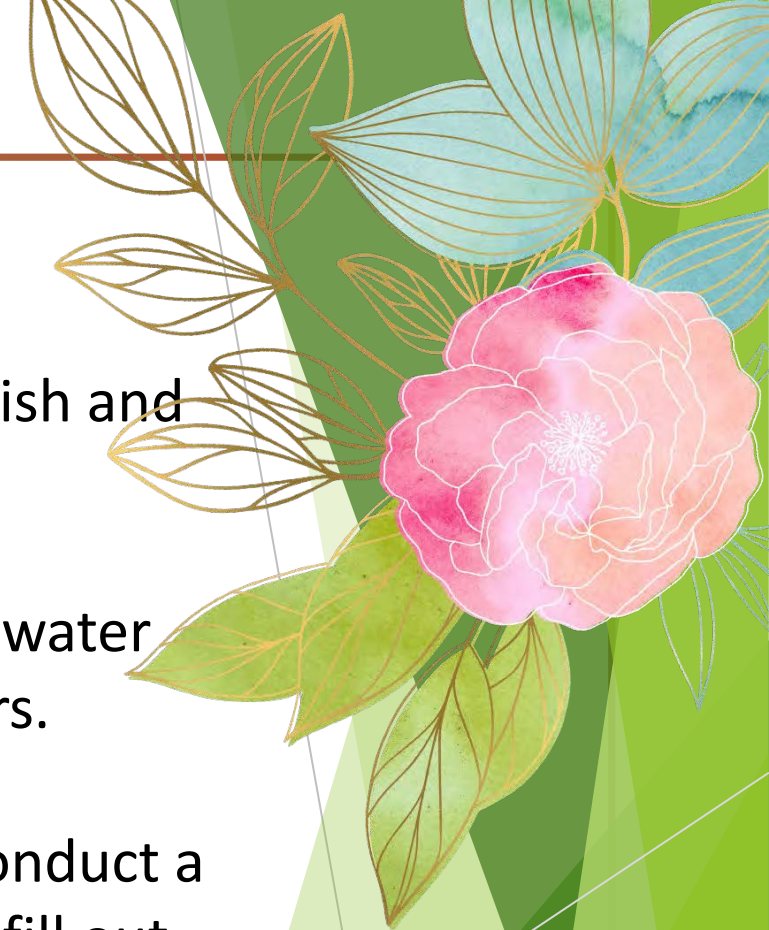
Six farmers need to:

- ▷ learn to prevent water and crop contamination

All of these activities were bilingual or Spanish Only.

Deliverables completed

- The Center completed a wellhead protection plan in Spanish and English. This resource is housed on the Center's website.
- We also provided 29 water kits and 16 soil kits during the water and soil testing events to both farmers and home gardeners.
- The Center produced Spanish video tutorials on how to conduct a water and soil test. Within the videos we explained how to fill out the English forms, and provided a Spanish template to help them fill out the forms. The video tutorials currently can be accessed in the Center's YouTube channel.



Lessons Learned

- ★ Lean on partners.
- ★ Information needs to be translated.
- ★ Remain flexible and communicative.

Question and Answer Session

Let's Hear From You!



Add your questions to the Q&A box or raise your hand.

- ▶ Any questions for previous speakers?
- ▶ What are your most pressing needs to advancing EJ in your community?
- ▶ What type of information or training do you need to assist you in advancing EJ?
- ▶ What other topics do you want to discuss or learn more about on future calls?

Stay in touch!

- ▶ Email questions, concerns or ideas to: R7-EJ-Stakeholders@epa.gov
- ▶ Call Region 7's customer service line at 1-800-223-0425, and ask for Kimberly Burr or Monica Espinosa
- ▶ Join the national EJ Listserv: Join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov
- ▶ Join the R7 communities information distribution list: [R7 Communities Digest@epa.gov](mailto:R7_Communities_Digest@epa.gov)
- ▶ Check out EPA Region 7's Community Information Guide: <https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/region-7-community-information-guide>



Thank you for joining us!