

California Communities Against Toxics

14th Annual Conference Program

Skillbuilders- *If your group is just starting out, or if you feel you need to brush up on some basic skills because it has been awhile, these workshops are for you.*

Organizing 101 (Bradley Angel et.al)- This workshop will be lead by leaders of the EJ movement and share their many years of organizing experience. It will share organizing tactics and strategy to stop polluting projects from being sited in your community and share with you how EJ victories are won.

Using Computers for Environmental Justice (Celia Davis) You will not believe how handy a computer can be in the struggle for environmental justice. This workshop will give you the skills to use a computer to research information on local polluters, the voting record of your elected officials, accessing demographic information on your community, and how to use this technology to enhance environmental health in your community.

Media Skills - Ever wanted to learn how to write a letter to the editor? Put on a press conference? Give a press interview for television? Develop a strategic plan to use press to advance the cause of environmental justice in your community? This workshop will teach you how.

Advanced Skillbuilders- *If your group has some experience under your belt and wants to use science, politics, and hard-to-get information to win, these workshops can help you.*

Toxicology (Jane Williams) What exactly is a health risk assessment and what do those all numbers mean? What do they mean a facility's emissions are under the acceptable risk? How much do we really know about the effects of these emissions on human health? This workshop makes a complex science easy to understand and gives you real world language that can help you demystify the science of toxicology.

How to Work with Elected Officials (Jose Carmona) Who are my elected officials? What do they do? How can I get them to support the struggle for environmental justice in my community? Find out the answers to these questions and practical ways to work with your elected officials.

Getting Access to Government Documents- (Gideon Kracov) This workshop will teach you what the law says about how to get access to government documents. Documents that can help you in your struggle for environmental justice in your community...documents that you have a right to have access to.

Issue Based Workshops-*Come to these workshops to learn more in depth about a particular topic:, what advocates are doing, what the politics are, and what you need to do to get active on the issue.*

Investigating Disease Clusters in Your Community (Dee Lewis) Find out why it has been so hard to make the link between disease clusters and environmental conditions in communities.. Find out what the limits of epidemiology really are and what a model disease cluster investigation looks like. Join communities affected by disease clusters in a national movement to change the way government responds to communities affected by disease clusters.

The California Environmental Quality Act (Gideon Kracov)- What does the CEQA Act do, can it help us achieve environmental justice in our communities? What is the current political debate on making changes to CEQA and how would that impact communities of color? And finally, why are developers and polluters always trying to reform CEQA?

Healthy Homes (Linda Kite)-What can we do to make our homes healthier places to live for our families? What are common sense steps we can take to reduce chemical exposure for our families and advance environmental justice? Find out about how to start a healthy homes movement in your community by attending this workshop.

The Rise of the Nuclear Industry (Phil Klasky)- Could we be fighting the siting of nuclear power plants in California soon?. Could we see an increase in purchasing of nuclear power by our local utilities to offset global warming gases? Are large environmental groups supporting a resurgence of the nuclear power industry? Where does nuclear waste go, how does it get

there, and is it safe? Find out in this workshop and find out what you can do to help prevent the creation of more nuclear waste by your purchasing decisions.

Toxic Sites (Jane Williams)- What are they? Where are they? How do we clean them up? Can we safely redevelop them? And why are we always fighting about them in the state legislature? Find out about the politics and promise of your local toxic site in this workshop.

Incinerators in Disguise (Bradley Angel and Monica Wilson)-The reincarnation of the incinerator industry has occurred. They are searching the Southwest for host communities and trying to get money from the government to build their burners. Who are these guys anyway? Why do they keep insisting they can burn things and emit zero pollution? What do they want to burn and why? And what do you do when they show up on your community's doorstep? Come to this workshop, link up with communities fighting these incinerator proposals across the Southwest, and hear their remarkable stories.

Air Pollution and You (Joe Lyou and Jose Carmona)-Why can we see the air we breathe? That can't be good! Find out what you can do to get active in the movement to clean up our air. Find out what the obstacles are, who they are, and what can be done about it. Learn about pollution trading, air pollution enforcement hiccups, and how decisions about energy production affect the air we breathe.

Goods Movement -The movement of goods from ports, inland, to distribution centers is creating intense air pollution effects in communities. Find out what is being done in the struggle to reduce the air pollution impacts from goods movement. Discuss the Governor's new plan on goods movement and Mayor Villariagosa's new plan for the LA ports. Brainstorm about what communities can do collectively to move an agenda forward that will mitigate the impacts of goods movement in California.

Asthma (Martha Arguello)-What is the asthma toll in your community? How does asthma affect families and communities? What is the link between asthma and air quality both inside your home and outside? How is asthma best managed? What is a "medical home", and how can parents, doctors, and teachers provide a safety net for asthma sufferers? How can we work with medical advocates to create a better life for asthma sufferers in our

communities and embrace a paradigm of prevention for this environmental health epidemic? Find out the answers to these questions in this workshop.

Youth Workshops-These workshops are designed especially for our youth, they are more interactive, shorter, and very action oriented. When possible, they are co-facilitated by youth active in the EJ movement and experts in the field.

Healthy Homes for Youth- How can the community work around making our homes healthier places to live be led by youth?. What can our youth do to make their homes and neighborhoods safer places to live, work, and play? How do household hazards affect the health of our youth and what can they do about it? Come to this workshop and learn how to become part of the movement for healthy homes and advance environmental justice.

Our Youth and Asthma (Martha Arguello)-What triggers an asthma attack? How can asthma best be managed? How can youth advocate for a “medical home” for their asthma? What can be done in homes and schools by youth asthma advocates to improve the quality of life for asthma sufferers? What about the disproportionate impact of asthma on people of color...what’s up with that? How can we stop it? Come to this workshop, learn about it, do something positive about it.

Greening Schools (Robina Suwol and Shabaka Heru)-Clouds of pesticides swirling around your school? Trash overflowing from the cans, with no recycling plan in sight? Indoor air quality choking you? Find out how to get your school administration to embrace a healthier school environment by working with teachers, administrators, students, and the school board to “green your school”.

Computers Skills for Youth (Celia Davis)-Think computers are just for term papers? Not any more! Learn how computers are lean, mean, green machines for finding information on the demographics of your community, where polluters are and what they are emitting, who your elected officials are who can do something about it, and organizations you can link up with to help you in your struggle for environmental justice. Learn how to use the power of the internet to help your family, your school, and your community become healthier, more educated, and more politically savvy by using information available on the computer.