



Camden Waterfront South Community Collaborative

Clean Air Communities (CAC) is proud to be the recipient of a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's *Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE)* program to **reduce risks from toxic pollutants in the Waterfront South neighborhood of Camden, New Jersey**. Over the two-year grant period, CAC will build on the success of previous community efforts to identify and reduce sources of pollution by working with community groups to continue the process of citizen education, by increasing dialogue between residents and local industries, and by reducing emissions from vehicles and equipment owned by the South Jersey Port Corporation.

About the Waterfront South Community

The 1,700 residents of Waterfront South live in a neighborhood with high levels of industrial activity. The 723-acre area is bounded by two busy port terminals and a congested interstate highway, and it contains 25 state-designated contaminated sites, two Superfund sites, numerous scrap-handling facilities, the county's waste combustor and sewage treatment plant, the world's largest licorice processing plant, and a cement manufacturer. Local industries generate 77,000 truck trips through the area each year. Air toxics exceed the state's health benchmarks, and the air in Camden County has levels of fine particles that exceed federal standards.

Scientific studies indicate that fine particles are linked directly to health problems such as asthma, bronchitis, shortness of breath, cancer, and premature death. Children are especially susceptible, and in Waterfront South nearly half the households have children under 18. Residents suffer from high rates of asthma and cancer. Community leaders are so concerned about the health effects of the many sources of pollution that they petitioned the state to take action, which led to an Environmental Justice Action Plan, an Air Toxics Pilot Project, and programs to address problems ranging from lead in drinking water to contaminated dust.



About the CARE Project

Clean Air Communities, local organizations, key industries, and government agencies have joined together to undertake a series of projects to build awareness and reduce pollution in the neighborhood. Recognizing that exhaust from diesel engines is a major contributor to unhealthy air in urban areas, the partners have made reducing diesel emissions a primary focus of the project. To achieve significant local reductions, the New Jersey Department of Environmental

Protection is contributing **\$500,000 for technology to reduce emissions from the vehicles and equipment at the port.**

The founding partners have also planned a series of campaigns in the community:

- **Heart of Camden** is developing pamphlets and will conduct outreach to improve industry efforts to reduce diesel emissions and dust. A key goal is improving drivers' compliance with designated truck routes and idling regulations.
- **South Camden Citizens in Action** will focus on educating schoolchildren about preventing or reducing exposure to air toxics, lead, and contaminated soil.
- **Clean Air Communities** will conduct an inventory of both permitted and illegal scrap-metal facilities as a basis for strategies to prevent pollution.
- **Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority** will convene a group of business leaders to address concerns about safety and pollution.
- The partners will also produce an *Environmental Justice Toolkit* for middle and high school students that will provide information about the environment and tools for citizen action.

Initial CARE Project Partners

Clean Air Communities
Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority
Heart of Camden
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
South Camden Citizens in Action
South Jersey Port Corporation
US EPA Region 2

As the project unfolds, the partners will reach out to residents and businesses and will engage them in other collaborative efforts to reduce environmental risks in Waterfront South.

About Clean Air Communities

CAC is a nonprofit organization committed to achieving environmental justice through emission reduction and energy efficiency projects in communities that are disproportionately affected by air pollution. Over the past seven years, CAC and its partners have invested \$13.6 million in pioneering projects that provide tangible results. For its groundbreaking partnership approach and impressive benefits to the community and the environment, CAC was honored with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's *Clean Air Excellence Award* in 2002 and with one of the first *Environmental Excellence Awards* by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in 2005.



EPA Regional Administrator Alan Steinberg presents the CARE grant to Waterfront South Community Collaborative partners