

We have one of the strongest supporters of environmental justice across the nation here in South Carolina. Representative Harold Mitchell has long been an advocate for environmental justice. In 2002, the United State Environmental Protection Agency awarded him with the Citizen's Excellence in Community Involvement Award.

2002 Award Winner: Harold Mitchell



Rep. Mitchell first became involved in environmental matters back in 1994, after an undiagnosed illness left him at home for eight (8) months. He recognized that his community, the Arkwright and Forest Park Communities within Spartanburg, SC, were being impacted by environmental harms. Therefore, began working to make a difference within his community. Rep. Mitchell began by forming ReGenesis, an active community-based organization with over 1,400 members. Under his leadership, ReGenesis has established a broad and dynamic public-private partnership to foster identification, inventory, assessment, cleanup and redevelopment of contaminated sites through his community. His ability to work collaboratively has set him apart from others in that through various partnerships and his fundraising efforts, he has been able to leverage more than \$200 million towards redevelopment of his community. Because of his ability to partner and problem-solve in a collaborative spirit, the EPA chose to use his efforts as a model for others to learn from across the nation. The EPA developed a handbook titled, "EPA's Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Model", under which his efforts are documented. Also, the EPA developed a CD titled, "Environmental Justice: The Power of Partnerships – The Collaborative Problem-Solving Model at Work in Spartanburg, South Carolina" which shown first-hand Rep. Mitchell's and his community's story. To obtain further information on Rep. Mitchell's project, or to obtain a copy of the handbook or CD, click [here](http://www.epa.gov/NCEI/collaboration/envt-justicecollaboration.htm)(<http://www.epa.gov/NCEI/collaboration/envt-justicecollaboration.htm>) which will forward you to the EPA's website where you can obtain additional information.