
South Carolina Environmental Justice Advisory Committee
Final Report

December 2009

Executive Summary

The South Carolina Environmental Justice Advisory Committee was formed through Act 171 in 2007. Those who served on the Advisory Committee consisted of thirteen state agencies and 3 universities. The Committee was charged with finding the current status of programs and policies that pertain to environmental justice within state agencies; and, making recommendations as it pertains to environmental justice, economic development, and revitalization. The law stated that all findings and recommendations should be submitted in a report that would be sent to the Governor and General Assembly on January 1, 2010.

The development of the Committee began with Representative Harold Mitchell. His community in Spartanburg, SC, had been distressed due to environmental and social justice issues. Regenesys was named a pilot project by the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice. Rep. Mitchell wanted to use this federal agency concept as a model for our state agencies.

Throughout the two years that the Committee has been meeting, we met 10 times as a Committee. There was a recommendation that subcommittees be formed; four subcommittees were formed. They included stakeholders other than Committee members, and they met on a continuous basis as well. Four Listening Sessions were also held across the state in 2009 to receive input from other stakeholders not on the Committee. Those who attended the listening sessions consisted of grass-root citizens, environmental organizations, businesses, industry, and local and state elected officials. Local groups were formed consisting of local, non-elected leaders who helped us plan and coordinate the listening sessions, and we attribute its success to their assistance. We were able to capture the use of students from Clemson University to assist with these listening sessions. Many attendees appreciated having young people involved in the process. More importantly, it also demonstrated that they can be used as a resourceful partner in the process.

The Committee worked to obtain information from state agencies on information related to environmental justice. Initially, the Policy Subcommittee Chair made contact with state agencies to determine if there were any established environmental justice policies and/or guidance. There were no specific environmental justice policies and/or guidance in any of the state agencies. Then, to determine what programs and/or services were offered to environmental justice communities, a letter was sent along with a survey to those state agencies that dealt with economic development and/or could assist with revitalization of a community. What was found was that the folks had a difficult time providing the information because they did not have a good understanding as to what exactly environmental justice is; therefore, they did not know what programs and/or services were needed. Realizing that, the survey was not a very effective way to receive information. The United States Environmental Protection Agency's contractor - E² Inc., was asked to capture that information and they were able to do so due to their understanding of environmental justice and how it intertwines with social justice issues.

Within this report, the Committee made two recommendations: (a) to create the "South Carolina Environmental Justice Revitalization Commission," and (b) to maintain the Advisory Committee under another titled called, "South Carolina Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice". An understanding has just begun; therefore, it is very important to continue the dialogue

among the state agencies. The next step is to broaden the group to bring in additional stakeholders. Again, it was demonstrated how easy it was for those familiar with environmental justice, such as those serving on the Revitalization and Reuse Subcommittee, to have discussions and make recommendations. Now that there is a better understanding, the momentum should continue. The Commission is very much needed as there is still much to discuss and implement. Our goal is to develop a model for other states to use – showcasing how to partner to address environmental justice issues within their state.

The South Carolina General Assembly passed House Bill 3933 (*Appendix A*) in June 2007 to create an advisory committee (Committee) to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). The South Carolina Environmental Justice Advisory Committee was formed and tasked with identifying existing practices at state agencies regarding environmental justice issues, which affect economic development and revitalization projects in this state, and to make recommendations.

The Advisory Committee included the commissioner, executive director, or head of each department or designee from:

- Office of the Attorney General
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Education
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
- Department of Natural Resources
- Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism
- Department of Public Safety
- Department of Transportation
- University of South Carolina Arnold School of Public Health
- Clemson University's Public Service Authority
- South Carolina State University's Public Service Authority
- State Ports Authority

Nancy Whittle from DHEC was designated by the Commissioner to chair the Committee. Karen Sprayberry with DHEC also staffed the Committee. Cynthia Peurifoy, Sheryl Good, and Matt Robbins, representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 Office in Atlanta, partnered with the Committee throughout the process.

The Committee began its work with an overview of the subject of environmental justice (EJ) presented by staff from the EPA. The overview included a discussion of the definition of EJ as stated in Executive Order 12898, signed by President Clinton, which also created the Federal Interagency Work Group on Environmental Justice. The EPA defines EJ as:

“The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.”

The Committee developed its own definition of EJ for the state and developed mission and vision statements as follows:

Environmental Justice is defined within South Carolina as the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures and income with respect to the development, adoption, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies in working toward increasing prosperity of all South Carolinians.

Mission – The State of South Carolina aspires to achieve environmental justice through its governments, communities, citizens, industries and agencies by partnering to promote healthy communities, along with clean and safe ecosystems.

Vision – All South Carolinians, regardless of race, age, culture, income, or geographic location, are protected from environmental and health hazards, and afforded accessibility to and fair treatment in our decision-making processes to enhance all aspects of our quality of life.

During the December 8, 2008, meeting, Daniel Gogal from the EPA Office of Environmental Justice made a presentation to the Committee. Mr. Gogal staffs the Federal Interagency Work Group on Environmental Justice (IWG). The IWG, similar in make up to the Committee, was formed under an Executive Order. Twelve federal agencies make up the IWG, with the EPA being the lead agency. Mr. Gogal discussed the history of the IWG along with the successes and challenges that the IWG has met along the way. One of the IWG's best practices was to choose pilots and work with them to revitalize their communities. They deemed 15 communities across the nation as pilots and brought to them the resources and support needed to redevelop and revitalize their communities. DHEC adopted this best practice as a model for our project and was one of five agencies across the nation recently awarded with a State EJ Cooperative Agreement. DHEC will use the majority of this money to provide seed money to four pilot communities across our state that will address environmental justice concerns as they build capacity within the partnerships.

As we worked through the process, we found that some agencies lacked awareness and understanding as to their role in working with environmental justice communities. EJ is often perceived as just an environmental issue, but an abandoned facility which has actual or perceived contamination often turns into a social justice issue for a community. These eyesores need to be addressed for both public health and aesthetic reasons. Some communities have been fortunate to orchestrate revitalization. The Committee questioned how to unite multiple agencies in order to leverage resources and receive technical assistance from them for these distressed communities.

Subcommittees

During the August 5, 2008, meeting, the Committee determined that four subcommittees would be formed. Members of the Advisory Committee would serve on these subcommittees. These subcommittees also provided an opportunity to include other interested stakeholders in the process. The four subcommittees are: (1) Health; (2) Revitalization and Reuse; (3) Policy; and (4) Marketing and Awareness. Below are each subcommittee's goals, objectives, and several recommendations. Each subcommittee's full recommendations are outlined in *Appendix B*.

Health Subcommittee

Dr. Dewayne Porter, USC-Arnold School of Public Health, Chair

Dr. Robin Puett, USC-Arnold School of Public Health, Co-Chair

The Health Subcommittee was charged with evaluating existing practices and making ensuing recommendations to address any deficiencies. During this evaluation, the subcommittee considered what research and data would bring about improved health disparity statistics in South Carolina; determined how health assessments can be optimized; and determined what resources are critical in implementing health assessments. For instance, citizens may view a health assessment simply as a meeting with a doctor for a health consultation or sick visit. However, health care providers can expand their typical consultations to include EJ-related questions such as “How clean is clean?” or “How can you improve the community’s health as you revitalize a community?” The subcommittee also identified resources that could assist a community in providing better health care for its residents and reviewed the availability and promotion of public health within our state’s non-English speaking communities.

Revitalization and Reuse Subcommittee

Geona Shaw Johnson, City of Charleston, Chair

Karen Sprayberry, DHEC, Co-Chair

The Revitalization and Reuse subcommittee was tasked with identifying the reasons certain areas within communities may remain blighted. The subcommittee first considered what would be required to spark redevelopment of a site in a community. This group also looked at existing redevelopment/revitalization incentives (e.g., tax incentives, Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund, etc.) and identified why these are not being utilized. Further, the subcommittee sought to determine why Brownfield sites and other properties such as Grayfields (e.g., old, abandoned strip malls, historic buildings, etc.) are not being redeveloped. This group reviewed recommendations on ways to have capacity building within communities and considered developing a “toolbox” to assist these communities in overcoming barriers and identifying available resources to encourage redevelopment.

The Subcommittee determined that a handbook should be developed and implemented to assist those interested in future community redevelopment.

Policy Subcommittee

Childs Cantey, SC Attorney General’s Office, Chair

The Policy subcommittee looked at existing practices related to economic development in each state agency to determine needed improvements and to identify stumbling blocks for EJ practices. The two individuals who staffed this subcommittee researched existing environmental

justice policies/language within the operating guidelines of our state agencies and then reviewed existing policies/language in federal and other states' agencies.

The subcommittee sent a cover letter and survey related to EJ policies to a number of South Carolina state agencies. The subcommittee received only five survey responses, which included very limited information. Thereafter, the EPA contracted E² Inc. to obtain the needed information. The contractor submitted its report to the Committee in September 2009. The report is titled, "South Carolina Environmental Justice Advisory Committee: State Resources Guide" and is attached as *Appendix C*.

The Policy Subcommittee also acknowledged that environmental justice policies are needed for certain state agencies and prepared a Draft Policy (below) that these agencies can use as they assist citizens and communities in addressing EJ issues. The Advisory Committee recommends that each applicable agency consider adopting a policy, such as the following:

Draft EJ Policy Language Directive

SUBJECT: Environmental Justice (EJ)

The South Carolina Department of _____ will make every effort possible to achieve environmental justice through the actions of its employees, day-to-day decisions and recommendations to the Governor (its Board or Commission).

The South Carolina Department of _____ shall have an Environmental Justice Coordinator (EJC) appointed by the agency head. All matters pertaining to environmental justice coming before the agency shall be directed to the EJC.

- I. The agency EJC's duties should include:
 - A. Be the designated contact person on a day-to-day basis for issues that pertain to EJ.
 - B. Be the liaison between staff and the party seeking assistance.
 - C. Ensure that the party seeking assistance receives appropriate follow-up.

- II. Definition:
 - A. Environmental Justice means the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures and income with respect to the development, adoption, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies in working toward increasing prosperity of all South Carolinians.

Education and Awareness Subcommittee

Barbara Melvin, SC State Ports Authority, Chair

The Honorable Harold Mitchell, South Carolina House of Representatives, Co-Chair

The Education and Awareness Subcommittee was charged with developing a brochure to educate South Carolinians about the Advisory Committee's mission and purpose. The subcommittee was tasked with disseminating the ideals of the Advisory Committee to others who are not involved in the initial process, and to provide education to those in the community and seek input from external stakeholders. Per the Joint Resolution adopted by the South Carolina General Assembly, the Committee will issue their report and seek guidance from the State regarding EJ issues. The Committee, through the Education and Awareness Subcommittee, was tasked with continuing outreach efforts and making further recommendations in a timely manner so that communities can initiate or continue revitalization efforts to improve quality of life.

After careful consideration, the Subcommittee decided that they would begin working on the tasks above after the final recommendations have been approved by the Legislature.

Listening Sessions

As the Committee members felt it vital to receive input from external stakeholders on EJ and revitalization issues, they recommended that listening sessions be held around the state. The listening sessions allowed a diverse group of stakeholders to convey their views as to EJ, revitalization, and reuse. These stakeholders included citizens from EJ communities, environmental organizations, industry, businesses, and regional and local governments.

Before proceeding with the sessions, the Committee reviewed the criteria that EPA uses to determine that a community is an EJ community. Staff from EPA used the EJ Strategic Enforcement Assessment Tool (EJSEAT) to identify minority and/or low-income areas in South Carolina with disproportionately high and adverse environmental and public health burdens.

EJSEAT is based on four indicators.

1. Social Demographic

- % low-income
- % without a high school diploma
- % under 5 years old
- % over 64 years old
- % linguistically isolated households
- % minority

2. Environmental Indicators

- Impact on air quality from air emissions (cancer)

- Impact on air quality from air emissions (non-cancer)
- Impact on air quality from air emissions (non-cancer Diesel Particulate Matter)
- Impact on air quality from ambient air data
- Evaluation of Toxic Release Inventory releases/transfers

3. Compliance Indicators

- Inspections measure
- Violations measure
- Formal actions measure
- Facility density

4. Health Indicators

- Infant Mortality
- Low birth weight

EJSEAT identified five proposed revitalization areas: Aiken, Charleston (north, middle and south), Florence, Rock Hill, Greenville (north and south), and Spartanburg. Although these are all urban areas, there are rural areas of the state (such as Holly Hill and Lower Richland County) that are self-classified as EJ communities. A subcommittee was formed to discuss the format of the proposed listening sessions and the types of questions to ask participants. The Committee chose to hold four listening sessions in each of the identified urban areas but combined the Greenville and Spartanburg sessions into a single Upstate event. In each area, local planning committees were formed to: 1) Assist with planning and coordinating the local event; 2) Assist with identifying stakeholders who should be invited; and, 3) Assist with promoting the event to those in the specific community.

For the listening sessions, the Committee used a World Café format, wherein participants sit at a table with approximately five other participants. A facilitator then asks an open-ended question on a specific topic. The question is discussed for approximately 15 minutes, during which a designated “secretary” takes notes. After the 15 minutes have elapsed, the participants move to another table in the room to discuss another facilitator’s questions. By the end of the event, the participants have visited all tables and discussed all the topics.

Topics chosen for discussion were:

- Economic development and revitalization
- Environmental justice and revitalization
- Community health and revitalization
- Brownfields/Grayfields
- Revitalized South Carolina communities – defining success

The four listening sessions were held between January and May 2009, and were held in North Charleston, Spartanburg, Aiken, and Florence. More than 150 stakeholders attended and included grass-root citizens, neighborhood association presidents, local businesses, local industry, local government, elected officials, and environmental groups. Meeting facilitators and

recorders included staff from DHEC, EPA Region 4 Office, Clemson University, and A&D Environmental, Inc. The individuals who assisted from Clemson University were predominantly graduate and undergraduate students in the School of Community and Economic Development. They attended all four sessions and assisted with facilitating and taking notes. They expressed their appreciation for having the opportunity to participate in these sessions, as the World Café concept is an innovative technique that facilitates information sharing. A&D Environmental provided food at each listening session.

The contractor hired by EPA, E² Inc., compiled and analyzed all of the comments specific to the location (*Appendix D*) and then summarized findings from all four locations to find the most common themes and recommendations (*Appendix E*). Evaluations from the sessions indicated that they were highly successful and informative.

Several general themes were found throughout all of the listening sessions. These themes are as follows:

- Form a State Environmental Justice Advisory Council as a permanent group;
- Begin an Abandoned Building Initiative to focus on abandoned textile mills, gas stations, etc.;
- Develop a marketing and education platform that would allow others to have a better understanding of what EJ is and how it impacts communities;
- Conduct more listening sessions to focus on specific issues and/or topics;
- Develop a handbook as a resource for parties wanting to redevelop their communities;
- Use the EPA's database, EJSEAT, and other tools to identify priority areas, including more rural areas that are currently missing from the database;
- Encourage more public-private community partnerships;
- Propose legislation to expand health care resource capacity (including transportation issues) through healthcare facilities
- Develop and maintain a training/education component to include:
 - Provisions for EJ training for local governments,
 - Development of best practice examples, and
 - Provisions for EJ training for state agency staff.

Social justice issues were major point of concern since the issues pertained to economic development and revitalization. Some specific concerns were:

- Increase and expand opportunities for community involvement;
- Improve communication with citizens and keep them aware of relevant issues;
- Identify community needs for new or improved infrastructure;
- Provide additional funding/resources for revitalization;
- Address the problem of abandoned buildings in distressed communities;
- Support job creation and economic development within distressed communities;
- Consider the importance of equity and evaluate and address equity issues;
- Consider the importance of youth support;
- Analyze the impact of EJ issues on public health;

- Recognize the importance of empowerment;
- Address crime and illegal drug trade problems;
- Address lack of transportation/transportation access for communities;
- Ensure adequate government assistance in revitalizing Brownfield communities;
- Ensure accountability, transparency, and trust; and
- Promote private-public partnerships.

A comprehensive list of recommendations from the listening sessions is attached as *Appendix E* (“2009 Listening Sessions Summary Report, August 2009”).

General Recommendations

The Committee advocates that the following recommendations be considered for future implementation:

1. Policy – Several policy recommendations were made: (a) to develop an EJ policy that applicable state agencies would adopt; (b) to designate an EJ coordinator in each applicable state agency; and (c) to form an “Abandoned Textile Initiative” focused on abandoned textile mills, abandoned gas stations, etc. in South Carolina
2. Communications – Multiple recommendations were received: (a) to enhance communications by developing a marketing and education platform; (b) to develop an education/training component to educate staff of applicable agencies on EJ and revitalization issues; (c) to develop an educational tool for other stakeholders on EJ and how it relates to revitalization; (d) to clarify and address the misperceptions about EJ; (e) to hold future listening sessions and focus on issues important to individual communities; and (f) to continue offering meaningful public participation venues.
3. Resources – Recommendations include: (a) to create various tools and resources to assist with community revitalization efforts; (b) to work toward creating more private-public partnerships (similar to the existing partnership between DHEC and the EPA); and (c) to identify communities using EJSEAT. Again, the greatest resources available are those that already exist within state agencies. Many of these resources are listed in the attached State Resources Guide.
4. Training/Education – A variety of educational needs were identified in the comments we received, including: (a) to educate local governments on EJ and how it relates to economic development; (b) to educate state employees in applicable agencies on EJ issues; (c) to provide education to external stakeholders (especially citizens) on the environment and DHEC’s role in EJ; and (d) to modify the video developed by the EPA showcasing ReGenesis’ efforts so as to showcase the exact steps taken towards redeveloping a community.

Main Recommendation

The South Carolina Environmental Justice Advisory Committee asks that our Legislative bodies consider implementing one main recommendation during the spring 2010 legislative term.

Part 1. The Committee proposes that the South Carolina Environmental Justice Revitalization Commission be established as a true “Commission.” The members of the Commission would be as follows:

- 3 Members of the S.C. House of Representatives
- 3 Members of the S.C. Senate
- 6 grass-root citizens
- 2 local government representatives
- 1 Council of Government representative
- 4 Business/Industry representatives
- 3 Academia representatives
- 1 State Agency representative

The current Chair of the House of Representatives’ Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee would not only serve on the Commission, but would serve as Co-Chair of the Commission. The other Co-Chair of the Commission would be the current Chair of the Senate Medical Affairs Committee. The other two members from the House of Representatives would be determined by the Speaker of the House. The other two members from the Senate would be determined by the Speaker Pro Tempore. The three representatives representing academia would be as follows: one from a Technical College, one from a University, and one from a Historically Black College and/or University. The representative from the State Agency should be from DHEC. That individual would be responsible for acting as a liaison between this Commission and other state agencies that are part of the Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice.

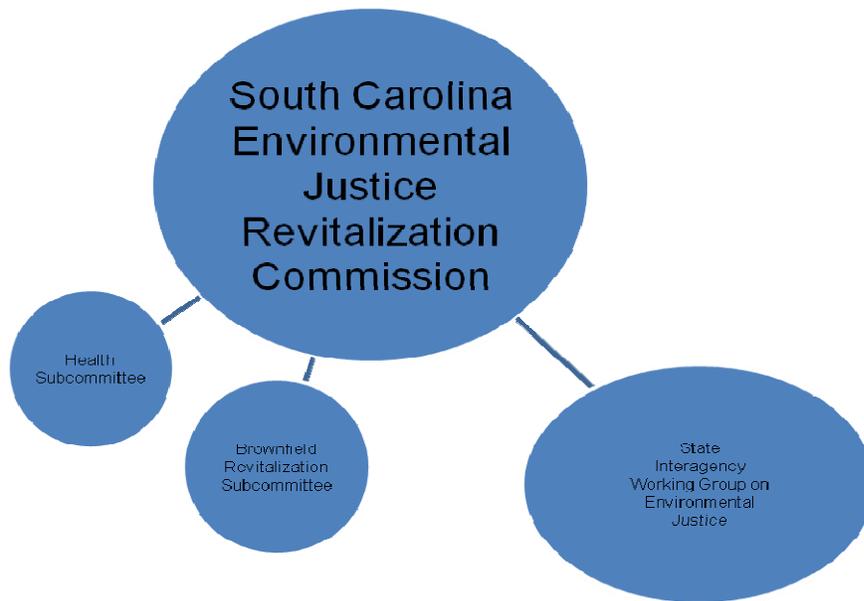
The responsibility of the Commission will be to develop sufficient organizational capacity to provide oversight to communities adversely affected by EJ and social justice issues. The comments and recommendations contained within this report would be analyzed to determine optimal methods for implementation. The Commission will work to foster economic development and revitalization in distressed areas and in EJ communities across our state. The Commission will hold bi-annual meetings. Staff from the House of Representative and the Senate would provide staff support to this Commission.

The Commission would establish two subcommittees: (1) The Brownfields Revitalization Subcommittee, and (2) The Health Subcommittee. A member of the Commission would chair each of these subcommittees. The Commission and/or the Chair of the Subcommittees would appoint the members of each Subcommittee. Other subcommittees could be formed on an as-needed basis. Each subcommittee would be responsible for reviewing comments received on each respective issue and would make efforts to address identified concerns.

Part 2. The Committee recommends that the current South Carolina EJ Advisory Committee become the “South Carolina Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (IWG).” Those currently on the Committee will continue to serve on the IWG. Additional state agency representatives will be added to this group and will include: (1) the State Energy Office; (2) the Lieutenant Governor’s Office on Aging; and (3) the South Carolina State Housing Authority. The IWG would continue to be staffed by DHEC, which will also serve as the liaison between the Commission and the IWG.

The goal of the IWG is to assist the Commission and the selected community pilots by providing resources and support. The IWG members will meet at the same time as the Commission and/or attend the Commission meetings so that they can hear first-hand the discussion and needs of the Commission. EPA will serve as an ex-officio member of IWG.

Each group will seek to provide resources and support to the pilot communities selected as part of the State EJ Cooperative Agreement housed within DHEC. DHEC will award \$25,000 each to four pilot communities in the State from its State EJ Cooperative Agreement funds. These monies will be used in accordance with the collaborative problem-solving model and will fund some environmental assessment work in the four pilot communities.



Closing

Fortunately, there are citizens and groups in South Carolina that understand the concept of EJ and advocate a collaborative, problem-solving approach in addressing EJ issues. Although we have made some progress in EJ areas (as is evident by the award-winning capacity building efforts of both the ReGenesis project and the Mitigation Agreement Commission), we still have much work to do. It is the Committee's hope that the development and implementation of a strong, overarching state EJ platform will result in more revitalized communities across our state and improved economic and social conditions for our citizens. We respectfully ask for your support in proceeding with these recommendations.

Appendices

Appendix A – Act 171

Appendix B – Subcommittee Recommendations

Appendix C – South Carolina Environmental Justice Advisory Committee: State Resources Guide

Appendix D - North Charleston Listening Session, January 13, 2009, Meeting Summary
Spartanburg Listening Session, April 30, 2009, Meeting Summary
Aiken Listening Session, May 4, 2009, Meeting Summary
Florence Listening Session, May 16, 2009, Meeting Summary

Appendix E - 2009 Listening Sessions Summary Report, August 2009

South Carolina General Assembly
117th Session, 2007-2008

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A171, R145, H3933

STATUS INFORMATION

Joint Resolution

Sponsors: Reps. Mitchell, Whipper, Branham, Cotty, Merrill, Loftis, Clyburn, Anderson, J.H. Neal, McLeod, F.N. Smith, Govan, Brantley, Ott, Alexander, Crawford, Bedingfield, Cato, Hosey, Lucas, Knight, Bingham, Agnew, Allen, Anthony, Bales, Ballentine, Bannister, Barfield, Bowen, Bowers, Brady, Breeland, G. Brown, R. Brown, Ceips, Chellis, Cobb-Hunter, Coleman, Cooper, Dantzler, Davenport, Delleney, Duncan, Edge, Funderburk, Gambrell, Gullick, Hagood, Haley, Hamilton, Hardwick, Harrell, Harrison, Hart, Harvin, Haskins, Hayes, Herbkersman, Hinson, Hiott, Hodges, Howard, Huggins, Jefferson, Jennings, Kelly, Kennedy, Kirsh, Leach, Limehouse, Littlejohn, Lowe, Mack, Mahaffey, Miller, Moss, Mulvaney, Neilson, Owens, Parks, Perry, Phillips, Pinson, E.H. Pitts, M.A. Pitts, Rutherford, Sandifer, Scarborough, Scott, Sellers, Shoopman, Simrill, Skelton, D.C. Smith, G.M. Smith, G.R. Smith, J.R. Smith, W.D. Smith, Spires, Stavrinakis, Talley, Taylor, Thompson, Toole, Umphlett, Vick, Viers, Walker, Weeks, White, Whitmire, Williams, Witherspoon, Young and Frye

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Introduced in the House on April 18, 2007

Introduced in the Senate on April 25, 2007

Passed by the General Assembly on May 31, 2007

Became law without Governor's signature, June 15, 2007

Summary: Environmental justice

HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

Date	Body	Action Description with journal page number
4/18/2007	House	Introduced, read first time, placed on calendar without reference HJ-122
4/19/2007	House	Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Frye
4/24/2007	House	Read second time HJ-120
4/25/2007	House	Read third time and sent to Senate HJ-27
4/25/2007	Senate	Introduced and read first time SJ-28
4/25/2007	Senate	Referred to Committee on Medical Affairs SJ-28
5/23/2007	Senate	Committee report: Favorable with amendment Medical Affairs
5/24/2007	Senate	Committee Amendment Adopted SJ-52
5/24/2007	Senate	Read second time SJ-52
5/29/2007	Senate	Read third time and returned to House with amendments

		SJ-36
5/31/2007	House	Concurred in Senate amendment and enrolled HJ-36
6/7/2007		Ratified R 145
6/15/2007		Became law without Governor's signature
6/20/2007		Copies available
6/20/2007		Effective date 06/15/07
7/30/2007		Act No. 171

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(A171, R145, H3933)

A JOINT RESOLUTION TO CREATE AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL ENTITLED THE SOUTH CAROLINA ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO STUDY AND CONSIDER EXISTING PRACTICES AT STATE AGENCIES RELATED TO ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ISSUES IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REVITALIZATION PROJECTS IN THIS STATE, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE MEMBERSHIP AND ADDITIONAL DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Whereas, this State is committed to affording the citizens of this State fair treatment and meaningful involvement in the development, implementation, and enforcement of an environmental law, regulation, or policy regardless of the citizen's race, color, ethnicity, religion, income, or education level; and

Whereas, this State is further committed to promoting the protection of human health and the environment, promoting economic development, revitalization and prosperity for communities, promoting empowerment through public involvement in the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental law, regulation, and policy, and the dissemination of information related to the environment to inform and educate the citizens of this State; and

Whereas, environmental justice issues may exist in this State and cause concern and problems for some communities that bear a disproportionate burden of the impact of air and water contamination, noise, population crowding, reduced quality of life, and depressed land and housing values, many of which could be mitigated by better siting decisions and processes; and

Whereas, the cumulative impact of multiple sources of exposure to environmental hazards in these communities, and the roles of multiple agencies in addressing a cause or factor that compromises environmental health and quality of life in these communities require an interagency evaluation; and

Whereas, the federal government has underscored the importance of Environmental Justice in Executive Order 12898 by creating the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council to integrate environmental justice into federal policies, programs, initiatives, and activities; and

Whereas, collaborative problem-solving models are effective in addressing environmental justice issues and in assuring that existing resources are efficiently combined to support economic development and revitalization efforts. Now, therefore,

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

South Carolina Environmental Justice Advisory Committee

SECTION 1. (A) There is created a governmental advisory committee to the Department of Health and Environmental Control named the South Carolina Environmental Justice Advisory Committee. The advisory committee must include the commissioner, executive director, or executive head of each department or such head's designee from the Office of the Attorney General, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Education, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Transportation, the University of South Carolina Arnold School of Public Health, Clemson University's Public Service Authority, South Carolina State University's Public Service Authority, and the State Ports Authority. The Commissioner or the Commissioner's designee of the Department of Health and Environmental Control shall serve as the chairperson of the advisory committee but shall not have a vote.

(B) As used in this title, "environmental justice" means the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of a person regardless of his race, color, ethnicity, gender, religion, income, or education level with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of a law, regulation, or policy that impacts the person's environmental health.

(C) The Department of Health and Environmental Control is the lead agency of the advisory committee and may adopt policies needed to carry out any provision of this section.

(D) The advisory committee:

(1) shall study the existing practices at state agencies related to the consideration of environmental justice issues related to economic development and revitalization projects in this State;

- (2) shall study the availability and promotion of public awareness of public health and environmental information in a language other than English and make such recommendations as it deems necessary to ensure that information disseminated to the public by the Department of Health and Environmental Control is available in another language as considered necessary by the advisory committee;
 - (3) shall encourage collaborative problem-solving and efficient utilization of all existing resources;
 - (4) may consult with any requesting agency of this State to provide input for an environmental justice issue in connection with an economic development or revitalization project in this State during the term of the advisory committee;
 - (5) may consult with the National Brownfields Association, South Carolina Chapter, to utilize its expertise in revitalization projects; and
 - (6) shall issue a report on the existing practices of state agencies related to environmental justice considerations in economic development and revitalization projects in this State and make any recommendations related to state agency guidelines related to environmental justice considerations in economic development and revitalization projects in this State to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Governor no later than January 1, 2010.
- (E) The South Carolina Environmental Justice Advisory Committee shall exist until January 1, 2010, and may be continued for additional periods as the General Assembly provides by law.

Construction and intent

SECTION 2. This joint resolution is not intended to, nor does it create any right, benefit, or trust responsibility, public or private, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by any person against the State of South Carolina, its agencies, its officers, or any other person. This joint resolution shall not be construed to create any right to judicial review involving the compliance or noncompliance of the State of South Carolina, its agencies, its officers, or any other person with the provisions of this joint resolution.

Time effective

SECTION 3. This joint resolution takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

Ratified the 8th day of June, 2007.

Became law without the signature of the Governor -- 6/15/07.

This web page was last updated on July 30, 2007 at 4:24 PM

South Carolina Environmental Justice Advisory Committee Subcommittees' Recommendations

The South Carolina Environmental Justice Advisory Committee had four subcommittees. They were: 1) Health; 2) Revitalization and Reuse; 3) Policy; and, Education and Awareness. Below are the recommendations from the Subcommittees.

Health Subcommittee

Recommendation One

Develop an assessment of existing environmental justice related monitoring, surveillance, mitigation and communication activities already existing throughout the state.

- DHEC's SC Health Alert Network (SCHAN)
(<http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/han/index.htm>)
 - Purpose: to build public health capacity to respond to bioterrorist threats, emerging infections, and other health threats.
 - SCHAN Objectives
 - Provide high-speed, secure Internet connections to local health agencies to enable access to CDC's prevention recommendations, practice guidelines, and disease data.
 - Disseminate announcements released by local, state or federal public health authorities meant to inform the health and medical services of likely or imminent dangers to the health of the community.
 - Establish an electronic system for disease surveillance and reporting between DHEC and health care providers.
 - Build Internet-based and satellite-based distance learning systems to provide training and educational opportunities for workforce development.
- Water Monitoring and Protection (<http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/water/monitoring.htm>)
 - Water Monitoring and Protection activities include monitoring of the surface water and ground water, aquatic toxicity testing, shellfish areas, and assessment of unregulated contamination sites.
- SC Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT) Program
 - A systematic, ongoing, and sustainable approach for tracking and managing data, information and knowledge that are related to environmental hazards, subsequent exposures and resulting health outcomes.
 - Provides easy access to both environmental and health related data that can be utilized by the various stakeholders, including public health practitioners, researchers, legislators, regulators, industry and the public.
 - Provides a systematic way to help identify proactive opportunities for public health intervention and increase awareness of environmentally related health outcomes for stakeholders.

Recommendation Two

Establish a sustained human health/environmental monitoring and surveillance system.

- Monitoring and surveillance needed for:
 - Well water
 - Rural areas in general
 - Environmental pollutant exposure sites (e.g., Superfund, CERCLA, NPL)
 - Health outcome surveillance around manufacturing facilities
- Environmental exposures or diseases system similar to SCHAN (as described above)
- National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network (<http://ephtracking.cdc.gov/showHome.action>)
 - System of integrated health, exposure, and hazard information and data from a variety of national, state, and city sources
 - The goal of this network is to provide information to help improve where we live, work, and play

Recommendation Three

Develop a State level integrated plan for improved communication of environmental health risks and mitigation opportunities.

- Multiple communication pathways should be implemented:
 - Schools
 - Example: Healthy Connections Program (SC DHHS) provides Medicaid coverage for children who live in families with income at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Level.
 - Churches
 - Community organizations
- Communication pathways should focus at various scales (as described in next recommendation)
- Examples of successful contact include person-person contact, phone contact, and bill board messages.

Recommendation Four

Ensure that an integrated cross-disciplinary approach exist that addresses environmental justice issues holistically and at varying scales (i.e. individual, community, statewide, rural/urban).

- Individuals
 - Farm workers (exposure to toxic effects of pesticides)
 - Pregnant women
 - African Americans (at higher risk of many diseases)
- Community
 - Non-English speakers (public health awareness materials)
 - Coastal communities (water and fish advisories)
 - Gullah communities (land development has altered ecosystems)
 - Communities residing near hazardous waste sites
- Rural vs. urban areas
 - Urban

- Better access to healthcare
- Less opportunity for physical activity
- Rural
 - Information is more difficult and time-consuming to obtain
 - Access to healthcare is limited

Recommendation Five

Establish an evaluation process for environmental justice related efforts that is inclusive of cost/benefit analysis, program success, behavioral change, and communicating to appropriate target audiences.

- Example of cost-benefit analysis: For those with lower incomes who have to make tough financial decisions, information about relative risks should be communicated. For example: organic fruits and vegetables are supposed to be healthier, however they are also more expensive. What is the tradeoff of having fewer fruits and vegetables but all of them are organic vs. a larger supply of non-organic fruits and vegetables?
- Example of program success evaluation: Ask for materials to be returned, surveillance through existing surveys like BRFSS (which can break down demographic groups)

It was determined that any agency that receives federal monies is required to meet non-English language requirements; DHEC meets those requirements.

Revitalization and Reuse Subcommittee

Recommendation One:

The Subcommittee determined that the most important item was to develop a handbook that could be used as a resource for anyone within South Carolina interested in redeveloping and/or revitalizing a community. The following is the outline for what this handbook should entail.

Outline for “Revitalization and Reuse: Redeveloping Underutilized Properties within South Carolina”

The Purpose:

- SC Environmental Justice Advisory Committee
- Subcommittee Responsibility

Overview:

- Environmental Justice and Social Justice

Site ReDevelopment:

Environmental Assessment

Phase I & II

All-appropriate inquiry

Voluntary Cleanup Program

Challenges and Successes:

Barriers to Revitalizing Communities

Lack of Community Support
Zoning
Gentrification
Public Participation
Capacity Building
Best Practices/Case Studies

Funding Opportunities:

Renewal Communities
EPA Grants
Tax Credits/Incentives
Revolving Loan Funds
State Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund
USDA
Community Development Block Grants
Foundations

The Process:

1. Planning/Concept
 - a. Design Charrettes
 - b. Capacity Building
 - c. LEED
2. Predevelopment
 - a. Legal
 - b. Permits
3. Construction
 - a. Green Construction Sites
4. Operation
 - a. LEED

Who to Contact:

State Agencies
Local Jurisdictions
Banks

Terminology:

Recommendation Two:

The other recommendation that the subcommittee made dealt with money. The committee would like to see DHEC receive monies so that they can provide mini-grants to communities throughout South Carolina. The communities would use this grant money to conduct brownfields assessments to begin steps towards redeveloping an area. The EPA offers grants such as this on a national level. The subcommittee recognizes that this may be a difficult recommendation to achieve at this time due to the economic constraints of the state. However, they do believe that any seed money that could be given to

begin the process would be a beginning towards making a difference in redeveloping these communities.

Policy Subcommittee

Recommendation One

Although this was a part of the report, this recommendation is reattached. The Policy Subcommittee also acknowledged that environmental justice policies are needed for certain state agencies and prepared a Draft Policy (below) that these agencies can use as they assist citizens and communities in addressing EJ issues. The Advisory Committee recommends that each applicable agency consider adopting a policy, such as the following:

Draft EJ Policy Language Directive

SUBJECT: Environmental Justice (EJ)

The South Carolina Department of _____ will make every effort possible to achieve environmental justice through the actions of its employees, day-to-day decisions and recommendations to the Governor (its Board or Commission).

The South Carolina Department of _____ shall have an Environmental Justice Coordinator (EJC) appointed by the agency head. All matters pertaining to environmental justice coming before the agency shall be directed to the EJC.

I. The agency EJC's duties should include:

- A. Be the designated contact person on a day-to-day basis for issues that pertain to EJ.
- B. Be the liaison between staff and the party seeking assistance.
- C. Ensure that the party seeking assistance receives appropriate follow-up.

II. Definition:

- A. Environmental Justice means the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures and income with respect to the development, adoption, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies in working toward increasing prosperity of all South Carolinians.

Education and Awareness Subcommittee

After careful consideration, the Subcommittee decided that they would begin working on the tasks they were charged with after the final recommendations have been approved by the Legislature.

South Carolina Environmental Justice Advisory Committee:
State Resources Guide

Background

In 2007, the South Carolina Legislature passed legislation that created the South Carolina Environmental Justice Advisory Committee. Environmental justice, as defined in Act 171, is “the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.” Environmental justice communities commonly include historically under-represented minority and low-income neighborhoods and areas burdened with multiple environmental challenges, including brownfields, Superfund sites, or waste dumps.

The Advisory Committee consists of 13 state agencies and three academic institutions and is tasked with studying and considering state agencies’ responses to environmental justice issues as they relate to economic development and revitalization efforts. As part of its work, the Advisory Committee undertook an inventory of state agency resources and practices that can assist with improving local and regional quality of life through supporting community health improvements, economic development, and/or revitalization of communities. Special attention was focused on programs or services that could assist with improving the needs of citizens who live within an environmental justice community in South Carolina.

To develop the State Resources Guide, Web sites for each of the state agencies and academic institutions represented on the Advisory Committee were researched and reviewed. Web sites of relevant state agencies and organizations identified by Advisory Committee members during the course of this research were also reviewed. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) assisted the work of the Advisory Committee by providing contractor support services from E² Inc.

Getting Started

The table below presents the state agencies and organizations reviewed, the general type of resources each agency makes available that could support environmental justice communities and the page number to a corresponding resource page. Each agency’s resource page describes the agency’s mission, provides an overview of key resources and includes a table with contact information and Web links.

	South Carolina State Agency/Organization Resources						
	Community Revitalization	Economic Development	Community Health	Active Living/ Healthy Eating	Crime Prevention	Strategic/ Land Use Planning	Rural Development
South Carolina State Agencies							
Department of Agriculture (p. 4)		X	X	X			
Department of Commerce (p. 5)	X	X				X	X
Department of Education (p. 8)	X		X				
Department of Health and Environmental Control (p. 10)	X	X	X	X			
Department of Health and Human Services (p. 13)			X				
Department of Labor, Licensing			X				

South Carolina State Agency/Organization Resources							
	Community Revitalization	Economic Development	Community Health	Active Living/Healthy Eating	Crime Prevention	Strategic/Land Use Planning	Rural Development
and Regulation (p. 14)							
Department of Natural Resources (p. 15)						X	
Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism (p. 16)		X		X			
Department of Public Safety (p. 18)					X		
Department of Transportation (p. 20)	X	X		X			
Office of the Attorney General (p. 22)					X		
State Ports Authority (p. 23)		X	X				
Other South Carolina Institutions/Organizations							
Clemson University Sandhill Research and Education Center (p. 24)	X	X				X	X
Eat Smart Move More SC (p. 25)				X			
Municipal Association of South Carolina (p. 26)	X	X					
SC Association of Community Development Corporations (p. 27)	X	X					
South Carolina Rural Development Council (p. 28)	X	X					X
University of South Carolina Arnold School of Public Health (p. 29)			X				
University of South Carolina College of Social Work (p. 31)			X				

Additional Considerations

The State Resources Guide provides a snapshot of the resources available to support environmental justice communities in South Carolina. The resources provided are not intended to be comprehensive; they represent the resources available from a set of state agencies and organizations identified between October and November 2009. If you would like to learn more about other potential resources, please contact the appropriate agencies or organizations. Depending on the timeframe of your revitalization project, it may also be important to verify the future availability of potential resources with the appropriate agencies or organizations.

South Carolina Department of Agriculture

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture's mission is to promote and nurture the growth and development of South Carolina's agriculture industry and its related businesses while assuring the buying public of safety and security.

The [Certified Roadside Market Program](#) assists farmers in establishing Certified Roadside Markets.

[Community Based Farmers Markets](#) provides an overview of community based farmers markets in South Carolina, including links to resources.

The State of South Carolina owns and manages three [farmers markets](#) in Columbia, Florence and Greenville, which are operated from vendor fees.

The [Community-Supported Agriculture](#) Web page includes background information on community-supported agriculture (CSA) and links to CSA projects in South Carolina.

The [Small Farms Program](#) provides assistance to small family farmers with an emphasis on dissemination of information, referrals and counseling on issues such as: land retention, alternative land use and community development.

The [School Gardens Program](#) is an initiative by the Department of Agriculture to provide schools and communities alike with the opportunity to learn healthy eating habits, as well as providing an effective way to instill the appreciation for local agriculture and food production in children and everyone else involved in the garden.

[The Fresh Approach](#) is a guide to preparing certified state-grown vegetables.

Department/Office/Resource	Address/Contact	Phone/Email	Web address
Department of Agriculture	SC Commissioner of Agriculture PO Box 11280 Columbia, SC 29211	(803) 734-2210	http://agriculture.sc.gov/
Certified Roadside Market Program	Ansley Rast Program Coordinator	(803) 734-2207 arast@scda.sc.gov	http://agriculture.sc.gov/content.aspx?MenuID=192
Community Based Farmers Markets			http://agriculture.sc.gov/content.aspx?ContentID=773
State Farmers Markets			http://agriculture.sc.gov/content.aspx?MenuID=109
Community-Supported Agriculture	Fred Broughton	(803) 734-2200 fbrough@scda.sc.gov	http://agriculture.sc.gov/content.aspx?MenuID=251
Small Farms Program			http://agriculture.sc.gov/content.aspx?MenuID=107
School Gardens Program			http://agriculture.sc.gov/content.aspx?ContentID=789 www.scschoolgardens.blogspot.com
The Fresh Approach		(803) 734-2200	http://agriculture.sc.gov/content.aspx?

Department/Office/Resource	Address/Contact	Phone/Email	Web address
			MenuID=257

South Carolina Department of Commerce

The South Carolina Department of Commerce works to promote economic opportunity for individuals and businesses. The Department of Commerce works to recruit new businesses and help existing businesses grow.

The Department of Commerce provides [support for community development corporations](#) through the South Carolina Community Economic Development (CED) Fund and the Community Development Tax Credits Program.

- The South Carolina Community Economic Development (CED) Fund is a valuable CDC funding tool that supports projects and activities of community-based, non-profit organizations focused on improving the quality of life and creating economic opportunity in low-income communities through partnerships. Eligibility includes certification through the Department of Commerce as a Community Development Corporation (CDC) or Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI).
- The South Carolina Community Development Tax Credits Program is a powerful economic incentive that encourages contributions from private sector investors. These contributions provide working capital and initiate partnerships that reconnect distressed neighborhoods to mainstream development. The South Carolina Tax Code authorizes a credit against state income tax, bank tax or premium tax liability for up to 33 percent of all amounts contributed to a certified CDC or CDFI. The South Carolina Department of Revenue administers the credit and has created a S.C. Schedule-14, which should be completed when filing your state tax return.
- Certification of Community Development Corporations (CDCs) and Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs): To be eligible for certain state incentives administered by the Department of Commerce, CDCs and CDFIs must obtain official certification through the Department's Division of Community & Rural Planning and Development.

The Department of Commerce's Division of Community & Rural Planning provides [planning support for counties and rural communities](#). The Department works with counties and rural communities throughout South Carolina to plan and develop industrial parks and sites that will suit the needs of businesses looking to locate or expand in the state. The Department also works with local communities to address water, wastewater, infrastructure and more. Community Development Planners assist local leaders in achieving success for their communities, with primary emphasis on the development of industrial parks and sites, enhanced available industrial buildings, leadership development, downtown revitalization, technical assistance and strategic planning.

Through its "[County Labor Market Analysis Tool](#)," the Commerce Resource Center provides useful economic and labor profiles, as well as detailed labor market information for all South Carolina counties, including snapshots of each county's current labor pool and its demographics, a listing of major companies located in each county, and a map that shows workers' commuting patterns.

The Department of Commerce makes available or administers [grants and incentives for economic development](#). Although many of the grant and incentive programs are intended for businesses, some are geared to counties and municipalities. A few of these are highlighted below.

- The Rural Infrastructure Fund (RIF) assists qualified counties in the state's rural areas by providing financial assistance for infrastructure and other activities that enhance economic growth and development.

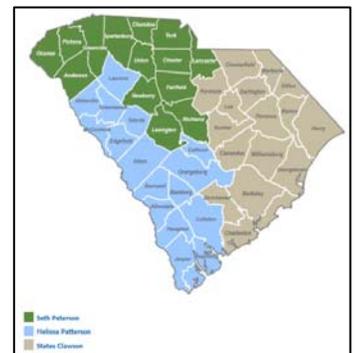


Figure 1. Commerce has assigned a Community Development Planner to each county in the state. Find out the planner assigned to your county by [OH reviewing the Department of Commerce's Web site](#).

- The Tourism Infrastructure Development Grants support new or expanding tourism or recreation facilities or designated development areas primarily through infrastructure projects. This program is generated from a share of the state admissions tax on qualified tourism and recreation establishments and is overseen by the Coordinating Council for Economic Development.
- The South Carolina Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program is designed to provide assistance to units of general local government in improving economic opportunities and meeting community revitalization needs, particularly for persons of low and moderate income. The CDBG program has been funded through the State since 1982 by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (Title I). Grants Administration, a division of the Department of Commerce, administers the annual allocation from HUD for the CDBG program.

Under Title I, all units of general local government are eligible to apply for CDBG financial assistance with the exception of the eleven large cities and six urban counties that participate in the CDBG Entitlement program and receive CDBG funds directly from HUD. Ineligible cities include: Aiken, Anderson, Charleston, Columbia, Conway, Florence, Greenville, Myrtle Beach, Rock Hill, Spartanburg and Sumter. The unincorporated areas of the following urban counties are also not eligible: Charleston, Greenville, Horry, Lexington, Richland and Spartanburg. Some of the municipalities within these counties are included in the HUD urban county designation and some are not included. For an eligibility determination, please contact the urban county or the Department of Commerce.

Department/Office/Resource	Address/Contact	Phone/Email	Web address
Department of Commerce	1201 Main Street, Suite 1600 Columbia, SC 29201-3200	(803) 737-0400 (800) 868-7232	http://www.sccommerce.com/
Planning Support for Counties and Rural Communities			http://www.sccommerce.com/resources/agencyoverview/communityruralplanninganddevelopment.aspx
South Carolina Community Economic Development (CED) Fund			http://www.sccommerce.com/resources/agencyoverview/communityruralplanninganddevelopment.aspx
South Carolina Community Development Tax Credits Program			http://www.sccommerce.com/resources/agencyoverview/communityruralplanninganddevelopment.aspx
Certification of Community Development Corporations (CDCs) and Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs)			http://www.sccommerce.com/resources/agencyoverview/communityruralplanninganddevelopment.aspx
County Labor Market Analysis Tool			http://maps.sccommerce.com/resource/reports.aspx
Grants and Incentives for Economic Development			http://www.sccommerce.com/locateinsc/grantsincentives.aspx
Rural Infrastructure Fund (RIF)			http://www.sccommerce.com/locateinsc/grantsincentives/discretionaryincentives.aspx
Tourism Infrastructure			http://www.sccommerce.com/locateinsc/grantsincentives/discretionaryincentives.aspx

Department/Office/Resource	Address/Contact	Phone/Email	Web address
Development Grants			einsc/grantsincentives/discretionaryincentives.aspx
South Carolina Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program			http://www.sccommerce.com/local/einsc/grantsincentives/communitydevelopmentblockgrantprogram.aspx

[South Carolina Department of Education](#)

The [South Carolina Department of Education](#) is the South Carolina agency dedicated to leading educational reform and improvement in the state's 85 school districts and 1,100 public schools. The Department administers a range of programs, intended mainly to support school districts and public schools. The Department also administers a few programs that have a community-based focus. These programs are highlighted below. The South Carolina Healthy Schools Program is also discussed.

The [Office of Youth Services - 21st Century Learning Program \(CCLC\) Sub-Grants](#) are authorized under Title IV, Part B, of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Federal funds are allocated to the Department of Education to manage and monitor the grant program. The program's purposes are to create or expand community learning centers that provide academic enrichment opportunities to assist students, particularly those who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools, in meeting state and local standards in core academic subjects; to offer students a broad array of enrichment activities that can complement their regular academic programs; and to offer literacy and other educational services to the families of participating children. A single public school district, individual public school, community-based organization, faith-based organization, other public or private organizations, a partnership of two such organizations or a consortium of partners are eligible to apply for CCLC funds.

The [Even Start Family Literacy Program Sub-Grants](#) are authorized by Title I, Part B, subpart 3, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. The purpose of the Even Start Family Literacy Programs (20 U.S.C. § 6361) is to help break the cycle of poverty and illiteracy by improving the educational opportunities of the nation's low-income families by integrating early childhood education, adult literacy or adult basic education, and parenting education into a unified family literacy program. Local Even Start programs are designed to meet the needs of the families through four integrated components that must be provided: adult education, early childhood education, parenting education, and interactive literacy activities between parents and children.

The [South Carolina Healthy Schools Program](#) assists schools in their adoption and implementation of effective practices and policies that create a health-promoting environment. The program is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and is a partnership between the South Carolina Department of Education and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control to improve health and academic outcomes of the state's school-aged youth. South Carolina Healthy Schools encourages the use of the CDC's eight-component coordinated school health model. This model provides a framework for schools to develop practices, programs, and policies to enhance the health and learning of all students. South Carolina Healthy Schools assists districts and schools in adopting and implementing best practices, programs and policies that support a coordinated approach to increase physical activity, improve nutrition and reduce tobacco use and sexual risk behaviors among students.

Department/Office/Resource	Address/Contact	Phone/Email	Web address
Department of Education	South Carolina Department of Education 1429 Senate Street Columbia, SC 29201	(803) 734-8500	http://ed.sc.gov/

Department/Office/Resource	Address/Contact	Phone/Email	Web address
Office of Youth Services- 21st Century Learning Program Sub-Grants	Suite 200 3710 Landmark Drive Columbia, SC 29201 Dr. Diane Willis Program Director	(803) 734-8103 dwillis@ed.sc.gov	http://ed.sc.gov/agency/Innovation-and-Support/Youth-Services/21st-century-community-learning-program/index.html
Even Start Family Literacy Program Sub-Grants	1429 Senate St. Suite 1101-B Columbia, SC 29201 Ruth Nodine	(803) 734-3540 rnodine@ed.sc.gov	http://ed.sc.gov/agency/Standards-and-Learning/Academic-Standards/Even-Start/Howtogetstarted.html
South Carolina Healthy Schools Program	1429 Senate Street Suite 706-D Columbia, SC 29201 Lynn Hammond Program Director	(803) 734-8076 lhammond@ed.sc.gov	http://ed.sc.gov/agency/Innovation-and-Support/Health-and-Nutrition/Healthy-Schools/Index.html

[South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control](#)

The [South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control \(DHEC\)](#) promotes and protects the health of the public and the environment. DHEC has several programs and services that can assist communities planning health and revitalization projects. A few of these are listed below.

DHEC provides a range of [health services](#) including, an AIDS Drug Assistance Program, Breast & Cervical Cancer Screening (Best Chance Network), Dental (Oral) Health and Developmental Services for Infants & Toddlers (BabyNet).

DHEC provides a range of [environmental services](#) including, a Center for Waste Minimization, Radon Testing Kits, Residential Well Testing, Materials Exchange and Smart Business Recycling..

DHEC maintains an [Environmental Justice Web page](#) that includes links to key agency information regarding environmental justice issues.

The [Community Liaisons for Public Participation](#) are responsible for dealing directly with the public regarding issues that pertain to the environment.

DHEC has five [Environmental Liaisons](#) to help residents and businesses understand the complexities of health and environmental issues. The Environmental Activities and Health Risks Environmental Liaison is the key contact for citizens who have questions or concerns about environmental activities in their communities and possible health effects. The Freedom of Information Environmental Liaison serves as the contact for the regulated community, community groups and citizens regarding concerns and questions on agency policies and regulations.

The [South Carolina Community Assessment Network \(SCAN\)](#) allows generation of user-specified tables and interactive maps of public health data. SCAN includes county-level information on cancer incidence, childhood lead surveillance and pregnancy.

DHEC is responsible for the administration of several environmental [grants and loans](#). Individuals and organizations are encouraged to apply for applicable grants and loans.

- The [South Carolina Diesel Emissions Reduction Act Grants \(DERA\)](#) is a federal and state grant program that supports diesel emission reductions.
- The [Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund \(BCRLF\)](#) is a fund that DHEC received from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Brownfields Program that is available for loan to finance environmental cleanup activities at brownfields sites across South Carolina.
- [319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Grants](#): South Carolina receives an annual grant allocation from EPA to implement nonpoint source (NPS) abatement strategies as described in the state's NPS Management Program. A portion of these funds are passed on through a competitive grant process to stakeholder groups, government entities, or other agencies interested in conducting certain projects that reduce or prevent NPS water pollution.

Department/Office/Resource	Address/Contact	Phone/Email	Web address
Department of Health and Environmental Control	2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201	(803) 898- DHEC (3432)	http://www.scdhec.gov/
Health Services			http://www.scdhec.gov/services.htm
Environmental Services			http://www.scdhec.gov/services.htm
Environmental Justice	Nancy Whittle Environmental Quality Control Community Liaison	(803) 896-8967 whittlnc@dhec.sc.gov	http://www.scdhec.gov/environmentaljustice/index.htm
Community Liaisons for Public Participation	Nancy Whittle Environmental Quality Control Community Liaison Karen Sprayberry Environmental Quality Control Administration Donna Rowe Upstate Community Liaison Richelle Tolton Low-country Community Liaison	(803) 896-8967 whittlnc@dhec.sc.gov (803) 896-9730 spraybkj@dhec.sc.gov (864) 241-1090 rowedh@dhec.sc.gov (843) 953-0173 toltonrd@dhec.sc.gov	http://www.scdhec.gov/environmentalpublicparticipation/contacts.htm
Environmental Liaisons	Nancy Whittle, Environmental Activities and Health Risks Jody Hamm, Freedom of Information	(803) 896-8967 whittlnc@dhec.sc.gov (803) 898-3817 hammjm@dhec.sc.gov	http://www.scdhec.gov/environmentaladmin/htm/liasons.htm
South Carolina Community Assessment Network (SCAN)			http://scangis.dhec.sc.gov/scan/
Grants and Loans			http://www.scdhec.gov/environmentaladmin/htm/grants.htm
South Carolina Diesel Emissions Reduction Act Grants (DERA)	Adam Page Brian Barnes	(803) 898-1423 pageac@dhec.sc.gov (803) 898-7099 barnesbk@dhec.sc.gov	http://www.scdhec.gov/environmentaladmin/deragrants/dera.aspx

Department/Office/Resource	Address/Contact	Phone/Email	Web address
		.sc.gov	
Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund (BCRLF)	Robert Hodges DHEC Brownfields Coordinator,	(803) 896-4069 hodgesRF@dhec.sc.gov	http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/wm/forms/BCRLF_Fact_Sheet.pdf
319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Grants	Bureau of Water	(803) 898-4300	http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/water/grants.htm#319

[South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services](#)

The mission of the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services is to manage the Medicaid program to provide the best healthcare value for South Carolinians.

[South Carolina Healthy Connections Choices](#) is a state program that helps people in Medicaid enroll in (join) health plans to get Medicaid services.

[South Carolina Healthy Connections Kids](#) is a state program that helps people in Medicaid enroll in (join) health plans to get Medicaid services.

Department/Office/Resource	Address/Contact	Phone/Email	Web address
Department of Health and Human Services	P.O. Box 8206 Columbia, SC 29202	(888) 549-0820	http://www.dhhs.state.sc.us/
South Carolina Healthy Connections Choices		(877) 552-4642 SCHCC@maximus.com	http://www.scchoices.com/SCSelfService/en_US/index.html
South Carolina Healthy Connections Kids		(877) 552-4642	http://www.scchoices.com/SCSelfService/en_US/kids.html

South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

The mission of the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR) is to promote the health, safety and economic well-being of the public through regulation, licensing, enforcement, training and education.

The Department includes the following offices and divisions: the Division of Legal Services, which includes the Office of Investigations and Enforcement; the Office of General Counsel, the Division of Fire and Life Safety, which includes the Office of State Fire Marshal and the S.C. Fire Academy; the Division of Labor, which includes Elevator and Amusement Rides, Labor Services, Labor-Management Mediation, Migrant Labor, Occupational Safety and Health (OSHA), and OSHA Voluntary Program (OVP); the Division of Professional and Occupational Licensing; and the Division of Administration.

Department/Office/Resource	Address/Contact	Phone/Email	Web address
Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation	Street Address: Synergy Business Park Kingstree Building 110 Centerview Dr. Columbia, SC 29210 Mailing Address P.O. Box 11329 Columbia, SC 29211	(803) 777-5291	http://www.llr.state.sc.us/index.asp

[South Carolina Department of Natural Resources](#)

The [South Carolina](#) Department of Natural Resources is the advocate for and steward of the state's natural resources. The Department develops and implements policies and programs for the conservation, management, utilization and protection of the state's natural resources based upon scientifically sound resource management, assessment and monitoring, applied research, technology transfer, comprehensive planning, public education, technical assistance and constituent involvement. The Department has four regional offices located in Clemson, Florence, Columbia, and Charleston.

The [Land, Water & Conservation Division](#) undertakes a number of activities that could assist environmental justice communities, including: assistance in soil and water resource protection through 46 conservation districts, assistance with watershed conservation, assistance to communities with floodplain management and flood mitigation, and encouragement of economic development through the distribution of geologic information and public assistance.

The Division also makes available technical reports that describe the conditions of the state's water resources, both county-by-county and statewide. These reports are available free of charge for the general public.

The division also offers information and assistance for land and related resource planning. For geologic aspects, call the S.C. Geological Survey at (803) 896-7708.

See the DNR's [Citizen's Guide](#) for more details about the work of the division.

Department/Office/Resource	Address/Contact	Phone/Email	Web address
Department of Natural Resources	Rembert C. Dennis Building, 1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201	(803) 734-3888	http://www.dnr.sc.gov/
Land, Water & Conservation Division DNR's Citizen's Guide	1000 Assembly St., Dennis Bldg., 2nd and 3rd floors P.O. Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202	(803) 734-9100	http://www.dnr.sc.gov/divisions/lwc.html http://www.dnr.sc.gov/publications.html http://www.dnr.sc.gov/pubs/citizen_sqguide.pdf

South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism

The South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism administers several grant programs, ranging from development of public recreational opportunities to marketing support for qualified non-profit organizations. All grant programs administered by the Department are reimbursable funds from various sources with specific qualifications and restrictions.

The [Tourism Partnership Fund](#) is a reimbursable matching funds grant with its mission being the advancement of tourism economic benefit throughout the state by providing financial assistance to qualified partners for tourism marketing initiatives that attract visitors to and encourage visitor spending in South Carolina.

The [Destination Specific Marketing Grant](#) is a matching funds grant. The program is funded and governed by Proviso 39.5 in the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Appropriations Act.

The [Heritage Corridor Development Grants](#) assist communities and organizations in developing, implementing, and maintaining a successful heritage tourism attraction or program that benefits residents and attracts visitors to the area.

The [Park and Recreation Development Fund](#) is a state-funded, non-competitive reimbursable grant program for eligible local government or special purposes district entities within each county which provide recreational opportunities.

The [Land and Water Conservation Fund](#) is a federally funded reimbursable grant for the acquisition or development of land for public outdoor recreational use purposes.

The [Recreation Trails Program](#) is a federal-aid assistance program designed to help states provide and maintain recreational trails for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail use

The [Office of Tourism and Recreation Development](#) provides assistance and information in the following areas: business and financial planning, state incentives and tax credits, permit requirements, infrastructure needs, site location and evaluation, rural and heritage tourism development, cultural and historical interpretation, outdoor recreation planning, conceptual design for parks, recreation grants, marketing, resident demographic information, visitor data and trends.

Department/Office/Resource	Address/Contact	Phone/Email	Web address
Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism	Office of the Director South Carolina Parks, Recreation & Tourism 1205 Pendleton Street Columbia, SC 29201	(803) 734-0166	http://www.scprt.com/
Tourism Partnership Fund			http://www.scprt.com/our-partners/grants/tmpp.aspx
Destination Specific Marketing Grant			http://www.scprt.com/our-partners/grants/dstm.aspx
Heritage Corridor Development Grants			http://www.scprt.com/our-partners/grants/heritagegrant.aspx
Park and Recreation Development Fund			http://www.scprt.com/our-partners/grants/pard.aspx
Land and Water Conservation			http://www.scprt.com/our-

Department/Office/Resource	Address/Contact	Phone/Email	Web address
Fund			partners/grants/lwcf.aspx
Recreation Trails Program			http://www.scprt.com/our-partners/grants/trails.aspx
<u>Office of Tourism and Recreation Development</u>		(803) 734-1700 (866) 224-9339	http://www.scprt.com/tourism-business/howwecanhelp.aspx

South Carolina Department of Public Safety

The South Carolina Department of Public Safety exists to ensure the safety of South Carolina's citizens and visitors. The employees of the Department of Public Safety fulfill this mission by: enforcing traffic, motor vehicle and motor carrier laws; educating the public on highway safety; administering highway safety and criminal justice grant programs; and providing security and safety services for public officials as well as state properties.

The [Justice Assistance Grants Program \(Office of Justice Programs\)](#) is a formula grant program that assists state agencies and units of local government in carrying out specific programs which offer a high probability of improving the functioning of the criminal justice system. Special emphasis is placed on projects that advance national and state drug control priorities. Funds can be used for state and local initiatives, technical assistance, training, personnel, equipment, supplies, contractual support, and information systems for criminal justice for any one or more of the following program areas: law enforcement programs; prosecution and court programs; prevention and education programs, corrections and community corrections programs; drug treatment programs; and planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs. Non-profit agencies are now eligible to be funded directly.

The [Project Safe Neighborhoods Anti-Gang Initiative \(Office of Justice Programs\)](#) is modeled after Project Safe Neighborhoods/Project CeaseFire, which is South Carolina's implementation of the national gun violence reduction program. Priority program areas include gang crime investigation, gang prevention programs, and programs to enhance data sharing and gathering.

The [Juvenile Justice Formula Grant Program \(Office of Justice Programs\)](#) provides grants to state agencies, local units of government and private non-profit organizations (provided they have applied for and been denied funding by a local unit of government). The Formula program supports programs involved with alternatives to secure confinement, the deinstitutionalization of status offenders, and the reduction of the overrepresentation of minorities in the state's juvenile justice system

The [Title V Local Delinquency Prevention Grant Program \(Office of Justice Programs\)](#) provides grants only to units of general local government. Successful applicants must work in partnership with local juvenile service agencies and form a Prevention Policy Board to develop a three-year plan for delinquency prevention in the community.

Department/Office/Resource	Address/Contact	Phone/Email	Web address
Department of Public Safety	Street Address: 10311 Wilson Blvd. Blythewood, SC 29016 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1993 Blythewood, SC 29016		http://www.scdps.org/
Justice Assistance Grants Program (Office of Justice Programs)	Laura Whitlock, Program Administrator	(803) 896-8713 laurawhitlock@scdps.net	http://www.scdps.org/ojp/cjgp/jag.asp
Project Safe Neighborhoods Anti-Gang Initiative (Office of Justice Programs)	Laura Whitlock, Program Administrator	(803) 896-8713 laurawhitlock@scdps.net	http://www.scdps.org/ojp/project_safe_neighborhood.asp
Juvenile Justice Formula Grant	Laura Whitlock,	(803) 896-8713	http://www.scdps.org/ojp/jjgp/form

Department/Office/Resource	Address/Contact	Phone/Email	Web address
Program (Office of Justice Programs)	Program Administrator	laurawhitlock@scdps.net	ola_grant.asp
Title V Local Delinquency Prevention Grant Program (Office of Justice Programs)	Laura Whitlock, Program Administrator	(803) 896-8713 laurawhitlock@scdps.net	http://www.scdps.org/ojp/jigp/title_v.asp

[South Carolina Department of Transportation](#)

The [South Carolina Department of Transportation](#) promotes safe and efficient transportation focusing on traditional roadways as well as mass transit. This is accomplished through building and maintaining roads and bridges as well as providing mass transit services to the citizens of the state. In conjunction with other organizations, the Department plays key roles in major transportation planning efforts, including the Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan and the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.

The [Transportation Enhancement Program](#) facilitates and provides a greater opportunity for local governments to collaborate with the Department to pursue a broad range of non-traditional, transportation-related activities such as bicycle and pedestrian facilities, streetscaping, scenic and landscaping programs, and historic preservation. The Transportation Enhancement Program is funded under SAFETEA-LU, the current federal transportation legislation (formerly the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, also known as TEA-21 and previously known as ISTEA) and allocated by the South Carolina Department of Transportation.

- The [Metropolitan Planning Organizations \(MPOs\)](#) in the state's ten metropolitan areas are responsible for decision-making in transportation issues. Applications for Transportation Enhancement Program funds should be submitted through these organizations.
- The [rural portion of the program](#) is designed to allocate Transportation Enhancement Funds to as many communities as possible across the state. Funds provided for reimbursement under the program will be limited to a maximum of \$200,000 for each project. Applications for rural projects are considered separately from applications for metropolitan projects. Only governmental bodies with legislative authority (cities, counties or state agencies) are eligible to submit applications.
- The [Adopt an Interchange Program](#) provides opportunities for local government agencies to work with the Department of Transportation in landscaping and irrigating Interstate interchanges. The Adopt an Interchange program does not compete with the Rural or Metropolitan Planning Organization programs.

The [Pedestrian and Bicycle Program](#) reflects the Department of Transportation's commitment to meeting the ongoing challenge of providing better and safer accommodations for people who choose to walk or cycle.

The [Youth Corps Program](#) is a youth employment and training program established in partnership with local cities, towns, and tribes that offers summer work for individuals between the ages of 16 and 21. The program focuses on landscaping and beautification projects and includes basic life skills, education and training. In 2008, the Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration funded partnerships with 14 cities and towns that employed approximately 97 high school and college students.

The [Safe Routes to Schools Program](#) enables and encourages children, including those with disabilities, to safely walk and bicycle to and from school. The Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School Program assists schools and communities in the planning, development and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption and air pollution in the vicinity of schools while promoting a healthy lifestyle for children and their parents.

Department/Office/Resource	Address/Contact	Phone/Email	Web address
Department of Transportation	955 Park Street P.O. Box 191 Columbia, SC 29202-0191	(803) 737-2314 SCDOT_contact@scdot.org	http://www.scdot.org/default.shtml
Transportation Enhancement Program			http://www.scdot.org/community/tep.shtml
Pedestrian and Bicycle Program			http://www.scdot.org/getting/BikePed/BP_default.shtml
Youth Corps Program			http://www.scdot.org/community/youthcorps.shtml
Safe Routes to Schools Program			http://www.scdot.org/community/saferoutes.shtml

[South Carolina Office of the Attorney General](#)

The duties and responsibilities of the Attorney General for the State of South Carolina are described by common law, the state Constitution, and state statutes. The Attorney General is South Carolina's Chief Criminal Prosecutor, Chief Legal Officer and Securities Commissioner.

The [Youth Mentor Program](#) is a community based program for non-violent offenders. As a commitment to making a difference in the lives of young people, the Office of the Attorney General has instituted and broadened the Youth Mentor Program. A voluntary program, the mentor approach links an offending juvenile to a church or community organization where an individual mentor will be assigned to him/her.

The [Gang Intervention Directory](#) is a 61-page booklet is designed to provide the names, addresses, telephone numbers and fax numbers of those actively involved in combating gangs in South Carolina. The list includes law enforcement officers and officials, prosecutors, victim advocates, private organizations and others actively working to eliminate gang activity in the state.

Department/Office/Resource	Address/Contact	Phone/Email	Web address
Office of the Attorney General	Rembert Dennis Building 1000 Assembly Street, Room 519 Columbia, SC 29201	(803) 734-3970	http://www.scattorneygeneral.org/index.html
Youth Mentor Program	Office of the Attorney General P.O. Box 11549 Columbia, SC 29211 C. L. (Josh) Lorick, Director Youth Mentor Program	(803) 734-4746	http://www.scattorneygeneral.org/fr aud/youthmentor/index.html
Gang Intervention Directory			http://www.scattorneygeneral.org/fr aud/gang/pdf/ganginterventiondirectory.pdf

South Carolina State Ports Authority

The South Carolina State Ports Authority (SCSPA) promotes, develops and facilitates waterborne commerce to meet the current and future needs of its customers, and for the economic benefit of the citizens and businesses of South Carolina. The SCSPA fulfills this mission by delivering cost-competitive facilities and services, collaborating with customers and stakeholders, and sustaining its financial self-sufficiency.

The [Pledge for Growth](#) encompasses SCSPA programs to protect and enhance the natural environment and community in the areas of Land, Air, Water and People.

Department/Office/Resource	Address/Contact	Phone/Email	Web address
South Carolina State Ports Authority	176 Concord Street Charleston, SC 29401 P.O. Box 22287 Charleston, SC 29413	(843) 577-8115 (800) 845-7106 SCSPAInfo@scspa.com	http://www.port-of-charleston.com/default.asp
Pledge for Growth	Jeannie Adame Environmental Affairs Manager	(843) 577-8175	http://www.pledgeforgrowth.com/

Clemson University Sandhill Research & Education Center

The Clemson University Sandhill Research & Education Center (REC) is home to programs and units that work collectively to cultivate sustainable economic and community development in South Carolina. REC's faculty and staff builds the collaborations needed to identify and address the state's opportunities and challenges for the 21st century.

The [Clemson Institute for Economic and Community Development \(CIECD\)](#) connects the resources of Clemson University and other agencies to the needs of South Carolina communities. CIECD faculty and staff conduct research and deliver programming in the areas of leadership development, strategic planning, town charrettes and downtown redesign, entrepreneurial training and support, local economic development planning and support, local community development planning and support, industry cluster development and economic impact analysis. Key areas of the CIECD include:

- [Agribusiness development.](#)
- [Community development.](#)
- [Entrepreneurship and small business development.](#)
- [Leadership development.](#)
- [Strategic planning and visioning.](#)
- [Research and special studies](#) (e.g., economic impact studies).

The [Innovation Center](#) focuses on the needs of rural South Carolina. Center personnel team with community leaders, business owners, entrepreneurs, faith based groups, volunteer organizations and other professionals to assist in the development of plans, strategies and funding resources. Three key focus areas of the Center include:

- [USDA rural development program assistance.](#)
- [Facilitation & strategic planning.](#)
- [Community design charrettes.](#)

Department/Office/Resource	Address/Contact	Phone/Email	Web address
Clemson University Sandhill Research & Education Center	900 Clemson Road Columbia, SC 29229 Mailing address: P.O. Box 23205 Columbia, SC 29224	(803) 788-5700	http://www.clemson.edu/public/rec/sandhill/index.html
Clemson Institute for Economic and Community Development (CIECD)	900 Clemson Road Columbia, SC 29229 Mailing address: P.O. Box 23205 Columbia, SC 29224	(803) 788-5700	http://www.clemson.edu/public/ciecd/index.html
Innovation Center (assisting rural South Carolina)	900 Clemson Road Columbia, SC 29229 Mailing address: P.O. Box 23205 Columbia, SC 29224	(803) 788-5700	http://www.clemson.edu/public/rec/sandhill/programs/innovation/index.html

Eat Smart Move More SC

The SC Eat Smart Move More Coalition is a result of a merger of the SC Coalition for Obesity Prevention Efforts (SCCOPE) and the SC Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity (SCPPA). This new Partnership coordinates obesity prevention efforts across the state and implements South Carolina's state Obesity Prevention Plan. The intent of this coalition is ongoing collaboration between state agencies, business and industry, health care organizations, schools, academia, community and a broad range of other stakeholders to capitalize and leverage differing areas of expertise, skills and resources to impact obesity in South Carolina.

Homegrown: South Carolina's Guide to Starting or Enhancing Your Community's Farmers' Market is a manual covering the basics of Farmers' Market planning, management, funding, location, vendors and operations. It addresses specific details like legal, liability, food safety and government issues as well as marketing/communication, economic development, community involvement and special events. There are sections for key contacts and a list of additional resources for even more information, tips for media involvement and market branding.

South Carolina Healthy Options is an online inventory of physical activity facilities in South Carolina. With this site, you can search a database of healthy activities based on your age and location within the state. Just choose the type of activity you are interested in, and see all the places you can find the activity in your county. You can also add an option to the database.



Figure 2. SC Healthy Options lets you **1H**click on your county, and then select the type of activity you are interested in. You will then be provided with a listing of all of the facilities that provide that activity in your county.

Department/Office/Resource	Address/Contact	Phone/Email	Web address
Eat Smart Move More SC	P.O. Box 3007 Irmo, SC 29063 Amy Splittgerber, M.Ed.	803-941-7050 Amy@EatSmartMoveMoreSC.org	http://eatsmartmovemoresc.org/
Homegrown: South Carolina's Guide to Starting or Enhancing Your Community's Farmers' Market		marykay@eatsmartmovemoresc.org	http://eatsmartmovemoresc.org/prgrams/
South Carolina Healthy Options			http://schealthyoptions.org/

[Municipal Association of South Carolina](#)

The Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) represents and serves the state's 270 incorporated municipalities. The Association is dedicated to the principle of its founding members: to offer the services, programs and products that will give municipal officials the knowledge, experience and tools for enabling the most efficient and effective operation of their municipalities in the complex world of municipal government. MASC offers numerous programs and services; a few are highlighted below.

[Main Street South Carolina](#) empowers citizens with the knowledge, skills, tools and organizational structure necessary to revitalize their downtowns, neighborhood commercial districts and cities/towns into vibrant centers of commerce and community.

[Hometown, SC](#) is a long-range and sustainable initiative that will build relationships to raise hometown voices to a new level of influence. The goal is to demonstrate the value of South Carolina's cities and towns to their residents and illustrate the important role that cities and towns play in the state's economic prosperity to policy makers and other influential parties

Department/Office/Resource	Address/Contact	Phone/Email	Web address
Municipal Association of South Carolina	1411 Gervais St., P.O. Box 12109, Columbia, SC 29211	(803) 799-9574 mail@masc.sc	http://www.masc.sc/Pages/Default.aspx
Main Street South Carolina			http://www.masc.sc/programs/knowledge/Pages/Main-Street-SC.aspx
Hometown, SC			http://www.masc.sc/programs/voices/Pages/Hometown-SC.aspx

[SC Association of Community Development Corporations](#)

The mission of the South Carolina Association of Community Development Corporations (SCACDC) is to raise the quality of life for low-wealth families and communities. SCACDC works to advance the community economic development industry in South Carolina through the capacity building of local community development corporations. SCACDC helps provide: technical assistance, access to capital, advocacy and grassroots leadership. A few of these resources are highlighted below.

The [Community Economic Development Certificate Program](#) is a comprehensive training program offered in collaboration with Clemson University and Benedict College to local community economic development practitioners, policy makers and partners who support community economic development throughout the state of South Carolina.

The [Compliance Academy](#) offers community development corporations and their staff the invigorating opportunity to build skills, learn from peers and connect to existing state, regional and national resources. The training is geared specifically toward community development corporations.

[The Southern Association for Financial Empowerment \(SAFE\)](#) is a community development financial institution created by SCACDC to provide alternative financial products and services in support of community economic development in low and moderate income communities of South Carolina.

Department/Office/Resource	Address/Contact	Phone/Email	Web address
South Carolina Association of Community Development Corporations	658 Rutledge Avenue, 2nd Floor Charleston, SC 29403	(843) 579-9855	http://www.communitydevelopmentsc.org/topic.asp?pid=1
Community Economic Development Certificate Program			http://www.communitydevelopmentsc.org/topic.asp?pid=40
Compliance Academy			http://www.communitydevelopmentsc.org/topic.asp?pid=16
Southern Association for Financial Empowerment (SAFE)			http://www.safecdfi.org/

South Carolina Rural Development Council

The goal of the South Carolina Rural Development Council is to provide a framework within which federal government resources can be used in combination with those of state and local governments, private businesses and non-profit organizations to promote rural economic development.

The [SC Resource Organization Directory](#) includes an extensive listing of resources available at the national and state levels that can assist rural communities in South Carolina. Resource topics include: Community, Families & Children, General Information, Government, Laws and Regulations, Small Business, Member Agencies, and Grant and Land Programs.

Department/Office/Resource	Address/Contact	Phone/Email	Web address
South Carolina Rural Development Council	Walter Harris Executive Director Stan Perry Assistant Director – Webmaster	(803) 788-5700, ext. 43 walterh@clmson.edu (803) 528-9892 perry8@clmson.edu	http://www.scrdc.org/
SC Resource Organization Directory			http://www.scrdc.org/directory/

University of South Carolina Arnold School of Public Health

The Arnold School of Public Health is charged with improving South Carolinians' health and environment through education, research and practice programs pursued jointly with state and federal health agencies. The School has numerous programs and centers that support South Carolina communities. A few of these are briefly described below.

The [Cancer Prevention and Control Program](#) works closely with individuals, organizations and communities to encourage and make possible cancer prevention, early detection and appropriate care for those diagnosed with cancer.

- The [South Carolina Cancer Disparities Community Network](#), within the Cancer Prevention and Control Program, is a partnership between several organizations with the shared goal of reducing cancer health disparities.

The [Children's Physical Activity Research Group](#) (CPARG) is an interdisciplinary team of faculty, staff and graduate students who are dedicated to expanding the body of knowledge on physical activity and its promotion in children and adolescents. An overarching aim of CPARG is to enhance the health of young people by generating the knowledge needed to design and implement effective public health policies

The [Consortium for Latino Immigration Studies](#) promotes and coordinates interdisciplinary and transnational research on the experiences of Latino/as in South Carolina and the southeast. The Consortium also disseminates research findings and other information on Hispanic/Latino issues to academic and non-academic users through such venues as conferences, symposia, workshops and publications, and fosters application and translation of such findings into practice and policy.

The [Institute for Partnerships to Eliminate Health Disparities](#) focuses on eliminating health disparities through community, academic and other strategic partnerships in South Carolina and beyond.

The [Prevention Research Center \(PRC\) \(Promoting Health through Physical Activity\)](#) is committed to conducting research that benefits the public's health and to translating research into practice. USC PRC promotes physical activity through community intervention, training, dissemination and applied research.

The [South Carolina Rural Health Research Center \(RHRC\)](#) focuses on investigating persistent inequities in health status within the population of the rural US, with an emphasis on inequities stemming from socioeconomic status, race and ethnicity and access to healthcare services. RHRC strives to make its research findings useful to organizations and individuals working to improve the quality of life for rural residents.

Department/Office/Resource	Address/Contact	Phone/Email	Web address
University of South Carolina Arnold School of Public Health	Health Sciences Building (HESC, 800 Sumter Street) Columbia, SC 29208	(803) 777-5031 sphstsr@mailbox.sc.edu	http://www.sph.sc.edu/
Cancer Prevention and Control Program	PI/Director James R. Hebert, ScD	(803) 576-5666 jhebert@sc.edu	http://cpcp.sph.sc.edu/
South Carolina Cancer Disparities Community Network	Madeline Broderick Project Coordinator	(803) 576-5669 (866) 297-6792	http://sccdcn.sph.sc.edu/

Department/Office/Resource	Address/Contact	Phone/Email	Web address
	915 Greene Street, 2nd Floor Columbia, SC 29208	madeline@gwm.sc.edu	
Children's Physical Activity Research Group	Kristi Harmon, Grants Administrator 921 Assembly Street Suite 212 Columbia, SC 29208	(803) 777-2234 harmonk@sc.edu	http://www.sph.sc.edu/USC_CPARG/about.html
Consortium for Latino Immigration Studies	Dr. Myriam Torres Director Mailing address: Consortium for Latino Immigration Studies University of South Carolina 730 Devine Street Columbia, SC 29208	(803) 777-2598 torresme@mailbox.sc.edu	http://www.sph.sc.edu/cli/
Institute for Partnerships to Eliminate Health Disparities	220 Stoneridge Dr, Suite 208 Columbia, SC 29210	(803) 251-6300	http://www.sph.sc.edu/health_disparities/default.htm
Prevention Research Center (PRC) (Promoting Health through Physical Activity)	921 Assembly Street Columbia, SC 29208	(803) 777-4253 uscprc@gwm.sc.edu	http://prevention.sph.sc.edu/
South Carolina Rural Health Research Center (RHRC)	220 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 204, Columbia, SC 29210	(803) 251-6317 jprobst@mailbox.sc.edu	http://rhr.sph.sc.edu/

University of South Carolina College of Social Work

The College of Social Work promotes the social well-being and social justice of vulnerable populations through dynamic teaching, research and service conducted in collaboration with the diverse people of South Carolina, the nation and the international community.

The [Field Education Program](#) provides an opportunity for students to integrate their curriculum knowledge with real-life experiences in a variety of field practice settings. Students are supervised by experienced social work field instructors at human services agencies where they refine their social work skills.

Department/Office/Resource	Address/Contact	Phone/Email	Web address
University of South Carolina College of Social Work	Mailing Address: College of Social Work DeSaussure College University of South Carolina Columbia, SC 29208	(803) 777-5031 coswweb@mail box.sc.edu	http://www.cosw.sc.edu/
Field Education Program	Thornwell Annex 128A College of Social Work University of South Carolina Columbia, SC 29208	(803) 777- 5293 jimw@mailbox.s c.edu	http://www.cosw.sc.edu/field/index. html

North Charleston Listening Session
January 13, 2009 Meeting Summary

Project Background

In 2007, the South Carolina Legislature passed legislation that created the South Carolina Environmental Justice Advisory Committee. Environmental justice, as defined in Act 171, is “the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.” Environmental justice communities commonly include historically under-represented minority and low-income neighborhoods and areas burdened with multiple environmental challenges, including brownfields, Superfund sites, or waste dumps.

The Advisory Committee consists of 13 state agencies and three academic institutions and is tasked with studying and considering state agencies’ responses to environmental justice issues as they relate to economic development and revitalization efforts. The Advisory Committee decided to host a series of community listening sessions across the state in 2009. The purpose of the sessions is to receive input from stakeholders on topics as it relates to environmental justice issues. The listening sessions will also ensure that the Advisory Committee has information to incorporate as it relates to those directly impacted in the community. The Advisory Committee must complete its work and report findings and recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor by January 1, 2010.

North Charleston Listening Session Overview

The North Charleston Listening Session was held on January 13, 2009 at St. Matthew Baptist Church and Metanoia, located at 2005 Reynolds Avenue in North Charleston, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Forty-five participants attended, providing over 700 comments. Stakeholders invited to attend included grass-root citizens, neighborhood association presidents, local businesses, local industry, local government, elected officials, and environmental groups. Meeting facilitators and recorders included staff from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 Office, Clemson University, and A&D Environmental. Food was donated by A&D Environmental.



Figure 1. North Charleston Listening Session. January 13, 2009.

At the start of the listening session, Advisory Committee Chair Nancy Whittle (DHEC) welcomed participants and led introductions. State Representative Harold Mitchell followed with a few brief remarks. Donna Rowe (DHEC) next provided an overview of the World Café conversational process that would guide the listening session discussions. Cynthia Peurifoy and Sheryl Good (EPA Region 4) then led an introductory discussion with participants on the meaning of environmental justice. Afterward, participants broke into small, facilitated groups to discuss the session’s five major topics.

- Economic Development and Revitalization
- Environmental Justice and Revitalization
- Community Health and Revitalization
- Brownfields and Grayfields
- Revitalized South Carolina Communities – Defining Success

The small groups discussed one topic for 15 minutes; participants then rotated to other tables to discuss the other topics. After all small-group rotations were completed, Advisory Committee Chair Nancy Whittle reconvened participants for a final discussion to consider session outcomes and thank attendees for their participation.

Meeting Summary Overview

This meeting summary presents all participant comments gathered during the North Charleston Listening Session. Comments from the introductory environmental justice discussion are presented first, followed by the small-group discussion comments. During the small-group discussions, recorders wrote participants' comments on half-sheets of paper corresponding to each of the five listening session topics. Organizers then attached the comments to plastic sheets on walls and boards located in the conference room. Organizers grouped comments by listening session topic and the type of response provided. Simultaneously, organizers reviewed the comments to identify major themes and recommendations mentioned for each topic. These themes and recommendations were then briefly discussed during the final portion of the listening session. Results of this discussion are presented in the final section of the report.

The report's appendices provide the listening session agenda (Appendix A) and the topic questions (Appendix B).

Project Next Steps

Following completion of all of the listening sessions, participants' comments will be compiled and analyzed to identify regional and state-wide community concerns, priorities, and recommendations. The Advisory Committee will review and incorporate this information as part of its final report to the South Carolina Legislature and the Governor due by January 1, 2010.

EPA is assisting the work of the Advisory Committee by providing contractor support through E² Inc.



Figure 2. North Charleston Listening Session. January 13, 2009.

Listening Session Comments

Introductory Discussion: The Meaning of Environmental Justice

What does environmental justice mean to you?

- Fair and equal access to water, soil and green space.
- Ensure that no one group is exposed to environmental justice more than another.
- Performing at a level that will not result in a negative impact on sustaining life.
- Health and well being.
- The government paying attention to the impact of industrial chemicals and health outcomes.
- Cleaning up water and air.
- Increased opportunity for children to live healthier and longer.
- A place where you work, play and interact that is safe from negative environmental impacts.
- Never heard of it until recently.
- Santee-Cooper project.
- Not in my backyard.
- Property values being cheaper in low-income areas.
- Resources in wealthy communities.
- Operating at a level that does not result in a negative impact on anything in the community, no matter how large or small.



Figure 3. North Charleston Listening Session. January 13, 2009.

Listening Session Topic #1: Economic Development and Revitalization

What are some of the major problems facing distressed neighborhoods in your area?

- There are problems with abandoned industry sites that need redevelopment.
- Value of residential areas decreases due to nearby industrial plants.
- Property values are an issue.
- The poor community members are forced out by increased cost of living and taxes.
- Abandoned facilities often become used for illegal/negative activities.
- The incinerator is BAD.
- Problems with the railroad.
- Problems with the incinerator.
- Host of long-lasting environmental problems.
- An aggregate of potential environmental damages within small areas.
- Where to put landfills and maintenance.
- How the area is cleaned and the green space is an issue.
- There is a history of exploitation in North Charleston in terms of trash, incinerators, etc.
- Public health of people within the community needs to be addressed.
- Health of previous employees and community residents.
- Air quality (pollution), children's health.
- Air quality.
- Negative health effects from air quality and water quality.
- Bad health and economic impacts on communities because of plants.
- Problems with drinking water.

- Negative impacts on drinking water.
- Odor.
- Soil contamination.
- Serious health issues.
- Quality of life is affected.
- Emotional stress.
- Economics of investment, new residents and relocation of past residents.
- Inadequate infrastructure.
- Lack of human services such as transportation and medical.
- Out of sight, out of mind.
- When the question needs addressing there is already a problem.
- There exists a general disregard for the environment in terms of the population and beach pollution.
- For Charleston: solid waste cleanup, affordable housing guidelines including equal access.
- No equity in the system.
- Some communities experience more negative effects on the environment than others unfairly.
- Communities have the same taxes but different levels of services.
- Unequal treatment breaks down the community.
- Communities are affected dramatically especially if nothing is done.
- Future land use of past sites.
- Problems with unattended industry sites no longer in use.
- Property purchased for \$50,000 should not sell for \$500,000 after cleanup.
- When relocating communities using eminent domain the residents aren't given a fair price.
- Problems arise from lack of communication between all stakeholders and elected community officials.

What are some of the steps being taken locally to address them?

- Holding community meetings such as today's session to inform agencies and lawmakers is positive.
- Reclaiming past sites by transforming them into useable sites such as industries, parks and community centers.
- Monitoring.
- Addressing and educating communities by using the resources of churches and schools, etc., not just the internet.
- Uses for new industry jobs.

If your community is being revitalized, what are some of the problems associated with the revitalization? How have you dealt with these problems?

- Policy makers often ignore community input, especially that given by poor and African American community members.
- Public not informed enough.
- Problems with corporations earning money for immoral actions.
- Lack of accountability leads to distrust amongst community members.
- Environmental justice causes division between communities and distrust of government.
- There is too much controversy in environmental issues.
- Public actions discouraged by state agencies.
- Problems with conflict between state and local government and the state's ability to address local issues.
- There is difficulty in attracting appropriate development and in stopping inappropriate development.
- Inherited property issues.
- Distrust of leaders for allowing damage to air quality.
- Making sure that sites are CLEAN.

- Environmental Protection Agency getting funds cut so they can't afford to support the communities.
- More money should be given to mass transit as opposed to highways. (Highway lobbyists are a big problem.)

What additional steps and resources are needed to revitalize these distressed areas?

- People need to have a voice in their community and how environmental issues impact their families.
- Open forums are needed where people can be free to express their opinion.
- Educate communities on environmental ramifications.
- Identify solutions and empower the community to elect the appropriate leaders.
- The community should be empowered and better informed.
- Bring someone into the community for leadership who has a passion for the area.
- Let community leaders know the facts.
- Community organization is vital.
- Defer to local control of issues, for example, local input for highway control.
- Projects should involve everyone.
- Allowing poor communities to have a say in stopping undesirable development.
- The community needs to be aware of the environmental impacts.
- Need more involvement within the community.
- Mandate that a percentage of the profits of an industry are earmarked for community health, such as an insurance policy.
- Make ways to provide funding for community health such as insurance.
- Grant application process should be coordinated by contacting the communities and based on *hard data*.
- Public spending and infrastructure needs to be built and used efficiently.
- Mitigation of incentives and tax credits should be instituted.
- Remove the red tape.
- There should be a rapid response to grievances.
- Monitor the community and remove contaminants.
- Redevelopment should assist the existing community.
- Local resources should be given to the community to determine their use in local development
- Reasoning should be provided for building an environmentally damaging facility.
- Efficient solutions are needed to rapidly alleviate distressed areas.
- Tougher ethics laws for legislation.
- State mandate protecting rights of communities.
- Not allowing corporate negligence.
- Making companies accountable for environmental negligence.
- Accountability should be held to companies who knowingly hurt the general public.
- Make policies that hold accountable companies that impact unaware communities.
- Require developers to be held accountable.
- Politicians need a sense of loyalty to the individuals.
- Responsible parties (polluters) need to be involved in the process.
- Make responsible parties accountable for toxic spills plus environmental damage.
- Lawmakers should listen to the community.
- Make sure that community resources are spread fairly.
- State agencies communicating with everyone instead of just throwing things in.
- Places for people to ride bicycles would reduce emissions.
- Use local/minority businesses for local cleanup.
- All stakeholders should be given access to the issue.
- Take issues into the community, especially in rural communities.

- Educate parents and children on basic environmental principles: don't litter and recycle.
- Educate/make community members aware of the issue.
- Regulation of existing industry needs to be stricter.
- With new development and gentrification the *local*/community should be maintained.
- Communication and planning, especially to prevent emergency situations.
- Increase stakeholder involvement.
- Include stakeholders who are directly impacted early in the decision making process.
- Stakeholders should not only be included but *listened to*.
- Bring information into the community through local meetings.
- Listen to the community.
- "Progress" should be more than property development and should include human and community development.
- Build relationships in the community.
- Educate community members and have meetings *in* the community. What is being emitted?
- Neighborhood schools: equal education opportunities for ALL the children.
- Sharing information: we operate as if people "know", but they may not.
- Educate community and make them aware.
- Education: awareness of problem and how the problem will be addressed using time tables.
- Exposure to the situation and make people aware.
- Education: letting people know what to do with environmental issues.
- Letting people know legal rights.
- Environmental justice gives people a tangible recourse by knowing the different avenues to go to for help.
- Communication and understanding of what is available.
- More research needs to be done.
- Make the language understandable to the common people.
- Make community aware of resources for cleanup/revitalization.
- Informing/Educating community on problems.
- Need to develop environmental justice statements for organizations.
- Need more accurate information.
- Help with the education of communities.
- There should be an education of people's rights.
- Transparency in the system and no hidden agendas.
- Studies should be conducted prior to building plants.
- Streamline the process: remove the red tape in order to simplify.
- Treat all communities equally.
- Include/create programs for middle schools to address the younger population.
- Resources for infrastructure should target current resident's issues, not future development.
- Take advantage of available resources, such as Superfund monies.
- Restructure how tax revenue is distributed.
- Revitalization is more than beefing up the tax base and should make communities safe.
- Decision making should be made on a local level as state agencies may not know the problem.
- Let the community define revitalization. What do they need?
- Be more aware of environmental justice issues.
- Outreach and stronger public participation efforts.
- State agencies should engage the community and inform them of what's going on.
- State agencies can aid in enforcements.
- State agencies should act immediately.
- State agencies can be the educators.
- Government involvement.

- Agencies should team with other programs to pool resources and expand outreach.
- State should provide technical assistance in grant writing and to navigate the red tape.
- State agencies should conduct testing/monitoring and creating awareness of soil and air quality.
- DOT develop landscape areas.
- Lack of support for development needs to change.
- Gentrification issues: don't let community improvement ruin the "community".

Listening Session Topic #2: Environmental Justice and Revitalization

How do you think environmental justice issues affect a community?

- Housing, crime and poor schools.
- Crime.
- Crime levels are too high.
- Too much crime and drugs.
- Lack of law enforcement funding.
- Crime.
- Air pollution and health, mold and mildew.
- Health problems.
- Lack of health insurance.
- Lack of physical attractiveness.
- Congestion is a problem.
- Transportation is a problem.
- Traffic due to construction is a problem.
- Lack of affordable groceries, produce and resources.
- Lack of economic opportunity/access to improve housing.
- School closings.
- Environmental issues.
- No clean air, soil or water.
- Unemployment.
- Property being abandoned by families.
- Retirees driven out by high taxes.
- No affordable housing.
- Affordable housing is not affordable.
- Wages are too low for housing.
- Lack of strong family structure.
- Lack of education.
- Lack of advanced education in the sciences.
- Lack of jobs.
- Lack of financial resources throughout the community.
- Lack of development.
- City codes raised the price of revitalization.
- Unincorporated areas left out of revitalization.
- Outside developers negatively affect zoning and taxes.
- Lack of participation in community.
- Community identity problems.
- Urban renewal negatively affects the small communities.
- Lack of communication.

- Lack of organization.
- Lack of leadership.
- Lack of communication.
- Laws in place do not support the people.
- Lack of information.
- Bad communication.
- Absentee landlords.
- Lack of long term shareholders.
- Factories and new roads can deteriorate the community.
- Lack of investment in community.
- Lack of transportation.
- Lack of green space/recreation.
- Dilapidated housing.
- Lack of insurance.
- Lack of jobs.
- Exclusion from the planning process is negative.
- Lack of transportation to good schools.

What could be done to improve consideration of environmental justice issues in community revitalization efforts?

- More partnerships are needed in the community to give support.
- Access to *real* affordable housing.
- Improve transportation.
- Improve transportation planning.
- Economic development.
- Increase numbers of grocery stores.
- Provide first-time buyer's incentives.
- C.O.G. tri-county link.
- C-P.A.D. needs funding.
- Lack of opportunity/career development (SR's too.)
- Entrepreneurial programs for children.
- Job training workshops.
- School outreach (career days, role models).
- Community meetings.
- Empowerment, not hand-outs.
- People need a fair amount of access to the planning process.
- Need for community pride and leadership.
- Need more involvement.
- Visions not being shared throughout the community.
- Visions must be shared throughout the community.
- City is hosting job fairs with training for the interview process.
- Need leaders to support areas.
- Schools.
- Two farmers markets.
- Jobs that fight crime.
- We need jobs.
- We need affordable housing for those who make \$8.00/hr.
- Need for quality neighborhood schools.

- Churches that work against crime.
- Weekly police meetings with the community in an open forum.
- DHEC testing.
- We need kids to have an incentive. They need an environment that fosters self-confidence and positive self-esteem.
- We need kids to get off the street and get into school.
- Citizen patrol against drugs.
- Local talent should be hired.
- Low-Country Alliance.
- Coalition.
- Livability court.

What could State agencies do to support this?

- Officials need to inspire communities.
- Elected officials are ignoring the areas in need.

Listening Session Topic #3: Community Health and Revitalization

How would you describe the health overall of residents in your community?

- Older residents have health problems in the community.
- Many elderly need more medical care.
- Multiple health problems found in certain families, possibly due to the environment.
- Lead problems, asbestos found in buildings.
- Problems with young children.
- Health problems split among age groups, but lead a problem in small children.
- Older homes with site contaminants cause cancer.
- Diabetes, asthma, indoor issues, industry.
- Obesity.
- Problems with blood pressure and diabetes among the elderly/seniors.
- Large numbers of handicapped residents.
- Smoking problems.
- Diabetes is a major problem.
- Asbestos problems around shipyard.
- Problems with students with learning difficulties, air quality may be a cause.
- People are unable to afford their medicine.
- Asthma is a problem among children.
- Self-inflicted health issues.
- Fairly good health in the community.
- Health is defined by region/community.
- Respiratory health is an issue.
- There is no way to juggle overall health.
- Good health and high levels of physical activity are connected.
- Prior pollution (brownfields) affects health.
- Elderly have diabetes/high blood pressure.
- Youth health issues.
- Worst state as far as obesity and diabetes are concerned.

- High death rates.
- Overall health is failing.
- Drug abuse in younger and working class.
- Asthma, sickle cell anemia and diabetes are problems in the county.
- There is pretty good health generally.
- Generally good health.
- Rapid changes resulting in good health.
- New dwellings need updated drainage systems.

What steps are being taken locally to improve community health in your area?

- Improved accessibility to healthcare.
- Better access to public transportation-CARTA.
- Change from grassroots level.
- Elderly are seeing doctors more often and are more proactive.
- Brownfield's cleanup at Magnolia development site.
- USC grant looking at health and contamination problems.
- DHEC air monitors are being installed.
- Church health fairs, cholesterol checks, basic physical fitness are good, however many communities do not have this.
- Grant funding and community groups.
- Smoking bans are beneficial.
- There is talk of a marathon in Charleston.
- Improvements in infrastructure and technology centers, similar to the Dept. of Motor Vehicles.
- Improvements in social services available.
- Carpool lanes on highways.
- People attending monthly meeting to listen to lectures on diseases.
- Local clinics available at two main locations in North Charleston.
- Available free preventative health.
- Television ads for health screenings.
- No steps are being taken to improve health.
- CARE grants.
- Baseline studies.
- Contaminated site cleanups.
- Education of available services (clinics).
- Health insurance for children (awareness).
- Nothing is being done to improve health in the community.
- People are becoming more informed, collaboration is taking place.
- Churches and fairs are reaching out to the community, trying to unify people with formal neighborhood groups.
- MUSC and Red Cross and health events.
- Church had fitness programs.
- Health fairs in Charleston where people can get fitness tested and free health seminars are available.
- DHEC air quality monitors are installed in schools.

What are the barriers that limit the effectiveness of these efforts?

- Health problems not being verified with hard data.
- Teaching children at a young age about good health.

- Better education.
- Health is a community concern, and we should look out for one another.
- Different communities have varying goals, but should adopt similar policies.
- Child care activities are important, such as recess and physical education.
- Getting kids outside and active.
- There should be a bus service to pick people up with disabilities, and diseases to take them to and from clinics.
- The same quality service in hospitals should be provided for all races.
- Access to clinics is important, and many clinics are closing down.
- Budget cuts lead to clinics closing.
- Figuring out which clinics should remain open.
- The older communities are “dying” out and there are no children.
- Age discrimination is also an issue in hospitalization.
- The non-revitalized areas are comprised mostly of elderly people.
- Communities are mostly comprised of elderly residents. Young people are not returning when they leave.
- Money and infrastructure are barriers to revitalization.
- Some people feel pressured and are unsatisfied.
- Better funding should be provided.
- Funding is a major barrier.
- Lack of funding is an issue as clinics are closing.
- Resources are a barrier to improving community health.
- Communication is a barrier.
- Crime is a barrier.
- Sidewalk improvement is needed.
- Health clinics are needed to improve personal health, and air quality should be monitored.
- Lack of funding.
- With the current industries in place the air quality is not conducive to good health.
- Poor sidewalk in the communities, better bike and pedestrian access is needed.
- Remove elements in the environment that cause illness.
- Cleanup efforts should be renewed along Azalia Avenue.
- Many local clinics are available, but there is a lack of transportation to them.
- People are unwilling to go to the doctor.
- Inadequate funds for clinics.
- Diagnosing the problem and where it originated.
- Attendance to meetings is a problem.
- Lack of transportation.
- Times and dates for availability of health services should be distributed.
- Denial.
- Insensitivity/indifference.
- Funding.
- Bureaucracy.
- Existing industries.
- Community development processes are not including local residents.
- Dissemination of information.
- Burning debris ruins the air quality.
- Crowding is an issue.
- There exists a great different between revitalized and non-revitalized areas.
- Technology gaps.
- Lack of communication that reaches *all* citizens.

- Changes in zoning and increased demands of the city government are causing people to lose their homes.
- Training and job dedication are needed.
- The incinerator needs a new waste disposal method.

What could State agencies do to improve the health of these communities?

- State conditions are necessary around facilities.
- Educate people on the environmental conditions and continue to update them on changes.
- Let the community know what is available to them such as grants, etc.
- State agencies get to some issues too late and can only address issues that arise at the time.
- Grants to non-profits and communities should be made available.
- Listen to communities.
- State should be more proactive with state/regional/local cooperation.
- Community task force emergency alert.
- Community contaminated site cleanup.
- Affordable health care.
- Improve regulation of industry.
- Encourage activity friendly neighborhoods.
- At-home and in-home health care.
- Transportation for medical treatment for high-needs patients.
- Address diversity in the communities, such as college vs. retirement communities.
- Outreach tailored to the specific community using a community liaison.
- Have a variety of times/dates for health screenings.
- Bridge the gaps between local and state agencies.
- Fix the inconsistencies between local and state regulations.
- Engage and involve with communities.
- Enforcement of accountability to the citizens and the community.
- Tear down the incinerator.
- Get rid of political influence.
- Health screenings for preventative health.
- Legislative protection for people/agencies willing to help.
- Educate the public on government roles.
- Increase collaboration between the public and private sectors.
- Education.
- Stakeholder inclusion/participation.
- Alternative forms of communication.
- Meeting times and locations should be more widely available.
- Increased education.
- Visit the communities.
- Better agency coordination.
- Conflicts between state and county entities.
- Contradictory regulation.
- There is a lack of consistency and maintenance of facilities.
- More outreach is needed.

Listening Session Topic #4: Brownfields and Grayfields

Are brownfields and/or grayfields a problem in your neighborhood or community?

- Concern about sites being abandoned and not cleaned up.
- Concern about what happens after cleanup.
- Concern about health problems in the future.
- Concern about abandoned gas stations. Who is taking care of them?
- Brownfields are harder to know about but are there.
- Concern about gentrification after redevelopment.
- Property gets devalued because of brownfields.
- Grayfields are very visible.
- Sites may be abandoned but don't know if there is contamination.
- James Island gas station strip mall-don't know if anything has been done to clean it up.
- Grayfields are very apparent.
- Concern about redevelopment being exclusive (example: Mixon).
- Concern about communities being leveraged in redevelopment project.
- Concern about the length of time it takes to redevelop.
- Rezoning can only help to a certain extent when residential areas are placed next to industrial areas.
- Concern about communities being destroyed through redevelopment.
- Concern about communities being rezoned next to industrial areas.
- Need to study the surrounding areas to brownfields such as the Macalloy site. There is concern about the areas located next to these sites.
- Gas stations are abandoned near the old navy base.
- Concern about public knowledge about brownfields.
- Problems with housing projects built over brownfields.
- People in the Rivers Avenue area have health problems.
- Shorter life spans because of contaminants.
- Brownfields are a problem.
- Concerns about the way DHEC handles brownfields redevelopment.
- Both brownfields and grayfields are a result of disinvestment and neglect.
- Concerns about existing industries.
- Contamination near Ashley Cooper Tank Farm abandoned.
- Environmental injustice has occurred.
- Rural areas, such as Johns Island, have contaminated water from abandoned sites.
- Concerns about certain industries in the area.
- How far do you go to remove contamination?
- Can brownfields be redeveloped or is it cost-prohibitive?
- Concern that redeveloped areas were not fully cleaned up.
- Problems with learning in schools because of a bad environment.
- Concerns about schools getting contaminated.
- Cancer/health problems are a result.
- Leaving potential areas behind that could be redeveloped.
- Polluters leaving contamination behind that communities are left to live with.
- Health hazards from poorly maintained housing are an issue. We don't know who to talk to.
- Concern about state agencies not committing to long term health issues.
- Concern about displaced people after cleanup and their health problems.
- No one is trying to clean up the area.

- Concern about property value next to abandoned property.
- Communities are unaware of contamination until property is redeveloped.
- Abandoned houses are a problem.
- Concerns about the incinerator causing health problems.
- Magnolia development: Wal-Mart moved out and left the mall vacant. This affects property values.

What steps are being taken locally to address brownfields and grayfields in your community?

- EPA is doing air monitoring around the incinerator. We feel good about them doing monitoring. There is a fear of pollution from ash and people should wash their cars daily.
- Nothing is being done because the people have limited resources.
- Macalloy/other brownfields cleanups are ongoing but not going to fully benefit the community.
- Demolishing of abandoned houses in North Charleston.
- Not aware of any steps being taken to address brownfields/grayfields.
- Neighborhood associations are fostering community involvement.
- There is more awareness in the area and the community is noticing this.
- Cleanup of the Aquarium site.
- Developers use brownfields money that ends up becoming gentrification.
- At Magnolia/Noisette the private developers are trying to clean up.
- Redevelopment is in the works and site cleanup.
- More education and outreach to communities through churches and local grassroots organizations.
- There is now more collaboration in the community.

What are the barriers that limit the effectiveness of these efforts?

- Development is in competition with farmland.
- Lack of representation with government officials.
- Communication with EJ communities could be a barrier.
- Disparity between homeowners and renters. How to get centers more involved in the issue.
- Area and extent of cleanup would have to be widespread.
- Lack of opportunities to get involved.
- Lack of health care for long term impacts on children, especially those who have been exposed to contaminants.
- Biased decisions are being made.
- Some communities lack technical expertise.
- Oversight of funds that are given for cleanup.
- Resources are a barrier.
- Block grants are limited in number.
- Too much time to wait for grant funds.
- EJ communities are left out of redevelopment.
- Cultural barriers are a problem for cleanup.
- Insensitivity and lack of education are barriers to cleanup efforts.
- Communities become separated by development.
- Concern about the lack of community participation.
- Out of town consultants and no local presence.
- Findings are not accessible to people outside the committee.
- Communities are not well educated. Decisions are made for them without their input.
- Lack of education about what's going on.
- Zoning issues.

- Abandoned properties cause depreciation in the surrounding properties.
- Housing/buildings have been abandoned.
- A lot of people leave buildings and move away.
- Trash and illegal activity around abandoned buildings.

What additional steps or resources are needed to effectively address brownfields and grayfields?

- State agencies can do more and talk to the public.
- Plain language is necessary in reports of findings that communities can understand.
- Grassroots efforts to address the issues.
- Need more appropriate avenues for dissemination of information such as radio and newspaper.
- State agencies should come out to the community and talk with the people for full community involvement.
- The community should know who the outreach coordinator is that they can contact locally every time for information.
- More contact between the community and the local DHEC offices.
- Need more organized community groups to work with.
- Need "community conditions" for revitalization-get their input.
- Stricter codes needed to address brownfields/grayfields.
- Talking to EPA about brownfields.
- Grant applications are complicated and assistance is needed.
- Free or low cost technical assistance is needed for grant applications.
- Offer more incentives for revitalization.
- More funding is needed to address the issues.
- Resources are needed to clean up these areas.
- Revitalization money should go toward job creation.
- Abandoned buildings should be reported to the mayor and city council.
- Report abandoned buildings to the police.
- Educate the public about their rights.
- Apply codes/ordinances across the board.
- Communication with the community is needed.
- More enforcement of current ordinances.
- Redevelopment needs to benefit the community.
- Be respectful of how people feel about their property's appearance, etc.
- Communities need to be more aware and demand more information about past activities.
- People need to see the potential for redevelopment.
- Communities, through neighborhood associations, can address their specific issues.
- Provide communities with resources and people with expertise to address issues facing their communities.
- Provide communities with access to information, resources, etc.
- Need to use user-friendly language. EJ communities often don't understand the terminology.
- Ways of coming to a green lifestyle need to be explored.
- Comprehensive plan for redevelopment. (Noisette is only a small area.)
- Clear rezoning policy is needed before redevelopment.
- Community and city need to come together to address abandoned housing issues.
- A new strategy is needed for redeveloped property (gentrification).
- Cleanup must take place for redevelopment.
- Hire local, talented engineers and consultants to address cleanup.
- Need more local consultants to help address (on committees) how to clean up. Less out-of-town consultation.
- Smaller businesses need to know about the sites they leave behind.

- Local government needs a mechanism to deal with property owners.
- Low-interest loans should be available to owners of abandoned buildings.

Listening Session Topic #5: Revitalized South Carolina Communities – Defining Success

What are the things that distressed neighborhoods and areas need most to become revitalized?

- Empowerment.
- Education.
- The basics: clean air, water, etc.
- Money/funding.
- Clean water, sanitation: the basics.
- Better air quality internally and externally.
- Safety, because a safe community promotes togetherness.
- Clean recreational areas, parks, etc.
- Good schools.
- To reevaluate law enforcement funding. Priorities should follow needs.
- Money.
- Teamwork.
- Patience.
- A plan.
- Input from all community parts working together, not just with the government.
- Revitalization should be started internally in the community, not externally.
- Revitalization should be for improvement on the quality of life.
- Make grant applications simpler to fill out.
- Less bureaucracy.
- The community needs strong leaders to see plans to fruition.
- More outreach/education of what's available to the community.
- Make information more accessible.
- Clarification/simplification of information.
- Money.
- More jobs.
- Economic opportunity is needed for revitalization.
- Social awareness.
- Need for the community itself to develop the community, not newcomers/outside.
- Sense of ownership of community, to be part of the development.
- Education.
- More community development, more playgrounds, parks, more things to do together.
- Provide activities for children.
- More green space.
- Safe public places in the community for people to gather.
- All dilapidated houses to be gone.
- Housing and economics.
- More transitional housing, creating less chance of people living on the streets.
- Clean streets.
- To get rid of abandoned houses.
- Affordable housing (really affordable).
- Transportation.

- Enforce laws.
- Enforcing laws in community where it is needed.
- Law enforcement.
- People showing pride in the neighborhood.
- Community pride is needed.
- Educate cops and encourage them to get out in the community to really understand the culture and diminish the stigma.
- Health insurance for everyone.
- Not enough health care coverage.

How can the General Assembly best support revitalization of distressed areas?

- Send some more money.
- General assembly should enforce regulations.
- General assembly should really come into the community.
- General assembly should really listen to the community residents, not just to lobbyists.
- The system should promote equality.
- Give people money without so much paperwork and process. Easing the burden of paperwork would make it easier to get funding.
- Make funding more accessible.
- Promote and support people within the community to revitalize.
- Provide incentives to organizations to apply for block grants.
- Focus on business development as well as community stakeholders.
- Empower younger generations to avoid gentrification.
- Provide relief from property taxes, especially for younger generations taking over their parent's homes. The younger generation cannot afford the taxes.
- Development of land trust.
- Encourage people without just throwing money at them.
- Provide incentives for the private sector to invest in the community.
- Provide money.
- Need a revitalization plan that's implementable. We need the proper tax base, grant funding, etc. for the community.
- A clear, thought-out plan to solve problems.
- Planning and a vision.
- Think outside the box to get results.
- The general assembly needs to know what the community really wants.
- Use tax dollars in the community.
- Concentrate tax benefits in abandoned areas.
- The community needs to benefit from their tax dollars.
- Meaningful tax incentives.
- Bring in more funds for expansion of programs.
- Money designated for community revitalization needs to get down to the community.
- Town hall meetings where residents can easily get to.
- People in the community should get access to block grants.
- Legitimate empowerment of the people in the community.
- Let the people in the community define what they want.
- Get the community involved.
- General assembly needs to get people involved.

- Need to engage the people.
- People in community need to organize and talk to the legislators.
- Involve the community in the planning process.
- Don't follow business as usual, but develop a partnership with the community.
- People need to hold legislators accountable.
- Training programs for block grants.
- How can the general assembly reduce the price of homes?
- Teach people in the community how to be entrepreneurs.
- Invest in new ways to do things, i.e. clean coal technology.
- Money for social programs.
- Technical assistance (people with the appropriate skill sets).
- Get young people off the streets and in schools. Remove high-power transmission lines as they are linked to cancer.
- Mass transit system.
- Emphasize transportation corridors in how communities interact.
- Internal rehabilitation of houses, eliminating environmental concerns.
- Equal education opportunities for children.

What would you like to see the SC EJ Advisory Committee submit into their report back to the General Assembly/Governor?

- Representatives need to come into the community to identify needs.
- Give more authority to local government.
- Governor/representatives need to see what is happening in the communities.
- We need concerned representatives who are responsible and accountable to the constituents.
- General assembly needs to act on recommendations so that measurements can be made.
- Representatives should serve as a liaison for the community and businesses.
- Government should not be for corporations, but for the individuals in the community.
- Guarantee equality for all people.
- Entrepreneurship training and business training should be made available.
- Vocational training for local jobs near the community should be available.
- Job training in green jobs.
- Start training early for jobs.
- Provide incentives.
- Make sure things that are talked about actually get done.
- Progress report should include a schedule and recommendations.
- Tax credits/incentives for restoring abandoned houses.
- Make requirements for a clear-cut route to facilities.
- Mandate funding.
- Look at who needs the services most.
- Put resources where they are needed most.
- Training for children in environmental responsibility.

What are the one or two most important things that State agencies can do to best support distressed neighborhoods?

- Take the government to the people to hear the community needs.
- Provide funding and expertise to fix issues.
- Don't always side with economic/political influences.

- State agencies should be autonomous.
- Create oversight for state agencies that is independent from the state.
- Have community advisory boards for agencies that are not politically influenced.
- Really listen to people in the communities.
- Politicians should come into the communities.
- Quality schools.
- Promote relationships and partnerships.
- Encourage collaboration.
- Educate communities on their options and what's available.
- State needs to let people know what the problems and deficiencies are.
- Look at programs for effectiveness and compare to other states.
- Collaboration between the government and people in the community.
- Change their mind about the bail out.
- Social services should create programs and training.
- People who receive services should work at state agencies.
- Accountability: make sure that money goes where it was requested.
- State agencies need to do their jobs.
- Don't hide behind stagnant policies and procedures.
- More strict regulations on air, water and soil.
- Too much bureaucracy in state agencies.
- Take advantage of Brownfields/Superfund.
- More flexibility in programs with regards to income and healthcare.

Ten years from now, what things would you like to see in distressed neighborhoods and communities that would indicate to you that revitalization efforts in these areas were successful?

- Safe neighborhoods that are clean.
- Neighborhood pride.
- Jobs in the community.
- A decrease in asthma, obesity and diabetes.
- More green space.
- Cleaner technology.
- Keeping local money in the community: making and spending it there.
- Clean and safe green spaces, air and water.
- Lower dropout rates and lower crime rates.
- More decent stores to keep money flowing.
- Shared access to environmental/natural resources.
- Shared risks make it easier to handle issues.
- Jobs in the community.
- More trees.
- Fewer potholes, boarded up buildings and less trash.
- More viable stores.
- Local businesses wanting to develop in the neighborhood.
- Schools that provide equal education opportunities for all students.
- Houses that are occupied.
- Investments in the community.

Charleston Environmental Justice Listening Session
Tuesday, January 13, 2009
6:00 p.m.

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions (6:00 p.m.) Nancy Whittle
2. Opening Remarks (6:05) Harold Mitchell
3. Process of World Café (6:10 p.m.) Nancy Whittle
4. Defining Environmental Justice (6:15 – 6:30 p.m.) Cynthia Peurifoy

Rotate every 15 minutes/5 topics
6:30 – 6:45 – 5 minutes to rotate tables
6:50 – 7:05 p.m.
7:10 – 7:25 p.m.
7:30 – 7:45 p.m.
7:50 – 8:00 p.m.
5. Recap of Results on World Café Wall (8:00 – 8:15) Nancy Whittle
6. Closing Remarks Nancy Whittle

Topic Questions for the Charleston Environmental Justice Advisory Committee

1st Question to be asked as a whole:

What does environmental justice mean to you?

World Café Questions:

- Economic Development and Revitalization** - (Harry Crissy/student, Sherryl Good/student)
 - What are some of the major problems facing distressed neighborhoods in your area?
 - What are some of the steps being taken locally to address them?
 - If your community is being revitalized, what are some of the problems associated with the revitalization?
 - How have you dealt with these problems?
 - What additional steps and resources are needed to revitalize these distressed areas?
- Environmental Justice and Revitalization** - (David Hughes/student, Lamar Tisdale/student)
 - How do you think environmental justice issues affect a community?
 - What could be done to improve consideration of environmental justice issues in community revitalization efforts?
 - What could State agencies do to support this?
- Community Health and Revitalization** - (Fran Marshall/ Hoover, Robbie Brown/Richelle Tolton)
 - How would you describe the health overall of residents in your community?
 - What steps are being taken locally to improve community health in your area?
 - What are the barriers that limit the effectiveness of these efforts?
 - What could State agencies do to improve the health of these communities?
- Brownfields and Grayfields** - (Donna Moye/Chris Lock, Christine Sanford-Coker/Anna Eskridge)
Define them. Brownfields are typically abandoned properties that could have environmental contamination. Grayfields are typically old, abandoned strip malls.)
 - Are brownfields and/or grayfields a problem in your neighborhood or community?
 - What steps are being taken locally to address brownfield and grayfields in your community?
 - What are the barriers that limit the effectiveness of these efforts?
 - What additional steps or resources are needed to effectively address brownfields and grayfields?
- Revitalized South Carolina Communities: Defining Success** -(Cynthia Peurifoy/Lawra Boyce, Donna Rowe/Stephanie White)
 - What are the things that distressed neighborhoods and areas need most to become revitalized?
 - How can the General Assembly best support revitalization of distressed areas?
 - What would you like to see the SC EJ Advisory Committee submit in their report to the General Assembly/Governor?
 - What are the one or two most important things that State agencies can do to best support distressed neighborhoods?
 - Ten years from now, what would you like to see in distressed neighborhoods and communities that would indicate to you that revitalization efforts in these areas were successful?



**Aiken Listening Session
May 4, 2009 Meeting Summary**

Project Background

In 2007, the South Carolina Legislature passed legislation that created the South Carolina Environmental Justice Advisory Committee. Environmental justice, as defined in Act 171, is “the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.” Environmental justice communities commonly include historically under-represented minority and low-income neighborhoods and areas burdened with multiple environmental challenges, including brownfields, Superfund sites, or waste dumps.

The Advisory Committee consists of 13 state agencies and three academic institutions and is tasked with studying and considering state agencies’ responses to environmental justice issues as they relate to economic development and revitalization efforts. The Advisory Committee decided to host a series of community listening sessions across the state in 2009. The purpose of the sessions is to receive input from stakeholders on topics as it relates to environmental justice issues. The listening sessions will also ensure that the Advisory Committee has information to incorporate as it relates to those directly impacted in the community. The Advisory Committee must complete its work and report findings and recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor by January 2010.



Figure 1. Aiken Listening Session. May 4, 2009.

Aiken Listening Session Overview

The Aiken Listening Session was held on May 4, 2009 in the Conference Room of the Aiken Electric Cooperative Office, located at 2790 Wagener Road in Aiken, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Over 65 participants attended, providing over 800 comments. Stakeholders invited to attend included grass-root citizens, neighborhood association presidents, local businesses, local industry, local government, elected officials, and environmental groups. Meeting facilitators and recorders included staff from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 Office, Clemson University, and A&D Environmental. Food was kindly donated by A&D Environmental.

At the start of the listening session, Advisory Committee Chair Nancy Whittle (DHEC) welcomed participants and led introductions. State Representative Harold Mitchell followed with a few brief remarks. Donna Rowe (DHEC) next provided an overview of the World Café conversational process that would guide the listening session discussions. Cynthia Peurifoy (EPA Region 4) then led an introductory discussion with participants on the meaning of environmental justice. Afterward, participants broke into small, facilitated groups to discuss the session’s five major topics.

- Economic Development and Revitalization
- Environmental Justice and Revitalization
- Community Health and Revitalization
- Brownfields and Grayfields
- Revitalized South Carolina Communities – Defining Success

The small groups discussed one topic for 15 minutes; participants then rotated to other tables to discuss the other topics. After all small-group rotations were completed, Advisory Committee Chair Nancy Whittle reconvened participants for a final discussion to consider session outcomes, and thank attendees for their participation.

Meeting Summary Overview

This meeting summary presents all participant comments gathered during the Aiken Listening Session. Comments from the introductory environmental justice discussion are presented first, followed by the small-group discussion comments. During the small-group discussions, recorders wrote participants' comments on half-sheets of paper corresponding to each of the five listening session topics. Organizers then attached the comments to plastic sheets on walls and boards located in the conference room. Organizers grouped comments by listening session topic and the type of response provided. Simultaneously, organizers reviewed the comments to identify major themes and recommendations mentioned for each topic. These themes and recommendations were then briefly discussed during the final portion of the listening session. Results of this discussion are presented in the final section of the report.

The report's appendices provide the listening session agenda (Appendix A) and the topic questions (Appendix B).

Project Next Steps

Following completion of all of the listening sessions, participants' comments will be compiled and analyzed to identify regional and state-wide community concerns, priorities, and recommendations. The Advisory Committee will review and incorporate this information as part of its final report to the South Carolina Legislature and the Governor by January 2010.

EPA is assisting the work of the Advisory Committee by providing contractor support through E² Inc.



Figure 2. Aiken Listening Session. May 4, 2009.

Listening Session Comments

Introductory Discussion: The Meaning of Environmental Justice

What does environmental justice mean to you?

- An appropriate assessment of impacts before decisions.
- Protecting and maintaining environmental law as a means to prevent encroachment of environmental hazards against persons and private individuals, of companies, private organizations, and habitat on an ongoing basis.
- Fair treatment that deals with environmental cleanness and the restoration of land. That which legitimately oversees and affords compensations where laws have been disregarded.
- Fair treatment and protection of all citizens related to land use, health, safety, and the environment.
- A process to ensure that all communities are treated in a fair and economically sustainable manner.
- The balance of law and fair treatment of citizens for the protection of conservation, restoration, health, and safety.
- Environmental regulations do not disproportionately affect those with less ability to pay while maintaining equity in all economic ventures.
- People and the environment get a fair voice with laws that include *their* input.
- Fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people with respect to environment and quality of life.
- The ability to ensure equity among communities as a means of addressing safety/environmental/public health.
- The sustainable restoration, preservation, and protection of natural assets for all generations.
- The revitalization of community, health, education, jobs, and clean environment for all.



Figure 3. Aiken Listening Session. May 4, 2009.

Listening Session Topic #1: Economic Development and Revitalization

What are some of the major problems facing distressed neighborhoods in your area?

- Poverty and economics.
- Lack of jobs.
- Lack of resources.
- Disparity between rich and poor.
- Lack of education (community's lack).
- Lack of skills.
- Overgrowth of trees, etc. The city won't cut them.
- Awareness of what is available – addressing the problems.
- Abandoned buildings.
- Need more lighting.
- No development – no growth.
- Street has potholes.
- More for youth.
- Lack of health care in the community.
- Vacancies of houses – abandoned homes.
- Processes to accomplish goals – too much bureaucracy.

- Loss of jobs.
- Good industries to come in.
- Get neighborhoods cleaned up.
- Infrastructure.
- Health.
- Loss of continuity of neighborhood.
- Loss of communication between neighbors.
- Rural areas have lack of involvement – don't have amenities and businesses don't want to locate there, it isn't attractive to them.
- Lack of access to health care (no transportation is a problem).
- Drugs.
- Junk/trash, apartments – putting poor folks in.
- More jobs.
- Education standards too low.
- Infrastructure – good condition (roads, etc.).
- Parent involvement with discipline and kids walking the streets.
- Vacant textile mills.
- City of Graniteville not incorporated – has a hindrance.
- No empathy from the government – no compassion.
- Graniteville:
 - Abandoned homes.
 - No community standards about what is acceptable.
 - No regulation because of the municipality.
 - Abandoned textile industry.
 - No communication with community about what is being done to fix the problem.
 - No government is a problem.
 - Aiken County already has issues it is dealing with and doesn't necessarily trickle down to environmental justice communities.
 - Perception of developer is poor.
 - Looks like the rich getting richer.
 - New homes too big and unaffordable.
- Lack of proper assessment prior to development to look at the true impacts for all people in the community – must understand the risk involved.
- Must raise educational level in order to drive economic development.
- Transportation in rural areas – infrastructure.
- Jobs and manufacturing.
- Lack of unity between agencies to meet needs.
- Crime.
- Helping young men with families get jobs.
- Exclusion more than inclusion – more public communication.
- Infrastructure – aging.
- No funding operations to repair.
- Money that is found usually is not enough.
- People want to work – provide them with training opportunities!
- More street lights.
- Rural communities are overlooked in planning process, no planning department.
- Brunt of negative development (rural).
- Lack of forum for input.

- Streets.
- Lack of positive recreational activities/outlets for children.
- Drugs and negative leaders for children.
- Abandoned and dilapidated housing.
- Lack of job opportunities.
- Workforce development:
 - Good paying jobs.
 - Training – how to advance and how to apply.
- Empty business.
- Businesses don't want to move toward distressed areas.
- Overcrowded streets with bad guys.
- Empty homes that should be torn down.
- Poor drainage – lack of planning.
- Evaluating people going into apartments.
- Need programs in place for parents and children to reinforce high self-esteem.
- Lack of education (guidance for children).
- Need for parenting classes to learn how to positively raise children.
- Need additional tutoring opportunities.

What are some of the steps being taken locally to address them?

- Have opportunities for children – provide recreational and educational guidance in a positive environment.
- This tonight.
- No known steps taken to address problems discussed.
- Nothing is being done.
- Water and sewer.
- Elect same people, get some policies, have same results.
- Give community tools that can be used.
- Get in neighborhoods to build relationships.
- Can't just throw money at them – foundation not built this way.
- No steps being taken to fix problems.
- People are talking.
- People are redeveloping the Graniteville plant.
- Workshops on how the community can have access to health care (these are only available under grants).
- Revitalization efforts undertaken – some through grant money.
- This world café process will result in a report given to the governor by low-level employees and we may hear a two-sentence response.
- Churches/non-profits partnering to improve conditions, renovate homes with absentee landlords (Crossland Park).
- Minimal transportation for aging folks.
- Some actions are being taken for infrastructure.
- Redevelopment is being done but not equally.
- Focusing on mentoring from leadership positions (from within – non within. What we can do to attract?). This is a City of Aiken initiative.
- Faith-based initiatives helpful for mentoring opportunities.
- Need to address children who are bright but are not finishing school.
- Lack of programs to mentor young men (age 13-19), especially during the summer.
- Need more positive role models.
- Reconstruction/redevelopment.

- Redevelopment of roads sooner.
- Census bureau.
- Boys and Girls Club.
- Fishing – police department and public safety.
- Provide hands-on job training.
- Partner with technical schools, government, and industry.
- Partnerships so important.

If your community is being revitalized, what are some of the problems associated with the revitalization?

- Older and middle-aged people need more access to retraining and rehabilitation resources.
- Government has given too much sometimes – need to teach about working hard.
- New administration initiatives for youth are good – positive.
- Displacement – priced out. Large developers make the decisions.
- Lack of infrastructure – can't keep up.
- Only revitalize in certain areas.
- No tax base. Money is the problem to fund projects.
- Receiving funding for redevelopment.
- Impossible to reach standards for new industry.
- Lack of communication – need transparency so everyone can be on the same team.
- Community buy-in.
- Disparity in distribution of recreational resources.
- Involvement with neighborhood associations: city/neighborhood partnerships.
- Community commitment.
- Communities should be aware of revitalization – changing water lines, etc. Let citizens know.
- Who determines what needs to be revitalized?
- How are rural areas targeted versus city areas?
- Pride and ownership of revitalization efforts can be gained when the community is included and encouraged to be involved.
- Teachers, faculty, administrators are being let go – our children are suffering.
- Keep out of jail – give them a job!
- Community/neighborhood associations are good, but slow.
- Neighborhood disparity by police.
- Communities have to be involved.
- Police have been let go.
- We need to have a government who is pushing initiatives.
- Have government become actively involved.
- Bring attention to issues.
- Get behind and support higher government.
- Laws sometimes slow down – uniform regulations are needed.
- Lack of funding.
- Should remove abandoned homes and find a better use of resources.
- Neighborhood summer youth programs are useful.
- Expansion of recreational opportunities by the city. Example: "Hook a Kid on Golf" – provide some scholarships.
- Lack of community organization, even in city government.
- Listen to community about what they need and want in their neighborhoods.



Figure 4. Aiken Listening Session. May 4, 2009.

- No community involvement or collaboration. Only telling the community what can be done.
- Have training for incarcerated individuals to be viable when released into communities.
- Town and city governments need more government resources to reach their communities.

How have you dealt with these problems?

- Churches raise awareness.
- More town meetings.
- Listening sessions.
- Getting designated on historical registry.
- Coming here to address transparency.
- When areas are revitalized people aren't displaced.
- Local media – make it public.
- Plant greenery that is appropriate for community and maintain it.
- Get community's involvement/ideas beforehand.
- Rock roads – more progress and follow through with work to be done – notify community of what is being done.
- Dispensing information to all communities on available resources.
- More education is needed on how to improve communities.
- Some don't want revitalization and many don't like change.
- Recruit strong leaders to foster and encourage involvement.
- Meet regularly with and pass issues onto city council.
- Contribute to charities, churches.
- Inform people of services available.
- Personal involvement.
- Direct response needed from DHEC on local issues (specifically in Aiken).
- Church sponsored events to address issues. Get pastors engaged.
- Graniteville:
 - The community is there but the government isn't.
 - Lack of figurehead effectively prevents progress and revitalization.
 - Crossland Park works for Graniteville because of lack of infrastructure (municipality).
 - Not enough youth programs/mentoring. We need to create incentives for this.
 - Lack of facilities.
- Challenge to maintain consistency in delivering resources.
- How to keep interest up?
- Slows the process.
- Abandoned houses – we need to show courtesy by removing.
- Meetings being held in Aiken are sometimes time-consuming.
- Economic empowerment and financial liberty.
- As services provided also provide support.
- Clean every area that has been contaminated.
- Check the air for contaminants.
- Build up the area – beautification.

What additional steps and resources are needed to revitalize these distressed areas?

- Recognize that all communities need help.
- City of New Ellenton needs to expand its capacity. Needs more government assistance.
- Expansion of water/sewer services.

- Low-income substandard homes need revitalization.
- More financial support needed.
- Expose citizens to grants and opportunities available where no government exists. Show them how to be successful in these efforts.
- Fully fund educational system. Must start here.
- Jobs.
- Money.
- Enforce regulations in place.
- Latch education with skill set.
- Technical training.
- Transit – medical mobiles, etc.
- Follow-up back to the community and implementation – keep them up to date.
- Legislators get involved to let communities know what is available and make them aware.
- One-stop shop.
- Articulate in a way that is understandable to the person you are talking to.
- Rural communities get incorporated.
- Community leaders.
- Panel of local citizens to address our problems by holding public meetings.
- Better spending and taking steps to follow through wisely.
- The will and resources to get it done and make it work.

Listening Session Topic #2: Environmental Justice and Revitalization

How do you think environmental justice issues affect a community?

- Fairness should always affect everybody – “My water matters the same way as the mayor’s water.”
- Depending on upkeep of neighborhood to get attention.
- If housing is not kept up then there is an economic impact – “beautification.”
- Rural areas – unincorporated areas do not get the attention/get neglected.
- If regulations are not enforced then people are not treated fairly.
- I don’t know.
- If we had environmental justice then we wouldn’t have a problem.
- We feel that a lot of things have happened because it was already poor and it was compounded by train wreck - ending of jobs, lack of health care, etc.
- Quality of life without jobs, healthcare, etc.
- Because there is no representation, then there is no power.
- Fairness/good old boy system.
- No voice; not...
- Need more publication to help with communication.
- Communication is lacking. Communities need to be educated.
- Greater awareness and get the issue known.
- Need to engage communities and make issues known.
- Economic decline equates to neighborhood becoming fractured.
- A community can be devastated by environmental issues (such as Graniteville).
- Environmental justice is politically motivated.
- Environmental issues will either kill a community or help it.

- There are communities where it has been done right.
 - Encouraging.
 - Long-term industry.
 - Fund to provide closing of chemical/nuclear site.
 - Economic development.
 - Seeing a lot of plants closing though.
 - Spoke with local church; involvement.
- Accountable to communities/neighborhoods.
 - Open dialog.
- Meaningful involvement of community.
- Low income residents cannot afford more regulations.
- Impacts everything: no one wants to live there, economic development, safety, health care, and schools.
- More inspection during asbestos removal.
- Toxins from old homes (especially in the care of fire, tear downs, lot clean ups).
- The community is expecting to see results – end to the mess – restored.
- Road map to address existing problems.
- Expect regulations to treat community fairly (not who knows who).
- Communities expect to have environmental justice.
- It encroaches on health and rights in communities.
- Security of health and welfare of community. Items coming in from foreign country (China).
- Community has negative effect on aspiration.
- Long-term effect on health – well-being of community.
- Effect of perception the community has (continuous maligned example: Graniteville).
- Impact of quality of life.
- Preserve nature and keep what we have.
- DHEC is not doing a proper assessment.
- Follow-up after assessment (make sure laws are not broken).
- Who's the beneficiary – developers?
- Who's assessing properly? Do assessment of community before knowing environmental justice.
- Bring information back to the community.
- Different communities are affected in different ways.
- Affects community in an economic way. Fewer jobs, higher crime, health problems.
- Affects your growth, job rate. No new people moving in.
- Environmental justice affects property value (increase or decrease).
- Location/placement of sites such as landfills, poor industries, environmental hazards, are within communities of poor, color, etc.
- Adequate police protection and representation at city hall. Adequate response. Political representation. Voter education. Mouth-to-mouth info.
- When businesses move out then oils and chemicals are left behind.
- If a business goes out of business in a rural area then it negatively impacts the community.
- Community needs a "say so" as to the type of business that comes into the area.
- Property values are affected by businesses in the community.
- Cause and effect of regulations misappropriating cost to communities.
- Health disparities and impact on the poor and underserved.
- Air pollution – no required auto emissions.
- Could do more in terms of recycling – more within the county.



Figure 5. Aiken Listening Session. May 4, 2009.

- Accepting industry and jobs that are detrimental to health.
- Change will occur due to the downturn in the economy leading to increase in crime.
- If equitable environment exists, it gives you the right to have quality of life.
- Your neighbor can affect your property and quality of life.
- Quality of air affects the community.
- Disease tears down a community.
- With small children, bad areas make it harmful.
- If community has issues, it attracts more issues.
- Morality.
- Need right agency to enforce the law.
- Communities are not aware of what is happening in their neighborhood.
- Tree removal – replace with new trees.
- Keep historical landscape.
- Affects it in the way it is being used.
- Education, economic development, health, transportation, land usage (recreation, farming, hunting).
- The State has great diversity of resources from mountains, sand mills, and sea.
 - Environmental options.
 - Get the opportunity to enjoy.
 - Do not destroy yet still profit.
- Injustice – things that prevent you from having the infrastructure and things that improve and protect quality of life.
- Could affect community in a wide range of ways.
- Economic development.
- Health.
- Justice means keeping the law.

What could be done to improve consideration of environmental justice issues in community revitalization efforts?

- Survey/statistics of community to know what needs to be done.
- The process is too slow.
- Education of the community.
- Lengthy process working with government. This needs to be addressed in a timely matter.
- Education of community:
 - Do not know what environmental justice means.
 - Do not have time.
 - Do not realize the importance.
- Get young people involved in the issues.
- Transparency – the State is working with industry and the community does not know what is going on.
- We have to care about the entire community. Clean up everywhere.
- Making DHEC/EPA more accessible, especially to small communities.
- Understanding connection with EPA, DHEC, and environmental justice and how they can assist community with revitalization efforts.
- Promoting information about the actual negativity and constraints that govern the activity of EPA/DHEC, etc. This will allow community to know what to ask (i.e., can you close a landfill?).
- Trying to organize and improve communication.
- Have a way to have politics support environmental justice.
- Citizens set core values of what needs to be addressed – they know what is important to the community.
- Try to improve quality of life through police protection.
- Find a way to have communities more involved/knowledgeable.

- More contact with the community and citizens.
- More avenues for citizen input (community).
- More opportunity leads to more interest.
- People need more information. Post information more frequently in newspapers and do not wait six months.
- Balance economics and environmental issues.
- Providing info on revitalization efforts so others know what is being done.
- Value community organizers and advocates to give info to communities.
- Initial assessment.
- Common man on-board. Fair for everyone involved.
- Environmentally friendly companies.
- Churches are a great way to get the word out.
- Communities have local voices and politicians need to hear the local voices.
- Teach the value of people. All people have value.
- Employ those in the community that has been impacted; teach the green jobs. Domino effect – affects person, family, community.
- Make community aware before a certain business is allowed to come in.
- Make known what resources are available – use all media outlets.
- City ordinances can condemn certain properties.
- Think of future generations.
- Information needs to get back to the local community.
- Education is needed.
- Need an incentive to stop from doing harmful things.
- A lot of differences in resources to different communities.
- Develop infrastructure to consider environmental justice issues.
- Lack of awareness and expectation... needs to change.
- Need resources divided equally.
- More community awareness.
- When report is done, it needs to be accessible online, on grocery bags, in doctor's offices, etc.
- Improving and funding education (Act 388 just doesn't work).
- Need more accountability.
- The entity (General Assembly) needs to get out to see the community and understand it.

What could State agencies do to support this?

- Is there a *genuine* concern from the agency?
- Get State agencies to understand their role in revitalization.
- More funding designated with federal funds to match money.
- Look at how funding is done with the agencies.
- Funding going to heavily populated areas with political pull.
- Policy statement in all agencies to address environmental justice.
- The entity trying to help address environmental justice needs to keep an open dialogue/open door policy.
- Stop waiting to build a case, agencies need to take action.
- Other agencies (not DHEC) need more feedback.
- Need to have town hall meeting with State agencies and politicians.
- State representative and local government involved in the communities.
- State encouraged success on environmental issues (information at the front-end; not waiting for violations after).
Educate vs. enforcement.
- Make politicians more accountable.

- Community involvement because they know best – different from one another.
- Intentionally let communities know of activities/available resources.
- Get the youth involved.
- When someone calls in, do not put on hold. Pass to appropriate person. Make sure there is a follow-through.
- Workers that are servants.
- Could pass some laws. Example: tearing down houses.
- Need one-stop shop so people do not have to deal with so many State agencies.
- Hold State agencies accountable.
- Get things done as a community and do not depend on State agencies.
- Make State agencies provide meaningful involvement.
- Set up committees to involve the community.
- We need to prioritize and work together.
 - Mass transportation.
 - Communication.
 - Mobile laptop labs.
 - Mobile doctors.
 - Mobile General Assembly to see what is here.
- Make resources more readily available.
 - Fewer hoops to jump through.
 - Fewer forms (paper jockey)

Listening Session Topic #3: Community Health and Revitalization

How would you describe the health overall of residents in your community?

- Poor – more testing of soil in Graniteville – removal of soil.
- Upgrade water systems for better water.
- Upgrade sewer system for better sewage service.
- More air quality, more testing - still smell chlorine.
- Immediate – good, but don't need to go too far to find poor health – the Valley.
- Youth are bored and need things to do (i.e., recreation centers).
- High HIV occurrences. Not talking about incidents of HIV.
- Low-income neighborhoods suffer from more health problems.
- Education is key.
- Mixed – some have good care/others have poor care with no services or access.
- Good – in the City of Aiken area, but other areas having a tough time due to economics (i.e., Graniteville, Valley, etc.).
- Critically ill due to some environmental sources. Need more lead assessments. Health disparities in area.
- Lots of stress related to poor economy and financial issues.
- Ability to access health care.
- Doctors not taking new patients – indigent care.
- Structure and funding of health care lacking.
- Lack of posting polluted waters.
- Children eating poorly and need better nutrition.
- Being able to read labels and nutrition.
- Increase in diabetes, heart disease, arthritis, hearing, and sight issues.
- Overall health is good. Aging population.
- Kids do not have time to be active because of busy schedules.



Figure 6. Aiken Listening Session. May 4, 2009.

- Stress complicates health problems.
- Lack of exercise, not an active lifestyle.
- Lack of education and a southern diet.
- Lack of nutrition, medical care.
- Childhood negative impacts on education.
- Poor overall health in entire state.
- Fair – lots of unemployment, no health care/insurance.
- Fair – no insurance, poor economics – poor diet.
- Fair health – self induced issues.
- Fair, but could use some improvement in some areas such as health services.
- Good health in the area, but need advocates for some people who don't know what is available for their care, particularly for those without insurance and who have health concerns.
- High blood pressure, diabetes, poor diet, and not enough exercise.
- Loss of jobs equals loss of health care.
- An aging population.
- In general, health is relatively good due to access to health care, gyms.
- Awareness for health as far as working in industry, diet, and lack of exercise.
- Retirees and low-income individuals' health is average due to income levels.
- South side of Aiken's relative health is above average.
- North Augusta's health is pretty good.
- Fair – poor personal health habits, exercise, etc.
- Lower socioeconomic neighborhoods suffer from poorer health. They are not getting available health care; dental care is hard to get even in middle-income neighborhoods.
- SRS.
- Lack of mental health – weak link.
- Poor due to lack of access to facilities and poor transportation.
- Lots of areas with poor health.
- Fair – nutrition is a source of many health issues. Diet can affect diabetes, infant mortality and is tied to nutrition.
- Poor – lack of education about health leads to poor diet and lack of exercise. Can't afford proper diet either – based on a lack of financial ability.
- Poor – putting bread on the table instead of insurance and visiting the doctor.
- Fair to poor – Graniteville has many seniors and nutrition is poor. Education about overall health and holistic approach is not available. Too much fast food and poor diets.
- Fair to poor. Lots of sickness in Graniteville since the accident.
- Poor – lack of access to health care. Lots of elderly people. Graniteville accident injured people's health and loss of income caused loss of access to health care.
- Loneliness and not having a support system – neighborhood associations can help.
- Pretty good with the exception of an elderly care home on the street.
- Retirement area near health care facility. People need use of the facility.
- In some communities, health care is accessible, and in other communities, it is lacking.

What steps are being taken locally to improve community health in your area?

- Committees, meetings held to raise awareness. A lot more to get done.
- Mentoring and assessment programs.
- Unemployment and lack of training.
- Lack of rehabilitation for prisoners, drug addicts, etc.
- Do career assessments.

- Train individuals that fit their interests in the community.
- USC–Aiken has room where people can exercise.
- New Hope Community Improvement Association – retired dietician.
- Not aware of any local efforts.
- Same services offered at lower rates.
- Some faith-based communities teach about health at fairs once in a while.
- All hospitals should have a free clinic once a month.
- Hospital bills should be based on income.
- Legislation that would allow hospitals for reimbursement for indigent care.
- Clemson Extension Service is a commodity to the community.
- “Adopt-a-Stream” programs.
- DHEC needs to “Adopt-a-Stream.”
- Satellites of health care in every community.
- Organic food is expensive.
- Encourage breast feeding.
- Need for jobs that pay well to increase health and wellness.
- People that work are paid so little that they cannot afford health insurance or cannot qualify for Medicaid.
- Loss of health insurance and jobs. How to cope?
- Social sports programs, YMCA.
- Rural communities do not have parks and recreation centers due to budgets and money.
- Screenings at malls/churches, but limited.
- Health fair – good bit limited in duration.
- Health fair – testing of water keeps it safe.
- Education to inform the public about pollution prevention.
- Free health screenings from local churches and clinics.
- Rural areas don’t have the same monies as urban areas.
- Lack of transportation and EMT.
- Information is important.
- Awareness raised because of the train wreck (in Graniteville). Free clinic in Aiken and rural health clinic.
- Health care is shifting towards prevention.
- Health fair is a local step to improving community health.
- Moving away from the area is effective.
- Lack of transportation.
- Neighbors looking after neighbors.
- Federally funded clinics.
- Federal nutrition information.
- More information is needed.
- Senior programs such as “Meals on Wheels.”
- Health fairs.
- Unaware of any steps being taken to improve community health.

What are the barriers that limit the effectiveness of these efforts?

- Cost of care.
- Cost too high – economy.
- Poor transportation and no way to get care.
- Poor access – not enough transportation options.
- Lack of access to services.

- Lack of money is a barrier due to lack of ability to get insurance and health care of a personal nature – not just giving medicine and treating symptoms.
- Transportation is a barrier to better health.
- Law enforcement needs to be better in addressing issues.
- People are being hindered by the government system;
- Limited Medicaid at the expense of doing something to make them better suited.
- Applying for government assistance – red tape.
- Find incentives for young men to be better parents.
- Men need to be qualified for Medicaid.
- Dirty politics – not all of the money goes where it should go.
- Need to get some areas incorporated to qualify for grants and money. Money goes to big areas/cities like Aiken and not the rural areas or small towns.
- Lack of information is a barrier.
- Transportation, money, and awareness are all barriers.
- Need education and constant messages – costs too high.
- Not enough money available for better care. More clinics, etc. needed but so far not available.
- Clinics too crowded, understaffed. Elderly not getting proper attention. Hard for them to take care of themselves in the current system. Hard for them to advocate for themselves.
- Poor transportation to where health care is available, particularly in rural areas.
- Certain times of day or night, proper care is not available in Aiken.
- Huge need for affordable housing
- Types of food on sale are not the best foods.
- Medicaid has cut way back on dental, eye care, etc.
- Schools not providing good diets – not enough information about a healthy diet, etc.
- Eligibility requirements for Medicaid and Medicare.
- Outreach in rural or poorer communities.
- Utilize religious organizations to get information out.
- Cultural differences, i.e. Hispanics.
- Lack of trust with State agencies.
- Barrier – economics or lack of funding is a barrier.
- People are still affected by Graniteville accident and don't want to think about it or stay focused on it anymore, although it requires constant attention to have an impact.
- Cultural and language barriers.
- Community policemen on bikes.
- Stress.



Figure 7. Aiken Listening Session. May 4, 2009.

What could State agencies do to improve the health of these communities?

- Need local free health clinics, particularly in Graniteville where there are lots of sick people.
- Funding community associations.
- Have a State care facility in all local areas regardless of whether it is incorporated or not.

- State should provide information or resources available to help communities cope with problems like the train wreck (in Graniteville). Look at other communities with similar problems and identify how they solved their problems and the lessons they learned. Act as a liaison.
- Health care is not a priority for the government (State).
- Funding companies that can take slack from government agencies.
- Connect with educational facilities.
- Hard to get word out to certain groups of people – need to encourage agencies to do a better job of using all media.
- Loss of jobs, etc. means a loss of health insurance which means health care problems for more people.
- Make agencies more accountable – i.e., schools and food provided are not healthy and don't reinforce good eating habits. Kids get the wrong message.
- Agencies can collaborate more to solve many of these health issues.
- Provide better information on diet and health.
- Need governor or some prime mover to get out to the people/communities and encourage improvements.
- Difference in health care disparity as a result of Medicaid.
- Transparency on State government, local government, etc. so that communities can be informed.
- Health mobiles and free screenings.
- Many older minorities could not buy into Social Security.
- Reward those manufacturers who make smart diet foods available at reduced prices.
- Provide more information about what is available and what services are provided.
- Provide more weekend services or operating hours.
- Become more visible and involved in communities – come to more neighborhood meetings.
- Expand services – need more funding for services needed.
- Make wellness, etc. a policy statement in various agencies so they have an incentive to follow them.
- Improve Medicare and Medicaid.
- Cut through the red tape required for health care for some people. It is too difficult for some to figure out or deal with the process required to get their care.
- Affordable health care for those who can't afford the care they need. Lots of people are out of work and cost is a big issue.
- Free clinics.
- One-stop shopping of services.
- Outreach – better use of multiple forms of communication, not just paper or internet, etc. to reach people, particularly seniors.
- Outreach to communities and educational information for what is offered or available. Get out into the public to teach and communicate. Need transportation to get to health care.
- Education and/or building facilities locally for exercising and health/nutrition advice.
- Need a local health facility that is available to residents staffed with health professionals.
- Community-based health centers. Lots of people are not getting any health care now – reduced cost of prescriptions is needed.
- Attracting doctors to rural communities.

Listening Session Topic #4: Brownfields and Grayfields

Are brownfields and/or grayfields a problem in your neighborhood or community?

- Old Lowes and Kroger facility on university.
- Yes, old landfill northeast side of town.
- Yes, Graniteville Mills and Clearwater finishing.
- Yes.
- Yes, whole community... abandoned houses, vacant fields.
- Old detention owned by city (stormwater).
- Empty buildings – old Belk building.
- Yes, they are a problem (i.e., grayfields – Kroger in Aiken and many on 421).
- Yes – example: businesses been vacant for years; small diner, strip malls, furniture store, Food Lions and abandoned mobile homes in county.
- Ditches along Norfolk Southern need to be cleaned.
- Yes – example: Graniteville Mills, empty strip malls in Aiken – old Food Lion.
- Brownfield and Graniteville Mills – Enterprise in Augusta same as Graniteville.
- No, just abandoned homes.
- Many abandoned cleaners and gas stations in Aiken area.
- Yes.
- Yes.
- Yes.
- Yes.

What steps are being taken locally to address brownfields and grayfields in your community?

- There is some clean up on Southside – BMW wrecking – owner problem.
- City renovating Crosland Park Homes (encouraging home ownership).
- Trying to take down abandoned homes/trailers for revitalization – city ordinance – demo 200 ordinance (residential).
- Graniteville clean up slow because of funding. Also, town is not incorporated.
- City/property development revitalization being done.
- Graniteville not incorporated but has funding vehicle in place (Graniteville redevelopment).
- Looked at private sector to demolition site and redevelop (Wal-Mart, Walgreens, public private partnership).
- Local option sales tax to pay for capital improvements.
- Getting local developers involved.
- Going to the media to get issues addressed.
- Properties for sale, but not being purchased.
- Applied and received one grant, hoping to receive another.
- Dumping site at graveyard.
- Nothing being done currently.
- It is slow in addressing if at all.
- Nothing is being done to clean up sites.
- EPA grants have been applied for by Graniteville.
- Community voted “incorporation” down, but it was needed.
- Fire department is mowing grass at old mills. They use their own money.
- Graniteville company is being dismantled.
- Louisiana has been an advocate - making people aware of what is going on.

What are the barriers that limit the effectiveness of these efforts?

- Reporting not important enough to bring to someone's attention.
- People in area are not educated enough to know what is needed for community.
- We do not get enough support from local, state, or federal leaders.
- People with money get what they want politically.
- The leaders we elect are not educated to what is needed to enhance areas and improve quality of life.
- Lack of political voice.
- Political agenda.
- Lack of money, leadership, responsible party, incentives. Developers utilize unclear land instead.
- No money.
- No one is purchasing abandoned properties.
- Lack of money.
- Lack of community involvement; possible reasons – lack of hope, apathy, not knowing what to do.
- Lack of funding.
- Scope and funding of projects prevent progress.
- Not enough focus on the poor and those who need help.
- When money is earmarked for something specific, Graniteville money went to buying police cars.
- County Council – Graniteville not incorporated so all cleanup money goes through county.
- Strip malls have been for sale for a long time but there are no buyers.
- There is no incorporated town in Graniteville.
- People do not understand incorporation.
- Rain water not draining properly in community of Graniteville.
- Redevelopment happening, but it is not affordable housing for people in Graniteville.
- Schools are still contaminated.
- Need risk assessment and needs assessment to make sure new development is needed.
- Proper environmental assessment has not gone into the "big picture" – environmental and economic impacts.



Figure 8. Aiken Listening Session. May 4, 2009.

What additional steps or resources are needed to effectively address brownfields and grayfields?

- Request support from corporations to lobby for the community.
- Need increased congressional organizational support.
- Money.
- Strength comes in the numbers and involvement.
- State/local government needs to prioritize brownfields/grayfields sites.
- Need County Council members to restore hope that something will be done.
- New County Council members who will work for the people.
- State needs to inform communities – town hall meetings.
- Tax the owners of brownfields properties to get money.
- Communication with local churches and community organizations.
- Make some properties state-owned to preserve properties.
- Need Habitat for Humanity in reverse to get rid of abandoned properties.
- Need codes and code enforcement.
- Need specific city/county employees identified to take care of environmental services.
- We need remediation plans and resources.

- Funding.
- Need to be creative with fee generation (example: 18-wheeler trucks cannot park downtown but could park at abandoned facilities outside of town).
- Prevent brownfields/grayfields by requiring up-front community involvement with facilities.
- Need to inform the public about steps available to address brownfields/grayfields.
- Need to inform the public of appropriate contacts/resources.
- Need to know who to call at DHEC and/or EPA.
- People need to get with representative for a site visit.
- Need to make the responsible party clean up the sites.
- Education on specific problems (community specific).
- Need legislation to address abandoned cars and homes.
- Need help in successful grant writing (grant writing workshops).
- Take abandoned places and reuse them.
- Money.
- Need increased funding.
- Community lighting and natural gas.
- Accessibility– need to know how to access resources available.
- Need to network with other communities that have incorporated successfully.
- Need bonding to pay for people who abandon buildings to clean up or transition building for next owner.
- People need a neutral place to go to for help without being ostracized.
- Accountability.
- Programs – identifying where to go for help.
- Move past problem identification to problem solving.
- Volunteers.
- Need funding – county will not give money because it is not incorporated.
- Stop telling people are and go out to the people and empower community to advocate for themselves.
- Need one-stop shopping at state level – one community contact. Example: one phone number.

Listening Session Topic #5: Revitalized South Carolina Communities – Defining Success

What are the things that distressed neighborhoods and areas need most to become revitalized?

- Facilities (mills).
- Money.
- Responsible businesses (railroad's pollution of ditches).
- Technical assistance for local leaders.
- Make area attractive to businesses.
- Publicize services available and extend the hours they are open.
- Economic development.
- Community involvement.
- Low cost/free health clinic.
- State incentives.
- Educate the public of the needs.
- Educate the community.
- Education (more teachers and better schools).
- Infrastructure: water, sewer, drainage, soil.
- Mixed use.
- Complete cleanup.

- Money and jobs.
- Start manufacturing again.
- Do away with politics.
- Do something with empty mills.
- Jobs.
- Clean up area and buildings.
- Rebuild and upgrade.
- Educate the community.
- Distressed areas most need:
 - Funding/money.
 - Education on resources available and how to access them.
 - Improve areas - educate folks on what is going to happen in the community.
 - Need lights and sidewalks for safety.
 - Jobs.
 - Better housing - improve substandard housing
- Community involvement.
- Secure and safe communities with youth activities as well as cultural and social outlets.
- Police protection.
- Programs for youth or jobs to get them off the streets.
- Quality of life: jobs, environmental cleanup, education, good neighborhoods, and good healthcare – both mentally and physically.
- Distressed areas need:
 - Job training.
 - Money/funding.
 - Rehabilitation.
 - Education.
 - Input to decision-makers/access.
 - Addiction rehabilitation.
 - Revitalize persons and families.
 - Prime mover to get community involved and inspire women in the community. Example: Avondale and Graniteville involvement in the community.
- Education.
- Community involvement and participation.
- Get neighborhood input.
- Want to take responsibility for each other.
- Septic system.
- Jobs.
- Opportunity to have voice heard by government.
- Areas need most to be revitalized.
- Education to maintain revitalization.
- Access to jobs and health care.
- Feel safe in neighborhoods – police protection.
- Education on balancing incomes.
- Work well with developers for fairness: plan up front to assess impacts.
- Success based on results.
- Education: maintaining and going beyond.
- Balance of income: make it work.
- Developers – greed – fairness assessment.

- Clean up abandoned buildings.
- Police.
- Jobs.
- Lights and sidewalks.
- Improved infrastructure: roads, sewage, water, broadband.
- Resources – money.
- Restructure open areas for better use.
- Distressed areas need:
 - More awareness in the community.
 - Restaurants and facilities like the USCA convocation center.
 - Information.
 - Community needs to get involved.
 - Community programs and funding.

How can the General Assembly best support revitalization of distressed areas?

- Bring funding to distressed areas and make them a priority.
- Programs to develop community incentives for developers to revitalize them.
- Have community have a say in spending.
- Funding for commerce in the area and industry recruitment.
- Get involved in small areas.
- Prioritizing problem areas.
- Task force to review and get action in the highest priority area.
- Visit the distressed areas.
- Delegate money to specific areas.
- Set need-based prioritization.
- Allocate money to all areas in a fair share of federal funding for rural areas.
- Representatives need to push for funds.
- Suitable training money! Match the training to industry in the area.
- Support business in sponsored revitalization.
- Listen to what people say.
- Be responsible and honest with things.
- Get involved in the community.
- Decision-making to represent the area.
- Branch out into smaller communities.
- Create community programs.
- Transparency to local communities.
- Involve church and other organizations in the community.
- Community panels for input to the government.
- Money and resources.
- Capital – encourage the private sector to invest in areas needing assistance (not just Graniteville).
- Education should be properly funded.
- Need decent education to draw industry.
- Quality of jobs at the top of the list and quality education for all children.
- Safe and high-tech jobs.
- Visit the communities in distress.



Figure 9. Aiken Listening Session. May 4, 2009.

- Gain respect in the communities.
- Proper planning.
- Community meetings and input.
- Buy-in from the community during planning from the beginning.
- Proper assessment before planning begins.
- The General Assembly needs accountability.
- Balance for all the State, not just the constituents.
- Have accountability.
- Come into neighborhoods looking to help.
- Be aware of who is in the General Assembly.
- General Assembly needs to know the issues and provide money to support the issues.
- Funding.

What would you like to see the SC EJ Advisory Committee submit into their report back to the General Assembly/Governor?

- That there is compassion for veterans and that the report gets to the people that can act on the information.
- Ask Savannah River site to analyze Graniteville areas. They save wildlife, but Graniteville needs to save the people.
- Use the historical society.
- Show the needs of specific areas – clean up schools, sewage, etc.
- More houses and more money to Aiken and Graniteville.
- Improvement of infrastructure.
- Neighborhoods need a voice in how money is spent in their community via the State, county, and city government.
- Action plan: not just another study.
- Push elected officials to visit areas in person.
- Bring out the truth and make aware.
- Required feedback to community.
- Change; get rid of good old boys network.
- Ways for people to work together.
- Allow community to choose priorities.
- Feedback to the community.
- Set up community leaders.
- Make sure the legislature reviews it.
- Follow-up back to citizens.
- Consider the future generations.
- Timeline for results.
- Wise use of money.
- To see in the report:
 - Acknowledge infractions.
 - Acknowledge injustices.
 - Recommendations for actions to show progress.
 - A roadmap to a path forward.
- State agencies should:
 - Give communities a chance to voice their opinions.
 - Put work behind their words – don't stop at the reports but put reports into action.
 - Effective public participation – agencies need to know what it means.
 - Equal standards for citizens and agencies.

- Public participation is not just a box to be checked.
- Protect heritage.
- Preserve natural resources.
- Underserved health disparities (asthma).
- Path forward for agencies to correct injustices.
- Increase education and wages.
- A need to change laws.
- Decent housing is needed.
- Action.
- Have town hall follow up for more details.
- Push State representatives to visit the distressed areas: seeing is believing.
- To see in the report:
 - Funding education properly.
 - Revise funding (not based on LOST).
 - Lottery support primary education as well.
 - People affected need to know regulations – education on issues.
 - Municipalities need to educate.
 - Expose people to education.
 - Communities want change.
 - Focus on community answers for decisions made for us.
 - Elected officials need to be from similar backgrounds to understand the community.
 - Environmental justice problems are real – survey in each county to focus on consistency in programs funded.

What are the one or two most important things that State agencies can do to best support distressed neighborhoods?

- Find the money.
- Task force to set priorities.
- Have physical presence.
- Cut through the political red tape.
- Better utilization and more fair use of tax money.
- If the leaders saw problems, would they know where money should go?
- More presence in the community.
- Make training a requirement for people on some types of assistance.
- Connect colleges and universities with rural communities.
- Give the community knowledge of studies.
- Enforce laws fairly.
- Money.
- The laws need a presence in the community (increase in public safety).
- Give everyone a chance regardless of their history.
- Enforce existing regulations.
- Get involved in the community.
- Deal with homeless veterans.
- Personal contact.
- Make Internet available and affordable.
- Coordination of services.
- Jobs and job training!
- Improve emergency issues.

- Patrol the streets.
- Appropriate research including private schools.
- "One-stop shop."
- Communicate about what services are available.
- State agencies can:
 - Revisit regulations/start over where it isn't working.
 - Consider what individual areas need to fix individual problems.
 - Become aware of existing ongoing issues in the community.
 - Go out in the community (local, federal, and State).
 - Make elected officials accountable.
 - Politicians should go out into the communities.
 - Spend money wisely.
 - Check on issues before developments (building on landfills, cemeteries, bottomlands).
 - More presence in the community to educate about what the agency can do to help.

Ten years from now, what things would you like to see in distressed neighborhoods and communities that would indicate to you that revitalization efforts in these areas were successful?

- A physically attractive area.
- Clean community.
- Seeing results would mean that the report is a dream come true.
- Beautification – clean up and make the community attractive.
- Vibrant community.
- Remodel the abandoned houses and resell.
- Have some of our questions answered.
- Savannah River Pilot Program – train people for future jobs.
- Include faith-based, recreation and safety, health centers and give incentives for people to stay.
- Treat people with respect.
- Quality schools.
- Community centers with indoor facilities, community functions, playgrounds, and classes.
- Training – parenting and teen classes.
- Universal health plan to get health care as needed.
- Classes on long-term care.
- Appreciate the elderly.
- Success looks like Graniteville :
 - Loft apartments (renovate mills).
 - Community health center.
 - Graniteville residents can walk on the sidewalk, cut grass, and afford decent homes.
 - Lighting, programs for youths (recreation center).
 - Booming green industry.
- Sense of community.
- Better place for education and jobs. Clean and green.
- Community forums to spread news.
- More infrastructure.
- More up-front planning of infrastructure and development.
- Community involvement.
- Elected officials taking responsibility.
- Home ownership.

- Sustainable community.
- Create the environment and people will come.
- Population growth.
- Reuse old structures instead of leaving and building new ones.
- Safe and lighted streets.
- A place where children can play safely.
- Refurbished homes.
- Sustainability of natural resources that support jobs – parks, tourism, canoeing on rivers, for example.
- Growth and controlled development.
- Single-digit unemployment.
- Annual community report card.
- Community input on rating how jobs and agencies are doing.
- Vacations.
- See abandoned building cleaned up and in use.
- Jobs so that many people are drawn to the area.
- Economic development.
- Landfill as a park.
- Gas stations cleaned up.
- Emergency health care.
- Jobs in the community.
- Rise in education and revamped health care.

Themes Discussed During Closing Session

Listening Session Topic #1: Economic Development and Revitalization

- Rural areas should also be considered for development.
- How to deal with empty buildings.
- Community involvement is important.
- Listening sessions such as these should be increased.
- There is a need for transportation for community residents.
- Follow-up by state and federal officials is important.

Listening Session Topic #2: Environmental Justice and Revitalization

- Quality of life is affected negatively in the community.
- The welfare of the entire community should be considered, not just the area with more money or political power.
- Information should be more readily available on revitalization efforts/resources in the community.
- Environmental justice affects businesses negatively economically. Companies going out of business leave buildings behind and property values decrease.
- State agencies need to take action and become more involved with the communities.



Figure 10. Aiken Listening Session. May 4, 2009.

Listening Session Topic #3: Community Health and Revitalization

- There are economic, cultural, and language barriers against health and revitalization.
- Local community clinics, health fairs and screenings are needed.
- An increase in outreach and better education is needed.
- Rural areas have different needs than urban areas.
- There is concern for people losing jobs and their health benefits.

Listening Session Topic #4: Brownfields and Grayfields

- There is a lack of political support and leadership from local, state, and federal agencies.
- Graniteville and mill areas need funding for cleanup and redevelopment.
- Old landfills, abandoned strip malls, and empty gas stations all need cleanup and revitalization.
- There is a lack of funding and public involvement with educating the community about available resources and who to contact.

Listening Session Topic #5: Revitalized South Carolina Communities: Defining Success

- More community involvement is needed.
- Better communication, more education, and town hall meetings are needed.
- Long-term resolutions for better housing and cleanup for abandoned buildings are necessary.
- Improvements are needed on quality of life such as programs for youth and secure and safe communities.
- An increase in resources and funding are needed.

Aiken Environmental Justice Listening Session
Monday, May 4, 2009
6:00 p.m.

Agenda

Welcome and Introductions	Nancy Whittle Community Liaison Environmental Quality Control SC DHEC
Opening Remarks	Rep. Harold Mitchell SC House of Representatives
Defining Environmental Justice	Cynthia Peurifoy EJ Manager Region 4 - U. S. EPA
Process of World Café	Donna Rowe Community Liaison SC DHEC
World Café Begins 5 topics/Rotate every 15 minutes	
Overview of World Café Findings	Nancy Whittle
Closing Remarks	Nancy Whittle

Topic Questions for the Aiken Listening Session

1st Question to be asked as a whole:

What does environmental justice mean to you?

World Café Questions:

1. **Economic Development and Revitalization** - (Susan Turner/student, Sheryl Good/Tiffany Reed)
 - What are some of the major problems facing distressed neighborhoods in your area?
 - What are some of the steps being taken locally to address them?
 - If your community is being revitalized, what are some of the problems associated with the revitalization?
 - How have you dealt with these problems?
 - What additional steps and resources are needed to revitalize these distressed areas?
2. **Environmental Justice and Revitalization** - (Paul Wilkie/student, Uwe Klack/student)
 - How do you think environmental justice issues affect a community?
 - What could be done to improve consideration of environmental justice issues in community revitalization efforts?
 - What could State agencies do to support this?
3. **Community Health and Revitalization** - (Research Associate/Laura Thomas, Keri Terry/student)
 - How would you describe the health overall of residents in your community?
 - What steps are being taken locally to improve community health in your area?
 - What are the barriers that limit the effectiveness of these efforts?
 - What could State agencies do to improve the health of these communities?
4. **Brownfields and Grayfields** - (Bob Jackson/Stephanie Garrett, Donna Rowe/student)
Define them. Brownfields are typically abandoned properties that could have environmental contamination. Grayfields are typically old, abandoned strip malls.)
 - Are brownfields and/or grayfields a problem in your neighborhood or community?
 - What steps are being taken locally to address brownfield and grayfields in your community?
 - What are the barriers that limit the effectiveness of these efforts?
 - What additional steps or resources are needed to effectively address brownfields and grayfields?
5. **Revitalized South Carolina Communities: Defining Success** -(Cynthia Peurifoy/student, Dr. David Hughes/Tamika Watts)
 - What are the things that distressed neighborhoods and areas need most to become revitalized?
 - How can the General Assembly best support revitalization of distressed areas?
 - What would you like to see the SC EJ Advisory Committee submit in their report to the General Assembly/Governor?
 - What are the one or two most important things that State agencies can do to best support distressed neighborhoods?
 - Ten years from now, what would you like to see in distressed neighborhoods and communities that would indicate to you that revitalization efforts in these areas were successful?

Florence Listening Session
May 16, 2009 Meeting Summary

Project Background

In 2007, the South Carolina Legislature passed legislation that created the South Carolina Environmental Justice Advisory Committee. Environmental justice, as defined in Act 171, is “the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.” Environmental justice communities commonly include historically under-represented minority and low-income neighborhoods and areas burdened with multiple environmental challenges, including brownfields, Superfund sites, or waste dumps.

The Advisory Committee consists of 13 state agencies and three academic institutions and is tasked with studying and considering state agencies’ responses to environmental justice issues as they relate to economic development and revitalization efforts. The Advisory Committee decided to host a series of community listening sessions across the state in 2009. The purpose of the sessions is to receive input from stakeholders on topics as it relates to environmental justice issues. The listening sessions will also ensure that the Advisory Committee has information to incorporate as it relates to those directly impacted in the community. The Advisory Committee must complete its work and report findings and recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor by January 2010.

Florence Listening Session Overview

The Florence Listening Session was held on May 16, 2009 in the Palmetto Room/Hendricks Dining Room of Francis Marion University, located west of downtown Florence on East Palmetto Street, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Twenty participants attended, providing over 400 comments. Stakeholders invited to attend included grass-root citizens, neighborhood association presidents, local businesses, local industry, local government, elected officials, and environmental groups. Meeting facilitators and recorders included staff from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 Office, Clemson University, and A&D Environmental. Food was kindly donated by A&D Environmental.



Figure 1. Florence Listening Session. May 16, 2009.

At the start of the listening session, Advisory Committee representative Karen Sprayberry (DHEC) welcomed participants and led introductions. This was followed by brief remarks from several regional and state leaders including: State Representative Terry Alexander, Reverend Leo Woodberry (Eastern Carolina Community Development Corporation), Jimmy Owens (Director of the DHEC Office of Environmental Quality Control), State Representative Harold Mitchell, and Cynthia Peurifoy (EPA Region 4). Cheryl Good (EPA Region 4) then led an introductory discussion with participants on the meaning of environmental justice. Donna Rowe (DHEC) next provided an overview of the World Café conversational process that would guide the listening session discussions. Afterward, participants broke into small, facilitated groups to discuss the session’s five major topics.

- Economic Development and Revitalization
- Environmental Justice and Revitalization
- Community Health and Revitalization
- Brownfields and Grayfields
- Revitalized South Carolina Communities – Defining Success

The small groups discussed one topic for 15 minutes; participants then rotated to other tables to discuss the other topics. After all small-group rotations were completed, Advisory Committee representative Karen Sprayberry (DHEC) reconvened participants for a final discussion to consider session outcomes, and thank attendees for their participation.

Meeting Summary Overview

This meeting summary presents all participant comments gathered during the Florence Listening Session. Comments from the introductory environmental justice discussion are presented first, followed by the small-group discussion comments. During the small-group discussions, recorders wrote participants' comments on half-sheets of paper corresponding to each of the five listening session topics. Organizers then attached the comments to plastic sheets on walls and boards located in the meeting room. Organizers grouped comments by listening session topic and the type of response provided. Simultaneously, organizers reviewed the comments to identify major themes and recommendations mentioned for each topic. These themes and recommendations were then briefly discussed during the final portion of the listening session. Results of this discussion are presented in the final section of the report.

The report's appendices provide the listening session agenda (Appendix A) and the topic questions (Appendix B).

Project Next Steps

Following completion of all of the listening sessions, participants' comments will be compiled and analyzed to identify regional and state-wide community concerns, priorities, and recommendations. The Advisory Committee will review and incorporate this information as part of its final report to the South Carolina Legislature and the Governor by January 2010.

EPA is assisting the work of the Advisory Committee by providing contractor support through E² Inc.



Figure 2. Florence Listening Session. May 16, 2009.

Listening Session Comments

Introductory Discussion: The Meaning of Environmental Justice

What does environmental justice mean to you?

- Natural resources are preserved in a transparent process where local and community interests have real power.
- A non-discriminative voice in morally-based legal provisions to ensure the highest environmental quality of life for all communities!
- Environmental justice is protecting the environment for the health of all people.
- Assisting with securing funds to revitalize abandoned industry and community appearance and reduce urban sprawl.
- All environmental concerns for natural resources are preserved in a transparent process where local community interests have real power.

Listening Session Topic #1: Economic Development and Revitalization

What are some of the major problems facing distressed neighborhoods in your area?

- Surrounding counties trail behind Florence in education.
- Dillon has a small downtown with vacant buildings that have been neglected.
- Local government should make it easier for economic development.
- We need more commerce to provide more jobs in certain areas.
- No grocery stores, no transportation in some areas.
- Vacant buildings are possibilities for jobs.
- Lack of access to investment \$/seed \$.
- Lack of investment \$.
- Lack of quality education.
- Health care.
- Lack of economic development in certain parts of towns.
- Lack of new business development.
- Lack of new buildings.
- Poor distribution of development.
- Jobs – need money to pay people. A lot of people have moved because of a lack of jobs.
- Community pride, ownership, attitude, values so people take better care and are engaged.
- Florence sets the pace and tone for other areas. Issues are the same: money, movement and leadership.
- Comprehensive expansion of community flow.
- Funding and leadership do not work as fast as Florence is growing.
- Infrastructure – if it is not there, businesses will not wait.
- Big box stores are moving out Mom-and-Pop stores.
- Job creation.
- Crime.
- Unemployment.
- Poor drainage.
- Bad roads.
- Abandoned businesses.
- School programs.



Figure 3. Florence Listening Session. May 16, 2009.

- Gangs/gang activity.
- Drain on society when you have people with no resources.
- Homelessness – steady increase of homeless and increase of professional homelessness.
- Abandoned property for extended time.
- Residents in high-crime areas and the elderly can't come to night meetings.
- No low-skilled labor jobs for the homeless. No way to come out of being homeless.
- Activities for children.
- Residents in a community need education and training.
- Unwanted development.
- Corporate America shutting down small businesses.
- Opportunity tax incentives for small businesses.
- Two-year tax credit while redoing buildings, then a six-year credit after project completion.
- RIF grants – commercial incubator money wouldn't be given for long-term commitment.
- Some communities have businesses with no visibility and no exposure.
- Lack of incentives for grassroots businesses.
- Trusting in authority.

What are some of the steps being taken locally to address them?

- Habitat for Humanity organization.
- Hospitals and faith-based organizations promoting wellness.
- Walking trails.
- Local government has taken on building old recycling center.
- Community centers for elderly and children.
- Local government should be more involved.
- One-day community activities.
- Community block grants.
- Building Bridges programs.
- Encouragement of faith-based participation.
- Job training and business incubators.
- Better communication and equipping people.
- Help with developing new businesses at low cost.
- City of Florence has identified 2,400 abandoned properties to be fixed or demolished by the city.
- Internet access in Timrod Park and other areas in town.
- Florence-Darlington Technical College holding classes downtown – education in downtown.
- Local initiatives reclaiming downtown revitalization participation – Florence Little Theatre.
- Trying to make people aware and involved – trying to draw on grassroots.
- Florence is in the midst of downtown revitalization – it is fragmented and you can see the line where revitalization stops.

If your community is being revitalized, what are some of the problems associated with the revitalization?

- Destruction of small businesses (gentrification).
- Transportation.
- Communication.



Figure 4. Florence Listening Session. May 16, 2009.

- Displacement of residents with increasing property taxes.
- Competition for resources.
- Lack of accessibility.
- Local government not reaching out. No communication or information.
- Steps are not well-distributed in the areas.
- Restrictions and financial burdens are placed on residents.
- Revitalization restricted because of regulation.
- Need money – efforts need better funding for new businesses to get their feet on the ground.
- Incubator is a weak effort – not fulfilling the mission.
- Communication among agencies and communities needs to be better.
- Got \$6 million for streetscapes – which projects are done? Shop owners can't fix stores.
- Run out of opportunities that can be identified.
- No proper assessment of needs.
- No comprehensive game plan.
- Need better mechanism to get money to communities that have a plan.
- Lack of money – some people keep getting the grants.

How have you dealt with these problems?

- Need to partner with other agencies.
- Writing letters, meetings, and communicating with the local government about needs.
- Go to council meetings and speak to the Mayor.
- Van rides and shared rides.
- Community Development Block Grant stimulus – lengthy process.
- Hold interfaith meetings.
- Use church to spread information.
- Trying to increase awareness.
- Bush recycling facility using stricter standards.
- Frances Marion Small Business Incubator.
- Kids in high school have to determine major and complete an internship – keep talent in the community.
- Florence-Darlington Technical College – SMIT have to locate in Florence or Darlington counties to sign the contract.
- A lot of work going on with abandoned houses.
- Brownfields are identified.

What additional steps and resources are needed to revitalize these distressed areas?

- Increase in quality of life.
- Comprehensive strategy for money.
- Leadership has to agree on end point – need creative thinking to transfer skills to updated technology.
- Electricity-generating plant.
- Better communication.
- New economic strategy.
- Centralized communication.
- Money that stays in the community.
- Less neglect in communities by government agencies.
- Need voice of representation.



Figure 5. Florence Listening Session. May 16, 2009.

- Local support.
- Encourage community and grassroots leadership.
- People with power to do things need to be more involved.
- Community pride will go a long way – grassroots effort.
- More parks and activities for kids.
- Well-placed parks.
- People need to care because it will eventually affect them.
- Community-owned businesses and buildings like co-ops and job training centers.
- Better transportation networks.
- Public transportation.
- More money that is well-spent and well-managed.
- Government showing more interest and involvement in *all* communities.
- Information, communication that will meet local needs.
- Job fairs.
- More resources.
- People being made aware.

Listening Session Topic #2: Environmental Justice and Revitalization

How do you think environmental justice issues affect a community?

- Things can drain communities and people may have consequences (i.e., the lottery).
- Crime is an issue in environmental justice areas.
- Environmental justice communities don't have power where they need it.
- Communities that are already beaten down have a sense of hopelessness and industry/government can prey on that.
- Developers should build in and revitalize poor areas rather than develop new areas.
- Pollution in low-income communities increases the economic gap between communities.
- People's health is affected by pollution in the community.
- Community doesn't always know what's going on environmentally.
- Change can create stress or pressure (Wal-Mart near high school came anyway).
- Health effects lead to economic effects.
- Works against strengthening communities.
- Way it is directed may have positive or negative impact.
- Local government has more control over process and outcomes. No one has total control. Community people in local government.
- Generated apathy (transient community).
- Minority votes/voices are overlooked because of their economic situation – money speaks.
- Divide or unite a community.
- Effects: procedure about processes, how they are implemented, and who benefits (what is torn down and what stays).
- Equal justice: corporations have more power and voice over their people (Wal-Mart built near high school) – Coal Plant.
- Policy – law in place may or may not be fair.
- Programming – falls on media by shaping public opinion.
- New businesses or industries may look good, but later on devastate environmental health.



Figure 6. Florence Listening Session. May 16, 2009.

- Corporate America is treated differently than individuals and residents.
- Small businesses may leave due to large companies. Large companies need to blend in.
- Some are not educated on environmental issues and are just looking at jobs.
- Lack of education. Negative impacts – not in my backyard.
- Strong leadership (point of contact) in getting information to the public.
- City of Dillon – corner of city in need. People don't respond.
- Getting area people most impacted to come to meetings. Force them there (door-to-door).

What could be done to improve consideration of environmental justice issues in community revitalization efforts?

- Look at more models. Example: California – keeping property taxes low.
- Maybe award points for doing beneficial things for the environment like rewards and incentives (in place of money).
- Make the revitalization process easier, especially ways to obtain money.
- Money and resources for municipalities and developers to revitalize areas.
- Cities are looking at other cities to model after (downtown after 5:00).
- Create available housing for a mixture of incomes.
- Give incentives to apply for money even when money isn't awarded to that entity (organization, individual, community, etc.).
- Programs developed in low-income areas so they can be involved in the revitalization process. Example: Queens, NY – makes housing affordable for all.
- Revitalization is slow. \$75 million in downtown Florence going on that people don't see because it is slow to happen.
- Making sure downtown revitalization involves low-income people as well.
- Downtown area has only a small section getting revitalized but the rest of the area needs it.
- There have been old and abandoned buildings torn down but more is needed. Downtown is a good example of what to do.
- Proactively pursuing areas that need revitalization (example: brownfields and Spartanburg area).
- Overall plan should be to divide districts so that people can come in to their area (historic district).
- Education system needs to provide more to young people.
- Improve education and environmental awareness.
- Information and education. A lot of things involved in ongoing programs – comprehensive. Usually one activity that is constant and ongoing.
- Better training of people locally to keep people here that can do some good.
- Area needs to get current:
 - Have downtown internet access.
 - Bring students and young families.
- Need to hear and listen to the *people* of the communities, not only the leaders.
- Have more input (meetings like this) from the general public. Get people talking together.
- Make sure the *right* people are involved.
- A continuous master plan.



Figure 7. Florence Listening Session. May 16, 2009.

What could State agencies do to support this?

- Provide grant money!
- Provide more grant money to local communities.
- Educate on each agency's purview to generate awareness.
- Link needs outlets for education.
- ETV, radio, state media, and phone menus.
- Use a call center with real people to answer questions (would provide jobs also).
- Go door-to-door, mail, talk to people, etc.
- Need to let people know better what an agency does so that they know where to go.
- Give more outreach about services provided (Meals on Wheels, clothing, etc.).
- Be more transparent – not sure what other agencies are currently doing, so don't know how to improve.
- Involve the Department of Social Service's resources.
- Statewide plan – one-stop shop for agencies.

Listening Session Topic #3: Community Health and Revitalization

How would you describe the health overall of residents in your community?

- Poor - Medicare and Medicaid assist the old and very young. The middle-aged are left with no help.
- Very poor – low-income community.
- Diabetes.
- No health care, just go to the emergency room.
- If you have health insurance, you have better health. Without insurance, people are suffering.
- As a whole, the community is struggling. Area has lost its focus.
- Health condition is based on income.
- High teenage pregnancy rates, diabetes, and cancer.
- Poor health even with leading hospitals.
- High blood pressure.
- High infant mortality.
- Lack of exercise and a sedentary lifestyle.
- Well – active individuals.
- Pee Dee community over: stroke, belt, STDs. Grade = F.
- Poor, both physically and mentally. Heart and diabetes. Financial and education. Due to lifestyle.
- Heart and health lowest in eastern South Carolina.
- Water quality leading to health issues.
- Overall, many health problems. Alcohol abuse is an issue.
- Below average due to poverty issues.
- No preventative checkups.
- Money is an issue – it is more expensive to eat healthily.
- Grade: D-
 - Strokes (cardiovascular).
 - STDs.
 - Cancer (prostate).
 - Respiratory problems.
 - Due to education and poverty.



Figure 8. Florence Listening Session. May 16, 2009.

- Below average overall:
 - Obesity – adult and children.
 - High infant mortality.
 - Diabetes.
 - Heart disease.
- Well water – drinking water not healthy.

What steps are being taken locally to improve community health in your area?

- Churches are doing free screenings.
- Churches are doing health fairs but they are working individually.
- Commercials and newspaper articles from hospitals.
- “Wellness Walk” programs.
- Community gardens.
- Some free clinics, but no transportation to them.
- Churches being involved to send messages.
- Public transportation being increased.
- Signage at boat landings about fish/fishing.
- A certain part of population is getting involved and still a large part is not participating.
- Community center with after-school sports.
- Programs, State agencies, churches are getting involved.
- Rail trails – walking trails.
- Community program for kids: tennis courts.
- City of Dillon built a wellness center with a basketball court and fitness center. Children can attend. A barrier is the location of the site, transportation, and fees.
- People have taken steps to improve health themselves.

What are the barriers that limit the effectiveness of these efforts?

- Fear of giving personal information.
- Have no center in walking distance – needs to be accessible.
- Barrier – transportation a big issue.
- Barrier – restrictions on Medicaid limit people getting help.
- Lack of collaboration in the community.
- No money paid into social security because they were paid cash under the table; therefore lack those funds.
- Limited public relations with rural residents.
- Don't have access to health care.
- Barriers:
 - Lack of insurance.
 - Transportation.
 - Lack of education on health issues.
- Most children can't get to the health center because of transportation and the stereotype of it being a “white”-only center.
- No coordination between communities, no tracking.
- No transportation to clinics, etc.
- Exercise programs are expensive (memberships).



Figure 9. Florence Listening Session. May 16, 2009.

- Initiatives to grow community and targeted at health but are only held once a year and records are not kept. Follow-up is needed. The system doesn't sustain care.
- Self-imposed barriers – don't want to change bad habits.
- Barrier – medical information to reach the people in need.
- Cultural thing is a barrier.
- Missing a big low-income group, especially children.
- Barrier – parents/community don't appreciate centers' work. Children don't "get it."
- Barriers – government red tape to process help.
- Government budget cuts have to cut services.
- Barrier – education. People are not using local clinics because of lack of insurance.
- Education from agencies not in "terms" that locals can understand – 7th grade education level.
- Safety at parks is a barrier.

What could State agencies do to improve the health of these communities?

- Wellness – prevention instead of pills.
- Government should improve access to medication.
- Forms to help track information. Follow-up after visit.
- Churches providing rides/carpool: coordination.
- Hospitals can do more mobile clinics.
- More free screenings:
 - "Mini clinic" with low cost health care.
 - More free clinics.
 - Mobile clinics.
- Financial counseling.
- Local government should provide incentives to local businesses to help reduce costs.
- Insurance provide incentives for prevention and good health care behavior.
- Provide immunizations – minimal health care at least.
- Mobile health care units going to distressed areas to check health statistics.
- State government should make sure resources get to the right individuals.
- Investigate why Pee Dee region has such high statistics of heart disease (air and water).
- More education on health issues.
- State agencies can provide money for sidewalks, etc. Grant funding restrictions limit money.
- Have a program that we can buy into and they don't have to reinvent the wheel.
- Highway patrol to pick up people who need transportation.
- Information/record system that is safe and accessible by all doctors/nurses.
- Strategic health plan with tracking and better communication between agencies and between agencies and the community.
- Rural transit.
- Advertising at Wal-Mart.
- Survey in areas of need to access health problems.
- Include wellness programs in health insurance programs.
- Local screening.
- Coordination between state and federal agencies.
- Health/wellness grants.
- Send results of screening to patient.
- Agencies communicate with each other and with the community. Be transparent.
- Financial counseling.



Figure 10. Florence Listening Session. May 16, 2009.

Listening Session Topic #4: Brownfields and Grayfields

Are brownfields and/or grayfields a problem in your neighborhood or community?

- Abandoned manufacturing plant at Darlington – community does not feel they have a voice.
- Polluted areas and abandoned buildings.
- Yes, there are brownfields and grayfields areas in our community here in Florence.
- Brownfields are a problem.
- Not sure, new to the area.
- Brownfields are a problem in my area. Not utilizing old buildings.
- Need to demolish old sites and build new businesses.
- Gas stations abandoned.
- Yes – Delta mills.
- Yes – some of both.
- Yes – Wentworth Corporation has been abandoned for 20 years.

What steps are being taken locally to address brownfields and grayfields in your community?

- Don't see much effort going into doing something to improve brownfields areas, especially away from downtown.
- City of Florence is looking at redeveloping the northeast area (Old Bush recycling facility). Site has been excavated.
- Lack of interest or involvement by the community.
- Cost is a big factor in redevelopment. Remediation needed?
- Do not see much being done about them.
- Difficult to define brownfields/grayfields.
- Lack of knowledge about brownfields/grayfields.
- Some old businesses torn down.
- Organizations like Unity Unlimited get the word out about brownfields sites.
- Grants to redevelop "Corner of Shame" corridor in Dillon.
- Develop old dumping area into a wildlife sanctuary.
- Generate reports on the brownfields sites in the community.
- Communicate and collaborate within the community to address the abandoned sites.
- Get people involved. Get input and what the residents want to go in a brownfields/grayfields site.
- Junkyard revitalization cleaned up: community contacted DHEC/Nancy Whittle.
- Not sure there is understanding of what you can do with brownfields/grayfields.
- The county says they would just tear it down if they had the money.

What are the barriers that limit the effectiveness of these efforts?

- Lack of information provided on brownfields/grayfields.
- More community involvement needed.
- Community not involved in the planning and decision-making process.
- Lack of awareness, education, participation, and communication.
- Lack of information and education on brownfields.
- Lack of focus on specific issues.
- How are zoning issues being solved – the prevention of environmental problems is important.



Figure 11. Florence Listening Session. May 16, 2009.

- Lack of knowledge of brownfields. Abandoned properties are not being assessed.
- Lack of information in plain English and where to go for the right information.
- Dysfunctional grant program with business owners, leases for upgrades.
- Might not know what resources are available to correct/fix brownfields/grayfields.
- The businesses lease buildings that aren't properly maintained.
- Location can be a problem.
- The environmental assessment is a burden.
- Once it's cleaned up, it is too expensive to move in.

What additional steps or resources are needed to effectively address brownfields and grayfields?

- Important to educate youth.
- Get the word out. Educate, inform multi-level approach via media outlets.
- Education provided to zoning boards.
- Community involvement is key.
- Get to the root of the problem – new leaders.
- Awareness projects in middle school.
- People need to be more accountable for polluting activity.
- New local leadership needed.
- Share information with neighboring towns. “How to” examples and success stories.
- Research properties.
- Secure funding and workers to help with revitalization efforts.
- Use civic groups, churches, etc. to help educate.
- Involve media to get the word out.
- Use the resources wisely – billboards, flyers.
- Come up with an ordinance or something to force the rehabilitation of these properties.
- Community, faith-based organizations help with assessments to come up with an inventory.
- Have DHEC come and provide workshops/training on brownfields so that the community can do preliminary assessments (Wilson High School success story – converted a brownfields site to a church/daycare).
- More community training.
- What to do with grayfields? Large, empty spaces. Example – former Kmart (big box). Could use for community library or a computer lab. Be creative.



Figure 12. Florence Listening Session. May 16, 2009.

Listening Session Topic #5: Revitalized South Carolina Communities – Defining Success

What are the things that distressed neighborhoods and areas need most to become revitalized?

- Under-the-table cash – workers don't get social security. Also encourages lawlessness!
- Street repair and maintenance.
- Equal maintenance of roads.
- Revive civic-mindedness.
- Jobs.
- Neighborhood services.
- Public recreation areas.
- Social support services.
- City/infrastructure services.
- Enable faith-based community. Unite black/white churches.
- Improve local image. Dilapidated houses hurt communities.
- Deal with empty buildings. Utilize them or tear them down.
- Deal with absentee landlords that don't keep properties up.
- Training and education.
- Money.
- Money.
- Economic development.
- Balancing of the scales – economic distribution.
- Youth centers in empty buildings.
- Government needs to listen to the smaller areas, not just the big cities. Listen and respond.
- A vision – strategic plan!
- More (better) communication about what's available with city and county programs and grants.
- Community's government support.
- EPA pressure on local government to enforce laws.
- Public attitude.
- One community – all part of one whole (not segmented).
- Community pride.
- City and community partnerships.
- Community interaction – more people take ownership of their own areas
- Need hope for change and success.
- Understanding.
- Community master plan not happening in Dillon. Five-year, 10-year, 15-year, not just putting fines.



Figure 13. Florence Listening Session. May 16, 2009.

How can the General Assembly best support revitalization of distressed areas?

- Better-utilized, faith-based community.
- Encourage more funding with more equal distribution. People can't move off the fringe – need education.
- Bring in uneducated people from the fringe to educate them.
- Establishing long-term technological education.
- Annexation – donut holes.
- Balance the scales: equalize taxing in school districts.
- Money to help develop new local businesses (tax credits).
- Rural infrastructure fund: fund it and make it transparent.
- Tax abatement or subsidies for people to move into the community.

- Supporting local business growth and industry.
- Make state tax credit more available.
- Workforce training grants.
- Put abandoned factories to work.
- Simpler grant process.
- Grant money to generate jobs – simplify the process.
- Financially – offer tax breaks to get businesses to move in (back into center).
- Zoning in the central business districts.
- Not developing on spurs or randomly.
- Level playing field – help local minority businesses in distressed areas.
- Inform local people about resources.
- Partner distress communities with agencies – more money.
- Increased publicity.
- Revamp commerce.

What would you like to see the SC EJ Advisory Committee submit into their report back to the General Assembly/Governor?

- First contact with minority faith communities to determine their needs.
- Government services “tool box” is a vehicle for turning “lots” into “parks.”
- Our concerns: drainage, buildings, and appearances.
- Improving economic development through more employment.
- Very high unemployment rate in rural areas.
- Job training.
- Tangible/funded/visible results.
- Collaborate with the support of charity organizations.
- Make sure it gets used.
- Improve accessibility: support training should “speak the same language.”
- S.M.A.R.T. objectives:
 - Strategic plan.
 - Measurable.
 - Timeline.
- Awareness of issues.
- Crime, poverty, corporate-based corruption.
- Business incubators.
- Ways to get true community economic development and power.
- People care.
- Good, clear solutions.
- Don't just come back for another meeting.
- More concerted effort in South Carolina.
- Defining what success is...meeting of the minds.



Figure 14. Florence Listening Session. May 16, 2009.

What are the one or two most important things that State agencies can do to best support distressed neighborhoods?

- Social worker coming in to assess/gauge community interest/input.
- Locate those offices in distressed neighborhoods.
- Don't avoid the bad areas (not necessarily the focus, but don't avoid, either).

- Education is linked to the economy and linked to local needs to give skill sets (target education to support local economy).
- Provide education and training.
- Presentation to grades K-12 concerning the environment.
- Satellite schools in poorer areas.
- Have access: may have a community liaison that knows the area and the issues.
- Do assessments.
- More collaboration (partnerships) at the community level like DHEC Arthritis Foundation and the AME Church Project. Also money!
- A one-stop, centralized partnership where people can go to get educated about available services.
- Get locals to participate.
- Take initiative, like A-TECN food growth example.

Ten years from now, what things would you like to see in distressed neighborhoods and communities that would indicate to you that revitalization efforts in these areas were successful?

- Stronger sense of pride.
- Taking education more seriously.
- People interested in home and neighborhood appearance.
- Beautiful neighborhoods.
- Removed apartments and more duplexes and single-family dwellings.
- Abandoned houses – fix them up or get rid of them.
- Self-sufficient neighborhoods – get local services and retail.
- What defines downtown? Walkability – can you walk around with an ice cream cone?
- Finish downtown revitalization.
- Abandoned buildings, uncut grass, broken windows are an eyesore.
- Flourishing, not deteriorating communities.
- No more vacant buildings.
- 50 percent fewer abandoned buildings.
- Jobs.
- Lighting.
- Better roads.
- Lighting for safety as appropriate (concerns for too much lighting because of environment).
- Making the elderly and youth feel comfortable (people out and about).
- Safety.
- Local pride.
- Community mindset.
- Unity.
- More commerce.



Figure 15. Florence Listening Session. May 16, 2009.

Themes Discussed During Closing Session

Listening Session Topic #1: Economic Development and Revitalization

- There is a need for more community pride and grassroots leadership.
- Communication among agencies and communities should be improved.
- Local government should be more involved, reach out, and become more accessible.
- Faith-based participation should be encouraged.
- Community awareness, education, and training are needed.
- There is a need for more activities and services for children and the elderly.
- There is a lack of trust in authority.
- Smaller communities in Florence are being neglected in comparison with the larger areas.
- There is a poor distribution of resources: a comprehensive strategy and a proper assessment is needed. More incentives for small and local businesses are also needed.

Listening Session Topic #2: Environmental Justice and Revitalization

- Environmental justice has positive and negative effects on the community. It can divide or unite it.
- Health effects are a concern.
- The revitalization and redevelopment of downtown and low-income areas are a concern.
- Education on environmental awareness and training are needed.
- Media outlets such as radio, television, call centers, and the Internet should be used to disseminate information on current issues.

Listening Session Topic #3: Community Health and Revitalization

- A strategic health plan and information tracking database are needed.
- Transportation to clinics is a barrier.
- Lack of education and participation is a barrier. Agencies need to present the information in terms that can be understood.
- A wellness center/program should be established in the community.
- Better coordination between State agencies is needed.

Listening Session Topic #4: Brownfields and Grayfields

- Not much being done to revitalize brownfields/grayfields.
- There is a lack of information and education about brownfields/grayfields.
- Community involvement is important and needed during the planning process.
- New local leadership is needed.
- There is a need to focus on specific issues of zoning, pollution, and accountability.



Figure 16. Florence Listening Session. May 16, 2009.

Listening Session Topic #5: Revitalized South Carolina Communities: Defining Success

- A strategic plan and assessments are needed.
- Empty buildings should be utilized or torn down to improve the image and beautification of downtown neighborhoods.
- Financing for economic development using grant money and tangible funds that yield tangible results are needed.
- Education and on-the-job training are needed.
- Youth programs are needed.
- Community partnerships that utilize faith-based organizations and improve local pride.
- Seeing outcomes would be a way to define success.

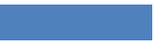
Florence Environmental Justice Listening Session

Saturday, May 16, 2009

9:30 p.m.

Agenda

Welcome and Introductions	Karen Sprayberry Office of the Community Liaison Environmental Quality Control SC DHEC
Remarks	Rep. Terry Alexander SC House of Representatives Rev. Leo Woodberry Eastern Carolina Community Development Corporation Jimmy Owens, Director Region 4 EQC Office SC DHEC Rep. Harold Mitchell SC House of Representatives
Defining Environmental Justice	Cynthia Peurifoy EJ Manager Region 4 - U. S. EPA
Process of World Café	Donna Rowe Community Liaison SC DHEC
World Café Begins 5 topics/Rotate every 15 minutes	
Overview of World Café Findings	Karen Sprayberry
Closing Remarks	Karen Sprayberry



2009 Listening Sessions Summary Report
August 2009

Project Background

In 2007, the South Carolina Legislature passed legislation that created the South Carolina Environmental Justice Advisory Committee. Environmental justice, as defined in Act 171, is “the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.” Environmental justice communities commonly include historically under-represented minority and low-income neighborhoods and areas burdened with multiple environmental challenges, including brownfields, Superfund sites, or waste dumps.

The Advisory Committee consists of 13 state agencies and three academic institutions and is tasked with studying and considering state agencies’ responses to environmental justice issues as they relate to economic development and revitalization efforts. The Advisory Committee decided to host a series of community listening sessions across the state in 2009. The purpose of the sessions was to receive input from stakeholders on topics as it relates to environmental justice issues. The listening sessions also ensure that the Advisory Committee has information to incorporate as it relates to those directly impacted in the community. The Advisory Committee must complete its work and report findings and recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor by January 2010.



Figure 1. Spartanburg Listening Session. April 30, 2009.

Four listening sessions were held between January and May 2009. Sessions were held in North Charleston, Spartanburg, Aiken, and Florence. In total, over 150 stakeholders attended. Stakeholders invited to attend included grass-root citizens, neighborhood association presidents, local businesses, local industry, local government, elected officials, and environmental groups. Meeting facilitators and recorders included staff from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 Office, Clemson University, and A&D Environmental. Food was kindly donated by A&D Environmental.

Listening Sessions Overview

At the start of each listening session, an Advisory Committee representative welcomed participants and led introductions. Meeting introductions were followed by brief remarks from State Representative Harold Mitchell and other state and regional leaders. Representatives from EPA Region 4 then led an introductory discussion with participants on the meaning of environmental justice. A DHEC representative next provided an overview of the World Café conversational process that would guide the listening session discussions. Afterward, participants broke into small, facilitated groups to discuss the session’s five major topics.

- Economic Development and Revitalization
- Environmental Justice and Revitalization
- Community Health and Revitalization
- Brownfields and Grayfields
- Revitalized South Carolina Communities – Defining Success

The small groups discussed one topic for 15 minutes; participants then rotated to other tables to discuss the other topics. After all small-group rotations were completed, an Advisory Committee representative reconvened participants for a final discussion to consider session outcomes and thank attendees for their participation.

During the small-group discussions, recorders wrote participants' comments on half-sheets of paper corresponding to each of the five listening session topics. At the conclusion of each session, participants' comments were compiled, organized, transcribed, and included in an independent report developed for each of the four listening sessions. After the four reports were completed, comments from all of the listening sessions were analyzed to identify cross-cutting themes. The results of this analysis are presented in this summary report. The Advisory Committee will review and incorporate this information as part of its final report to the South Carolina Legislature and the Governor by January 1, 2010.

EPA is assisting the work of the Advisory Committee by providing contractor support through E² Inc.

Analysis of Listening Session Comments

Comments from the listening session discussions were placed in a computer spreadsheet. The comments were grouped by the listening sessions' five major topics. The comments generated for each of the five major topics were then reviewed and labeled based on the content of the comments. For example, if a comment mentioned the need for greater community involvement in revitalization planning, the comment was labeled as a "community involvement" comment. An in-depth or multi-themed comment could receive multiple labels. After the labeling process was complete, comments were then sorted according to their labels to identify the themes most frequently discussed by participants. These themes are discussed below, by each of the listening sessions' five major topics. Over 3,000 comments were analyzed.

Economic Development and Revitalization

Participants discussed five questions related to the topic of economic development and revitalization. In total, over 700 comments were generated in response to these questions. The 10 most commonly mentioned themes are summarized below.

Increase Opportunities for Community Involvement.

The theme most consistently identified was the importance of community involvement. Participants viewed a lack of community involvement in revitalization-related issues as a problem and suggested that greater community involvement could be one solution to the problem. Participants voiced interest in greater involvement at both the state and local government levels. Beyond a desire for greater involvement, participants expressed a strong desire that their concerns about revitalization-related issues be genuinely heard. The listening sessions were viewed by some participants as an appropriate step toward greater community involvement.

"Stakeholders should not only be included but listened to."

- North Charleston Listening Session, January 13, 2009

Keep Residents Updated Regarding Revitalization-Related Activities.

Participants expressed interest in being kept up-to-date on revitalization-related activities, such as the location of new water lines, and the ways in which they could provide feedback on and inform revitalization outcomes. Participants were also interested in obtaining information on how to access information related to revitalization

activities. Participants' suggestions for increasing awareness included having community residents work with local leaders, local organizations, churches, the media, and state agencies.

Address Environmental Issues in Distressed Communities.

Participants voiced concern regarding multiple environmental problems in their communities. Concerns regarding access to high-quality water supplies and wastewater facilities were mentioned most frequently. Concerns over local air quality and brownfields were also mentioned repeatedly. Participants in the North Charleston and Spartanburg Listening Sessions also highlighted Locally Unwanted Land Uses (LULUs) as a priority environmental concern. LULUs mentioned included incinerators, landfills, a wastewater treatment plant, a railroad, and swamps. Participant recommendations for addressing environmental issues include expanding water/sewer services and monitoring/removing contaminants in communities.

Provide Funding/Resources for Revitalization.

Participants expressed concerns about a lack of sufficient funding/resources to undertake revitalization projects in their communities. Similarly, many participants emphasized the importance of making additional funding/resources available to support these efforts in the future. Participants' suggestions for obtaining additional resources included accessing available Superfund monies for redevelopment planning and utilizing grant writers to obtain federal stimulus program funding.

Recognize the Importance of Local Organizations.

Participants commented on the importance of local organizations and volunteer initiatives for supporting distressed areas and assisting with revitalization efforts. Examples of organizations mentioned included: the river protection group "Save our Saluda", Una New Life Center, Christmas in Action, Habitat for Humanity, Boys and Girls Club, and the Florence-Darlington Technical College. Faith-based organizations were viewed by many participants as an important part of these local support efforts. Participants also advocated greater involvement by and support for these organizations in community revitalization activities. One participant explained that organizations such as the Rotary Club would be willing to play a more prominent role in these local support efforts with additional guidance.

"Community organization is vital."

*- North Charleston Listening
Session, January 13, 2009*

Address the Problem of Abandoned Buildings in Distressed Communities.

Participants commented on the challenges posed to communities by abandoned buildings. For example, a North Charleston participant remarked that such buildings often become used for illegal/negative activities. Efforts are underway in some communities to address this problem. For example, a North Charleston participant explained that efforts were underway in the community to reclaim past sites by "transforming them into useable sites such as industries, parks, and community centers."

Identify Community Needs for New Infrastructure and Infrastructure Improvement.

Participants emphasized the importance of infrastructure in distressed communities. In addition to general comments, participants cited issues concerning water/wastewater (discussed above). Street infrastructure was

also frequently mentioned. A North Charleston Listening Session participant stated that “resources for infrastructure should target current residents’ issues, not future development.”

Remember the Importance of Jobs.

Participants stated that a lack of local jobs is a significant problem for distressed South Carolina communities. Although most participants did not specify the types of jobs that should be created, a few participants mentioned that well-paying jobs should be a priority. Another participant mentioned the need for bringing in “good industries.” A related sub-theme centered on the need for job-training/workforce development efforts.

Consider the Importance of Equity.

Participants discussed the importance of equity issues. For example, a North Charleston Listening Session participant explained that “unequal treatment breaks down the community.” Participants expressed a desire for greater equity within communities and between communities. For instance, a North Charleston participant requested that all communities be treated equally. Participants also desired greater equity in how redevelopment is undertaken and influenced, the provision of community services, including law enforcement and recreational resources, the distribution of grants, and the provision of education services.

“There is nothing for [young children] to do, no parks or recreation centers.”

*- Spartanburg Listening Session,
April 30, 2009*

Consider the Importance of Youth Support.

Participants discussed the importance of developing programs that support young people, including children and youth up to age 19, as part of efforts to help struggling South Carolina communities. In addition to the importance of establishing nurturing, protective spaces for youth, participants emphasized the need to provide tutoring and mentoring opportunities. Examples of youth-related initiatives underway in South Carolina communities include neighborhood summer youth programs, city-sponsored recreational programs like “Hook a Kid on Golf,” and a school program requiring high school students to select majors and complete an internship program.

Environmental Justice and Revitalization

Participants discussed three questions related to the topic of environmental justice and revitalization. In total, over 600 comments were generated in response to these questions. The 10 most commonly mentioned themes are summarized below.

Keep Residents Aware of Environmental Justice, Environmental, and Community Revitalization Issues.

Numerous participants commented on the importance of being kept aware of environmental justice, environmental, and community revitalization-related issues in their communities. Participants stated that they would like to be informed about potential future problems (e.g., the potential impacts of a new business) as well as existing problems in their communities. Similarly, participants stated that they would like to be kept informed regarding the resources that are available to address these problems. Participants also commented on the

importance of educating people regarding the constraints that government agencies face in their efforts to assist communities.

Expand Opportunities for Community Involvement.

Participants expressed a desire for greater community involvement opportunities. Possible forums suggested included town hall meetings, community committees, and the listening sessions. Participants voiced interest in opportunities for greater interaction with local law enforcement officials as well as with state officials. Participants also expressed interest in more opportunities for participating in planning processes.

Environmental Justice Issues Generate Negative Psychological Impacts for Individuals and Communities.

Participants commented on the negative psychological impacts of environmental justice issues on individuals and communities. Participants explained that environmental justice issues were demoralizing and fostered resentment, helplessness, disillusionment, and despair. Participants stated that environmental justice issues also made individuals feel mentally sick and reduced their self-esteem. Environmental justice issues, according to participants, also reduced community motivation, expectations, and pride.

Consider the Impact of Environmental Issues on Distressed Communities.

Participants touched on environmental issues in their comments regarding environmental justice and revitalization, with the overarching sentiment expressed that environmental issues can both positively and negatively impact communities. Participants commented on various environmental concerns, including: air pollution, water contamination, contaminated sites and methamphetamine labs, asbestos, and mold and mildew. Participants also voiced recommendations for resolving environmental concerns, including performing more inspections during asbestos removals and notifying communities in the case of hazardous spills.

Evaluate and Address Equity Issues.

Participants consistently mentioned equity concerns while discussing environmental justice and revitalization. Participants commented on: inequities in the allocation of resources to different communities and neighborhoods; inequities within communities; inequities in how regulations are applied; inequities in the allocation of infrastructure and other basic community resources; inequities regarding health impacts on distressed communities; and inequities in how companies and individuals are treated.

Environmental Justice Issues Have Negative Impacts on Public Health.

Participants highlighted public health problems as another impact of environmental justice issues on communities. While most comments focused on general impacts to public health (e.g., “[environmental justice] encroaches on health and rights in communities,” according to one participant), participants also raised specific concerns about pollution-caused cancer and vermin.

Recognize the Importance of Voice, Representation, and Empowerment.

“Environmental justice leads to an increasing sense of despair in the long-term.”

*- Spartanburg Listening Session,
April 30, 2009*

Participants commented on the importance of being able to have a genuine say in the affairs and issues affecting their communities – either through individual expression or in effective representation by political leaders. Most comments centered on a lack of a voice for residents or communities. One participant, for example, remarked that “because there is no representation, then there is no power.” A few participants commented specifically on empowering communities to speak. Two participants commented on the role of voice in environmental justice issues specifically. One of the participants commented that “environmental justice communities don’t have power where they need it.” The other participant suggested that a means was needed to “have politics support environmental justice.”

“The entity trying to help address environmental justice needs to keep an open dialogue/open door policy.”

*- Aiken Listening Session,
May 4, 2009*

Recognize the Importance of Communication in Supporting Distressed Communities.

Participants repeatedly touched on the theme of communication. Participants mostly discussed its importance in general terms; a few participants specifically commented on the lack of or poor communication as it relates to environmental justice and community revitalization issues. To improve communication, participants recommended establishing mobile laptop labs, creating call centers within state agencies, and talking with people by mailing and “going door-to-door.”

Address Crime and Drugs.

Participants stated that crime and drugs are general problems and that crime and drug levels are too high. Regarding drug issues, participants mentioned the community impacts of methamphetamine production. One participant noted that citizen patrols against drugs are being implemented as one solution.

Additional Themes

Five additional themes were identified that received similar numbers of comments. These include: issues involving trust, transparency, and disclosure; the importance of government involvement; environmental justice generally; the importance of funding and resources to support environmental justice and revitalization; and quality of life issues.

Community Health and Revitalization

Participants discussed four questions related to the topic of community health and revitalization. Nearly 600 comments were generated in response to these questions. The 10 most commonly mentioned themes are summarized below.

Health in South Carolina Communities is Generally “Poor” or “OK.”

Participants were asked to describe the overall health of residents in their communities. Of the participants that provided direct responses to the question, a majority indicated that overall health in their communities, or South

Carolina communities more generally, was poor. Some participants indicated that community health was “ok.” A few rated community health as “good.” A few participants also provided mixed assessments, indicating that portions of their communities were in good health while other portions were in poor health. Many participants stated that there are a range of health-related problems in their communities, from indicators of poor health (e.g., obesity) to various types of illnesses and diseases (e.g., cancer). Diabetes was mentioned most frequently. Asthma and respiratory illnesses, high blood pressure, cancer, and heart disease were mentioned repeatedly as well.

“Loss of jobs, etc. means a loss of health insurance, which means health care problems for more people.”

*- Aiken Listening Session,
May 4, 2009*

Increase Awareness of Community Health Issues.

Participants discussed the importance of raising the awareness of South Carolina residents regarding community health issues. Participants discussed this issue as a barrier that needs to be overcome (e.g., “lack of education about health leads to poor diet and lack of exercise,” stated one participant), as a step being actively taken in various South Carolina communities (e.g., “people [are] attending monthly meetings to listen to lectures on diseases,” stated another participant), and as a strategy for improving community health (e.g., “provide better information on diet and health,” stated another participant).

Community Health Is Negatively Impacted by Lack of Health Care Accessibility.

Participants discussed the problem of health care accessibility. Factors influencing health care accessibility include a lack of health insurance, the high cost of health care/medicine, and transportation (see below). A related concern centered on not being able to access health care when it is needed (e.g., health care center hours are limited, the number of health care centers are insufficient, or doctors will not accept new patients). Related recommendations centered on providing local health care facilities, providing affordable care, and expanding service availability.

Health Care Accessibility Is Also Limited by Lack of Transportation Access.

A related theme centered on the challenge that many South Carolina residents face in accessing health care services using existing transportation options. Participants commented that transportation options are limited, non-existent, or of poor quality. Moreover, some health care or wellness centers are located in difficult-to-reach locations. Participants’ recommendations for overcoming this barrier included improving public transit, establishing transit in rural areas, providing buses specifically for transporting sick/disabled to health care centers, and church-led transportation. A few participants also commented that some improvements in public transit were already underway.

Recognize the Importance of Active Lifestyles for Community Health.

Participants commented on the role of active lifestyles for supporting community health in South Carolina. Participants touched on this theme as a problem to be overcome (e.g., lack of or poor sidewalks limit neighborhood exercise opportunities), as an action already being taken in various South Carolina communities (e.g., city-centered programs in Anderson get people outdoors), and as a recommendation for improving the health of South Carolina communities (e.g., “encourage activity-friendly neighborhoods,” suggested one participant).

Health Care Screenings, Fairs, and Clinics Are Integral Components for Community Health in Distressed Areas.

Health care screenings, fairs, and clinics were viewed by participants as key components for improving community health. Participants explained that screenings, fairs, and clinics are services already being offered in South Carolina communities. Participants also recommended expanding these services, especially free services, to further support the health care needs of South Carolina communities. Similarly, some participants suggested expanding the use of mobile health units.

Environmental Issues Also Impact Community Health.

Participants voiced concern over a range of environmental issues as they related to community health, including water quality, air quality, and contaminated soil. A few participants commented that the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) has been involved in local monitoring efforts, particularly regarding air quality, and that some contaminated site cleanup is underway. Participants' recommendations for addressing environmental issues include conducting further contaminated site cleanup, conducting more air and water quality testing, installing or improving water and sewer systems, and enforcing the child lead law.

"Reward those manufacturers who make smart diet foods available at reduced prices."

*- Florence Listening Session,
May 16, 2009*

Additional Funding/Resources Are Needed for Improving Community Health.

Lack of funding/resources was cited by participants as a central barrier to improving health in South Carolina communities. Several participants also made related recommendations. These recommendations included making more funding/resources directly available as well as clarifying the types of funding/resources that are already available to support community health-related efforts.

Local Organizations Play a Central Role in Supporting Community Health Efforts.

Participants noted that local organizations, especially non-profit and faith-based organizations, play central roles in supporting community health efforts. Examples of organizations cited by participants include the YMCA, the Clemson Extension Service, the Red Cross, and the New Hope Community Improvement Association. Participants also cited examples of specific locally-driven programs that support community health efforts, including the "Meals on Wheels" and "Wellness Walks" programs. Related participant recommendations included utilizing faith-based organizations and community/neighborhood associations to a greater degree in support of community health efforts.

Availability of Fresh Food and Good Eating Habits Are Keys to Community Health.

Participants commented on food-related community health issues. Barriers to healthy eating that were identified include: the high cost of high-quality food, culturally-driven eating habits, the limited availability of high-quality food (e.g., through school lunch programs and restaurants), and insufficient awareness about the importance of healthy eating. Examples of positive steps already underway in various communities that were identified by

participants include community gardens, farmers markets, and the use of a local school strength coordinator to teach nutrition. Recommendations for overcoming barriers to healthy eating in South Carolina communities include providing better information on diet and health, incentivizing the production of smart diet foods at lower cost, and making agencies accountable for ensuring healthy eating – especially in terms of the food offered through schools.

Brownfields and Grayfields

Participants discussed four questions related to the topic of brownfields and grayfields. In total, nearly 500 comments were generated in response to these questions. A number of themes and recommendations were identified. The 10 most commonly mentioned themes are summarized below.

The Presence of Brownfields/Grayfields May Be A Problem in South Carolina Neighborhoods and Communities.

Participants were asked if brownfields/grayfields were a problem in their neighborhoods or communities. Several participants suggested that brownfields/grayfields were a problem. Some participants indicated that brownfields/grayfields exist in their communities but did not state specifically they were a problem. Three participants indicated that brownfields/grayfields were *not* a problem. Several participants also referenced the presence of abandoned buildings and vacant property in their communities more generally. The most common types of brownfields mentioned were mill sites and abandoned gas stations.

Funding/Resources Are Essential for Supporting Brownfields Cleanup and Redevelopment.

Participants discussed the importance of obtaining funding/resources to support the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields. Participant recommendations included making additional funding/resources available, further clarifying the availability of existing funds/resources, and assisting communities' efforts to access these funds/resources (e.g., through grant writing support).

Participants Would Like More Information about Brownfields/Grayfields.

Participants commented that they do not have enough information about brownfields/grayfields. Participants requested that additional information on brownfields/grayfields be provided in their communities, including general information about brownfields/grayfields, steps for addressing them, resources for cleanup, and information on contacts at the federal and state levels for assistance.

Government Involvement Is Important in Brownfields/Grayfields Issues.

Participants discussed the importance of government and political involvement and support in efforts to address brownfields/grayfields in South Carolina communities. Participants expressed interest in a greater role by all levels of government, including political leaders, in brownfields redevelopment issues. Participants stated that they would like to see political and government leaders communicating, collaborating, and partnering more with communities and other key parties (e.g., the private sector).

"Old textile mills all over the Upstate are eyesores with no one wanting responsibility."

*- Spartanburg Listening Session,
April 30, 2009*

Greater Community Involvement in Brownfields/Grayfields Decision-

Making Is Needed.

Participants commented on the importance of community involvement in addressing brownfields/grayfields issues. Many participants viewed a lack of community involvement in brownfields/grayfields decision-making as a problem and several participants recommended greater community involvement in the process. Participants' related recommendations included providing state-led community brownfields trainings and town hall meetings.

Various Steps Should Be Taken to Reduce/Prevent the Emergence of Brownfields/Grayfields.

Participants expressed interest in preventing the emergence of brownfields/grayfields or abandoned buildings. Suggestions included reporting abandoned buildings to the city and enforcing related building codes. Other participant ideas included developing new laws, regulations, or policies to: require performance bonds for closure/cleanup; allow facility owners to consult with EPA/DHEC and share information about their sites without penalty; and require up-front community involvement with facilities. A participant also suggested that the state should purchase some properties to preserve them.

Brownfields/Grayfields and Abandoned Housing May Have a Variety of Negative Impacts on Communities.

Participants expressed concern regarding a variety of potential negative impacts from brownfields/grayfields and abandoned housing on South Carolina communities. The potential impacts include: health effects, impacts on neighborhood quality and stability (e.g., "community moving away from these areas", "brownfields become places for trash and vermin", "property is devalued," according to participants), possible school contamination and related impacts on student learning, and environmental effects (e.g., contaminated water from abandoned sites and polluted stormwater runoff from vacant parking lots).

"Community involvement is key."

*- Florence Listening Session,
May 16, 2009*

Provide Incentives for Cleanup and Revitalization.

Participants touched on the need to provide incentives for cleanup and revitalization. Participants explained that incentives for cleaning up/redeveloping these sites are sometimes not available. Other participants described how, in other instances, incentives are being used to support cleanup/revitalization work in their communities. For example, Spartanburg County provides tax credits for the economic development of existing properties. To support brownfields redevelopment in the City of Greer, the City waives tipping disposal fees for demolition materials.

Consider the Negative Effects of Revitalization Projects on Communities and Residents.

Participants expressed concern regarding the negative effects of revitalization projects on their communities generally, as well as on residents living in or nearby new revitalization project areas (e.g., public housing built over a landfill). Specific concerns stemming from the negative impacts of revitalization projects included possible gentrification, health problems, affordability, and impacts on community connectivity. A few participants also emphasized that they would like to see revitalization projects have a positive impact on their communities.

"Developers use brownfields money that ends up becoming gentrification."

*- North Charleston Listening
Session,
January 13, 2009*

Brownfields/Grayfields Redevelopment Zoning Issues Are Important.

Participants voiced general concern over zoning issues as part of their discussion of brownfields and grayfields. One participant asked, for example, "how are zoning issues going to be solved?" A few participants expressed concern about rezoning industrial properties for other land uses when surrounding areas remain industrial areas. Other concerns mentioned included: zoning inflexibility, a lack of zoning and planning by local government, and favoring of new development (through zoning).

Revitalized South Carolina Communities: Defining Success

Participants discussed five questions related to the topic of "Revitalized South Carolina Communities: Defining Success." In total, approximately 750 comments were generated in response to these questions. Participants identified improvements that they would like to see 10 years from now in distressed neighborhoods and communities which would indicate that community revitalization efforts had been successful. Participants also identified the types of resources and next steps needed to support revitalization efforts in their communities. Participants' visions of success for the future are discussed first below, followed by the 10 most frequently mentioned resources and next steps identified to support successful revitalization outcomes.

Defining Success: Indicators of Successful Revitalization Efforts in Distressed South Carolina Communities

Participants identified several indicators to measure the long-term success of revitalization efforts in distressed South Carolina communities. The most frequently mentioned indicators included: the revitalization of empty building and homes, new jobs, safety (e.g., safe public places and police protection), community beautification, community pride, and improved education (e.g., higher education levels). Other indicators mentioned included: public lighting (e.g., for streets or youth recreation areas), a clean environment, green/clean technology jobs, infrastructure, new mixed-use/income developments, sustainability, and support programs for youth.

Resources and Next Steps That Are Most Needed to Help Achieve Revitalization Success.

Provide Funding/Resources.

Participants expressed interest in obtaining additional funding/resources to support revitalization efforts. Potential funding areas identified included: community and social programs, infrastructure, commerce/industrial/local business recruitment, and job training. A few participants also stated that they would like to see simplified procedures for accessing funding and resources and greater flexibility in how funding can be used.

Support Job Creation and Economic Development.

Participants emphasized the need for job creation and economic development. In addition to general comments, participants also recommended specific types of employment (e.g., manufacturing or high-tech sector jobs) and for high-quality, safe jobs.

"A beautiful neighborhood where my kids and grandkids can come to my house and play in my yard."

*- Spartanburg Listening Session,
April 30, 2009*

Engage Directly with Distressed Communities.

Participants emphasized that state political representatives and agency officials should visit and establish a physical presence in distressed communities across the state.

Support Community Involvement.

Participants requested that communities be directly involved in issues involving the revitalization of distressed areas.

Promote Improved Education.

Participants emphasized that education is a key means for assisting distressed communities. In addition to general comments, participants commented specifically on the importance of providing education, appropriately funding education, and increasing education opportunities.

"The General Assembly should set up prioritization of areas that need revitalization."

*- Spartanburg Listening Session, April 30, 2009
"Push state representatives to visit the distressed areas: seeing is believing."*

Support Infrastructure Development and Improvement.

Participants emphasized the need to provide and improve infrastructure to assist the revitalization of distressed areas. Specific infrastructure focus areas mentioned included streets and roads, water/sewer systems, drainage systems, sidewalks, lighting, and broadband technology.

- Aiken Listening Session, May 4, 2009

Promote Partnerships and Collaboration.

Participants stated that greater use of partnerships and collaborative efforts would help support revitalization of distressed areas and communities. Types of partnerships mentioned included city government-community partnerships, state government-community partnerships, and community-company partnerships. A Florence Listening Session participant mentioned the DHEC-Arthritic Foundation and the AME Church Project as examples of successful partnerships that have been established.

Support Strategic Planning and Visioning.

Participants recommended greater use of planning and visioning tools and processes to assist revitalization efforts in distressed areas.

Ensure Accountability, Transparency, and Trust.

Participants expressed interest in ensuring that efforts undertaken to support distressed communities are done in an appropriate manner that emphasizes accountability and transparency and builds trust.

Focus on the Distressed Areas That Are Most in Need.

Participants emphasized the need to prioritize revitalization support efforts in areas that are most in need. Participants stated that a prioritization effort could be initiated by the General Assembly, state agencies, or as

part of the Advisory Committee's efforts. One participant recommended that the General Assembly establish a task force to lead a prioritization initiative.