

D.E.M.

Building a Community
Network for Environmental
Justice... 11/14/07

✓ Presentation on
the draft policy
and practice...

✓ feedback on
policy and
practice

✓ Building the
network so it
works

✓ Where do we go
from here?

Feedback on environ. justice policy and practices

What works?

Providing tech. asst. for community organizations and residents

Elec repositories and posting of history

We know pre-emptive intervention is best

DEM is ready to work w/ community to help it gain control of site

What happens when the city has a different idea on what the site should be

What can be improved?

Better understanding of what DEM does

distinguish what it's been vs. what it's becoming

Fix the ET definition so that it's clear

When you call Spanish #, make sure the person answering speaks it

Better guidance on sign placement

1, 2, or more

Add state officials to the notification list

How does this policy and gentrification mesh

how do you make sure this policy doesn't dislocate people

you have to establish foresee able use in order to control devel.

and black gentrification

how do green jobs fit w/ all this?

How do advisory councils form so that they represent entire impacted comm.

Dialects and language

more than Spanish and English

Post public forum on all sites

In what cases can DEM stop the process whether it's in process

clean-up or development is underway

how much "teeth" does DEM have and in what circumstances

PR

Doubts and concerns?

funding - will there be enough for all this

What kind of development will clean-up spur?

'under-the-radar' properties

100% cash financed and family-owned

we don't go looking - there has to be a triggering event

a resident can flag it

teach residents and comm. org. what to look for

a train-the-trainer approach

Keep in mind community organizers are over-stretched

Watch out for champions becoming gatekeepers

those w/ most access to info. can over-control

and may not be accountable to enough people in neighborhood

how do you engage views of diverse marginalized people

make sure the champion represents enough marginalized people

Building the statewide environ. justice community network so it works?

get the word out about sites

build community capacity

DEM can intervene when there are environ. issues and development

But it cannot intervene in develop. if there are no environ. issues

as well as with open space, rivers, abandoned property

Not what's inside the building

Activating network

Network List is LARGE

DEM explaining itself

Advertise Buses & Events

How can DEM help you

1. RISE Awareness -
Demonstrate Impact by
Showing Track Record
Convey Message
People MATTER

Permanent Infrastructure (funding?)

so the network can be quickly mobilized

Connect environmental justice with DEM

Explain why people should CARE & when to call.

Demonstrate how RIDEM regulations will support the community priority

Proactive Education For Communities

educate them on terms, process, and what to look for

teaching people to undertake an environmental watch

Work with 2-1-1 and other pre-existing community networks

educate them what DEM does (the operators)

Create a simple blueprint on how to access DEM to do this & engage

identify w/in DEM, where you can get a predictable result

and who and what matters

11/14/07 Community Workshop
Building a Community Network for Environmental Justice
Raw Material from Café Tables

Discussion #1: Network is best composed of whom? How do we activate the network?

Nature of the Organization

- How is this funded?
- This issue needs a permanent infrastructure...EJ League of Rhode Island or a University Institute, (like Phil Brown) with service programs and environmental programs

Membership includes

Programs

- Lead programs
- Hospitals/Universities
- Health housing collaborative
- Recreation centers
- Y's, youth how to reach high school kids
- Boy's and Girl's Clubs
- Traditional Environmental groups

Networks

- Housing network of RI
- CDC's
- Town Planners Association
- Faith Community
- Affordable Housing Task Forces
- Cultural Groups (ethnic)
- Nosy neighbors
- Neighborhood Associations

Other Entities

- Poverty Institute
- Community Centers
- Day Care Centers
- Recycling Nazi's

Objectives

- Community education/information/awareness
- Determine: who are the entities that will be involved in the conversation about a site?
- Identify groups within the community affected
- Determine how students can help

Discussion #2: Tell us how DEM can better explain itself to the Community...help the community get under the hood

Reaching the Public

- What is the trigger to get the public motivated?

Get inside DEM

- New Name for DEM so the public can fully understand scope and roles
- Distinguish: What do you call DEM for? What do you call others for?
- Publicize friendly/helpful face of DEM (should not fear loss of property if you investigate)
- Definition of all DEM and EJ terms

Getting the Message out

- Advertise → community events, fliers, and handouts; bus signs...DEM is not just hunting and fishing
- Make an example of “bad” behavior
- Provide new position for community organizations to do environmental education work (40K)?
- Work with 2-1-1 to educate operators on EJ issues and response protocol
- Engage pre-existing networks
- Work with contractors and developers
- Present at homeownership classes held by the CDC

Discussion #3: Specifically, how can DEM better help you, help your communities engage?

- Raise awareness and convey messages via a public campaign
- Focus on people matter – demonstrate impact, track record of DEM on behalf of people
- Basic information for elementary education and all ages
- Conduct the primary social/public campaign about DEM’s capability. Show relevance to how DEM is important to where you live and how you live and how DEM can make an impact...Build on past success track record
- Present the blue print or road map on how to engage DEM in this...Show people where the regulations can serve their issue priority