

## **2001 EPA Community Interns Projects**

The projects are sorted according to the EPA Region in which located. To determine which states are located in a region, visit [EPA Contacts](#)

### **Region 1**

#### **Childhood Lead Action Project, Providence, RI**

The Childhood Lead Action Project was established in 1992 to provide community-based education on the dangers of lead poisoning, and to coordinate advocacy efforts to change the policies largely responsible for these high rates of poisoning. The Project's "Parent Action Group" - a vehicle for education, support, and leadership development, coordinated by a parent of a lead-poisoned child, brings parents affected by the issue together.

#### **Clean Water Fund, Providence, RI**

The intern with The Clean Water Fund will experience the campaign to eliminate the risk of human exposure to the environmental toxin mercury by eliminating mercury emissions from power plants and incinerators and by educating the public about the ways to avoid exposure to mercury.

### **Region 2**

#### **Comite Barrero En Action, Barrio Barrero, Rincon, Puerto Rico**

The Barrio Ward is a low-income fishing community, located at the municipality of Rincon, Puerto Rico. The community has suffered, during the last four years, from environmental and social justice issues, motivated, in part, by urban sprawl, development pressure and the related environmental concerns. A group of residents dedicated to take action to offer their input in the development of their community, forming the committee Barrero en Accion.

#### **Cornell Cooperative Extension of Albany County, Voorheesville, NY**

The Extension's Home Composting Demonstration Garden has twenty-three different composting units and is the largest hands-on education site of its type in New York State. The intern will be involved with our efforts to expand and maintain an already established community experiential site which is self toured by approximately 120 individuals per year.

#### **West Harlem Environmental Action (WE ACT), New York, NY**

The intern will participate in our health research and community organizing activities in environmental justice and environmental health. WE ACT is a leading organization in the environmental justice movements and all of its programs seek to protect communities of color from environmental threats.

### **Region 3**

#### **Youth Warriors, Baltimore, MD**

Youth Warriors is an environmental justice organization that works with local communities to provide urban environmental education and training, leadership development, and organizing skills to young African Americans. Youth Warriors encourages youth to become stakeholders – loving, respecting, and valuing the worth of themselves and their neighborhoods. The intern will be involved with organizing the Southern Region of the Northeast Environmental Justice Network and a fall workshop for teens on Environmental Justice issues.

**The Center to Protect Workers' Rights**, Washington, DC

The intern will be based in East Palo Alto, CA to work with the local community organization (OIC-W), labor unions, community residents and workers about the EPA/NIEHS environmental brownfields training program. The project will assess the real or perceived barriers existing that have prevented the interactions of environmental training and environmental justice organizations within the community and regional area.

**United Communities Southeast Philadelphia**, Philadelphia, PA

The intern will participate in a new program - The South Philly Community Gardening & Environmental Education Project. The efforts are to rehabilitate blighted land in inner city Philadelphia, and to bring environmental education to an under-served and largely impoverished population.

**Region 4**

**Jesus People Against Pollution (JPAP)**, Columbia, MS

There is an urgent need to address the lack of access to environmental health information and understand the relationship between environmental exposure and disease in the lower Mississippi Delta region. The AHEAD 2000 Information Resource Center based at JPAP will assist The National Library of Medicine in meeting the overall goals and objectives of the Consumer Health Initiative. JPAP has developed strategies that would provide consumer health information to targeted communities using conduits such as Historically Black Colleges and Universities, local clinics, churches, Community-based Organization, and similar entities and organizations.

**Community Against Pollution, Inc (CAP)**, Anniston, AL

CAP is engaged in a project reference to the incineration located at the Anniston Army Depot where over 661,500 chemical munitions and containers are stored. The Children's Blood Lead Screening project is to bring awareness about the effects of lead poisoning and benefits of childhood screening and encourage residents to use the county health department for regular blood lead level screening.

**Southern Organizing Committee (SOC) for Economic and Social Justice**, Atlanta, GA

SOC has a very successful environmental justice project in building a regional network of 82 grassroots environmental justice groups throughout 11 Southern states. The intern will organize statewide "Photo Tours" for EPA Region 4 communities. The Photo Tours will include displays of industry sites of primary health concerns, community concerns around environmental and health issues, and community recommendations.

**Region 5**

**Lake County Lead Task Force**, East Chicago, IN

The mission of the Lake County Lead Task Force (LCLTF) is to provide a structure for a serious, comprehensive, and immediate challenge to the chronic health threat posed by the high lead levels in Lake County, Indiana. The intern will participate in education and outreach efforts and develop a survey to measure the effectiveness of EPA's educational materials.

**Indigenous Environmental Network**, Bemidji, MN

Historically energy production has had a disproportionate impact on Indian Country in the United States. Due to the current energy shortage in the United States, there is a potential for increased energy production facilities in and on Native Lands. The intern will research and compile information on the historical and potential environmental justice impacts of energy production in Indian Country.

**Indianapolis Urban League Environmental Coalition, Indianapolis, IN**

The intern will participate in activities of environmental justice assessment task and community outreach. The project will assist our efforts to expand the current environmental justice assessment and improve our connections with community members who have stopped participating with the advisory board.

**Region 6**

**Mothers for Clean Air (MfCA), Houston, TX**

Teachers, students, and parents have asked MfCA for educational materials, lesson plans, and project ideas about air pollution and its health effects. The intern will be involved with MfCA's efforts to "encourage the participation of children in learning about air quality" by offering curriculum materials in response to requests and through the website.

**Good Neighbor Settlement House, Brownsville, TX**

The Good Neighbor Settlement House in partnership with the City of Brownsville, Planning and Community Development Department is developing the Historic Battlefield Trail and Southern Pacific Linear Park. The intern will identify wetland sites, documenting adjacent land uses, monitor ground water wells, and prepare for Brownfield Quarterly Reports.

**SouthWest Organizing Project (SWOP), Albuquerque, NM**

SWOP, a 20-year-old social justice organization, has been demanding a higher level of accountability from the New Mexico Environmental Department and Intel Corporation regarding the potentially hazardous air emissions from the factory and the impact on the health of the surrounding community. The intern will participate in its efforts to educate community of the potential health affects.

**Region 7**

**Lead Safe Omaha Coalition (LSOC), Omaha, NE**

LSOC was created to assist Omaha in the formation of a grass-roots community coalition to address childhood lead poisoning in North and South Omaha. The coalition holds a weekly show- LSCO hour via community telecast on Channel 22. The intern will work in relation to the aspects of LSOC hour production.

**Leadbusters, Kansas City, KS**

Leadbusters is a nonprofit organization that does lead poisoning prevention education. People of color and people with low incomes tend to live in older houses which are likely to have lead-based paint. The intern will be involved with our community educational activities and receive training in indoor air hazards, hazardous household chemicals and mold, and would be made aware of triggers for allergies and asthma, a growing problem with environmental justice ramifications.

**American Lung Association of Eastern Missouri, St. Louis, MO**

The intern will work on the voluntary ozone reduction campaign through the American Lung Association's role in the Saint Luis Regional Clean Air Partnership. Formed in 1995, the Partnership's primary purpose is to encourage voluntary air emission reduction from businesses, industries and citizens in the region.

**Region 8**

**Colorado People's Environmental & Economic Network (COPEEN), Denver, CO**

COPEEN's work is to aid communities who are struggling against environmental racism and injustice. The intern will plan a cohesive and well-attended community event that advances residents' knowledge of

environmental and social issues in the neighborhoods and of opportunities for environmental action in the community. The project will improve organizational research and increase community involvement.

**FrontRange Earth Force, Denver, CO**

FrontRange Earth Force supports youth action related to community environmental issues. The Community Action and Problem Solving (CAPS) program provides young people with a framework and process for identifying environmental problems in their community, developing and implementing plans for long-term improvement. The intern will facilitate a summer program using the CAPS process, working with up to 12 youth to identify and address environmental justice issues in their community.

**Project YES, Lafayette, CO**

The intern will participate in developing an environmental education and awareness program working with a diverse group of young people ages 11 to 19. The program will include educating Project YES youth about basic environmental issues such as pollution and recycling, and exploring the environmental issues that are affecting the community of Lafayette.

**Region 9**

**Friend of the San Francisco Estuary, Oakland, CA**

The intern will provide leadership and organizational support to our Creek Keeper program. The Creek Keepers are high school students from Richmond High to assist creek related organizations within the Wildcat and San Pablo Creek Watersheds. The intern will be involved with developing a multi-cultural environmental leadership, raising awareness of urban youth to environmental quality, causes and sources of pollution within their neighborhood, and empowering high school students to take actions to improve the environmental quality and public health of their community.

**Literacy for Environmental Justice (L.E.J), San Francisco, CA**

Literacy for Environmental Justice works with over 30 San Francisco schools educating students about issues such as environmental health, transportation, youth violence, housing, open space, lead, and habitat restoration. By interacting with environmental justice educators, an urban high school teacher, and inner city youth, the intern will gain vital experience connecting urban youth to environmental science and justice issues through education and action.

**People For Children's Health and Environmental Justice (PCHEJ), Daly City, CA**

PCHEJ is a multiracial organization founded in 1977 to assist, empower and support low and moderate-income residents to have greater control over environmental problems and issues that greatly and in most cases negatively impacts these communities. Through community outreach efforts informing communities of the adverse health effects from living and being exposed to toxic contamination in their living environment, the intern will be working on the environmental health needs and developing youth training programs for residents living at Midway Village.

**Region 10**

**Methow Conservancy, Winthrop, WA**

The Methow Conservancy is a small land trust and conservation group that works to both protect open space and provide access to reliable information about complex natural resource issues on the eastern edge of the North Cascade Mountains. The intern will gain hands on experience in a small community, where endangered species protection meets private property rights and regional politics.

**Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe, Darrington, WA**

The Sauk-Suiattle Indian tribe reservation is located at the base of the North Cascade Mountains. The intern will develop a tribal Geographic Information System (GIS) and environmental database. Most governmental agencies use GIS to manage their environmental data so developing a system for the tribe to increase the technological abilities and to share environmental information with other organizations.

**South Central District Health Department, Twin Falls, ID**

The South Central District Health Department works together with the migrant and community health center, the Idaho Department of Agriculture and the Idaho Migrant Council are concerned that the Hispanic population is not receiving the information they need to make healthy choices, prevent exposure to environmental health risks and access the prevention services offered through the District Health Department. The intern will assess the knowledge and attitudes of the Hispanic populations regarding health promotion and disease prevention, their needs and the community's resources for health information.