

Name of Organization:

Children's Alliance

Contact information

Paola Maranan, 206-324-0340, seattle@childrensalliance.org

Website (for the organization and for specific EJ/HD initiatives)

<http://www.childrensalliance.org/>

What current and past projects has your organization been involved in to address environmental injustices and health disparities in King County? (Please summarize, one paragraph maximum)

Imagine, if you will, what initiative might alleviate health disparities and eliminate environmental injustices. What role could your agency play? What role would you play? (Wish, hope and dream a little....)

Who else should be involved in future conversations around eliminating environmental injustices and alleviating health disparities?

Name of Organization:

City of Seattle, Department of Neighborhoods

Contact information

Ted Divina, ted.divina@seattle.gov

Website (for the organization and for specific EJ/HD initiatives)

<http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/>

What current and past projects has your organization been involved in to address environmental injustices and health disparities in King County? (Please summarize, one paragraph maximum)

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Who else should be involved in future conversations around eliminating environmental injustices and alleviating health disparities?

Name of Organization:

Community Campus Partnership for Health

Contact information

Kristine Wong, kristine@u.washington.edu

Website (for the organization and for specific EJ/HD initiatives)

<http://depts.washington.edu/ccph/>

What current and past projects has your organization been involved in to address environmental injustices and health disparities in King County? (Please summarize, one paragraph maximum)

Imagine, if you will, what initiative might alleviate health disparities and eliminate environmental injustices. What role could your agency play? What role would you play? (Wish, hope and dream a little....)

Who else should be involved in future conversations around eliminating environmental injustices and alleviating health disparities?

Name of Organization:

Community Coalition for Environmental Justice

Contact information

Yalonda Sinde, (206) 720-0285, yalondas@ccej.org

Website (for the organization and for specific EJ/HD initiatives)

<http://www.ccej.org/>

What current and past projects has your organization been involved in to address environmental injustices and health disparities in King County? (Please summarize, one paragraph maximum)

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Who else should be involved in future conversations around eliminating environmental injustices and alleviating health disparities?

Name of Organization:

Duwamish River Clean up Coalition

Contact information

BJ Cummings, DRCC, 5410 First Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98105

Website (for the organization and for specific EJ/HD initiatives)

<http://www.duwamishcleanup.org>

What current and past projects has your organization been involved in to address environmental injustices and health disparities in King County? (Please summarize, one paragraph maximum)

Our mission is to ensure a Duwamish River cleanup that is accepted by and benefits the community and protects fish, wildlife and human health. Since the Duwamish River was listed as a Superfund site in 2001, DRCC has been working to address ecological and environmental health impacts resulting from toxic chemical exposure, and to secure a cleanup that protects public health and meets the needs of the impacted communities. South Seattle residents and workers, particularly in South Park and Georgetown, and tribal and subsistence fishing communities are disproportionately impacted by exposure to chemicals in the river. Our programs seek to ensure their full participation in all river cleanup decisions.

Imagine, if you will, what initiative might alleviate health disparities and eliminate environmental injustices. What role could your agency play? What role would you play? (Wish, hope and dream a little....)

Clear and enforceable initiatives/laws that prevent any one population/neighborhood/community in Seattle from bearing a disproportionate share of pollution or chemical exposures, while ensuring that assets and benefits are equally distributed: for example, the Duwamish River corridor, including the neighborhoods of Delridge, South Park and Georgetown, host the great majority of facilities with toxic air releases in the city, but has the fewest public parks. We are in the process of developing an "existing conditions" map and guide for the river valley and a "visioning" process to identify the community's immediate needs and future vision.

Who else should be involved in future conversations around eliminating environmental injustices and alleviating health disparities?

Non-English speakers, recent immigrants and refugees, health care providers, residents

Name of Organization:

Environmental Coalition of South Seattle (ECOSS)

Contact information

Charlie Cunnif, 206.767.0432, charliec@ecoss.org

Website (for the organization and for specific EJ/HD initiatives)

<http://www.ecoss.org/index.htm>

What current and past projects has your organization been involved in to address environmental injustices and health disparities in King County? (Please summarize, one paragraph maximum)

Imagine, if you will, what initiative might alleviate health disparities and eliminate environmental injustices. What role could your agency play? What role would you play? (Wish, hope and dream a little....)

Who else should be involved in future conversations around eliminating environmental injustices and alleviating health disparities?

Name of Organization:

EPA Region X

Contact information

Running Grass, 206-553-2899, Grass.Running@epamail.epa.gov

Melanie Wood, wood.melanie@epa.gov

Website (for the organization and for specific EJ/HD initiatives)

<http://www.epa.gov/region10/>

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/ocrej.NSF>

What current and past projects has your organization been involved in to address environmental injustices and health disparities in King County? (Please summarize, one paragraph maximum)

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Who else should be involved in future conversations around eliminating environmental injustices and alleviating health disparities?

Name of Organization:

Georgetown Community Council

Contact information

Kata Ritenburg kmritenburg@yahoo.com, 206-595-1606

Website (for the organization and for specific EJ/HD initiatives)

<http://www.georgetownneighborhood.com/>

What current and past projects has your organization been involved in to address environmental injustices and health disparities in King County? (Please summarize, one paragraph maximum)

We're a neighborhood facing these issues. To date, we've attempted to get an EPA grant to begin to address this issue, participated in hosted EJ sessions and begun reaching out to Agencies and other neighborhoods to collaborate on these issues and find data to make an EJ case for our neighborhood.

Imagine, if you will, what initiative might alleviate health disparities and eliminate environmental injustices. What role could your agency play? What role would you play? (Wish, hope and dream a little....)

More stringent air standards for industry potential polluters adjacent to residential communities. Incentives for industry to work collaboratively with residential neighbors in creating sustainable healthy communities.

Integration of Agency databases and synthesis of information for accessible and useable for communities to assess their community health and air quality.

More comprehensive health and air quality monitoring in communities adjacent to industry to better characterize effects on human health.

We could pilot initiatives to work more collaboratively with industry. To assist in outreach and education to other communities facing similar issues.

Who else should be involved in future conversations around eliminating environmental injustices and alleviating health disparities?

The business/industry sector

Name of Organization:

Institute for Children's Environmental Health

Contact information

Elise Miller, 1646 Dow Road / Freeland, WA / 98249
(360) 331-7904 phone, iceh@iceh.org

Website (for the organization and for specific EJ/HD initiatives)

<http://www.iceh.org> and <http://washington.chenw.org/EJgroup.html>

What current and past projects has your organization been involved in to address environmental injustices and health disparities in King County? (Please summarize, one paragraph maximum)

The Collaborative on Health and the Environment-Washington (CHE-WA), which is chaired by ICEH, helped launch CHE-WA Environmental Justice working group a couple years ago. This group has discussed a number of creative ideas and opportunities over time and participated in forums on environmental justice. In addition, CHE-WA's Research and Information working group helped contribute to creating a centralized database on environmental health resources and studies pertinent to the EJ concerns. CHE-WA's weekly e-bulletins also include articles on environmental justice issues. Furthermore, ICEH has served on the advisory committee for the Community Coalition for Environmental Justice's project on reducing air pollution in King County funded by the EPA. The EJ/HE Exploratory Session, however, is the first formal action we have taken.

Imagine, if you will, what initiative might alleviate health disparities and eliminate environmental injustices. What role could your agency play? What role would you play? (Wish, hope and dream a little....)

ICEH's efforts are based on the fundamental principles that: 1) enjoying healthy communities, schools and homes is a right, not a privilege; and 2) that all children deserve to reach their fullest potential unimpeded by pollutants that may undermine their health. This means their homes need to be without mold and pesticide/insecticide residues or lead in the water or in old wall paint; their schools need to have clean air and water, healthy lunches and toxic-free classrooms; and their playgrounds need to be safe and free of hazardous chemicals. A specific initiative ICEH could offer to help mitigate environmental justice and health disparities is to offer "Science Salons" in low-income communities and communities of color. These workshops would help communities gain access to resources and information they need to leverage change, such as reducing exposures to pollutants that are linked to chronic disease and disabilities. By working more closely with community-based organizations to learn their specific needs, ICEH could translate scientific studies into lay language that would support community efforts aimed at lowering levels of contaminants and in turn lowering levels of various health problems.

Who else should be involved in future conversations around eliminating environmental injustices and alleviating health disparities?

Health-affected groups, more community-based and tribal organizations, representatives from businesses responsible for manufacturing and marketing consumer goods.

Name of Organization:

International District Housing Alliance

Contact information

Joyce Pisanont, WILD Program Director, 206-623-5132 ext 313; joyce@apialliance.org

Website (for the organization and for specific EJ/HD initiatives)

www.apialliance.org; www.idhousingalliance.org (under construction)

What current and past projects has your organization been involved in to address environmental injustices and health disparities in King County? (Please summarize, one paragraph maximum)

IDHA has successfully developed new and innovative programs that fill gaps in services for the community and educate others about the needs of the fast-growing immigrant and refugee community in King County. Many businesses, organizations and government agencies come to us for assistance for culturally appropriate, effective services for and access to this hard-to-reach population. Examples of this include multi-lingual presentations and outreach on topics such as seafood safety, household hazardous waste, water and energy conservation, and water quality.

Imagine, if you will, what initiative might alleviate health disparities and eliminate environmental injustices. What role could your agency play? What role would you play? (Wish, hope and dream a little....)

IDHA often plays the role of bridge-builder/community builder between immigrant/refugee communities that are limited-English speaking and mainstream populations. An initiative that helps to alleviate health disparities and eliminate environmental injustices would require integrating services and breaking through existing silos that prevent our various fields from working together (eg – housing is separated from health, which is separated from schools). Ideally, IDHA could use its various partnerships and relationships to help to bring different players together.

Who else should be involved in future conversations around eliminating environmental injustices and alleviating health disparities?

Name of Organization:

Native American Women's Dialog on Infant Mortality - NAWDIM

Contact information:

Leah Henry-Tanner, Coordinator, leahenry@yahoo.com

Website (for the organization and for specific EJ/HD initiatives)

We do not currently have a website.

What current and past projects has your organization been involved in to address environmental injustices and health disparities in King County? (Please summarize, one paragraph maximum)

The Native American Women's Dialog on Infant Mortality (NAWDIM) group seeks to reduce the disparity in infant mortality for Native families in Seattle- King County.

The Native American Women's Dialog on Infant Mortality group (NAWDIM) formed when Native American women in Seattle, WA and King County, in collaboration with Public Health Seattle & King County, met to discuss strategies to address this disparity. The women who form NAWDIM are concerned community members who work in federal and state agencies and community-based organizations, which include the SIDS Foundation of Washington, Seattle Indian Health Board, Urban Indian Health Institute, and United Indians of All Tribes Foundation. NAWDIM has been meeting monthly since December 2000 to explore the connections between racism, stress and infant mortality, and to identify ways to address these issues in Native American families of King County. Native American families experience three times the rate of infant mortality as do whites in King County. The SIDS rate for Native American babies is three times higher than the general population. These racial disparities in infant mortality are widening, despite 10 years of improvements in access to health care for pregnant women and their infants, as well as improvements in Native American pregnant women's health and health behaviors. Research shows a connection between maternal stress and poor pregnancy outcomes. Further, current researchers at the Centers for Disease Control are exploring racism as the over-arching contributor to chronic stress for people of color, and an underlying cause of racial disparities in poor pregnancy outcomes.

Imagine, if you will, what initiative might alleviate health disparities and eliminate environmental injustices. What role could your agency play? What role would you play? (Wish, hope and dream a little....)

I believe any initiative that addresses access to healthcare, childcare, safe & affordable housing, and reliable transportation might alleviate health disparities and environmental injustices. NAWDIM members could inform our community about these issues and gain support. I could meet with other like-minded people to assist in crafting a strategy.

Who else should be involved in future conversations around eliminating environmental injustices and alleviating health disparities?

Tribal governments and community based Native organizations

Name of Organization:

People For Puget Sound

Contact information:

Heather Trim, htrim@pugetsound.org, (206) 382-7007

Website (for the organization and for specific EJ/HD initiatives)

www.pugetsound.org

What current and past projects has your organization been involved in to address environmental injustices and health disparities in King County? (Please summarize, one paragraph maximum)

We work on many toxic pollution efforts - a few in King County and most Puget Sound-wide. Specifically, we work to get PCBs, mercury and other toxic chemicals cleaned up. As a member of the Toxic Free Legacy Coalition, we work to get changes in State law, such as phasing out toxic flame retardants (PBDEs), and removal of other persistent toxic chemicals at the source (i.e., let's not let them get into the system so that we have to then clean them up). We have initiated a WA SafeCosmetics campaign with the goal of removing toxics from personal care products. We have recently become involved in an effort to look at air quality problems in the Duwamish Basin and the connection to human health as well as the health of the Duwamish River.

Imagine, if you will, what initiative might alleviate health disparities and eliminate environmental injustices. What role could your agency play? What role would you play? (Wish, hope and dream a little....)

We don't know what toxic chemicals are in products we use or are used in the manufacturing world. Passing Chemical Policy Reform at the state level would help fill the gap in data about toxics in products, require the use of safer alternatives and provide funding for research into new technologies and safe alternatives. All residents of the state would benefit and it would be much harder for toxic chemicals to disproportionately impact any community. As a step in this direction, for example, Prop 65 in California allowed groups to learn about environmental injustices. As an advocacy group, we will lobby for chemical policy reform and also provide ways for the public to become more aware of the issues.

Who else should be involved in future conversations around eliminating environmental injustices and alleviating health disparities?

Washington businesses. We should seek out those companies in Washington State who are willing to be leaders in our efforts.

Name of Organization:

Population Health Project

Contact information

Linn Gould, 2015 14th Avenue East, Seattle, WA 98112

Website (for the organization and for specific EJ/HD initiatives)

<http://www.populationhealthproject.org/>

What current and past projects has your organization been involved in to address environmental injustices and health disparities in King County? (Please summarize, one paragraph maximum)

PHP conducts curriculum and workshops addressing the social, political, and economic root causes of health. We educate youth and adults about the links between social justice and health equity, and use this knowledge to advocate for social change. So far, we have developed modules on: What is health?, Civic engagement, Food Security, World Health & HIV/AIDS. PHP piloted an environmental justice module at Seattle Girls School in Spring, 2006. The module examined the environmental justice issues of living near the Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund Site. Using data from the US census, PHSKC Vista data base, local news, and community knowledge, the course covered: environment definition, toxins and dose, health disparities, Precautionary Principle, voice, meaningful involvement and participation, and civic action. PHP is interested in collaborating with environmental justice organizations to formalize an EJ module and prepare people of color to become leaders.

Imagine, if you will, what initiative might alleviate health disparities and eliminate environmental injustices. What role could your agency play? What role would you play? (Wish, hope and dream a little....)

PHP envisions that the state of WA will have an environmental justice law. This would stop industry and their consultants from believing that EJ is irrelevant to their work – EJ is not specifically referred to in any environmental regulations such as the Model Toxics Control Act.

PHP also envisions EJ will be (legislatively) become a part of all students environmental education curriculum. The role that PHP will play is to advocate for a social determinants of health/critical health literacy/civic engagement curriculum to become a standard module in all secondary schools.

I hope to conduct some specific health disparity based EJ research in Seattle the way other researchers have done for other cities (ie, Morello-Frosch, Litt). The data is available. The work just needs to be done.

Who else should be involved in future conversations around eliminating environmental injustices and alleviating health disparities?

Clearly this meeting is just the beginning and it should be expanded to include King County next and then move out to the rest of WA State to be successful. The more organizations and agencies that can commit to ending health disparities around environmental injustices the better.

Name of Organization: Public Health-Seattle & King County

Contact information: June Beleford, Morgan Barry, Karen Snyder, Leo Melendez

Website: <http://www.metrokc.gov/health/>

What current and past projects has your organization been involved in to address environmental injustices and health disparities in King County? (Please summarize, one paragraph maximum) Projects: REACH-Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health King County Asthma Forum, Allies Against Asthma, Healthy Homes Project, Infant Mortality Prevention Network, Tobacco Education in schools project, Breast and Cervical Health Coalition, 2003-2005 Communities County Social and Health Indicators Report reference to pollution, living wage, social and health determinants.

Currently: In response to the King County Council sponsored Town Hall meeting on health disparities in March 2006, the Board of Health has asked PH to recommend strategies and policies to eliminate health disparities. The Epidemiology, Planning and Evaluation Unit is completing the first small step, and will present a list of strategies to the BOH and KC Council within the next few months. In Environmental Health: Partner in Environmental Health Network in Action, South Park inter-agency/community meeting; IDHA/CARE grant & air quality project; PS Clean Air Agency EJ strategic plan development; concern for cumulative impact of air quality on So Park Georgetown has led to first meetings with DRCC about community/agency process to vision for the Duwamish; involved with Local Haz Waste Mgmt Program "vulnerable populations" strategic planning. Local Hazardous Waste Program: Developed and translated to Spanish Household Hazard Line script and recorded for the Household Hazard Line the services the county collection of household hazardous wastes. Helped develop the Spanish website information about the Household hazardous in Public Health's Site (<http://www.metrokc.gov/health/hazard/espanol/>)

Imagine, if you will, what initiative might alleviate health disparities and eliminate environmental injustices. What role could your agency play? What role would you play? (Wish, hope and dream a little....) Public health could provide technical assistance in bridging the complex institutional systems through supportive collaborative and sustainable partnerships with cbo's. Assistance with providing quantitative and qualitative data to monitor measurable benchmarks of progress. A successful EJ initiative would state that everyone in Seattle/KC, regardless of economic status, race, age, ability or any other define, has a clean and healthy environment wherever they work, play, learn and live. Public Health/ EH division's role would be to work on land use and planning, facilitate lowering contaminants in the environment through education and legislation, to collaborate with communities in solving their primary environment/health concerns and to create/ promote healthier options for food, exercise, and public safety. My role would be with community involvement and with communications (listening and well as sharing information, developing materials, media) One of the greatest issues is increasing access by removing institutional and social barriers. We must develop trust among the diverse communities when addressing public health issues. I could bridge with the Spanish and other communities and participate in dialog with diverse populations in addressing health disparities. As an agency we should be facilitators of dialog among groups, filling the gaps and providing leadership.

Who else should be involved in future conversations around eliminating environmental injustices and alleviating health disparities? Local city/county politicians, City/County Neighborhood coordinators. City/county Planners; representation from PS Regional Council; other CBOs; industry (?). Religious and clergy leaders, community members not affiliated with community actions or NGOs.

Name of Organization:

Puget Sound Clean Air Agency

Contact information:

206.343.8800

Website (for the organization and for specific EJ/HD initiatives)

pscleanair.org

What current and past projects has your organization been involved in to address environmental injustices and health disparities in King County? (Please summarize, one paragraph maximum)

Our agency has been involved with the South Park community, starting in the 1990's with complaints about Long Painting, and most recently with odor issues from LaFarge. We are partnering with the Puyallup tribe on a wood stove change-out initiative and have had at least one other tribe approach us about a similar program. We have also attended meetings in the International District related to transportation and diesel emission impacts.

Imagine, if you will, what initiative might alleviate health disparities and eliminate environmental injustices. What role could your agency play? What role would you play? (Wish, hope and dream a little....)

Our mission is to endure clean healthy air for all people in our 4-county jurisdiction. Our dream would be to be a part of an effort that would address in a comprehensive fashion, all the social and environmental inequalities in our region. That would mean for us that we would know what neighborhoods and communities are at-risk for higher than average air pollution exposures; we would know more about where the vulnerable members of our jurisdiction live, work and play, and we would have the necessary regulatory tools, skills and resources to address multiple and cumulative impacts on at-risk people and their communities.

Who else should be involved in future conversations around eliminating environmental injustices and alleviating health disparities?

We would like to see some of the businesses we regulate participating at these meetings. If we can't totally eliminate the incompatible land-use problems, can we find solutions other than regulatory ones, so neighbors can co-exist without negatively impacting one another?

Name of Organization:

Seattle Indian Health Board - Urban Indian Health Institute

Contact information:

Alice Park, alicep@uihi.org

Website (for the organization and for specific EJ/HD initiatives)

www.uihi.org

What current and past projects has your organization been involved in to address environmental injustices and health disparities in King County? (Please summarize, one paragraph maximum)

At UIHI, research projects include youth cardiovascular prevention, youth smoking cessation, adult tobacco use, elders long-term care, viral hepatitis integration project, maternal and child health, SIDS and diabetes technical assistance. We also coordinate the Urban Indian Health Commission. At SIHB, example projects include cardiovascular risk reduction among diabetes patients, prenatal class and outreach, breast cancer screening outreach, youth substance abuse prevention, and traditional native health services.

Imagine, if you will, what initiative might alleviate health disparities and eliminate environmental injustices. What role could your agency play? What role would you play? (Wish, hope and dream a little....)

Seattle Indian Health Board could provide culturally-appropriate services for urban AI/AN. The Urban Indian Health Institute Epidemiology Center could provide ongoing statistics and surveillance of the urban AI/AN population. The UIHI could also provide technical assistance with data collection and analysis for implementation and evaluation of potential interventions.

Who else should be involved in future conversations around eliminating environmental injustices and alleviating health disparities?

Seattle Indian Health Board clinical representative, United Indians of All Tribes Foundation, IWASIL, Duwamish tribe

Name of Organization:

Seattle Public Utilities

Contact Information:

Michael Davis, 206-615-1376, Michael.davis@seattle.gov

Website (for the organization and for specific EJ/HD initiatives)

Org: <http://www.seattle.gov/util/services/> EJ:

http://www.seattle.gov/util/About_SPU/Management/SPU_&_the_Environment/Environmental_Justice/index.asp

What current and past projects has your organization been involved in to address environmental injustices and health disparities in King County?

Environmental Justice Network in Action: Partners with Community Based Organizations, Non profits, and other govt agencies to build relationships, identify top community concerns, develop and test strategies to address concerns, and shares lessons learned to improve community engagement, program design and service delivery.

Imagine, if you will, what initiative might alleviate health disparities and eliminate environmental injustices. What role could your agency play? What role would you play? (Wish, hope and dream a little....)

I think that we should think broadly and look at ways we can partner out side of area of focus. The reality is that the community is not just focused on this topic and so we need to be flexible in our strategy. By having diverse community and agency partners at the table we will have more resources to choose from and meet people where they are.

Who else should be involved in future conversations around eliminating environmental injustices and alleviating health disparities?

Name of Organization:

Toxic Free Legacy Coalition

Contact information:

Margaret Shield, 206-632-1545 ext 123, mshield@toxicfreelegacy.org

Website (for the organization and for specific EJ/HD initiatives)

www.toxicfreelegacy.org

What current and past projects has your organization been involved in to address environmental injustices and health disparities in King County? (Please summarize, one paragraph maximum)

During 2006, the TFL Coalition supported EJ efforts in South Park/Georgetown related to air quality and tire burning at the LaFarge cement kiln. Action alerts to generate comment letters and turnout to a public meeting were sent to Coalition members. The TFL Coalition is also co-sponsoring the Seattle leg of the Environmental Justice for All Tour on Saturday, September 30th, which is led by CCEJ. Coalition representatives participated in exploratory meetings between NGOs and agencies about addressing poor air quality and high asthma rates that are disproportionately impacting residents of the Duwamish basin. In years past, lead organizations of the TFL Coalition ran successful campaigns to shut down incinerators that primarily impacted communities of color and lower socioeconomic status in King County. Clean-up of toxics in the Duwamish River superfund site has also been a key focus. The TFL Coalition has two member organizations – Community Coalition for Environmental Justice (CCEJ) and S.H.A.W.L – which focus on environmental impacts on communities of color, and indigenous peoples, respectively. Coalition members are asked to support or get involved with activities of these organizations at specific times. (Some of these activities are outside of King County.)

Imagine, if you will, what initiative might alleviate health disparities and eliminate environmental injustices. What role could your agency play? What role would you play? (Wish, hope and dream a little....)

This is a challenging question! One potential idea: Workers in some occupations are disproportionately exposed to toxic chemicals, and these workers are more frequently people of color or of lower economic status. Family members are often affected too when workers unknowingly carry toxics home on their bodies and clothes. Risk of serious health problems is increased in these families. An initiative that would educate about the problem, as well as advocate for incentives and regulation to get companies to switch to use of safer chemicals, could be supported by environmental health advocates, as well as agencies addressing hazardous waste. A key asset of the TFL Coalition is that it combines the strengths of the environmental and health communities. The Washington State Nurses Association and Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility are members of our steering committee and both organizations are interested in EJ issues. The TFL Coalition could play an important role in involving these, and other Coalition members, in a targeted EJ initiative focused on health disparities related to environmental exposures to toxic chemicals.

Who else should be involved in future conversations around eliminating environmental injustices and alleviating health disparities?

The business community needs to be engaged in these discussions and may have enlightened self-interest about addressing health disparities to reduce costs of employer-paid health insurance. Currently in Washington State, early learning initiatives are getting well-deserved attention through formation of a state Department of Early Learning and Governor Gregoire's upcoming early learning summit. It would be interesting to explore engaging members of the Washington Learns steering committee in future EJ discussions, especially around how prenatal and infant exposures to toxic chemicals increases the risk of learning disabilities.

Name of Organization:

Washington Health Foundation and South Park Violence Prevention Collaborative

Contact information

Julian Perez, julian.perez@swedish.org, 206-853-2497

Website (for the organization and for specific EJ/HD initiatives)

www.WHF.org

What current and past projects has your organization been involved in to address environmental injustices and health disparities in King County? (Please summarize, one paragraph maximum)

Washington health Foundation (I am a new member of the committee for health care disparities in diverse populations) is responsible for researching and reporting to the governor on disparities. They are the champions for her program to make Washington the healthiest state in the nation.

The SPVPC is a collaborative of artists, doctors, public health workers and social workers and community members that work toward a safer South Park. It was founded after a shooting in April 2005. We engage the community in respectful conversations about their felt needs and how to address violence in their communities.

Imagine, if you will, what initiative might alleviate health disparities and eliminate environmental injustices. What role could your agency play? What role would you play? (Wish, hope and dream a little....)

This is way bigger than a paragraph. My dreams and goals are 1) national health care system with a single payer (like Medicare expanded), with everyone in and nobody out – this insures quality access and care to all socioeconomic groups; 2) Close the wealth gap in this country – perhaps by capping the upper management salaries at 20-30 x that of their lowest paid employees. This is the best indicator of the health of a nation; 3) English Literacy classes for all foreign language speakers and recent immigrants. It's clear by the Sept 2006 Kaiser report that if you do not have a command of English, your health in this nation is poorer.

Who else should be involved in future conversations around eliminating environmental injustices and alleviating health disparities?

1) Those doing the polluting, i.e. those making money off irresponsible environmental policy.
2) Those making money of recreation – REI, small recreational boat salesmen for example. They are big advocates and could be a seed in the soil of capitalism to financial incentives to clean up the city and it's potential recreation spots.

Name of Organization:

Washington State Department of Ecology – Northwest Regional Office

Contact information

Douglas Palenshus, Water Quality Program Outreach, (425) 649-7041, DPAL461@ECY.WA.GOV

Website (for the organization and for specific EJ/HD initiatives)

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/>

What current and past projects has your organization been involved in to address environmental injustices and health disparities in King County? (Please summarize, one paragraph maximum)

We have participated and played a key role in a variety of informational events including the Salmon Homecoming events at Magnuson Park, Friends of Hicks Lake Community Picnic, and the Lower Duwamish River Superfund Cleanup. The Salmon Homecoming and the recent Duwamish event included cultural attractions where Ecology played a key role in planning the proceedings; the latter included significant translation services as well.

Imagine, if you will, what initiative might alleviate health disparities and eliminate environmental injustices. What role could your agency play? What role would you play? (Wish, hope and dream a little....)

Staff from two Ecology programs at the Northwest Regional Office agree that closer cooperation between city and county officials, especially regarding public health, would be desirable; this would include participation in City of Seattle's community visioning processes. Ecology's Environmental Checklist also needs review and updating to better reflect the breadth of responsibilities that Ecology programs are engaged in. As part of my agency's EJ Committee, I may be in a position to assist this review. With this accomplished, we may be able to share this document with a range of organizations. Such greater utilization and visibility would perpetuate further attention and awareness to this somewhat 'under the radar' effort within organizations, including Ecology.

Who else should be involved in future conversations around eliminating environmental injustices and alleviating health disparities?

Ecology managers, translation team members, and lead staff through a variety of functional areas.

Name of Organization:

Washington State Department of Health

Contact information

Gary Palcisko, gary.palcisko@doh.wa.gov

Website (for the organization and for specific EJ/HD initiatives)

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/>

What current and past projects has your organization been involved in to address environmental injustices and health disparities in King County? (Please summarize, one paragraph maximum)

DOH has evaluated exposure to contaminants in the environment in south Seattle. Most evaluations have dealt with site-specific hazardous waste releases to the soil, groundwater, surface water and/or air. An example product of our involvement is the current fish consumption advisory along the Duwamish River that has been widely communicated.

DOH has also started an evaluation of the impacts of multiple sources on the local air quality. The initial goal is to determine which contaminants and sources are the largest contributors to long-term health risks in the area, and what areas are most impacted. Future work will likely be spawned from this assessment.

Imagine, if you will, what initiative might alleviate health disparities and eliminate environmental injustices. What role could your agency play? What role would you play? (Wish, hope and dream a little....)

Government will have to work with the regulated businesses / industries to try to minimize impacts as much as possible. Incentives to businesses that reduce emissions of certain contaminants may be an example of a tool to promote change.

Our agency has largely been reacting to community concerns about environmental exposures in the area. The need for proactive policies that deal with land use and land planning are necessary to avoid EJ problems during future development.

Who else should be involved in future conversations around eliminating environmental injustices and alleviating health disparities?

City/County planners, business community

Name of Organization:

Washington State Human Rights Commission

Contact information:

Marc Brenman, (360) 753-2558, mbrenman@hum.wa.gov
Toll Free in Wash. St: 1-800-233-3247

Website (for the organization and for specific EJ/HD initiatives):

www.hum.wa.gov

What current and past projects has your organization been involved in to address environmental injustices and health disparities in King County? (Please summarize, one paragraph maximum)

We are involved in the entire State of Washington, in enforcing the Washington Law Against Discrimination. In a previous job, I worked on a major EJ case in Seattle involving Sound Transit and the Rainier Valley. I have done substantial writing and research on EJ and health disparities.

Imagine, if you will, what initiative might alleviate health disparities and eliminate environmental injustices. What role could your agency play? What role would you play? (Wish, hope and dream a little....)

Our role is primarily as a law enforcer, but we also do outreach, education, training, and prevention work. Universal medical insurance would help alleviate health disparities.

Who else should be involved in future conversations around eliminating environmental injustices and alleviating health disparities?

There are many stakeholders. Education infrastructure, housing, and transportation should be involved. Legislators. Polluting corporations.

Name of Organization:

Water and Land Resources, King County

Contact information

Dana West, dana.west@metrokc.gov

Website (for the organization and for specific EJ/HD initiatives)

What current and past projects has your organization been involved in to address environmental injustices and health disparities in King County? (Please summarize, one paragraph maximum)

Imagine, if you will, what initiative might alleviate health disparities and eliminate environmental injustices. What role could your agency play? What role would you play? (Wish, hope and dream a little....)

Who else should be involved in future conversations around eliminating environmental injustices and alleviating health disparities?