

The Merging of Public Health and Social Justice: My Story of Evolution From Case Campus to Community Engagement

CWRU Provost Scholars Program



Kim Foreman, Interim Executive Director

Environmental Health Watch

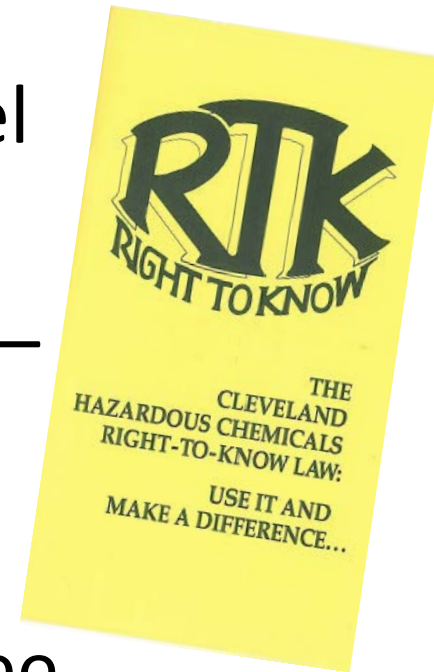
December 4, 2014

Vision and Mission

- Vision: healthy homes, communities & climate
- Mission: help people to
 - protect themselves from serious environmental threats
 - influence corporate, government and personal actions to promote human health and sustain the natural environment

EHW Early accomplishments

- Household hazardous waste – model program adopted by County
- Cleveland Right-to-Know ordinance – leadership on passage & implementation
- Local Emergency Planning Committee – leadership on prevention & hazard reduction
- Midnight Dumping Campaign



Healthy Homes, Communities, & Climate

Overarching focus on greenhouse gas reduction

- Interrelated program areas
 - Healthy, Green, Affordable Housing
 - Community Environmental Health/
Environmental Justice
- Information, assistance and advocacy
- Activities
 - education, training & direct service
 - research & demonstration
 - policy & advocacy



*... green housing
for people who
need it the most.*

**AFFORDABLE GREEN
HOUSING CENTER**

EHW
**ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH WATCH**

Overall strategy

- In partnership with community organizations
- We become the expert-maintain technical knowledge
- Assess and prioritize environmental health threats
- Devise, test, research, evaluate, demonstrate and promote model programs and policies
- Our partners implement best practices and sustain the work

Blueprint for a Healthy House

'A Blueprint for a Healthy House' brought together health, housing agencies and advocates to look at common issues. The healthy house model took on a life of its own. HUD adopted it as the blueprint for their newly created Office on Healthy Homes and has created a series of healthy-house grants.

Graduation
EHW Full Time
Health Educator

Travel
Meeting organizers
Excited for first time



2003

THH First National Project
Bridging Science and
Community Organizing
CEHRC Project Implementation

THH Resident engagement
Local Lead Ordinance
Lead Coalition Work
National Local Leadership Council

2007

Travel
National Stage
Committee Work/Advisory Role
Environmental Justice Frame



2009-Present

2001



2002

EH Community Disconnect
Lead Statistics
Lead is a Social Ill
HUD Roach Project
Public Housing work

2004-2005



2006

Thinking more broadly
Training Organizations
Sustainability Conversation
Community Disconnect

2008

NLEH Grassroots Project
Place Matters Frame
Community Empowerment
New Relationships
Structural Racism Committee

Join the

GRASSROOTS



Movement

2002 Baltimore Training

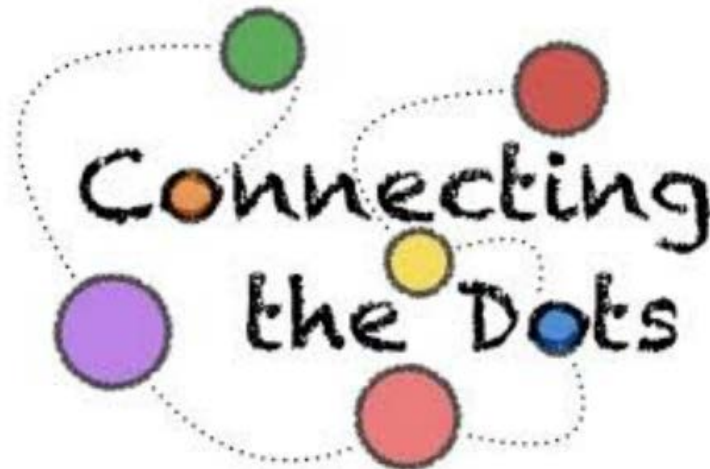


- The Community Environmental Health Resource Center (CEHRC) in Washington, D.C., works with grassroots organizations engaged in the fight for social justice in low-income communities.
- The center's primary focus is empowering residents and increasing economic opportunities to address the environmental health hazards posed by substandard housing (including asthma, lead, carbon monoxide, and pesticides) that are faced by children and other vulnerable persons in low-income communities

2003 Connecting the dots

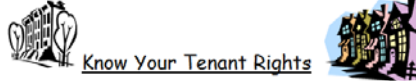
Realizing that I can be the bridge:

- HUD Roach Project in Public Housing
- Lead poisoning is a broader community issue
- Resident empowerment-PD article
- Tenants rights/CTO work



2004 Tenants for Healthy Homes





Know Your Tenant Rights

Tenant Rights
You have a right to live in housing that is safe and does not put your health at risk.

Your landlord **MAY NOT** increase your rent, stop services, or kick you out because of the following:

- Complaining to landlord or a public official
- Organizing a tenant's group
- Depositing your rent with the clerk of courts

To evict you the landlord **MUST**:

- Step 1: Give a 3 day notice to leave the premises
- Step 2: Take you to court

The landlord **MAY NOT**:

- Shut-off utilities
- Change the locks to stop you from entering
- Keep your property to get unpaid rent

Steps to get repairs done:

If your rent is **ON TIME**:

- 1.) With your next payment give your landlord a written note stating what repairs need to be done and keep a copy for yourself.
- 2.) If after 30 days repairs are not made, you can take your rent payment Downtown to the Clerk of Courts in the Justice Center.
- 3.) If you pay at the Clerk of Courts, **PAY YOUR RENT ON TIME**
- 4.) If your rent is late your landlord can evict you. Do not withhold your rent payment.

For more info contact:
Cleveland Tenants Organization (216) 432-0609/ www.clevelandtenants.org
Cleveland Housing Court (216) 664-4295/ www.clevelandhousingcourt.org

Tenants for Healthy Homes

Alliance for Healthy Homes National Project

- Educated and trained tenant leaders in low-income multi-family buildings and community residents about healthy homes inspections, lead testing and asthma triggers.
 - Local lead Ordinance
 - CMHA and CTO influence
 - Multi-family buildings IPM policy



Tenants for Healthy Homes

- Cleveland Tenants Organization
 - First direct service project
 - EHW trained staff on healthy homes
 - CTO institutionalized HH as part of their work
- Multi-Family Impact
 - ABC Management, representing over 31 multi-family properties throughout Cleveland has integrated IPM into their managerial duties as a result of our training.

2006-2007 Branching Out

- Training for CMHA inspectors
- Advisor/Training for various organizations
- Policy Change
 - Pass Local Lead Ordinance-Residents testify
- Community Outreach
- Public Speaking
- Bioneers Planning Committee



2007 Sustainability Conversation



- Who defines sustainability?
- What does a sustainable community look like?
- If we don't have a healthy community, how can we be sustainable?
- Often inequalities, health and social justice issues are after thoughts or not considered at all in the conversation



Email to Dr. Rhonda Williams

From: Kim Foreman <kmf820032003@yahoo.com>

Date: Thursday, May 1, 2008 11:26 am

Hello Dr. Williams,

First I want to thank you for your wisdom and getting students to think more broadly about the community and our place in society.

I started to understand what you were teaching us about environmental justice and organizing when I took a full-time position at Environmental Health Watch as a Health Educator.

My focus is primarily on preventing lead poisoning (big social ill issues) and reducing asthma triggers through home visits, public speaking, and community education sessions. Sometimes I work on industry pollution. **I try to empower people and educate tenants about their rights, and educate landlords about responsibility, and other professional communities that need to know (for ex. Teachers). Currently I am working with NLI on involving our community in the green movement which includes green-collar jobs and what that means to us, helping to define sustainability and the green opportunities going on in our communities.**

I have been to Oberlin and CCC talking about these issues to students and would love to come back to Case when the time is right.

Thanks,
Kim Foreman, CWRU 01

Our web site: www.ehw.org

Look up FYI: green for all/Van Jones, www.greencitybluelake.org, Sustainable South Bronx



2009 Environmental Justice

**NEIGHBORHOOD
LEADERSHIP FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**



EHW's Kim Foreman Speaks about Sustainability in Cleveland





NLEH Initiative Accomplishments

- **EPA has significantly enforced the cleaned up in the forgotten triangle**
 - Green Bean Coffee House /Tire Recycling Business plans have been completed
 - NLEH leadership team members have completed Neighborhood Leadership Cleveland-NLI
 - **No Incinerator/Clean Air community meetings and advocacy campaign**
 - Healthy Eating Took Kit developed
 - **Race, Food and Justice Conference 2013**
 - NLI REEL Talk Film Series
 - Will Allen Workshops and Book signing
 - Growing Power Conference in Milwaukee
 - **Direct Service Projects**
 - Green Houses and Greenhouses Project
 - Easy Does It Cooking Classes
 - Community Block Party/tours- Rid-All Farm
 - Youth Farmers Leadership Program
 - Various events
- Projects 2014**
- Easy Does It Cooking Classes Part II
 - **Race, Food and Justice Conference**
 - **Youth Farmers Leaders Program**
 - YouthBuild-Implement Action Plan Projects
 - **EJ Ordinance**

Grassroots Engagement Programs

RID-ALL and EHW PRESENT:



**You Said It. We Heard It.
Let's Do It Together!**



**Green Houses
& Greenhouses**



Grassroots Engagement Events

RID-ALL
Urban Agriculture and Youth Education

Come Celebrate Our Grand Opening!!
Meet Will Allen, CEO of Growing Power, Inc.

Thursday, July 14, 2011, 10 a.m.




**Rid-All Green Partnership/Growing Power
Regional Outreach Training Center
East 81st and Otter Road
(off Kinsman Road)**

Green n' tha ghetto

Our mission is to transform communities by providing accessible and nutritionally rich food items to improve overall health through training and educational activities.

For more information contact:
Damien Forshe
info@ridall.org
216-990-8191




COMMUNITY BLOCK


Come Party With Us!

**Friday
August 23rd, 2013
From 4pm to 9 pm**

**Rid-All Urban Farm
8129 Otter Rd.
Cleveland, Ohio 44105
(off of 82nd & Kinsman Rd.)**



Food. Music. Fun



We want to thank ALL of the residents who engage with us!

DJ and Live Music


Featuring live entertainment by Eddie "Jazz" Brown

Food provided by Divinity Catering, Favor Catering, Natural Effect Garden Bar, and Vel Scott's Healthy You
Rid-All farm fresh tilapia will be available to taste!

**This Event is Free
Open to the Public**

For more information contact Kim
216-961-4646 x 104/kim.foreman@ehw.org

Sponsored by Environmental Health Watch, Rid-All Green Partnership



**Will Allen
CEO, GROWING POWER**
Named by Time Magazine as one of the Most Influential People in the World in 2010.

Will Allen is the CEO of Growing Power, a national not-for-profit organization supporting the development of community food systems. He has over 50 years of experience in farming, marketing and distributing food, and is known as an innovator and creator of food systems.

Mr. Allen has developed a pioneering bio-intensive growing system using worms, which is being used in urban and rural agriculture projects around the world.


Awarded the 2008 MacArthur "Genius Grant" for his efforts to promote sustainable farming in low-income neighborhoods.

**Friday, March 18th 7 pm
Keynote Lecture**
Case Western Reserve University Ford Auditorium
Allen Memorial Medical Library
(corner of Euclid Ave. and Adelbert)
Admission is \$35
A limited number of complimentary tickets will be available to CWRU students, staff, and faculty through the CWRU Social Justice Institute (contact: socialjustice@case.edu)

**Saturday, March 19th 8:30 am to 1:00 pm
Aquaponics & Vermiculture Workshop**
Rid-All Green Partnership/Growing Power
Regional Outreach Training Center
8129 Otter Road
(off Kinsman Road)
Admission is \$75 per person (lunch included)

Combined tickets for the Friday keynote forum and Saturday workshop are \$100.

**To register and for more information:
Please call (330) 273-8977**



**These events are presented by Rid-All Green Partnership
Neighborhood Leadership Institute, Environmental Health Watch**

**Sponsors of the Keynote Forum are the CWRU Social Justice Institute, Policy Bridge
and JP Morgan Chase Bank Foundation**

NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERSHIP FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

NLEH Vision
Our vision is to create safe, healthy, and sustainable communities with socially and economically empowered citizens

NLEH Mission
The mission of NLEH is to promote environmental justice through education, advocacy and support that mobilizes communities to create healthy solutions for a sustainable future.

HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP

hip
cuyahoga
Be HIP. Be Healthy. Be Heard.

HIP-C Vision
"Cuyahoga County is a place where all residents live, work, learn and play in safe, healthy, sustainable and prosperous communities."

HIP-C Mission
"HIP-Cuyahoga will utilize a community driven process to conduct health and social assessments, identify priorities and implement a comprehensive and collaborative approach for carrying out and funding health improvement strategies."

To RSVP and for more information contact:
Kim Foreman-EHW
216-961-4646 /kim.foreman@ehw.org
Don Slocum - NUJ
216-812-8700/don@neighborhoodleadership.org
Nichelle Shaw-CCBH
216-201-2001 x 1506/nshaw@ccbh.net

You are Invited!

Community Gathering Luncheon



**Saturday, June 29, 2013
9:00 AM-12:30 PM**

Neighborhood Leadership Institute
(Inside United Methodist Church)
5246 Broadway Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44127

Continental breakfast will be served and lunch provided by Vel Scott!

We want to hear from you!
What are your thoughts on the top health priorities for Greater Cleveland?
Participate in a Community Conversation
Get updates about the NLEH Initiative Action Plan

Grassroots Engagement

Lessons Learned-research ,outreach, resources, time

- Authenticity is worth gold
- Do your homework about the community
- Understand what barriers exist (not the focus)
- No cookie cutter approach
- Value the people
- Leverage existing resources in the community
- Find out who is already there doing the work
- Takes a lot of time and flexibility

Environmental Justice Work

NLEH

- EPA has significantly enforced the cleaned up in the forgotten triangle
- Environmental Crimes Task Force established in 2014
- No Incinerator/Clean Air community meetings and advocacy campaign
- Race, Food and Justice Conference 2013-2014



All photos by: Emily Blanchard

**Illegal Dumping in
NLEH Neighborhoods**

A Cleveland Tour

March & April 2011



www.ohiocitizen.org

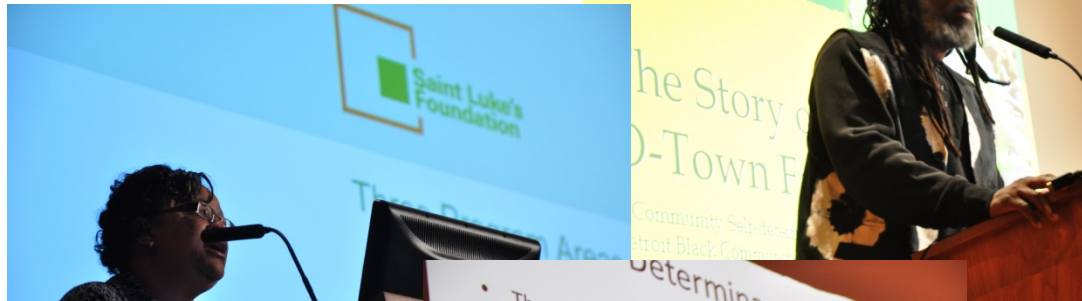
Earth Day Coalition • Environmental Health Watch • Northeast Ohio Sierra Club •
Coal & Energy Committee • Ohio Citizen Action



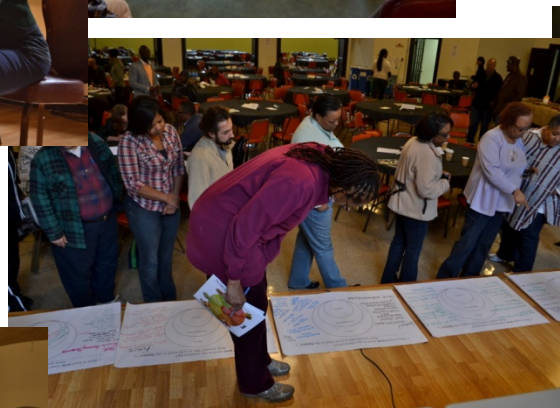


Analyzing the Urban Food Movement Through a Social Justice Lens

RFJ Conference 2013



RFJ Conference 2014



Environmental Justice Work

Food Justice

- Food Justice Collaborative/Network (TBD)
 - Organized & grassroots, lead by impacted communities, collaborative and strategic
 - Economic , policy and education strategies developed by community leaders in the movement
 - Build capacity within the community to sustain and do the necessary work
 - Youth Farmers Leadership Project
 - Conference 2015 pending- regional RFJ



Environmental Justice Work

Air Quality

- Plan EJ 2014 calls upon EPA to consider environmental justice concerns during the permitting process
 - Enhance the ability of overburdened communities to participate fully and meaningfully in the permitting process
 - Assist permitting authorities to meaningfully address environmental justice issues in permitting decisions to the greatest extent practicable.
 - Cuyahoga County Office of Sustainability established

Advisory, Board and Committee Work

- City of Cleveland Climate Action Advisory Committee
- Cuyahoga County Place Matters
- NEORSD Green Infrastructure External Advisory Committee
- Cleveland Neighborhood Progress Economic Opportunity Advisory Committee
- ESRASDH HIP-Cuyahoga Committee
- Rid-All Green Partnership Board President
- Common Good Ohio (just resigned)

Public Health + Social Justice

- Equity and Place Matters
- Health, Sustainability and Environmental Justice
- Social Determinants of Health
- Structural Racism Committee



Social Determinants of Health

- Research indicates much of disparity is associated with: social and environmental issues such as stress of poverty, racism, violence, discrimination in health services, food insecurity.



Health Inequities



Social Inequities

Structural Racism

Place matters work-ESRASDH Committee

Perspective Transformation – Seeing things differently in order to do things differently.

- Racism – a system of structuring opportunity and value based on RACE which unfairly disadvantages some individuals and communities and unfairly advantages other individuals and communities (Camara Jones, PhD)
- Key strategy is to assure **perspective transformation** by **eliminating racism as a root cause of poor health and economic inequity**.
- The threads of racism are deeply woven in our society, extending into the fabric of our founding principles. Examining race reveals how benefits and burdens in our society have been distributed in such a way as to allow race to play a significant role in predicting the types of privilege, disadvantage, and health outcomes that people might expect to experience.
- **4 levels of Racism – Internalized, Interpersonal, Institutionalized, Structural**

What Do You Know?

- What are the affects of lead poisoning? What age group does it affect?
- What are some asthma triggers?
- Where can the main sources of lead and asthma triggers be found?
- What is environmental justice?
- How is housing related to climate change?
- What are the health issues related to climate?
- How is food and nutrition related to the environment?



QUESTIONS?

Thank You!



www.ehw.org

216-961-4646 x 104

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