

**Salina, Kansas CARE Level I
Issue Ranking Results Summary
February 2010**

Introduction

Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) is a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) technical assistance and grant program that offers an innovative way for communities to organize and take action to reduce risks from local environmental health issues. Kansas State University Pollution Prevention Institute was awarded a two-year CARE grant, beginning October 2008, to assist the community of Salina, Kansas, with determining its priority environmental health issues.

CARE Level I Process

An initial environmental health issues list was developed by the original Salina grant partners at the first meeting. Those who could not attend were asked by email to add to the list. The list was categorized and presented at three public outreach events. In lieu of a public meeting, the CARE team “piggy backed” on outreach events involving a high-profile project entailing redevelopment of the seven-mile stretch of the former river channel that runs through the city of Salina. The Friends of the River foundation sponsored highly publicized public outreach events at three locations over five days in June 2009 to solicit comments from the public on this project and allowed the Salina CARE team to seek public input at that time to identify gaps in the original environmental health issues list. Interested citizens were invited to join the CARE team. Following promotions on the local radio station, community access television station, and an article in the local newspaper, a focus group meeting was held where teams (water, healthy homes, waste, and air) were formed and then met separately to prepare issue fact sheets. Volunteers researched 14 issues and developed papers that were later presented and ranked either at public meetings or online.

Results of Prioritization of Salina’s Environmental Health Issues

Issues were ranked qualitatively and quantitatively by the public using one of the two attached ranking forms (Attachment 1 or 2). The “quantitative” ranking method refers to the prioritization method used by the citizens where four criteria (risk/impact on environment, health, and sensitive population and urgency for action) were given a score of one to five. The “qualitative” method refers to a prioritization whereby the public (after listening to or reading abstracts of the issue papers) ranked its top three issues in order of personal importance.

At least 73 rankings were given to each quantitative ranking criteria and at least 71 rankings were given to each qualitative ranking criteria. Comments left on ranking forms are summarized in Attachment 3.

The following table is prioritized according to quantitative aspects (ranked 1 through 5 to determine degree of environmental health impact):

	<i>Issues</i>	Feb 18 ranking totals
1	Groundwater Contamination	1273
2	Limited Water Supply	1188
3	Lead Poisoning	1168
4	Radon	1142
5	Household Hazardous Waste	1076
6	Pharmaceuticals & Personal Care Products Disposal	1055
7	Stormwater	980
8	Waste Reduction	970
9	Inadequate Home Maintenance	909
10	Local Organic Food Sources	880

	<i>Issues</i>	Feb 18 ranking totals
11	Hazardous Air Pollutants	851
12	Residential Compostable Waste	810
13	Diesel Emissions	803
14	Unintentional Home Injuries	797

The following table is prioritized according to qualitative aspects (top three issues weighted—first issue multiplied by 3, second issue multiplied by 2, and third issue multiplied by 1):

	<i>Issues</i>	Weighted top 3 total	1st issue	2nd issue	3rd issue
1	Limited Water Supply	86	48	30	8
2	Groundwater Contamination	77	51	18	8
3	Waste Reduction	49	30	14	5
4	Lead Poisoning	41	21	14	6
5	Radon	34	9	18	7
6	Local Organic Food Sources	30	15	10	5
7	Pharmaceuticals & Personal Care Products Disposal	29	12	10	7
8	Household Hazardous Waste	23	6	8	9
9	Stormwater	21	9	8	4
10	Residential Compostable Waste	16	6	6	4
11	Inadequate Home Maintenance	12	3	4	5
12	Hazardous Air Pollutants	7	3	2	2
13	Diesel Emissions	0	0	0	0
14	Unintentional Home Injuries	0	0	0	0

Observations

- a. Groundwater contamination and limited water supply continue to be priority issues in Salina, receiving extensive press in the last several years.
- b. Lead poisoning and radon were ranked high by both methods. These issues have not been publicized.
- c. Issues that may impose fewer environmental health risks but are personally important to the community include waste reduction/recycling (moved from 8th to 3rd), local organic food sources (moved from 10th to 6th), and residential compostable waste (moved from 12th to 10th).
- d. Some issues are related and could be combined when addressed in a CARE Level II project (e.g., Healthy Homes could include lead, radon, home maintenance, and unintentional home injuries; residential compostable waste could be tied with waste reduction).
- e. The greatest number of comments involved issues of household hazardous waste, limited water supply, and waste reduction/recycling.

Attachment 1 – Ranking Form

Prioritization of Salina’s Environmental Health Issues

U.S. EPA Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE)

Considering each of the issues in the far left column, please rank each category. Use whole numbers.

1 = Very Low 2 = Low 3 = Medium 4 = High 5 = Very High

Environmental Health Issues	Risk/ Impact on Environment	Risk/ Impact on Health	Risk/ Impact on Sensitive Population (Children or Elderly)	Urgency for Action	After all topics are presented, rank your top three issues	I would like to learn more about this.* <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I have ideas for solutions.* <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Local Organic Food Sources							
Household Hazardous Waste							
Residential Compostable Waste							
Reducing Solid Waste							
Pharmaceuticals & Personal Care Products Disposal							
Limited Water Supply							
Groundwater Contamination							
Stormwater							
Lead Poisoning							
Radon							
Inadequate Home Maintenance							
Unintentional Home Injuries							
Diesel Emissions							
Hazardous Air Pollutants							

**See back to include more information.*

Please notify me of future meetings.

Name: _____ **Email:** _____ **Phone:** _____

	Please indicate if there is something <i>specific</i> you would like to know about any of these issues.	If you have solutions to improve any of these issues, please share them here.
Local Organic Food Sources		
Household Hazardous Waste		
Residential Compostable Waste		
Reducing Solid Waste		
Pharmaceuticals & Personal Care Products Disposal		
Limited Water Supply		
Groundwater Contamination		
Stormwater		
Lead Poisoning		
Radon		
Inadequate Home Maintenance		
Unintentional Home Injuries		
Diesel Emissions		
Hazardous Air Pollutants		

Thank you for providing your valuable input!

Attachment 2 – Alternative Online Ranking Form

Prioritization of Salina's Environmental Health Issues U.S. EPA Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE)

Considering each of the issues in the far left column, please rank each category.

1 = Very Low

2 = Low

3 = Medium

4 = High

5 = Very High

Environmental Health Issues	Risk/Impact on Environment	Risk/Impact on Health	Risk/Impact on Sensitive Population (Children or Elderly)	Urgency for Action	After all topics are presented, rank your top three issues	I would like to learn more about this. <i>Check if yes.</i>	I have ideas for solutions. <i>Check if yes.</i>
Local Organic Food Sources	Select	Select	Select	Select	<input type="radio"/> 1 <input type="radio"/> 2 <input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Household Hazardous Waste	Select	Select	Select	Select	<input type="radio"/> 1 <input type="radio"/> 2 <input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Residential Compostable Waste	Select	Select	Select	Select	<input type="radio"/> 1 <input type="radio"/> 2 <input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Waste Reduction	Select	Select	Select	Select	<input type="radio"/> 1 <input type="radio"/> 2 <input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pharmaceuticals & Personal Care Products Disposal	Select	Select	Select	Select	<input type="radio"/> 1 <input type="radio"/> 2 <input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limited Water Supply	Select	Select	Select	Select	<input type="radio"/> 1 <input type="radio"/> 2 <input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Groundwater Contamination	Select	Select	Select	Select	<input type="radio"/> 1 <input type="radio"/> 2 <input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stormwater	Select	Select	Select	Select	<input type="radio"/> 1 <input type="radio"/> 2 <input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lead Poisoning	Select	Select	Select	Select	<input type="radio"/> 1 <input type="radio"/> 2 <input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Radon	Select	Select	Select	Select	<input type="radio"/> 1 <input type="radio"/> 2 <input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inadequate Home Maintenance	Select	Select	Select	Select	<input type="radio"/> 1 <input type="radio"/> 2 <input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unintentional Home Injuries	Select	Select	Select	Select	<input type="radio"/> 1 <input type="radio"/> 2 <input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Diesel Emissions	Select	Select	Select	Select	<input type="radio"/> 1 <input type="radio"/> 2 <input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hazardous Air Pollutants	Select	Select	Select	Select	<input type="radio"/> 1 <input type="radio"/> 2 <input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental Health Issues	Risk/Impact on Environment	Risk/Impact on Health	Risk/Impact on Sensitive Population (Children or Elderly)	Urgency for Action	After all topics are presented, rank your top three issues	I would like to learn more about this. <i>Check if yes.</i>	I have ideas for solutions. <i>Check if yes.</i>

Submit

Attachment 3 – Comments from those who participated in rankings

	Please indicate if there is something <i>specific</i> you would like to know about any of these issues.	If you have solutions to improve any of these issues, please share them here.
General Comments	Combine categories and address such as—combine waste issues into a multi-faceted project to reduce, reuse, recycle, or if needed, properly dispose of all “waste” products. Combine all these under education and awareness and apply for the grant.	I think all issues could use more education. We need to teach kids & teens to respect our land, etc. Their folks don’t, teachers try! Maybe an hour or two per month to clean a designated area to care for & education similar to the D.A.R.E. program?
Local Organic Food Sources	Where can I get a copy of the 23 local producers that practice sustainable food production? What group/agencies are working on this? Will the local food bank take my extra garden items during the summer?	Year-round farmer’s market—maybe city owned facility that would rent space. Community gardens for families, grant assistance to producers, technical assistance for producers to change. Local is more important than organic.
Household Hazardous Waste	Will they ever expand their hours in town—hrs are extremely limited.	Partner with Images Recycling for drop off of household batteries and household fluorescent light bulbs (not tubes). Need more hours of operation. “Underutilized” because too inconvenient. Educate kids in grade, middle, and high schools then parents will follow. We need more opportunities to recycle TVs, computers, etc. –more advertising—many people I talk to had something to recycle but did not know about it. Check on regulatory requirements on free pick up of HHW by trained staff members. Keep HHW facility open 5 ½ days a week. Work with KWU. Training or frequent publishing of disposal sites – rate/time. Am glad we have our facility and I use it. HHW is good place to take things, thank God!
Residential Compostable Waste	What impact has yard waste carts had on disposal? Where can we buy compost bins? Ave price?	Home on site composting mulching mowers discourage Would the City consider incentives to people who compost? Some sort of a credit or fee reduction. (Sacred Heart composts from their lunch room.) What happens to our yard waste cart? Excellent project at Regional Food Bank in OK City. Can we do something in Salina? Mulching mower—no pick up and battery-operated lawn mowers Work with KWU. Provide a central spot to dump it. Use it on a facility to make it into energy (electricity).

	<p align="center">Please indicate if there is something <i>specific</i> you would like to know about any of these issues.</p>	<p align="center">If you have solutions to improve any of these issues, please share them here.</p>
<p>Reducing Solid Waste</p>	<p>How to present these topics to kids?</p>	<p>Encourage recycling at public institutions, esp. colleges & schools to combine education & recycling. Make curbside recycling open to all citizens, even if they don't use city trash service. Eliminate the extra fee for city customers. Charge everyone for the recycling program, not just those who do it. Provide recycling for city schools, where paper is massive. Residents should be rewarded for recycling, not charged for curbside recycling. Push onsite composting, industry-specific recycling done directly by each industry. If USD 305 recycled. WOW. There is so much paper waste at schools in Salina. Mandate recycling in Salina. Education in schools, promoting reduction and recycling. Am glad we have concerned people who have provided facilities for us. Complementary Currency – recycling “neighborhoods” with rewards tied to community services like transportation. Could a significant part of this grant be used for such a system? It could target awareness and action.</p>
<p>Pharmaceuticals & Personal Care Products Disposal</p>	<p>How to dispose properly and where resources are for this.</p>	<p>Somewhere in Washington state(?) has actually outlawed contaminating detergents. The Rolling Hills Zoo recycles old perfume if that would help. Fund testing of local waste water discharges and downstream waters to det'm impacts of the discharges. Use this information for education on proper disposal. Have the pharmaceutical dispensing source instruct the client on proper disposal, or at least hand out simple information sheets or refrigerator magnets. Work with KWU. Wish more recycle bins were available. Am glad we have concerned people who have provided facilities for us. This could also be served through the currency model.</p>

	<p align="center">Please indicate if there is something <i>specific</i> you would like to know about any of these issues.</p>	<p align="center">If you have solutions to improve any of these issues, please share them here.</p>
<p>Limited Water Supply</p>	<p>Include/address preventative measures in limited water supply. Could all water issues be included in one category—multi-faceted emphasis on preserving/improving water quality.</p>	<p>Municipal solutions will largely not effect supply of water. The only solution listed under last paragraph is limit irrigation. Open up old river channel to mire(?) flow to recharge alluvial aquifers. Discourage lawn watering. Buy more water rights. Promote rain gardens. Auto cut off devices. Rain barrels – I make these and we use to irrigate my garden all summer. I'd be happy to show others how to make them. Hays gives out low flow shower heads and offers rebates for those who purchase hi-efficiency washers. Have an education program in local schools provide training for science teachers (Project Learning Tree, Project WET—KACEE provided); provide materials for students including field trips. I have more ideas but not enough space here. I would absolutely be involved in implementing these solutions. Education. Drill more wells for Salina. Do more to educate the public and issue fines(?) This could also be served through the currency model. Storage expanded?</p>
<p>Groundwater Contamination</p>	<p>Who is doing this and ways to reduce/prevent</p>	<p>Tree fields –popular trees [phytoremediation] Education. Keep groups accountable.</p>
<p>Stormwater</p>	<p>How can we eliminate trash, pet waste entering drains?</p>	<p>Discourage lawns! Encourage rain gardens. River rats. Use of rain gardens. Hold a community-wide storm drain stenciling project. Involve the youth. Art center kids could design the stencil. Boy Scouts could apply. Education. Study ways to reduce solid waste and contamination from entering the storm drains and water ways. Education and mechanical methods. Issue fines to people who misuse drains.</p>
<p>Lead Poisoning</p>	<p>Combine the next four issues into “potential hazards in your home”; Can you paint over lead based paint and help reduce exposure? If a home has lead paint, what can be done about it? Does having the Exide factory here impact lead poisoning risks in Salina? Lead base paints and products used prior to 1980s. High percentage of homes and households affected by lead.</p>	<p>Routine testing of all children, not just those screened for potential risk. Grant to provide plumbing services to stop leaks, promote use of low flow appliance and fixtures. Educate, assist, and remove or cover lead-based products.</p>

	<p align="center">Please indicate if there is something <i>specific</i> you would like to know about any of these issues.</p>	<p align="center">If you have solutions to improve any of these issues, please share them here.</p>
Radon	<p>What were costs for 1988 kits? It affects nearly every home.</p>	<p>Subsidize part of cost of Radon test kits to encourage wider testing in Salina area. Needs more study—survey is probably in hill area which because of rocky hill more likely to have radon. Grants for remediation (need-based), grant-funded study that would test all residences in Salina. Require testing by businesses. Laws requiring regular landlord testing. Radon kits can be distributed and provide list of contractors who can modify their existing homes to protect against radon.</p>
Inadequate Home Maintenance	<p>My neighbor has been without siding for 2+ years—is that legal? Roofing, exterior, electrical and water leaks cause mold issues, vector issues, along with a host of environmental issues within the home.</p>	<p>Try to make landlords more accountable; renters are freezing, etc. I'm so glad we have the Neighborhood Watch program. I have used it to report huge amounts of dog poop in our alley, loose dogs, and cigarette butts from a Bingo Club, etc. Educate, provide documentation of hazards of living in inadequate and unsafe homes. Provide input on prioritizing the problems within the structure of the homes.</p>
Unintentional Home Injuries	<p>What are education/prevention programs that have worked?</p>	<p>Need more padded cells! Gravity cannot be ignored!</p>
Diesel Emissions	<p>What would be pros/cons of changing school buses?</p>	<p>Encourage Salina School Board to require Salina school buses be retrofitted with post-combustion control equipment; Parents idle to pick up kids. Wal-Mart example on prevention of diesel idling among _____.; Rail idle? Zone areas for truck stops—not allowed outside zone. Emission testing of vehicles. EPA have increase standards, particulate matter. Highway fuel we use—diesel is better than gasoline in some ways. Filtering systems. Report trucks and such who love to keep diesels running.</p>