



CARE

LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS. HEALTHY COMMUNITIES.



Fall 2008

Environmental Sustainability for the Salina Community

Step 1: Joining Together

Kansas State University's Pollution Prevention Institute (PPI) and the Kansas community PRIDE program have received a cooperative grant to protect the health of Salina's citizens and local environment through EPA's Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) program. The group will work with key Salina partners, including the City of Salina and the Salina-Salina County Health Department, throughout the two-year project period.

PPI provides technical and pollution prevention assistance to business, industry and public entities in Kansas. Kansas PRIDE is a community improvement program. Both will work with Salina's citizens and partnership team to seek public opinion about their environmental and health issues in Salina. The K-State partners will lead the community through a process to identify the most important environmental health issues that need to be addressed in the community.

Salina has a diverse group of CARE partners committed to the project. They include community organizations, academic and public institutions, local government officials, the public health department, area businesses and non-profit organizations. These organizations will form the foundation of a collaborative partnership with Salina's citizens to identify, understand, rank and prioritize environmental and health risks within the community.

In Step 1, the initial partners will begin the process of seeking public opinion on important environmental health issues and invite citizens to join the CARE partnership.



About CARE 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 toxic pollution in the local environment.

Level I, Level II Grants Awarded at two monetary levels over two years, CARE grants help communities tackle their problems using a four-step process. (See diagram to the left and below.)

A Level I grant (up to \$100,000) enables a community to progress through the first two steps, which involve 1) building a broad-based partnership, and 2) identifying a range of environmental problems and solutions.

Level II grants (up to \$300,000) fund the next two steps: 3) taking action to reduce risks and 4) becoming self-sustaining.

Please visit the CARE Web site, www.epa.gov/CARE for more information.





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Step 2: Identifying Problems, Solutions

The K-State team and Salina's key partners are asking Salina citizens to participate in the CARE process to identify issues that are a concern to the community's health and local ecosystems.

Public events will be used to gather citizen input on local environmental concerns and issues. These issues will be grouped into categories and shared with the community via press releases and the Web.

These events will also offer citizens a chance to learn more about the project and to join action teams that will explore the environmental health issues identified by the community. There will be at least four action teams centered on the following categories of environmental health issues: healthy homes, water, waste and air. Interested residents will be encouraged to participate on these action teams. Residents' interests and knowledge will be great assets to the work-at-hand.

Data will be provided to the teams so that they will be able to evaluate levels of risk associated with the issues in each category. Each team will develop an issue paper to share their findings with the community.

An issue prioritization process will be determined and the public-at-large will be asked to participate. A public meeting will be conducted to prioritize which issues are most important to the community and discuss possible solutions to address the issues.

The CARE project will use public events and forums to engage the community-at-large so that they can voice their environmental concerns and participate in plans to protect health and local ecosystems in Salina.

Step 3: Implementing Solutions, Reducing Risks

The next step for the community after CARE Level I work concludes, will be to determine a plan of action to address concerns. This may involve the researching of environmental funding.

CARE Level II grants may be competed for and will require a community partnership to address how they will implement local solutions to reduce environmental and human health risks that have been prioritized by the community.

Step 4: Becoming Self-Sustaining

To better ensure sustainability, leadership training workshops will be conducted as the Level I project work nears its end.

The purpose of these workshops will be to develop a Salina CARE team that will implement the goals and programs prioritized in the Level I process.

Team members will be asked to participate long-term and continue to implement local actions to protect and preserve the health and local ecosystems of the Salina community.

Salina's CARE Partners

The City of Salina, Salina-Saline County Health Department, Friends of the River, The Land Institute, Smoky Hill Audubon Society, Schwan's Food Manufacturing, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Saline County Extension Office, K-State Salina, League of Women Voters of Salina, and many others.

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