

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)
**EPA's Environmental Justice
Collaborative Problem-Solving (CPS) Model**

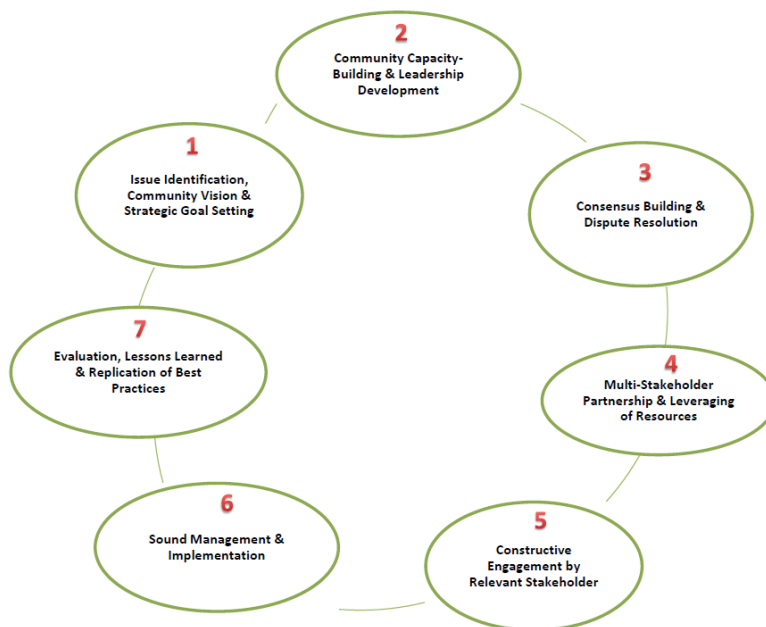
Working Together to Create Change
October 11, 2014

CPS Model

- Purpose: to assist communities in working with other stakeholders to develop proactive, strategic, and visionary approaches to address their environment and/or public health issues.
- The model consists of **7 elements**. The elements are not chronological steps – each one can be started and addressed in any order.
- The model does not need funding in order to be successful in your community.

The 7 Elements of the EPA CPS Model

Elements of the Collaborative Problem-Solving Model



At the Emory HERCULES “Initiating Action” session, we will:

- Discuss each of the 7 CPS elements.
- Demonstrate the model in 90 minutes. It is important to remember that meaningful change takes time
Note: – in practice, each element of the model may take many meetings, communications, and strategic actions.
- Think of an action step that you can take back to your community. Your action step will be based on the issues and current problem-solving state of your community.

WORKSHEET 3

**Collaborative Problem-Solving Element 3:
Consensus Building and Dispute Resolution**

Effective community engagement involves finding good ways to make group decisions, involving all relevant stakeholders and resolving disagreements, if necessary.

What conflicts or disagreements has the community experienced?	What actions should be taken to resolve the conflicts or disagreements?

What challenges do you anticipate encountering before you arrive at consensus and agreement?	What actions can you take to create consensus?

What conflicts and disagreements remain?	What steps can you take to resolve outstanding conflicts and disagreements?

WORKSHEET 4

**Collaborative Problem-Solving Element 4:
Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships and Leveraging of Resources**

An effective community engagement effort requires the support of people who can contribute ideas and resources. It is important to identify these individuals early in the engagement process, make contact and develop working relationships. Create a common vision, goals and objectives with the partners and a clear, workable plan to address identified issues.

Stakeholder or Partner	Sector	What Is their Role in this Effort?	Contact Information

Collaborative Problem-Solving Element 6: Sound Management and Implementation

Sound organization and management is important to produce results. This means developing and carrying out work plans with clear goals and clear timeframes and assigning responsibilities to the appropriate people.

ESTABLISH ACTIONS	CREATE A TIMELINE	IDENTIFY LEADERSHIP	ASSIGN TASKS	DOCUMENT OUTCOMES	CELEBRATE SUCCESSES
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ACTIVITIES		
<u>ACTION STEP</u>	<u>TIMELINE</u>	<u>RESPONSIBLE PERSON</u>
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

WORKSHEET 7

**Collaborative Problem-Solving Element 7:
Evaluation, Lessons Learned and Replication of Best Practices**

Evaluation helps determine whether a project is achieving its goals. Findings from the evaluation should be shared with project partners, so they can make informed decisions to improve project performance.

List the evaluation techniques you will use.	What are the measures of success?	What mechanisms will be used to integrate lessons learned into existing practices and programs?