

Community Forum Session: Initiating Action  
Facilitated by: Camilla Warren

**Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving Model**  
**Topic: Illegal Dumping**

**Element 1: Issue identification, Community Vision, Strategic Goal Setting**

Issue Identification

- Soil/water contamination
- Chlorine Spill
- Effects children (developmental effects) and community health
- Highland Park Construction Waste
- Remediation and socioeconomic impacts

How Will the Community Discuss Issues?

- Find common ground
- Use incentives
- Network
- Involve Neighborhood associations and use existing groups
- Educate the community

Envision solutions

- Share knowledge
- Identify key people and organizations

**Element 2: Community Capacity Building and Leadership Development**

Identify key people and organizations

- University partnerships
- WHO for health information

Capacity building usually means doing something small and gaining experience. The Economic Development Agency (EDA) has grant opportunities for this.

**Element 3: Consensus Building and Dispute Resolution**

Learn / know:

- The conflict and the actors.
- What steps you can take to resolve outstanding conflicts and disagreements.
- That some items are ongoing and may need to be revisited regularly.

**Element 4: Multi-stakeholder Partnerships and Leveraging of Resources**

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- Local authorities have to request aid from government bodies such as FEMA or the Army Corps of Engineers.
- Get outside help if you don't have the capacity to reach your goals alone – this can take time!
- Communicate urgency.

### **Element 5: Constructive Engagement by Relevant Stakeholders**

Need timelines and clear roles for everyone

### **Element 6: Sound Management and Implementation**

Action Plan

- Have clearly defined roles.
- Measure your outcomes.
- Set a timeline; otherwise it's just a wish (not a plan).

### **Element 7: Evaluations, Lessons Learned, and Replication of Best Practices**

Important to get the ball rolling

- Let everyone know they made a difference.
- This is what will get people even more involved.