



National Center for Environmental Health Division of Emergency and Environmental Health Services

Community Environmental Health Assessment

The Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health (PACE EH) began in July 1995 as a multiyear partnership between the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) and the National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH).

PACE EH is the methodology promoted by NCEH and NACCHO to conduct CEHAs in both domestic and international settings. PACE EH offers guidance to communities and local health officials for conducting community-based environmental health assessments to

- identify environmental health issues,
- prioritize the identified issues,
- develop action plans, and
- evaluate the progress to address selected issues.



Why Use a CEHA Process in Your Community?

PACE EH was designed to improve the environmental health decision-making process by strengthening community involvement so that public values and priorities are considered. The PACE EH guidebook offers guidance for improving local environmental health status and redefining the role of leadership in local environmental health.

Results from the PACE EH process evaluation conducted by the Battelle Centers for Public Health Research and Evaluation concluded that the major impacts of implementing a CEHA such as the one recommended in PACE EH include the following:

- Building networks and collaboration.
- Improving knowledge and skills in environmental health issues and collaborative processes.
- Increasing awareness of environmental health concerns.
- Increasing trust between collaborators.
- Strengthening the perception of the health agency as leader.

How Do CEHAs Strengthen Environmental Health Programs?

PACE EH and other CEHA processes can be used to operationalize the 10 Essential Services of Environmental Public Health.

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Community Environmental Health Assessment, Continued

Local environmental health agencies most often mention the following essential services being strengthened as part of their PACE EH processes:

Assessment

Monitor Health
Diagnose and Investigate

Policy Development

Inform, Educate, and Empower
Mobilize Community Partnerships
Develop Policies

Assurance

Assure a Competent Workforce

For More Information

For more information about community environmental health assessment or PACE EH, contact the Environmental Health Services Branch by phone (770-488-7476) or e-mail (ehsb@cdc.gov).

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