
2005-2006 Board of Directors

Steve Gotler, President
Kit Frohardt-Lane, Vice-President
Barbara Pepper, Secretary
Pat Dobosenski, Treasurer

Coco Bruner
Jim Bush
Diane Cheklich
Eugene Perrin

Chris Hartwig
Barbara Hoey
Peggy Johnson
Barbara Pepper

EMEAC Staff

Diana Seales, Executive Director
Elizabeth Harris, Financial Director
Domiana Alexander, Community Organizer



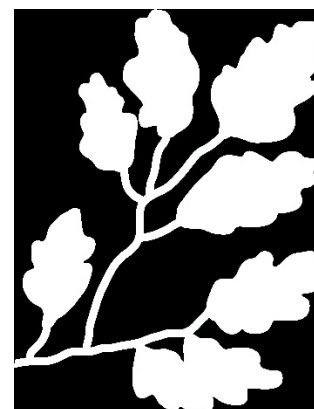
EMEAC

East Michigan
Environmental Action Council

21220 West Fourteen Mile Road • Bloomfield Hills • Michigan 48301-4000
Telephone: 248-258-5188 Website: www.emeac.org



Printed on recycled paper



2006 Annual Report of the East Michigan Environmental Action Council

EMEAC's mission is to protect and restore land, air, water and diversity of life through informed personal and public action.

EMEAC


Contents


In the following pages, you will find a summary of our accomplishments for the past year. If you wish more detailed information, we invite you to visit EMEAC's website at www.emeac.org.


Standing up for Michigan's Water	2
Smart Growth	2
Saving Wetlands	3
Celebrating Water for Life	4
Water Protection Film <i>Thirst</i>	5
Panel Discussion on Detroit's Water System	6
Youth Great Lakes Stewardship	6
Midwest Social Forum	6
Environmental Justice Tours	7
Youth Environmental Stewardship and Education	8
New Web Site	10
New Faces	10
Thanks to Donors	11
Endowment Fund	14
Earth Share of Michigan	14
2005-2006 Financial Report	15

 **Standing up for Michigan's Water:**
Lobby Day

In December of 2005, the Michigan Senate passed a package of bills to regulate water use. While this is a step forward for Michigan, more is needed to ensure the Great Lakes receive the protection needed to keep these waters safe from export. During 2006, EMEAC and other organizations involved with the Great Lakes Great Michigan campaign urged representatives to strengthen the bills in three critical ways:

 Protect against diversions by requiring legislative approval for diversions outside of the Great Lakes basin,

 Protect all of our natural resources from later use impacts by expanding protections to include private property and habitats without fish populations, and

 Ensure water conservation by requiring water users to self-certify that they are following generally accepted water management practices.

On February 1st, 76 legislators and staff and 28 representatives joined our coalition groups at a breakfast briefing to learn about the amendments to strengthen this legislation. EMEAC meet with four representatives from Oakland County.



 **Smart Growth**

In communities across the nation, there is a growing concern that current development patterns — by what many call sprawl — are no longer in the long-term interest of cities, existing suburbs, small towns, rural communities or wilderness areas. There are costs involved with abandoning infrastructure in the city, only to rebuild it further out. Smart Growth is environmentally-sensitive land development with the goals of minimizing dependence on auto transportation, reducing air pollution, and making infrastructure investments more efficient.

To address these concerns EMEAC, along with the Four Towns Citizen Action Committee, hosted the Healthy Roads forum that took place on April 1st at the Highlands Lake campus of Oakland Community College. The forum presented an impressive line up of smart growth experts, township planning directors, and environmental and economic development organizations to a local audience. The pur-

2005-2006 Financial Report

Statement of Activities for Year Ending March 31, 2006 with Comparative Totals for 2005

Revenue	2006	2005
Dues and Donations		
EMEAC	\$12,889	\$15,149
Endowment Income	\$12,290	\$6,379
Grants	\$42,550	\$90,100
Annual Conference	\$6,446	\$2,896
Other unrestricted income	\$2,800	\$5,200
Net realized gain (loss) on in endowment investments	\$8,309	\$29,311
Unrealized gain (loss) on endowment investment	\$48,159	-\$16,121
Net Assets Released From Restrictions	\$0	\$0
Restrictions satisfied by payments		
Total Revenue, Gains and Other Support	\$133,443	\$132,914

Expenses		
Program Services		
EMEAC	\$82,293	\$90,134
Management	\$8,035	\$10,713
Development	\$13,249	\$5,877
Total	\$103,578	\$106,723

Statement of Financial Position for Year Ending March 31, 2006 with Comparative Totals for 2005

(Decreases)/Increases In Net Assets	\$29,865	\$26,191
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	\$518,571	\$516,529
Net Assets	\$548,436	\$518,571



A complete set of financial statements is available upon request.

Earth Share of Michigan



Earth Share OF MICHIGAN

In 1987, EMEAC and other Michigan-based environmental and conservation organizations joined together to raise money through workplace giving. During 2001, the Michigan program joined the national workplace giving organization called Earth Share and adopted the name, Earth Share of Michigan (ESMI).

ESMI has 24 Michigan-based member organizations. Michigan employees can now give to state and national environmental and conservation organizations through a single workplace giving campaign.

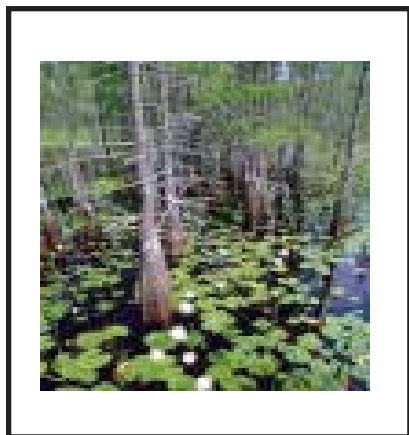
ESMI conducts annual giving campaigns in approximately 350 workplaces throughout Michigan. During the 2005 campaign season, ESMI raised \$290,796 for its member organizations. For more information about ESMI or starting a workplace giving program for the environment, please contact Jerry Stevens at 517-641-7200 or jerry@earthsharemichigan.org.

Endowment Fund

In the 1980's, Nathan (Barry) Driggers encouraged EMEAC to establish an endowment fund. Barry was the president of the Harder Foundation of Detroit.

To help EMEAC build its endowment fund, the Harder Foundation offered to match, dollar for dollar, all money EMEAC deposited in the fund between 1985 and 1989. EMEAC undertook a fundraising campaign to which its members responded generously. With matching foundation dollars, the endowment fund reached \$221,523 by June of 1989.

A committee of the EMEAC Board, chaired by Saida Malarney, manages the endowment fund with professional investment services provided by UBS. As of March 31, 2006, the market value of EMEAC's endowment fund was \$548,436.



pose of the forum was to address some of the sprawl concerns that have been sprouting up around the 4 Towns area.

"Sprawl is not something that was done to us." Stated Richard Norton, Professor of Urban Planning at the University of Michigan and keynote for the Healthy Communities forum. "When we believe it is our right to live where we want, in the type of homes we want, consequences follow. All rights bring with them responsibilities. The asserted right to 'live wherever I want' is a myth because it only gives half of the equation; it fails to acknowledge that one's choice of where and how one lives has larger implications for one's community."

Tipping the concerns in the area is the proposed M-5 connector that has been proposed by the Commerce Downtown development Authority. Community members worry that the connector would destroy the 100 acres of wetlands and many lakes and streams including the precious spawning areas along the corridor; increase drive-through traffic in the area and may attract additional commuters from other areas.



Saving Wetlands

Local governments can reduce flooding, improve water quality and preserve wildlife habitat by protecting wetlands. Although there is a state law to protect wetlands, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) is not able to provide inspectors everywhere in the state where alterations to wetlands might occur. MDEQ encourages local governments to adopt and implement their own wetlands protection ordinances.

This past year, EMEAC concluded a project funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and directed by MDEQ to expand local wetland protection programs in Michigan. With its project partner, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, EMEAC designed and presented wetlands protection workshops across the state, surveyed local officials and activists regarding ways by which MDEQ can encourage local programs, provided reference materials and established a statewide wetlands protection listserv.





Celebrating Water for Life: A global call to action


The World Health Organization (WHO) declared 2005 – 2015 the decade of Celebrating Water for Life. WHO states that, “the years between 2005 and 2015 are critical to focus global attention on what should be obvious: water for life. Apart from demonstrating your personal commitment to organizing events around World Water Day, it is going to be vital to make 2005 and leading up to 2015 remarkable years in ensuring that everyone is aware of the urgency of the goals to be achieved. Every event and every voice on every occasion will be vital in ensuring new energy and commitment to turning the tide on a situation we can no longer abide.”

In this spirit of WHO’s declaration, water rights were the theme of the *Celebrating Water for Life* series of events sponsored by Southeast Michigan environmental and social justice groups. EMEAC opened the series during our annual event.

This series is important to local residents because there are many communities across Michigan confronting water pollution, shortage, diversion and rate issues:

 In Detroit hundreds of residents have had their water shut off and in Highland Park, thousands of residents are not only experiencing home water shut-offs, but many have lost their homes when the sky rocking water rates are attached to their property taxes;

 Mecosta County’s ground water is being freely siphoned, bottled and sold by Nestle;

 Monroe County residents must ship in water because their water supply has been contaminated by quarry operations.

There is good reason to worry about access to fresh water for those of us living in the Great Lakes Basin. Huge plans to divert water through pipes out of the Great Lakes Basin for sale to the parched American Southwest or in tankers to Asia have been and continue to be proposed. Detroit’s water supply system is old and in need of repair. In other cities including Atlanta, New Orleans, Lexington and Indianapolis, private corporations have presented attractive financing proposals and have taken over public systems.



SUSTAINERS, Continued

Nancy and Richard Kautz
Roy F. Knudsen
Cathryn H. Kurtagh
Bernice Lasker
Nancy Lee
Caroline McCollom
Kevin Mills
Elaine P. Morse
William Morse
Glenn C. Muhr
Jeannine Palms
Barbara Pepper
Frances Schonenberg
Diana Seales
Margot Snyder
Anne Sousanis
Amelia Steiger
Lawrence Sweet
Cathleen S. Zepelin



DONORS

Up to \$49 during 2004-2005

Irene Anbender
Barbara and Craig Beach
Elin Becker
Barbara Bini
Pamela Brady
Henry Cendrowski
Philip and Hanna Clampitt



DONORS, Continued

Peggy Collins
Linda Darga
David Dempsey
Roshani Deraniyagale-Dantes
Linda Eberly
Marjorie Faessler, President
Geraldine Frenette
Pamela A. Frucci
Joellen Gilchrist
E. Halbeisen and H.Greenwood
Jacqueline amill
Sue Woodall and Don Healy
Nancy Johnson-Smith
Dan and Heidi Keifer
Bruce and Diane Kezlarian
Nancy Lee
William and Harriet Mytle
Bernice C. Maertz
Pauline M. Mengebier
David Moskowitz
Russell and Carrie Peebles
Nadji and Oakley Reynolds
Lois B. Robbins
Christine Soucy Rueff
David Schmidt
Marcia Schwarz
Maxine Sherman
Barbara Shoemaker
Linda Swanson
John W. Voelpel
Sanford Waxer
Marianna S. Wells
Jan Wilson

EMEAC maintains careful records of donations. However, there may be errors in this listing. If your name has been misspelled, incorrectly listed or omitted, please accept our apology and inform us so that we may correct our records.

BENEFACTORS

\$500 or more during 2004-2005

Scott Cameron
Chuck and Pat Cubbage
George and Claudia Snyder
Barbara Van Dusen
Thomas P. Wilczak



FRIENDS

\$100-\$499 during 2004-2005

Joyce Adderley
Jo Althoff
Linda Brainer
Anne and Peter Bray
Charlene and Fortunato Calabro
David Cheklich
Wendy Hillebrand
Gary Chodoroff
Pat and Mike Dobosenski
Jeanne Eisenstadt
Virginia Fox
GM Volunteer Plus Program
Jeanne and Ralph Graham
Ross and Cathy Hinman
Judy Hudson
Sisters Servants of the
Immaculate Heart of Mary
Patricia Jochim
Peggy B. Johnson
Scott Jorgensen
Ginger and Eric Ketelsen
Jim and Elizabeth Kinsler
Merry Z. MacRae
Saida S. and William Malarney
Lorna D. McEwen

FRIENDS, Continued

Betty McMath
Barbara Stanton O'Hair
Sally Slater Pierce
Habib Salehi
St. Michael's Catholic Community
Paul and Alice Tomboulion
John W. Voelpel
Tim and Mim Westerdale
Elizabeth and William Wolfe

SUSTAINERS

\$50-\$99 during 2004-2005

Doris Applebaum
Terry and Linda Begnoche
Bowden and Elaine Brown
Coco Bruner
Tom and Marsha Bryant
David Cheklich
Philip and Hanna Clampitt
David A. Cottrill
Barbara Crandell
Lillian and Walter Dean
Linda Eberly
Susan Finkenstaedt
Dan and Kit Frohardt-Lane
G.C.M. Community Project Fund
Steve Gotler
E. Halbeisen and H. Greenwood
Barbara Hoey
Jane C. and James Hoyle
Emily A. Ingle



EMEAC Shows Film *Thirst* To Promote Public Discussion About Water Privatization and Diversion



The opening of the *Celebrating Water for Life* series took place on May 9th as part of EMEAC's annual event. The evening began with environmentally themed spoken word poetry from Detroit's William Copeland followed by a screening of the movie *Thirst* and the trailer for the upcoming documentary *Water Warriors* – on the Highland Park's water crisis.

In the opening scene of the documentary *Thirst*, John Briscoe, the Senior Water Advisor to The World Bank, asks: "What does it mean to say that water is a human right?" The consensus of the politicians, international bankers and corporate executives at the 2003 World Water Forum in Kyoto, Japan is that global corporations should control fresh water systems.

Lest American viewers feel complacent that corporate take-overs of fresh water can't happen here, *Thirst* focuses on Stockton, California where Mayor Gary Podesta is persuaded that a global water consortium will be more effective than city employees at manag-

ing Stockton's water and sewer system.

The evening ended in a lively audience discussion moderated by journalist Jack Lessenberry of *Michigan Public Radio* and the *Metro Times*. During the discussion, Sylvia Orduño, who works with Michigan Welfare Rights Organization and is a PhD candidate at the University of Michigan shared, "For the past several years we've been telling people that thousands of Detroit and Highland Park residents have been living without water. We need help with stopping the shut-offs and implementing a water affordability plan. Like the residents of Stockton spoke of in *Thirst*, if we don't do something to protect our municipal water department, it's going to be privatized."

Lynna Kaucke, of Clean Water Action, said she was excited to be a part of the event. "Participants were anxious to know what they could do, and although I made a lot of letter writing fliers to distribute, I got rid of them all and I had to search for my personal copies to distribute!"

Detroit's Water: Looking to the Past to find Justice for the Future

The second event for *Celebrating Water for Life* featured a panel of environmental and community experts. The event took place at Detroit's Barth Hall, Woodward Ave on June 13th.

"It is hard to imagine a positive resolution without a discussion about creating new relationships and conversations between the city and the suburbs" commented one Oakland County resident during the discussion. Many of the participants appreciated Russ Bullant and Dave Dempsey's comments on water rights in Michigan. The panel of local experts discussed the complex history, politics and race relations among residents that share Detroit's water system in Oakland and Wayne Counties.

Youth Great Lakes Stewardship Event

The recent *Celebrating Water for Life* event brought together approximately 70 youth from across Wayne, Washtenaw and Oakland Counties. Youth participated in sharing their views on the current state of Michigan's environment. Participants learned about water diversion, equity and pollution as they attended presentations and break out sessions. Discussion session topics varied from potential environmental health risks of the Great Lakes water system such as lead and mercury, water access and affordability, and public use and privatization of water in Michigan.

Youth were also given pointers by local environmental organizers on messaging and educating their peers, neighbors and community members.



Midwest Social Forum

The Midwest Social Forum (MWSF) is an annual gathering of grassroots organizations, community activists, workers, educators, students, artists, and others committed to making a better, more just world possible. The MWSF provides an open space for exchanging experiences and information, strengthening alliances and networks, and developing effective strategies for progressive social, economic, and political change. The MWSF builds on both regional and global traditions and sources of inspiration.

EMEAC hosted a six-hour caucus during the 2006 Midwest Social Forum, Milwaukee Wisconsin, on July 6th based on the *Celebrating Water for Life* series. The forum focused on access to water in Southeast Michigan and Great Lakes water diversion concerns. EMEAC hosted this workshop with *Michigan Welfare Rights Organization* and the *University of Michigan's Ginsberg Center for Community Learning*. Thirty environmental groups from around the Great Lakes were represented, ten being from Michigan.

Thanks To Contributors

\$5,000+ Lifetime gifts of \$5,000 or more

Susan Cooper
Chuck and Pat Cabbage
Dan and Kit Frohardt-Lane
H. James Gram
Karen D. Kendrick-Hands
Bill McGagh and Family
Mr. and Mrs. John F. Sarvis
Alice M. Schirmer
George and Claudia Snyder
St. Michael's Catholic Community
Paul and Alice Tombouljian
Barbara Van Dusen

FOUNDERS Lifetime gifts of \$1,000-\$4,999

Joyce Adderley
Bonnie and Glen Anderson
Donald Blain
Janis Bobrin
Anne and Peter Bray
Patrick and Barbara Brunett
James Bush
Scott Cameron
Sally Chandler
Diane C. Cheklich
Sally Cole-Misch
Barbara Crandell
James F. Crandell
Chuck and Pat Cabbage
Linda K. McMullen Daniels
Lillian and Walter Dean
Pat and Mike Dobosenski
Jeanne Eisenstadt
Virginia Fox
Garden Club of Michigan
Jacqueline Hand
Elizabeth Harris
Christine Hartwig

FOUNDERS, Continued

Mary Ann Heidemann
Addison and Deborah Igleheart
Sisters Servants of the
Immaculate Heart of Mary
Peggy B. Johnson
Scott Jorgensen
Meroe and Michael Kaericher
Jim and Elizabeth Kinsler
Lake St. Clair Advisory Council
Merry Z. MacRae
Saida S. and William Malarney
Betty McMath
Dr. and Mrs. William Morse
Northville Branch, WNF&GC
Carol Osborne
Eugene Perrin
Donna M. Schmitt
Richard Timm
David Usher
Steven Victor
Neil E. Wallace
Tim and Mim Westerdale
Thomas Wilczak and Steve
Quinbert
Jane E. Williams
Elizabeth and William Wolfe



New Web Site

EMEAC launched a brand new website in December. This new site design and features will better connect EMEAC members to important events and teachers and students to the latest Great Lakes Environmental Education resources.

The home page has up to date listing on environmental events happening around Southeast Michigan, and links to action alerts on environmental legislation with links to post cards and letters that members can download and send to their representatives. Educators have their own page with links, tips and ideas for environmental lessons plans. Students can link to our ‘youth page’, where they can find out about environmental leadership trainings, environmental competitions, and local events for kids.

Please check out the new look and features at www.emeac.org

New Executive Director and Community Organizer

This year also welcomed in a new Executive Director, Diana Seales and new Community Organizer, Domiana Alexander. Diana Seales joined EMEAC on January 10th. She has an extensive background in environmental project management, environmental justice advocacy, and community organizing. Diana earned her BS in Environmental Science and Water and Tribal Policy at The Evergreen State College in Olympia Washington and her MS in Environmental Justice and Environmental Resource Policy and Behavior at the School of Natural Resources at the University of Michigan. Diana worked in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, connecting community leaders to solve environmental and health challenges in Rio’s favelas (squatter settlements) before coming to EMEAC. After earning her BS, Diana worked for an environmental engineering firm for five years in Seattle on storm water and erosion control projects.

Domiana Alexander joined EMEAC on June 7th. She is a recent graduate of Michigan State University with a bachelor’s degree in Environmental Studies and Applications. Before joining EMEAC, Domiana worked on environmental justice issues at both the state and federal and state level. At Michigan Environmental Council (MEC) she helped to organize and host a food forum for communities in the Metro Detroit Area to address the needs of women and their families and researched the health effects on infants, children and women of eating mercury contaminated fish. At the federal level, Domiana worked at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Washington D.C where she assisted in the development of new Environmental Justice Targeting Tools for the Office of Environmental Justice.


Local and State-wide Environmental Justice Tours


Everyone deserves a baseline standard of living, but many communities in Michigan are over burdened by toxic contamination.

Currently there is no policy in Michigan to address environmental injustice. A coalition of environmental and social organizations have come together to launch a state-wide campaign to advocate for an Executive Order on Environmental Justice to be signed by Governor Jennifer Granholm. The order would create a framework to begin addressing relief for communities overburdened by polluting and toxic facilities. To educate the public about these environmental threats and to raise support for the Executive Order on Environmental Justice EMEAC helped *ACCESS*, *Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice* and the *Ecology Center* to organize two tours, one around Detroit in October (in collaboration with the nation wide environmental Justice tours) and another across the state in November.




The first tour highlighted to the media and participants that Detroit’s population (80% African American and 5% Latino) faces many challenges:


-  Driving down I-75 south of downtown Detroit, it’s hard to miss the odors coming off the landscape of industrial stacks and facilities. Marathon Oil, Great Lakes Steel, Detroit Edison, wastewater treatment plants, and many other industrial facilities neighbor residents of South End/Delray.

-  In Southwest Detroit, the Detroit Public Schools built Beard Elementary School on top of a site contaminated with PCBs, lead and arsenic. The community faced the unfair situation of choosing between their children’s education and a safe environment.

Challenges to this city also include high unemployment, poverty, an inadequate school system, and rising health care costs. These issues are exacerbated by the city’s poor environmental quality.

The second tour around Michigan highlighted that neighborhoods throughout the state face similar challenges:

-  Some sectors in Grand Rapids have the highest lead poisoning rates in the state. Studies show that lead poisoning is associated with development and behavioral disorders and juvenile delinquency.

-  Downstream from Midland’s Dow Chemical, dioxin levels exceeded 7,000 parts per trillion near residential areas (80 times the state’s standards).

Youth Environmental Stewardship and Education

This summer, during EMEAC's strategic planning session, the board decided to outreach to youth: creating opportunities for students to learn about the environment and environmental careers. This year, EMEAC has presented and tabled at environmental and educational conferences, hosted environmental education events for members, presented to local classrooms, and created a new website that will host resources for teachers and students interested in environmental education.

In October, EMEAC tabled the *Metropolitan Detroit Science Teacher's Association Conference* and informed local teachers about environmental education resources and distributed information about EMEAC's Youth Environmental Stewards (YES) Council and the 'Green Screen' Environmental FilmFestival; a student environmental short film contest. The short film and video competition invites students to

submit films that focus on environmental issues in their community. The contest is open to all high and middle schools students and youth organizations in Oakland and Wayne Counties.

EMEAC is also one of DEQ's advising organizations for their *Michigan Environmental Education Curriculum Support (MEECS)* program. In October, EMEAC invited Tom Occhipinti, coordinator of the MEECS program to speak to our members about the MEECS program and to network with local teacher about this new environmental education curriculum. The goal of the MEECS program is to provide students in grades 4 through 9 with an opportunity to learn more about their environment through lessons in Science and Social Studies. The MEECS curriculum consists of five different curriculum units; Air Quality, Ecosystems & Biodiversity,



Renaissance High School and the second to the Clinton River Watershed Youth Council Workshop.

In the Renaissance classroom, we focused on environmental health. Students were

asked how many of them have asthma, or have someone at home with asthma. Almost every student raised their hands. We discussed why so many of them suffered from asthma and many were already aware that the quality of the air they breathe is a factor.

Part of the presentation was a hands-on land use exercise where students were given the opportunity to plan out their own city. Each group had one large piece of paper with a river drawn through it. Each city had to include a specific infrastructure. Then each group presented their city and why they placed certain things next to each other. The purpose of the activity was to get them thinking about how cities are planned (and how often they are not planned well).

Energy Resources, Land Use, and Water Quality. The units have been field tested by 120 teachers in nearly 200 Michigan classrooms. The units can be used individually, or used together by a school system as the basis of a multi-year environmental education curriculum. Links to three of the five MEECS unit lesson plans (water, energy and air) can be found on our new website, along with links to other Michigan based Environmental curriculum plans and guides.

Throughout the year EMEAC has presented in local classrooms and to youth groups. The purpose of the in-class presentations is to connect with youth in a familiar setting while educating them about the environment. Often it is difficult for youth or school to take time out to find environmental educational resources, so we do our best to bring resources to the classroom. Going to the classroom also gives us a chance to see what environmental issues are of concern to students. In October EMEAC presented at two venues; the first to an African American History class at

asked how many of them have asthma, or have someone at home with asthma. Almost every student raised their hands. We discussed why so many of them suffered from asthma and many were already aware that the quality of the air they breathe is a factor.

Part of the presentation was a hands-on land use exercise where students were given the opportunity to plan out their own city. Each group had one large piece of paper with a river drawn through it. Each city had to include a specific infrastructure. Then each group presented their city and why they placed certain things next to each other. The purpose of the activity was to get them thinking about how cities are planned (and how often they are not planned well).

