EPA Near-port Community Capacity Building: Tools and Technical Assistance for Collaborative Solutions

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Martin Associates estimates that seaports support about 23 million U.S. jobs and 26% of U.S. Gross Domestic Product.

Port-related diesel-powered vehicles, equipment, and ships produce significant amounts of air pollution.
OECD estimates that global freight volumes will more than quadruple by 2050.

American Association of Port Authorities estimates that ports need $28.9 billion for landside infrastructure alone to handle projected 2025 freight volumes.

Ports in Areas Designated Nonattainment or Maintenance
for the Clean Air Act’s National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)

Ozone
PM 2.5
SO2
PM10
NO2
CO

Note: Colors in map not shown above reflect areas designated nonattainment or maintenance for more than one pollutant.

Ports - Nonattainment or Maintenance

Ports - Attainment

NAAQS are health standards for Carbon Monoxide, Nitrogen Dioxide, 8-hr Ozone (2008), Particulate Matter (PM-10) and PM-2.5 (1997,2006,2012), and Sulphur Dioxide (1971 & 2010).

Sources: Port GIS data from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Navigation Data Center (http://www.navigationdatacenter.us/ecgisviewer).

NAAQS nonattainment and maintenance area GIS data from EPA (https://www3.epa.gov/airquality/greenbook/gis_download.html).
EPA estimates that approximately 39 million people in the United States currently live in close proximity to ports.

Vision for the Ports Initiative

People living and working near ports across the country will breathe cleaner air and live better lives as a result of bold steps taken through a collaboration of industry, government, and communities to improve environmental performance and increase economic prosperity.
Ports Initiative Elements

- **Funding**: Helping Ports Capitalize on Funding for Clean Technologies
- **Technical Resources**: Providing Tools to Help Identify Smart Infrastructure Investments
- **Collaboration**: Promoting Port-Community Collaboration for Effective Planning
- **Coordination**: Increasing Efficiency in Federal Government and Port Operations
- **Communications**: Creating a Knowledge Clearinghouse
Focus on Supporting Stakeholder Priorities

Launched *National Conversation With Port Stakeholders*

- Convened Webinar Listening Sessions
- Convened National Port Stakeholder Summit
- Convened Technical Workshop w/ key stakeholders

- Invited recommendations and input on addressing port-related environmental challenges via Federal Advisory Committee Process
  - *Mobile Sources Technical Review Subcommittee*
  - *National Environmental Justice Advisory Council*
Community Stakeholder Feedback

- EJ Communities seek better access to ports’ decision-making process
- Communities seek transparency, user friendly/timely data, and resources to improve conditions
- Communities want access to operational data and welcome opportunities to expand their knowledge about freight transport and port facilities
- Federal agencies should revisit guidance documents on community engagement
- Feedback from industry about communities: Communities’ primary air quality concerns are outside of port’s control; communities don’t understand port operations
Near-port Community Capacity Building Project

- To provide stakeholders with information and a process to collaboratively develop solutions for environmental, health and related community-driven concerns associated with port-related activities

- To develop and implement capacity-building resource tools to equip/empower communities for effective decision-making engagement with port-related entities

- To collaboratively build capacity and a sustainable platform for delivering on-going services
Draft Community Action Roadmap: Empowering Near-Port Communities

An implementation companion for the Ports Primer for Communities that provides a step-by-step process for building capacity and preparing community stakeholders.

Draft Ports Primer for Communities: An Overview of Ports Planning and Operations to Support Community Participation

An interactive tool and reference document that characterizes the port industry sector including environmental and community health impacts associated with port activities.

Draft Environmental Justice (EJ) Primer for Ports: The Good Neighbor Guide to Building Partnerships and Social Equity with Communities

Designed to inform the port industry sector of the perspectives, priorities, and challenges often unique to communities with EJ concerns.

In addition to orienting the port sector about EJ considerations this resource is structured to provide step-by-step guidance to improve the effectiveness of port and community engagement in addressing concerns of impacted residential communities.
Draft Ports Primer for Communities:
An Overview of Ports Planning and Operations to Support Community Participation

An interactive tool and reference document that characterizes the port industry sector including environmental and community health impacts associated with port activities
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4.2 Case Studies: Port-Community Relations

The relationship between ports and near-port communities can be complex, ranging from adversarial to collaborative. The case studies presented here illustrate this range, including:

- Instances where near-port communities fought legal battles to hold ports accountable for community impacts.
- Instances where community-based organizations and local government worked to limit the impact of port activity through policies protecting sensitive populations.
- Instances where ports and communities work collaboratively to create positive community change.

Additional case studies are provided in Sections 5, 6 and 7.

Los Angeles and Long Beach Ports: Clean Trucks Program
Camden Waterfront South: Education and Retrofit Grant
Dolphins Dirty Diesel Collaborative: Diesel Pollution Reduction Strategies
Los Angeles and Long Beach Ports: Air Quality Settlement Funding
Baltimore Port Alliance: Proactive Community Engagement

Reminder: Check the Community Action Roadmap for a step-by-step process to apply the information in the Primer for building capacity and empowering communities.

5.1 Goods Movement and Transportation Planning

Goods movement is an integral aspect of port operations and planning. The transportation system helps move freight from its source of production to points of consumption.

Communities and businesses around the world gain economic benefits from the ability to buy and sell their goods in distant markets. The movement of goods through ports often directly impacts communities near to these facilities. Near-port communities can be disproportionately impacted by goods movement because of the cumulative impact of the many types of freight facilities that may converge at ports.

Freight facilities may include:
- Seaports, airports and border crossings
- Rail yards and rail lines
- Marine highways
- Highways and high truck traffic roads
- Warehouse and distribution facilities

Transportation Planning and Coordination
Goods Movement and Supply Chains
Local Transportation Regulations
Example Truck Route Scenario: Challenges
Example Truck Route Scenario: Solutions
The Role of Metropolitan Planning Organizations
An implementation companion for the Ports Primer that provides a step-by-step process for building capacity and preparing community stakeholders to engage nearby port facilities and influence decision-making on issues of community interest.
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How to Use this Document

This document outlines six key steps to effective community engagement on ports-related issues.

The Introduction section provides background for the use of this document and its companion document, the Ports Primer for Communities.

In the Community Action Roadmap section, the Overview provides an outline of the roadmap and a diagram of the steps. Each step is described in more detail on the remaining pages, along with tips, exercises and references to related sections in the Ports Primer for Communities.

The final section, Community Action Resources, offers additional resources to assist with implementation.

Draft
Community Action Roadmap
Prioritize Goals and Concerns.
Identify and prioritize goals and concerns that are motivating community leaders to engage with the Port.

Identify Levers for Change.
Identify port governance structure and key regulatory agencies. Identify upcoming planning processes, decision documents and other opportunities for community influence.

Build Relationships.
Identify key community stakeholders and resource partners. Conduct outreach and build relationships. Share information, and solicit input and feedback.

Develop an Action Plan.
Evaluate methods of engagement and select the most effective approach (may select more than one).

Make Your Case.
Gather information that supports community concerns and goals. Implement selected strategy.

Build Momentum for Change.
Evaluate the results of community efforts, and share these with the public. Celebrate successes. Identify next steps to build community influence.
Step 1: Prioritize Goals and Concerns

In this step, identify and prioritize goals and concerns that are motivating community members and organizations to engage on port issues. Your community may have been focused on a single issue and is now ready to broaden to other concerns. Or your community may be overwhelmed with so many issues, it's challenging to know where to start. In either case, taking the time to reach out to others in your community and establish a shared list of prioritized goals is the first step in making concrete changes with collective action.

Some concerns may be directly related to the port operations, while others may be connected to port related industries and transport. In addition, many near-ports communities are isolated by infrastructure and industrial uses, reducing access to key amenities such as groceries, health services, open space and reliable transportation. Concerns may be related to ongoing operations or a specific project that may cause temporary or long-term impacts.

Tips

Strength in Numbers! Try to gather input from as many residents, business owners and local organizations as possible. Even if the concerns vary across the community, by developing a list of shared goals, the community can work together to tackle each one at the right time. There are many methods for gathering goals and concerns from your community, and it’s often best to try more than one. Here are a few suggestions:

- Conduct door-to-door outreach and discussion.
- Ask to visit community and faith organizations during their regular meetings.
- Hold a community meeting and invite participants to share their goals and concerns.
- Ask for a show of hands, offer a survey, or invite dot voting on flip charts to help prioritize.
- Post an online survey.
- Provide translators/translated outreach materials.
- Use social media.

Potential Community Concerns

- Noise
- Road Traffic/Water Traffic
- Smells/Odors
- Air Quality
- Human Health
- Pedestrian Safety
- Trash Abandoned
- Lots Brownfield
- Sites Polluted
- Waters
- Access to Open Space
- Light Pollution
- Other _________

Check Your Ports Primer!

As you consider goals and concerns, the following Ports Primer sections provide more detail on potential community benefits and impacts related to land use, economy and the environment.

- Land Use and Transportation: 5.1-5.3
- Local and Regional Economy: 6.3
- Environmental Impacts: 7.1 and 7.5
### Try it Out!

1. **Identify Issues**: Review the checklist on the previous page, and mark which issues are the most important in your community now. Add the priority concerns and any others not included in the checklist to a chart like the one below.

2. **Add Detail**: Once you have listed the key issues, describe each concern in as much detail as possible. For example, if air quality is a concern, try to identify the location of operations and times when the air quality is most concerning.

3. **Describe Impacts**: Describe the community impacts of each concern. For example, does air quality impact sensitive populations such as children or the elderly? Or residences along a truck route? Have community members experienced increased or exacerbated health challenges that they associate with poor air quality?

4. **Set Goals**: Translate each concern into a goal. For example, "Improved air quality in the neighborhood with a focus on reducing air pollution that directly impacts sensitive populations, such as children."

5. **Prioritize for Action**: As a final step, try to prioritize the concerns and goals in order of most importance. Ask your community, "If there was only one change we could make this year, which would it be?"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issues of Concern</th>
<th>Detailed Description</th>
<th>Impacts</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Priority</th>
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Draft Environmental Justice Primer for Ports: The Good Neighbor Guide to Building Partnerships and Social Equity with Communities

Designed to inform the port industry sector of the perspectives, priorities, and challenges often unique to communities with EJ concerns.

In addition to orienting the port sector about EJ considerations this resource is structured to provide step-by-step guidance to improve the effectiveness of port and community engagement in addressing concerns of impacted residential communities.
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How to Use this Document
This document offers guidance for ports seeking to build partnerships and social equity with near-ports communities. The Introduction section provides background for the use of this document and its companion documents, the Ports Primer for Communities and the Community Action Roadmap.

Section A provides a primer on environmental justice and effective community engagement.

Section B provides a roadmap for six key steps to build partnerships and social equity. The Overview provides an outline of the roadmap and a diagram of the steps. Each step is described in more detail on the remaining pages, along with sample exercises.

The Appendix offers a timeline of the environmental justice movement as well as additional resources to assist with implementation.
Steps in the Good Neighbor Roadmap Process

Step 1: Assess Your Community Engagement Approach
Develop a strong policy foundation reflecting your port’s commitment to meaningfully engage the near-port community in decisions and strive for solutions that improve their quality of life.

Step 2: Engage the near-port community to gather current community goals and concerns, even those that may seem beyond current port jurisdiction.

Step 3: Gather Community Concerns and Goals
Engage the near-port community to gather current community goals and concerns, even those that may seem beyond current port jurisdiction.

Step 4: Identify Levers for Change
Identify upcoming plans and projects at the port as well as related public, private and non-profit agencies to identify opportunities to involve the near-port community and address community goals.

Step 5: Develop a Good Neighbor Strategic Plan
Work in partnership with the community to document how and when the port and related agencies plan to engage the near-port community and address priority concerns over the next 3-5 years.

Step 6: Act, Measure and Sustain Progress
Collaborate on an early-win project, maintain momentum with consistent action and communication, formalize community partnerships and share progress regularly.

Assess the nature of your port’s relationships with the broad spectrum of stakeholders and begin building trust and connections with near-port community organizations and leadership.

Collaborate on an early-win project, maintain momentum with consistent action and communication, formalize community partnerships and share progress regularly.
Step 2: Build Relationships

Building strong relationships with community members and stakeholder groups is a prerequisite for effective community engagement and addressing environmental justice concerns. Once your port's community engagement policy is in place, it is time to identify stakeholders and their needs, interests and priorities. This information will guide the port's community and stakeholder outreach.

Try It Out! Identify Key Stakeholders by Group

Identify community groups using the table below. Use this list as a starting point for outreach to community groups. Consult with them to identify additional community partners to ensure key stakeholders are not excluded and that diverse perspectives are well represented. Keep the stakeholder categories outlined on page 12 in mind as you fill in the table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Resident Groups</th>
<th>Community-Based Partners</th>
<th>Internal Port Stakeholders</th>
<th>Port-Sector Stakeholders</th>
<th>Government Stakeholders</th>
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Stakeholder Interests and Outreach

Outreach to groups and organizations can be tailored using Stakeholder Interests Mapping, which captures community and stakeholder interests, current levels of engagement, gaps in relationships, as well as opportunities for collaboration. In framing community and stakeholder interests and opportunities for collaboration, outreach can broaden beyond environmental concerns to include opportunities such as job training, student education and community cleanup activities.

Focus on developing strong relationships between the port and community partners by sharing your commitment to working together and developing services and programs built around that goal. Once core relationships are in place with the near-port community, reach out to additional stakeholders. Developing cross-sector support and collaboration opportunities can help ensure buy-in and effective implementation.

Digging Deeper Exercise

Based on the stakeholders identified in the table above, answer the following questions:

- How would you characterize the port's relationship with each stakeholder group, especially near-port residential communities?
- Is the port's engagement more frequent with some groups than others? If so, why?
- Is the port's engagement more positive with some groups than others? If so, why?
- What are the most persistent roadblocks to developing positive relationships with adjacent residential communities?
- Who are the (real or perceived) winners and the (real or perceived) losers in a specific action or project?
EPA Near-port Community Capacity Building Pilot Project Opportunity

- EPA’s Pilot Project Opportunity provides ports and near-port communities with direct technical assistance from EPA:
  - To enhance skills in building partnerships
  - To develop a capacity building and engagement action plan for effective involvement in local decision-making
  - To refine content and implement process guidance provided in the EPA’s collaboratively-developed Capacity Building Toolkit
Pilot Project Opportunity

- Pilot projects underway in 3 locations with port and community partners:
  - New Orleans, LA;
    - Center for Sustainable Engagement & Development
    - Deep South Center for Environmental Justice
  - Savannah, GA;
    - Harambee House
    - Georgia Ports Authority
  - Seattle, WA
    - Just Health Action
    - Port of Seattle
- Developing action plans for supporting stakeholder prioritized actions
- Refining engagement/capacity building tools
Capacity Building Technical Assistance

Sample Services Supporting Action Plan Development

• Training on Engagement Tools
• Topical Research & Analysis
• Technical Document Review & Interpretation
• Port-based “Good Neighbor” Strategies
• Community-based Advisory Group Formation
• Skills-building Workshops
• Meeting Facilitation
Additional Project Component

- Developing *Sustainable Infrastructure* to facilitate on-going implementation

- Virtual Network/Repository/Info Exchange Venue
  - Refine and expand tools
  - Community stakeholder-driven
  - Platform to establish Community-of-Practice
Stay Connected:  [www.epa.gov/ports-initiative](http://www.epa.gov/ports-initiative)
Offer Feedback:  [talkaboutports@epa.gov](mailto:talkaboutports@epa.gov)

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