

Center for Environmental Policy and Management

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END OF THE YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Germantown/Shelby Park Rail Corridor Area-Wide Plan

Louisville Metro Department of Economic Development in partnership with University of Louisville Center for Environmental Policy and Management (CEPM) and an urban planning and environmental consultant team lead by **Lord Aeck Sargent** worked with community members and stakeholders to create a **brownfields area-wide plan and implementation strategy** for the Germantown/Shelby Park Rail Corridor. This project was funded through Louisville Metro Department of Economic Development by a grant from the **U.S. EPA Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Program**.



The final plan LOUISVILLE CENTRAL RAIL CORRIDOR Area-Wide Brownfield Plan, Louisville, KY; September, 2015, can be downloaded [here](#). If you would like a printed copy of the report please contact us.

Compendium of Organics Recovery Programs at Colleges and Universities

With funding from the Environmental Protection Agency Region 4, Resource

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Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Program and Materials Management Branch, CEPM produced the *Compendium of Organics Recovery Programs at Colleges and Universities*. The goal of the toolkit was to provide universities and colleges guidance in policy development, technical and economic feasibility, and implementation issues relevant to the development of sustainable management protocols for organics recovery programs. The compendium showcased 20 universities and colleges within EPA Region 4 (AL, FL, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN). You can find the report [here](#). CEPM will extend this project in 2016 with the *Organics Recovery Toolkit for Universities and Colleges*. This project will be a comprehensive and user-friendly organics recovery toolkit providing consultation and technical guidance for universities and colleges in EPA Region 4.



Brownfields Community Benefits Assessment Project

The **Metropolitan Institute at Virginia Tech** and CEPM at **University of Louisville** are pleased to announce that we have been awarded a five-year research grant of \$1,000,000 by the **EPA's Brownfields Training, Research, and Technical Assistance Grants** program. Together with partners from **The E.P. Systems Group, Inc.** and **Lazarus LLC**, we will develop and pilot test a Brownfields Community Benefits Assessment Toolkit (BCBAT). This benefits calculation toolkit will be designed to be used by communities to better project and track a wider variety of community benefits associated with brownfields redevelopment than has previously been possible.

The toolkit will be based on an easy to use portable app linked with a web-based desktop portal. The system will use accessible national, state, regional, local, and hyper-local data as the foundation for benefit calculation formulas we develop.

This project is unique in that it will re-examine and augment traditional economic benefit models for redevelopment and in-fill to include a broader set of indicators that have until recently been difficult to systematically measure. It will also explore the efficacy and value of including hyper-local community collected data in these models now that technological advances open the door to systematic and

consistent collection of that level of information.

Housing Reports

Safe, fair, and affordable housing is a foundation for sustainable, and sustained communities and identifying the connections between housing decisions and other policies such as land use, transportation, energy, and health is an exercise in looking at housing policy holistically. In December 2015, CEPM presented on two housing reports that were written specifically for Louisville, Ky. The **2015 State of Metropolitan Housing Report**, commissioned by the Louisville-based Metropolitan Housing Coalition focused on the Supreme Court's decision on fair housing and its implications on community members, leaders, and organizations. The annual report also provides indicators on nine measures of affordable housing. The second report was contracted by the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission and was written in collaboration with The Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research at the University of Louisville and the Metropolitan Housing Coalition. **Searching for Safe, Fair, and Affordable Housing: Learning from Experiences** is an analysis/assessment that consists of a written research-based report derived from two kinds of data: (1) compilation and analysis of existing relevant quantitative findings and (2) focus groups of persons in protected classes on housing choices. Protected classes are defined by race, color, religion, national origin, sex, family status, disability, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Using current local housing data and focus group results, the report formulates the realities (and myths) of housing availability that meets the needs of protected classes within Louisville Metro.

Practice Guide #36 Implementing Environmental Psychology Principles to Improve Community Design

Environmental psychology is the study of how humans interact with their natural and built environments and at its heart are evaluations of how the physical elements of the space, as well as individual social factors and biological responses, influence the end-user. This practice guide gives an explanation of the specialty, case studies that illustrate the application of core principles in the field to overcome existing challenges, and suggestions for funding sources to put ideas into action. Find this [here](#) and all our practice guides [here](#).

EPA and Partners' Free Environmental Justice Workshop in Louisville, Kentucky

CEPM collaborated with representatives from EPA Region 4 together

with the KY Environmental Quality Commission, KY Department for Environmental Protection, Kentucky Environmental Foundation, and Kentuckians for the Commonwealth on an Environmental Justice workshop on Friday, Oct. 30, 2015, in Louisville. The free workshop provided a forum for Kentucky stakeholders to learn the fundamentals of Environmental Justice, techniques for community engagement, best practices for addressing community concerns and improving conditions in vulnerable communities. The theme, A Matter of Principle, is essential to understanding and addressing issues resulting from disproportionate environmental impacts in vulnerable communities, and to collectively determine a path forward. The workshop was not only educational and thought provoking, but also provided a forum for enhanced dialogue and action regarding the effects of inequities in vulnerable communities. You can find workshop notes [here](#).

Growing the Local/Regional Food System: Strategies for Sustainable and Equitable Economic Development

CEPM hosted the **Growing Local/Regional Food System: Strategies for Sustainable and Equitable Economic Development Workshop** on February 18-19, 2015. HUD Sustainable Communities Grantees were invited to this two-day workshop which included a keynote address by Amanda Navarro, Deputy Director of PolicyLink, and a tour of the Food Business Entrepreneurship in Louisville's Portland neighborhood and Jefferson County Public Schools' Central Kitchen.

Safe Urban Garden Development Program

The **Safe Urban Garden Development Program** was conducted through a partnership between CEPM and **University of Kentucky/Jefferson County (KY) Cooperative Extension Service**. The Safe Urban Garden Development Program is part of **Louisville Metro Mayor's Healthy Hometown Movement** and was funded through a grant to Louisville Metro from the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**. The program expands the Cooperative Extension Service's existing community garden program in Metro Louisville to provide hands-on gardening workshops, provide assistance with **garden site planning and development**, produce and distribute **safe gardening educational materials** to the community, provide **cooperative Extension Service educational guides on safe gardening practices translated into 5 languages**, and provide affordable soil testing.

Blackleaf Chemical Site

The former **Black Leaf Chemical site** was identified for Superfund clean-up in 2011 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The site is located within the study area for the 18th Street Corridor planning process, facilitated by CEPM and the **Louisville Metro Department of Economic Growth and Innovation**. Both the **US EPA** and the **Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection** are involved at this site. A listing of all documents related to the site can be found [here](#).

Small Water Systems

This program is offered free of charge to all who are interested. The Project Team will conduct activities in every state, territory, and the Navajo Nation. All small drinking water systems are eligible to receive free training and technical assistance. The Small Systems project is a collaborative effort between the members of the **Environmental Finance Center Network** and its partner, the American Water Works Association. To find out if there is any workshops or webinars in your area go [here](#).

Allison Smith's New Job

CEPM is very pleased to announce that Allison Smith has taken the position of Brownfields Program Manager for Louisville Metro. Allison was with CEPM for 4 years, where she was involved with several projects including the EPA Small Water Systems Technical Assistance grant, the Safe Urban Gardening program, the Louisville Central Rail Corridor Area-Wide Brownfields Planning Project, the 18th Street Corridor Brownfields Planning Project, and the Black Leaf Chemical site. She also managed the newsletter and CEPM's social media accounts. Her new position consists of bringing brownfields back into active use for the benefit of the community by reducing blight and vacancy, creating jobs and amenities, and reducing hazards to human health and the environment. She also works with the EPA to identify, access, cleanup and eventually redevelop brownfield sites within Louisville Metro.

New Staff Members

CEPM is proud to welcome two new staff members. **Chris Harrell JD, MPA**, is one of the Team Leaders on the US EPA Brownfields Community Benefits Assessment Project. **Steve Sizemore, AICP, PTP** a city planner and Urban and Public Affairs Ph.D student, is a new graduate research assistant.

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