

**An EHC leader/representative is committed to making social change in his/her community to improve the quality of life and is willing and able to influence other community members and decision makers toward reaching that goal.** An EHC leader demonstrates certain personal characteristics, fulfills responsibilities, and has decision-making authority. The following is a description of the majority of characteristics and responsibilities of a leader/representative. Most leader/representatives will possess many but not all of these.

## Personal Characteristics of an EHC Leader/Representative

1. **Is Committed to EHC and Environmental Justice**
  - Believes in the EHC Mission, Goals and Theory of Change
  - Is committed to participate in the EHC process and to work for social justice
  - Believes that all communities have the right to a healthy environment without risks to human health caused by pollution
  - Publicly identifies as an EHC leader
2. **Works well with people**
  - Is friendly
  - Is persistent
  - Is patient
  - Inspires confidence and motivates others
  - Knows how to guide people to achieve the desired result
  - Listens well
  - Is recognized as a leader in the community
  - Sees themselves as equals to other members of the community
  - Earns the trust of the people
3. **Works well in a group**
  - Provides support for people and community issues, even when the subject is not their primary focus.
  - Encourages others to participate
  - Does not impose his/her opinion or will on others
  - Is able to facilitate others through a decision-making process, even when the decision taken by the group is not their preference
  - Offers support to others and works well in different situations
  - Understands the power of working in groups
  - Knows how to be a good follower
  - Can deal with conflict in a constructive manner
4. **Provides guidance**
  - **Is able to synthesize diverse ideas into plans for action**
  - **Can develop and implement a strategic plan**
  - **Contributes ideas, understands problems and identifies solutions**
5. **Actively participates**
  - ...
  - ...
  - ...
  - ...

6. **Understands power**
  - Knows how to build power
  - Knows how to analyze power and design an effective strategy
  - Knows the political playing field
  - ...
  - ...
  - ...
  - ...
  - ...
7. **Enjoys learning**
  - **Shares information from other groups with EHC**
  - Shares information with other groups about EHC
  - Participates in trainings that increase their effectiveness
  - **Knows how to lose and learn from errors**

## Responsibilities of an EHC Leader/Representative

1. **Is Accountable to EHC and the Community**
  - ...
  - ...
2. **Attends Key EHC Meetings**
  - ...
  - ...
3. **Represents EHC and provides EHC information to the community**
  - ...
  - ...
  - ...
  - ...
  - ...
  - ...
  - ...
4. **Represents the interests of the community**
  - ...
  - Listens and learns about residents concerns
  - ...
5. **Organizes residents**
  - ...
  - ...
6. **Leads and coordinates**
  - ...
  - ...
  - ...
  - ...
7. **Researches Issues**
  - Collects information and researches topics
8. **Knows or learns how to win**
  - ...
  - Understands power and politics
9. **Completes all sessions of the Core SALTA leadership training**

## Authority of an EHC Leader/Representative

1. **Makes decisions by participating with the Community Action Team and/or Board of Directors**
2. **Represents EHC to decision-makers**
3. **Represents EHC to the community**