

# WELCOME! – ¡BIENVENIDOS!

Welcome to Environmental Health Coalition's (EHC) *Creating Healthy Neighborhoods: Community Planning to Overcome Injustice Toolkit* -- a SALTA Leadership Development Training Curriculum and Video for community planning from the ground up!

## Creating Healthy Neighborhoods: Community Planning to Overcome Injustice

EHC announces its first leadership development toolkit, *Creating Healthy Neighborhoods (CHN)*. The training curriculum and inspirational video empowers real people to become leaders for health and justice in their communities, just the way EHC community members have.

*CHN* explores the interconnectedness of issues facing communities and uses real-life examples and case studies to show how real people can become advocates and activists for social and environmental justice. The training curriculum and video shows the impacts of toxic pollution and discriminatory land use policies in ways that anyone can understand, empowering everyone to become involved in planning and policymaking.

The CHN web-based, interactive leadership development curriculum provides community leaders with skill-building training in community organizing, policy advocacy, land use planning, building power, community health, environmental justice and effective communication.

## Curriculum Session topics and highlighted focus areas include:

### Session 1: Land Use Planning & Your Community

Participants will gain a general understanding of what they will learn during the four sessions and will begin to identify, define, and discuss issues of concern in their communities. An introduction to zoning is provided - one of the cornerstones of land use planning. EHC's Social Change for Justice Model will be used to understand how to build power in impacted communities. This will result in greater awareness of community concerns and empowerment as participants discover the path toward creating their own healthy neighborhoods.

### Session 2: Environmental Racism: What's in Your Community?

Participants will gain a better understanding of environmental racism and how it affects their communities. Through a community audit, issues in their community will be identified and discussed. The audit is a strategic approach that combines a strong community grounding with identification of tangible opportunities for change. Participants walk neighborhood streets and map community health threats and community assets.

### **Session 3: Creating a Community Vision**

A Community Plan illustrates the future of a community developed by residents so they may live in a healthy and safe environment. The development of this plan must include a clear process to assess the problems, ensure maximum meaningful community participation, and develop a plan that reflects the vision of the community. Participants will learn about developing a Community Plan and EHC's Process for Action (PFA) to illustrate how to develop a strategy and goals. Community involvement is emphasized through a series of exercises including implementation of a community survey and development of community principles.

### **Session 4: Organize & Advocate to Win and Achieve the Vision**

Participants have the opportunity to share the community vision they developed from previous sessions with the large group. Based on this vision, they will develop convincing statements that will assist them to organize their community in policy advocacy. Utilizing the various tools and strategies previously discussed participants will learn the best ways to present the problems they face in their community and how to best achieve the community they envision for themselves and their families.

## **Creating Healthy Neighborhoods Video**

The 20-minute video, available online and on DVD in both Spanish and English, illustrates seven steps to fight for environmental justice through community-engaged planning. By signing up at the top of this page you will have access to the full *Creating Healthy Neighborhoods* training curriculum and video. Use this knowledge to gain a fuller understanding of land-use planning – and take action to create healthier, more vibrant and liveable communities where you live.

[Login](#) at the top right of this page to watch the full video and share it with others.

### **How can I get involved with Creating Healthy Neighborhoods?**

#### **Join us.**

Sign up on this page ([at the top right](#)) to either download the 4 session curriculum and/or watch the free video to learn about the seven-step process to giving community members the tools and confidence they need to speak up in the land-use planning process.

#### **Share it.**

Give your friends, family, and fellow community members and city planners and decision makers something to talk about. Engage them in an open dialogue about the seven-step process and encourage them to share this video with other communities facing environmental injustice.

#### **Order it.**

[Order your copy](#) today to use for community leader training or presentations in your neighborhood. If you have monetary restrictions, please [contact us](#).

## More about SALTA

Since 1995 EHC has trained more than 2,000 community residents through our signature leadership development program *Salud Ambiental Líderes Tomando Acción* (Environmental Health Leaders Taking Action) also known as SALTA. The program utilizes a **popular education** approach that makes it inclusive and accessible and encourages participants to use the information and capacity they already have to address the issues they face in their communities.

All curriculum materials are bilingual (English/Spanish).

Empowering People/Organizing Communities/Achieving Justice -- SALTA is a key component to ensuring that EHC achieves our core mission. More than education, SALTA is integrated with EHC's organizing and advocacy efforts to achieve environmental and social justice.

The goal of the SALTA Leadership Training Program is to increase the number of effective community leaders -- individuals who are committed to making social change in their community to improve the quality of life and who are willing and able to influence other community members and decision makers to reach that goal.

In San Diego and Tijuana, EHC's work is directed by Community Action Teams comprised of EHC leaders who are SALTA graduates. Empowered by a common understanding of the issues and the ability to act effectively to create change in their communities, EHC leaders 'leap' to leadership and success. SALTA means leap in Spanish.

## HOW CAN MY ORGANIZATION USE SALTA?

The main objectives of SALTA are:

- To develop unity, commitment and shared consciousness to achieve environmental and social justice
- To develop and enhance leader skills and effectiveness
- To increase knowledge and understand of the impacts of pollution and environmental racism

If these objectives are consistent with your organization's mission and theory of change, SALTA can provide a forum for learning and growing. SALTA training works best when integrated with active campaigns and opportunities to use the skills in the real world.

Each session builds on the prior ones. You may use individual activities or sessions as stand alone workshops but please be aware that there may be topics covered in prior sessions that are integral to full understanding.

You will likely find it necessary to change or adapt some of the information or activities to suit your purposes, communities and local efforts. EHC encourages adaptation for the individual

needs of non-profits, environmental and social justice organizations, unions and public schools to use with their members.

For-profit enterprise are explicitly prohibited from using the SALTA materials unless they have receive expressed written permission directly from EHC.

## **BEFORE YOU BEGIN**

Who is your audience? This question is of utmost importance before conducting any type of training – what language do they speak, what is their background, what knowledge do they bring to the training? These are just a few of the many questions you should answer as you develop your training. When EHC conducts the SALTA program, sessions are provided in both English and Spanish, in a bi-lingual format and we provide simultaneous translation for attendees. We also show two Power Points on two different screens – one in English the other in Spanish.

Another point to consider is different levels of education among participants. Many participants will have low to mid levels of education and our popular education style caters to this very effectively. By engaging in many discussions and activities the written and reading activities of more traditional classroom settings are minimized.

Building leadership is a core EHC principle and the SALTA program is a critical strategy for achieving this goal. Given this, we recommend that SALTA participants have some level of experience and commitment to the organization or campaign. SALTA is designed to enhance leadership empowerment among individuals who have already stepped up to be involved in their communities and EHC. We always stress that SALTA is not a purely education program but it is education + empowerment + action.

## **FOOD AND CHILDCARE**

As part of the SALTA trainings, a meal is provided before the session begins as a time to share information and build community.

Childcare is also provided. This offers the opportunity for parents to fully focus on the training knowing that their children are well taken care of.

## **IN EACH SESSION YOU WILL FIND**

- Core Concepts and Learning Objectives
- Key Terms and Definitions
- Session Agenda
- Materials Needed
- Session Checklist
- Suggestions for Hands-on Activities
- Preparation and Equipment Needs
- Notebook and Handout Materials
- PowerPoint Presentation
- Evaluation Tool

Sessions last 2.5 hours but may vary in length depending on depth of discussions and activities. We recommend weekly sessions to give time for reflection, practice, and homework assignments.

It is recommended that prior to start, the facilitators must know how many people will be attending to determine adequate training location. Please see Session Logistics sheet.

## SESSION LOGISTICS

### Session Leader Team

Lead Facilitator  
Trainer/s  
Co-Facilitator  
Scribe

### Support Staff

Registration Table  
Food Prep/Planning  
Clean-up

### Session Leader Team Responsibilities Include:

#### Lead:

- Know subject area well
- Understand interactive/participatory learning

#### Scribe:

- Write clearly and concisely
- Write in the language of the audience members
- Stay attentive to the needs of the group

#### Co-Facilitator:

- Know/start to learn the material covered
- Be of assistance to the lead facilitator
- Take part in some of the training delivery
- Technical support, set up PowerPoint etc.

### Support/Logistics Team Responsibilities Include:

- Registration
- Translation Equipment
- Take Photos
- Order Food
- Pick up/Set up Food
- Make Copies
- Easel Pads/Markers
- Post Materials on wall – ground rules etc.
- Distribute hand-outs
- Help those with low literacy

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Any for profit organization agrees to contact Environmental Health Coalition to obtain express permission before use.

All users both non-profit and for profit organizations, agree to provide feedback to Environmental Health Coalition about the usage of the CHN SALTA Training Toolkit as we need and value your help in making CHN SALTA even better for the environmental and social justice movement.

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