

WE ACT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



In A WE ACT Minute

November 8, 2007

NAACP's The Crisis Magazine Features Article by Executive Director Peggy Shepard

The Crisis Magazine's July/August 2007 environmental justice issue features articles by nationally known EJ leaders Robert Bullard, Veronica Eady, Bailus Walker and WE ACT Executive Director Peggy M. Shepard. The authors discussed patterns of pollution, resulting health disparities, the potential of legal solutions and the importance of community empowerment in fighting environmental racism.

"We discovered outrage was not enough. We also needed technical expertise, health-impact information on the community that was more than anecdotal and research data on environmental exposures of residents," Peggy writes about building political power during the campaign against the North River sewage plant, which led to WE ACT's establishment in 1988.

WE ACT wishes to thank **The Crisis Publishing Co., Inc.**, the publisher of the magazine of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, for authorizing use of this work that was first published in the July/August 2007 issue of The Crisis Magazine.



To read Peggy Shepard's featured article, click [here](#) (PDF). To purchase a complete copy of this special EJ issue, please visit The Crisis Magazine's [website](#).

Director of Programs Cecil Corbin-Mark Appointed to Lt. Governor's Renewable Energy Task Force

This summer, New York State Lieutenant Governor David M. Paterson appointed Cecil Corbin-Mark to New York's Renewable Energy Task Force.

The Task Force brings together leaders from business, government and nonprofit organizations and aims to identify ways to expand use of renewable energy and alternative fuels – with the goal of reducing New York State's electricity use by 15 percent by 2015.

United States Social Forum – EJ Movement Building in Atlanta

WE ACT staff members Cecil Corbin-Mark, Julien Terrell, Laurel Mei Turbin and community resident Millicent Redick

WE ACT Welcomes 3 New Staff Members to Our Team

We're excited to welcome 3 new staff members to the WE ACT team this fall! Charles Callaway and Jhony Melgar joined the WE ACT organizing department and are promoting community-led development in West Harlem. James Subudhi is our new Sustainability Coordinator, working on green building, food justice and waterfront park projects.



Jhony Melgar, Charles Callaway, James Subudhi

Two Hearings on Capitol Hill Focus on Environmental Justice

In July, Executive Director Peggy Shepard testified at "Oversight of the EPA's Environmental Justice Programs," which examined the current state of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) environmental justice initiatives and compliance. Senator Clinton and her colleagues on the Subcommittee on Superfund and Environmental Health heard testimony from leading environmental justice advocates, including Bob Bullard and Beverly Wright, as well as from government officials tasked with monitoring the EPA.

According to Senator Clinton, the hearing will inform new environmental justice legislation that she plans to introduce to the Senate. Testimony from Peggy and a video of the complete hearing are available [here](#).



Senator Clinton & WE ACT Executive Director Peggy Shepard

represented WE ACT at the U.S. Social Forum in June. The forum brought progressive, grassroots organizations and individuals together in Atlanta to share experiences and strategize for the future. Turnout for the forum was unprecedented, WE ACT joined more than 1,000 organizations – and more than 15,000 people – in Atlanta to work together for positive social change.

Julien and Laurel collaborated with NYC community-based organizations CIREEH, West Harlem Group Assistance and Greenproofing to lead two workshops on environmental justice issues: *Where's the Justice in Environmental Health? Bringing Together Science Research and Environmental Justice*; and *Using Methods of Green Building to Develop Affordable Housing*.

Peggy M. Shepard Wins APHA Calver Award

In recognition of her innovative environmental health work, WE ACT's Executive Director Peggy Shepard will receive the 2007 Calver Award from the American Public Health Association (APHA) at their annual meeting in November

In September, Peggy took part in a hearing convened by Congressman Dennis Kucinich, Chairman of the Domestic Policy Subcommittee, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Peggy testified with other environmental and public health experts on the impact of current National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) priorities on national public health.

To view a video of Peggy's testimony and read more about the issues at stake, visit [Will NIEHS' New Priorities Protect Public Health?](#)

WE ACT, EPA & Partners Launch Northern Manhattan CARE Collaborative

WE ACT, EPA, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, Grant Houses Tenant Association and almost 30 other partners are joining forces to improve environmental health through the Northern Manhattan Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) Collaborative. EPA's CARE program supports communities in creating and using collaborative partnerships to identify sources of pollution, develop joint solutions, and reduce human exposure.



Jennifer May, US EPA, Region 2

meeting in November. This prestigious award is given to community-based professionals for their long-term, exemplary efforts to preserve and protect the environment and the health of their communities.

Congratulations, Peggy!

Support WE ACT with a \$25 donation and become a member today!

WE ACT members receive discounts to our events and are among the first to hear about what's happening at WE ACT. Make your secure donation online, or contact Development Associate Emily Earle at emily@weact.org or (212) 961-1000 ext. 318 for more information.

WE ACT for Environmental Justice

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