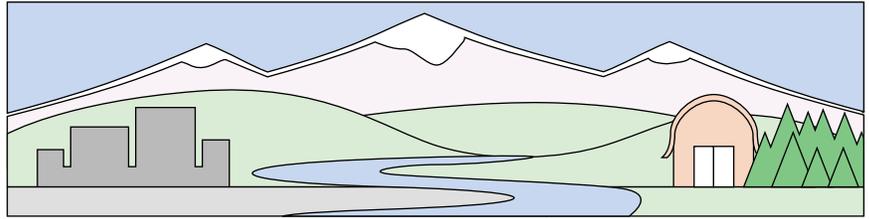


# OFFICE OF ECOSYSTEMS & COMMUNITIES



United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

Region 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101

Alaska  
Idaho  
Oregon  
Washington

## **Community Involvement and Outreach Unit**

(Kathleen Veit, Manager, 206-553-1352)

*Our Vision: To give the public access to information, the tools they need to participate in a meaningful way, and the opportunity to affect Agency decisions.*

Our work ensures that the public influences and trusts EPA decisions that affect them and the environment. The work of Community Involvement Coordinators (CICs) extends beyond the Office of Ecosystems and Communities to include support for many other EPA Region 10 programs, including the Superfund, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), the Water and Air programs. Activities include developing public involvement strategies, written fact sheets and brochures, and hosting public meetings.

### **Key Laws, Regulations, and Policies**

- Public Involvement Requirements in the CWA, CAA, RCRA, CERCLA, and NEPA.
- EPA's Part 25 Regulations on Public Involvement
- EPA's Public Participation Policy

### **Our Goals**

- Help EPA programs be successful in community outreach
- Help the public provide meaningful input to agency decision making
- Evaluate program effectiveness and identify areas for improvement
- Improve access to tools needed for environmental decision-making
- Create a work environment that maximizes staff satisfaction and productivity

### **What We're Doing to Achieve our Goals**

- Providing information to the public about EPA's work and upcoming decisions through fact sheets, brochures and meetings
- Advocating for changes in Agency decisions based on citizens' input where appropriate
- Conducting annual "listening tours" in strategic geographic areas with upper level management from a cross-section of EPA programs
- Assisting EPA programs in developing comprehensive public involvement strategies for key program priorities
- Partnering with land grant universities to identify and fill research and education needs, as part of a coordinated water quality program
- Working in targeted geographic areas to assist local governments in making better informed land use decisions to minimize environmental impacts
- Developing methods to evaluate how public involvement affects decisions at Region 10 and document how decisions were changed