

# EJ Community Learning Center

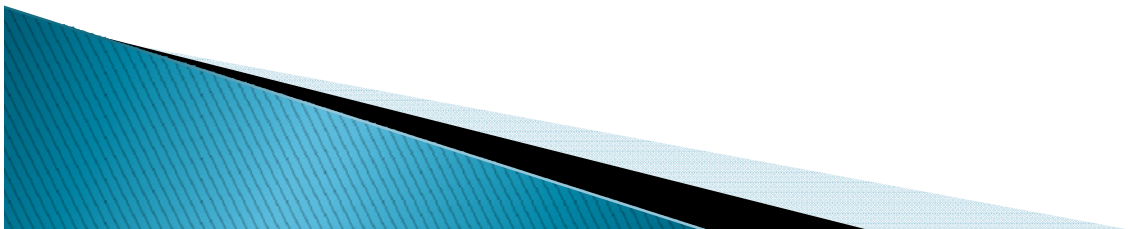
Presentation for the Clean Air Act Advisory  
Committee

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Standards

# Major Topics

- ▶ Why do we need a community learning center?
- ▶ What is our vision for the EJ community learning center?
- ▶ How would the learning center provide help to communities nationwide?
- ▶ Next steps



# Why an EJ Community Learning Center?

- ▶ Communities need help in understanding the basics and in articulating evidence-based stories (with data, maps, documentation)
- ▶ EPA efforts and resources are very limited
  - ▶ Primarily geared to grantees
  - ▶ Need a wholesale (not piecemeal) approach
- ▶ Center will support strong air quality programs and healthy communities
- ▶ Expands the number of communities we can reach and the assistance we can provide



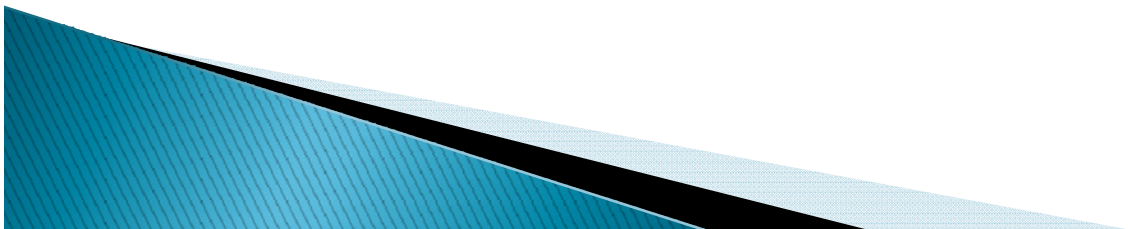
# What is Our Vision for the EJ Community Learning Center?

- ▶ Center develops EJ communities' capacity so that they:
  - Understand EPA structure, when and how to make a difference when they engage EPA (and other agencies)
  - Come to the table with basic knowledge base and technical background to provide significant input
- ▶ Training center would have community-driven curriculum and utilize peer education
- ▶ Replicate successful model at the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals at Northern Arizona University (ITEP)
- ▶ Hope to interest institutions that have strong ties and credibility with EJ communities



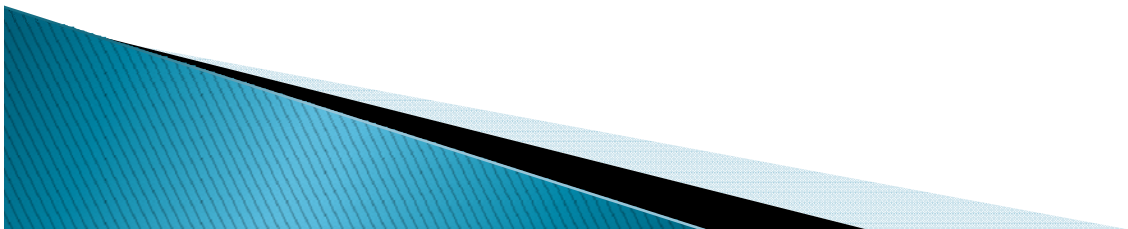
# How Would the Learning Center Provide Help to Communities Nationwide?

- ▶ Begin with air focus
- ▶ Expand to other media over time
- ▶ Provide mix of classroom based training, national workshops, web-based trainings
- ▶ Provide support for travel and per diem for trainees
- ▶ Maintain a resource library and clearinghouse
- ▶ Publish a community-oriented newsletter



# Sample Initial Course Offerings

- ▶ Clean Air Act 101
- ▶ EPA's Rulemaking Process and Public Involvement Opportunities
- ▶ Participating in SIP and Permit Development and Implementation
- ▶ Accessing and Using Publicly Available Data (air quality, socio-demographic, GIS)



# Next Steps

- ▶ Get additional input from internal and external stakeholders, especially EJ communities
- ▶ Develop Request for Applications for a cooperative agreement
- ▶ Open for business in FY2012

