

How it helps?

Benefits from community monitoring

Community monitoring allows local communities to increase their knowledge about different harmful pollutants in the environment and their levels in ecosystems.

The results of community monitoring offer a solid base for public interest, health and environmental groups to lobby their decision makers.

Interpretation and analysis of the results provides the basis for follow up actions to protect the local environment.

Comparison and integration of information gathered from different communities can help assess the ecological sustainability of our environment and the changes happening in it.

The Bucket Brigades

Many communities live near industrial facilities and are exposed to hazardous air pollutants on a regular basis. In response Bucket Brigades have been established around the world. The buckets are air-sampling devices that are affordable and simple to use and provide a way for data to be gathered at the time an incident is occurring. The buckets are relatively inexpensive to construct and to analyze, with the total cost for construction and analysis around \$500. The data collected is a powerful tool in campaigns to get offending facilities to clean up their act.

FACTSHEET NO. 1 COMMUNITY MONITORING

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Community Monitoring Working Group

COMMUNITY MONITORING



International POPs Elimination Network

www.ipen.org

What is Community Monitoring?



One of IPEN Meetings.

CMWG in brief

The Community Monitoring Working Group (CMWG) aims to support the implementation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants 2001 by facilitating and supporting community monitoring of POPs and other persistent toxic substances.

The CMWG promotes community monitoring of chemicals and ensure ongoing NGO involvement in the Global Monitoring Program for POPs. This will support the effective phase out and elimination of the dirty dozen POPs chemicals, help identify new POP candidates and aid in the struggle for a cleaner, healthier and more sustainable environment.

What is community monitoring?

Community monitoring is observation and measurement over time. Through monitoring, you can better understand the environmental and pollution issues in your local area. You can also gain knowledge and skills to help you take an active role in reducing the contamination of the land, water, air and all living things.

What can be monitored?

Things you can monitor in the environment include air quality, soil contamination, water pollution, climate, land use, plants, weeds and chemical residues in wildlife. There are many ways to measure these depending on how much



Obsolete stockpiles of pesticides in Arkhangelsk (Russia)

time, energy and equipment you have, and what you are trying to achieve. You may measure a few simple 'indicators' or many complex ones.

Different forms of Community Monitoring

Community monitoring can involve either direct sampling in the environment or the collection and consolidation of previously unavailable information such as the amount of waste coming in and out of a facility.

Whatever form community monitoring takes, its aim is to inform and empower and in some cases provide a 'passport' into the decision making processes of government and industry.

References

International POPs Elimination Network.
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The Canadian Community Monitoring Network.
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