



WEST HARLEM ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

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Trash piles up on your sidewalk, rats and rodents infest entire apartment buildings, and landlords ignore tenant complaints to resolve these issues. Does this sound familiar?

Healthy Homes is a dynamic training and organizing project, led by WE ACT for Environmental Justice and designed to help community leaders find solutions to these community problems. This campaign will benefit hundreds of community residents and families, empowering them to respond to the health risks associated with poor quality housing. Through interactive learning and hands-on activities, the campaign will promote grassroots leadership development in New York City.

WE ACT is a non-profit, community-based, environmental justice organization dedicated to building community power to fight environmental racism and improve environmental health, protection and policy in communities of color. WE ACT accomplishes this mission through community organizing, education and training, advocacy and research, and public policy development.

The main goals of this project are to educate families and members of community-based organizations about ways to reduce community-wide exposures to harmful toxins in the home. To accomplish these objectives, WE ACT is collaborating with the Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health (www.ccceh.org) at the Mailman School of Public Health of Columbia University.

The first stage of the project is to identify the priority issues and training needs through our environmental health survey. What is an environmental health survey? It is a survey that looks at how healthy your environment is. The environment includes not only nature but also everything that makes up our surroundings- the air, water plants, things inside buildings, and even the building materials themselves. All buildings have their own environments, including homes and schools. Though most people may not know it, home and school environments can be polluted and dangerous to our health. Ultimately, this survey asks you to investigate what environmental issues are affecting our community?

The next step is to conduct trainings/workshops with interested organizations and community residents, empowering them with useful resources and materials about environmental exposures and the related health risks. These workshops will also serve as the basis for the formation of our citywide Health and Housing Leadership Council.

We ask that you take a few minutes to complete and return the enclosed

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survey. Also, please share the Healthy Homes survey with other organizations (e.g. block associations, parent associations, neighborhood health centers) as well as local individuals. **For your convenience, the survey can be completed online via our website, www.weact.org.** Once your completed survey is returned, we will contact your organization to schedule community workshops. Thank you for your time and consideration.

In solidarity,

Jamillah Jordan
Health and Housing Campaign Coordinator