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| 1) What skills or ways of thinking are important to your work on community issues? |
| Communication that enables behavior change (It is difficult to get people to change behavior, esp. considering what social scientists call the attitude-behavior gap.) Mostly interested in pragmatic rhetoric- - alert, educate, persuade. |
| I work for a government agency whose mission is to protect the health and welfare of the public. Honoring that mission allows me to focus on positive community service. Working for a government agency has also made me understand that people are very different in their willingness to accept regulation or information from regulators - tact and flexibility have been important skills. Working for a Health District also means working with clients with differing educational levels and different cultural backgrounds - it is important to be prepared to alter messages accordingly to aid in understanding. Finally, my work frequently involves requiring individuals to do something they do not want to do - it is essential in communications to allow individuals to "save face" when they are proven wrong or when they need help and may be unable to admit it. |
| Being able to find where pie in the sky ideas and reality meet. |
| We grapple a great deal with how to foster sustainable behavior, both on a personal level and a community level. We want individuals to take responsibility for reducing their waste by reducing, reusing, and recycling and for beautification by not littering and by improving their own space. We also want communities to consider ways of organizing public services, such as trash collection, that make it easier and more effective for individuals to do these behaviors. So we are attentive to how to motivate individuals to take certain actions (or not do other actions) and how to motivate policymakers to take on initiatives for which they often is not a clear constituency, even though those initiatives carry significant benefits for the community and most households. |
| The Stormwater/CSO program is heavily invested in the triple bottom line. Whenever possible, we need to show that our investments are impacting more than just the sewer system in Springfield. A broad goal is for the program's benefits to exceed the dollar value of our investment. |
| Understanding who are your stakeholders, what resources are available, who are positive leaders in the community |

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| 2) What data informs your decision making, or is there key environmental or public health data that you commonly use in your position? |
| Most data we use on Sustainability Task Force comes to us through physical plant. |
| Many health district programs are mandated by law with specific guidance and training from state agencies based on law, best practices, and public health research. Other programs are voluntary, chosen to address a specific community need, with activities based on other agencies' experiences and data drawn from research. Many public health references are available to obtain information on specific public health topics, such as the CDC, FDA, USDA, and US EPA. |
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| Every year, we track the amount of materials (paper, cardboard, commingled recyclables, tires, etc.) received at our facility. We contribute those numbers and other data to the Ohio EPA's tracking of trash disposed and recycled in all 88 Ohio counties. Over time, those numbers provide a pretty good view of how well our county and state are doing at reducing waste. In addition, we look for certain data on an ad hoc basis. For instance, when working a project to encourage community contracts for trash service, we looked for data on how much damage trash trucks do to roads, because reducing trash truck traffic is a benefit of community contracts. |
| We depend on runoff data to help inform where projects might be located, but we also look at more subjective factors...would the project increase greenspace? Might it involve the demolition of a vacant building? Is there a neighborhood group or school interested in having the project in their service area? |
| I use multiple resources to decide what projects to focus on such as issues posed from business partners of the school, hot topics in the biosciences, and student interests. |

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| |  | | --- | | 4. Which recent or current projects have you worked on that deal with sustainability &/or public health? If you work on many projects, please describe those that are of greatest interest to the group/agency that you serve? | | Sustainability Task Force has many ongoing projects. I think, moving forward, we are trying to think about waste a bit more, but that is also my personal interest. I could potentially get a list of things from the group if that is helpful. | | * Zero-Waste projects for events - to encourage recycling and food composting AND to make event planners aware of how much unnecessary waste can be avoided when they rethink how to plan and host a public event. * Soil lead testing for community gardens - to educate neighborhood members on the possible risks of lead exposure during urban gardening, to provide free soil lead testing on their proposed site, and to help them choose the best solutions for any identified lead contamination issues with their site. * Rain gardens for storm water conservation and storm water treatment - Rain gardens are specially-designed vegetated areas sited down-gradient of storm water production areas (like parking lots and downspouts) to prevent localized flooding and erosion. They are sized to "hold" the rain water, allowing it to infiltrate into the ground instead of "running off" site. They are easy to design, frequently easier-than-expected to install, and beautiful. * Radon testing - radon is a naturally-occurring radioactive gas that has been found in Clark County homes and other structures and is the second leading cause of lung cancer, especially for non-smokers. Several areas in Clark County have been identified (via mapping techniques) as having health-disparities, lung cancer from unidentified causes, and low rates for radon testing. * Smoke-free public housing - starting work with the Springfield Metropolitan Housing Authority (SMHA) to comply with anticipated HUD requirements for all SMHA-owned housing to be made smoke-free. This will involve extensive public education and communications with existing and future residents of the housing units. * Indoor Air Quality Assessments and Asthma - many Clark County residents have asthma. It is suspected that a large number of those do not have asthma action plans or have home environments that are free from asthma triggers. The health district conducts IAQ assessments for clients who wish to learn more about asthma triggers and identify them in their homes. * Tire-derived chips as a replacement for gravel aggregate in septic system absorption fields - scrap tires can be cut into small cubes which can be effectively and legally used as a replacement media for gravel aggregate in the leaching lines of on-site septic systems. Clark County has three of the few sites in the state which have successfully installed such systems. The systems were monitored for 5- years after installation as "experimental" systems but have not been monitored since that time for bio-film development or other issues. | | Our neighborhood organization has planted around 150 trees along its streets, a and we would argue that restoring houses as opposed to building new has some sustainability value | | Our highest priority, but one that is very difficult to move forward, is getting communities to consider contracting for community-wide trash service. We did a high-profile campaign on this subject in 2009, and the effort was decisively rejected. In 2015, we started a more low-key campaign to build interest that we hope can be sustained longer and bear fruit down the road, although the jury is out on that as well. | | We are piloting two bio retention cells in 2016 and these deal with both issues. By reusing vacant ground and providing needed green space and educational opportunities, the cells fit within a sustainability framework. As pilots for future CSO mediation practices, they address a public health concern. | | Well, Global Impact is a bioscience based stem school that focuses on projects relating to food, fibers, alternative energy and environmental issues. I have helped create lessons/activities with the Ohio Soybean Council (www.grownextgen.org) and Ohio Corn and Wheat Growers (www.ohiocorneducation.org) around these areas of interests. It would be easier to talk one on one verses describe them. | |
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