

Cornell University Housing Research and Education Program 2005 Annual Report

Overview and Organization

Elements of the housing research and education program at Cornell include Extension and other Outreach efforts focused on housing sustainability. Specific programs focus on indoor environmental quality, energy efficiency, and residential siting. The Human Environment Relations major within the Design and Environmental Analysis graduate field provides graduate students with research opportunities in these areas. Partnerships with county offices of Cornell Cooperative Extension result in effective statewide programs that involve state and county government agencies and nonprofit organizations. Collaborations with the New York State Indoor Environmental Quality Center assist in partnerships with other New York universities in research efforts. A working relationship with the New York State Builders Association facilitates educational opportunities with the state's local home builder associations.

Summary of Current Activities

Healthy Living and Learning Environments

Research

Laquatra, J., Maxwell, L.E., & Pierce, M. (2005). Indoor air pollutants: limited-resource households and child care facilities. *Journal of Environmental Health*, (67)7:39-43.

Laquatra, J.; Boggess, J.; Pierce, M.; Diligent, D. (2005). Practical management strategies to reduce exposure risks of indoor air pollutants in limited resource households. *Housing and Society*, 32(1): 39-52.

Laquatra, J.; Pierce, M.; Hedge, A.; Lemley, A. (2005). Pesticide residues in rural homes. Refereed abstract presented at the Annual Conference of the Housing Education and Research Association, Denver, October.

Extension

Healthy Homes Video. Funded by Healthy Homes program, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and USDA/CSREES (\$42,000). Taping underway; anticipated completion date: February, 2006.

Healthy Indoor Air for America's Homes. Completing tenth year. CSREES will no longer provide national leadership. Program Development Team is responding to EPA RFP.

Consumer Education Program for Residential Energy Efficiency (CEPREE)

Year 03 of this Extension project is currently underway. The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) has awarded DEA \$250,000 this year to mobilize Local Associations of CCE to teach homeowners, renters, landlords, builders, and other housing professionals about residential energy efficiency. We have provided \$3,000 mini-grants to county offices to support program activities (\$11,000 to the NYC office). 30 counties are supported through this grant. Statewide inservice education event was held October 12 – 13 in Ithaca. CCE Director Helene Dillard supplemented the project with \$15,000 to support five additional counties for a total of 35 counties that are now engaged in the program. An Energy Town Meeting is scheduled for December 8, 2005 using the broadband facilities throughout the state for a Distance Learning Event.

Sprawl and Residential Preferences

In Year 02 of 3-year integrated research/Extension project. PI: J. Laquatra; Co-PIs: N. Bills, G. Poe (AEM); D. Kay (CaRDI), R. Pendall (CRP). (\$99,000 per year). Data set is under construction. Stakeholder involvement activity was a focus group held on May 26, 2005 at CCE/Monroe County. Extension Educator R. King identified participants.

Research

Laquatra, J.; Pendall, R.; King, R. (2005). Sprawl and residential preferences. Paper accepted for presentation at the Second International Conference on Social Science Research, Orlando, December.

Extension and Outreach

Focus group conducted at CCE/Monroe County, organized by Robert King; participants included local and county elected and appointed government officials and members of the Monroe County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board.

Planning for two focus groups (Albany and Broome Counties) now underway.

Meeting with Rod Howe, CCE Assistant Director, 12/1/05 for initial planning of Extension event related to this project.

J. Laquatra is a member of the Town of Dryden Planning Board. For compliance with Dryden's requirement that Planning Board members receive three hours of continuing education every year, Laquatra is providing this year's three hours through lectures on residential sprawl and updates on this research project. To date, he has provided two hours of classroom teaching.

NYSTAR Project.

J. Laquatra is Outreach Team Leader for this project funded through the Governor's New York Strategically Targeted Academic Research initiative. Twelve universities throughout the state are involved. Following is a description of a current effort.

Syracuse Healthy Indoor Environment Living Demonstration (SHIELD) Project

This is a joint project with the New York State Indoor Environmental Quality Center, Upstate Medical Center, CCE/Onondaga County, and Cornell (DEA). DEA contract: \$98,000. Peer Educator manual has been developed. Seven peer educators have been trained. In-Home education with limited resource households with one or more asthmatic children will begin this month. This project follows from the of the *Practical Management Strategies* project, designed and implemented by the Healthy Living and Learning Environments Program Work Team.

Voices, Inc.

Following conference presentations and a research publication on the *Practical Management Strategies* project, J. Laquatra was asked by HUD to work with Voices, Inc. to participate in a national trial of this method to teach limited resource households about reducing risks of exposure to indoor environmental toxins. HUD is currently working to identify 12 cities for the project. DEA sub-contract: \$50,000.

International Activities

Laquatra was an invited speaker for the International Housing and Home Warranty Conference, Tokyo, Japan, September 11-14, 2005. He gave two presentations: "Indoor Air Quality" and "Exterior Insulation and Finish Systems: Mold and Related Concerns." At the request of the Commercial Service in the U.S. Embassy, Tokyo he presented a seminar on green building for Japanese Home Builders on September 9. Pictures of these events follow.

Awards Received (Laquatra)

- 2005 Priester Award for Excellence in Extension Health Programming, shared with five members of the Project Development Team for *Healthy Indoor Air for America's Homes*.
- 2005 Epsilon Sigma Phi Team Award, shared with Therese Tuers, NYSERDA and Faye Rosselle, CCE/Oneida County for CEPREE.
- 2005 Certificate of Recognition for service as state program manager for *Healthy Indoor Air for America's Homes*, USDA/CSREES.
- 2005 Certificate of Appreciation for dedication to *Healthy Indoor Air for America's Homes*, USEPA.



*SHIELD Peer Educator
Training Session, Syracuse,
September 29, 2005*



*Presentations during Tokyo
Trip, September, 2005*



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