



ANNIVERSARY

Global Community Monitor
Breathing New Life into Communities

GCM Insider

An In Depth Look at the Work of Global Community Monitor

Fourth Quarter 2011

Reflection on Our First Decade: A Force for Clean Air

2011 marks the 10-year anniversary of the work of Global Community Monitor. In a decade, we have grown from a "man with a bucket" to a team of 20 staff, board, and experts.

As proud as we are of our accomplishments, it is the communities that we serve that speak to the power of the buckets and support GCM provides:

In order to determine what chemicals people breathe into their bodies, GCM helped us launch a Bucket Brigade to monitor the air and understand how the chemicals affect our bodies and our children.

-Dawan Eng, EARTH and the Thailand Bucket Brigade

GCM was vital to the success we have had over the years and we hope that they will continue this service so that other communities can gain freedom from big polluters.

-Hilton Kelley, Community In-Power Development Association, 2011 Goldman Prize Winner

Without the Bucket Brigade we would still be protesting on the side of the street. With that air test, the agencies started to take us seriously and pay attention.

-Lawana Bazinet, Citizens Against Toxic Exposure, Pensacola, FL

Today, we are taken seriously by the state of Delaware and we recognize that without GCM this would not be possible. They have been a positive partner in our fight to reduce the dust in Claymont.

-George Losse, Claymont Community Coalition

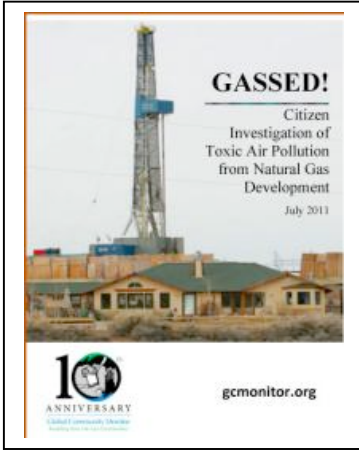
The communities we work with are the heart and soul of GCM, and we are honored every day to share in their campaigns and their victories.

We could not have made it this far without the support of people like you. Thank you.

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Gassed! New GCM Report Identifies Toxic Fingerprint for Natural Gas Industry



This summer, a new GCM report stunned the natural gas industry by documenting toxic air pollution coming from fracking (or hydraulic fracturing drilling) and other gas operations.

Working with community partners in New Mexico and Colorado, GCM collected nine air samples near homes, playgrounds, schools and community centers.

Despite claims of being a clean energy alternative to oil, natural gas production facilities produce pollutants damaging to the environment and human health. Results compiled in our report, *GASSED! Citizen Investigation of Toxic Air Pollution from Natural Gas Development*, revealed **a total of 22 toxic chemicals in the air samples, including four known carcinogens, as well**

as toxins known to damage the nervous system and respiratory irritants. The chemicals detected ranged from 3 to 3,000 times higher than what is considered safe by state and federal agencies.

We appreciate your support in allowing us to begin to document the air pollution impacts of the natural gas industry and to turn this information into policy reform recommendations. *Please contact us if you would like a complimentary copy of the report.*

Beyond Borders: International Training Building the Capacity of Community Groups

GCM's dream has never been to build an international powerhouse organization. It runs antithetical to our belief in people power. Instead, our vision is to plant seeds in communities and support them in their growth as they fight for clean air.



In August, GCM co-sponsored and participated in one of those planting and nurturing events: an international training held in India for campaigners on the frontlines of the battles for healthy communities and clean air.

The Campaigner Training Workshop was organized by our India-based partner Community Environmental Monitoring (CEM) and held at Deer Park Institute in Bir, Himachal Pradesh. GAIA India co-sponsored the event with us

50 participants attended the training to learn practical and important tools to immediately apply in the work of their local communities.

Participants came from all over India (Tamil Nadu, Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh, Orissa, Kerala, Delhi, Sikkim, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh) as well as Thailand, Indonesia, Myanmar, Sweden, the Czech Republic and Germany.

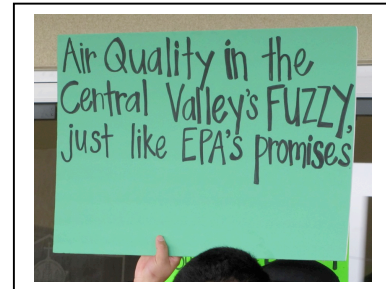
These trainings are an integral part of GCM's vision for helping grow the international environmental health movement. This was our third training held in Asia, and additional regional trainings have been held in Africa and North America.

We'd also like to acknowledge that the information shared in these trainings move both ways. GCM is always a beneficiary of the stories and knowledge and experience of the folks on the ground fighting for clean air.

Cleaning Up the Central Valley: New Clean Air Partnership to Clean Up Some of the Nation's Dirtiest Air

The San Joaquin Valley, California's largest air basin, faces an environmental health and justice crisis. GCM is gearing up to share our unique and successful model for winning pollution reductions and environmental justice.

Unhealthful air quality, lack of access to health care, and low incomes combine to wreak havoc among the region's rural communities. Regulators have long ignored the Valley's environmental health problems.



Ozone and particulate matter (PM) pollution exacerbate respiratory conditions, including asthma, increase hospitalizations and emergency room visits, and contribute to cardiac illnesses. In 2008, California State University, Fullerton Professor Jane Hall estimated that Valley residents bear an annual cost of \$5.7 billion, more than \$1,700 *per person*, in health costs because of the impacts of smog and fine particulate matter.

This burden falls disproportionately on poor people. Poor Valley residents, especially children, are more likely to lack access to health care, which compounds the air pollution assault.

In 2010, GCM launched a pilot program in the mountain communities at the southern end of the valley in Frazier Mountain to test that whether our program can address specific issues within the Central Valley area. **This year, we are launching a full pilot monitoring program in Arvin with a goal of replicating it in other communities in the region.**

With Arvin located at the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin, **its smog pollution problem is the most severe – not only in the Valley, or even California, but in the entire United States.** Arvin experiences air pollution from a unique concentration of pesticides, animal factory emissions, dust from plowed fields, smoke from agricultural burning, diesel emissions, urban air pollution, and volatilization from hazardous waste dumps.

We are collaborating on this project with the Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment and the Center for Race, Poverty and the Environment and look forward to the work of the local communities in using the power of the Bucket Brigade to improve health.

CELEBRATION

JOIN US FOR A

10 years of breathing new life into communities



IT'S A PARTY! GLOBAL COMMUNITY MONITOR TURNS 10!

**Tuesday,
November 15, 2011
5:30 PM - 8 PM**



**Tres Agaves
130 Townsend Street
San Francisco, CA**

Festivities will include:

- Music and mingling
- Delicious Mexican food
- Beer, wine & margaritas
- Silent auction

A brief program will begin promptly at 6:30PM

RSVP / DONATE

\$35 per person in advance / \$40 at the door

For more information please contact Ruth Breech at ruth@gcmonitor.org

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To register for this very special event, please go to <http://gcmonitor.org/10yearparty>

We welcome any input or additional support from you about our program or finances.
For monthly updates on the work we are doing in communities across the US and in other countries, please sign up for our email newsletter at <http://www.gcmonitor.org>.