

Dear Pamela,

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Aging Initiative, I would like to ask for your assistance in getting the word out to older adults and their caregivers about environmental health hazards that can affect chronic conditions. Specifically, I am writing to request that you include a link to our website (www.epa.gov/aging) on your website in an effort to reach older adults, caregivers, and people with chronic diseases to educate them about environmental health hazards. Information is a powerful tool, particularly in the hands of the people who need it the most.

A major aspect of our initiative is public education, so we have developed fact sheets that outline simple and important preventative steps to reduce exposure to environmental hazards and protect ones' health, particularly for older adults with chronic conditions such as heart disease, stroke, asthma, and COPD. Our website includes copies of these fact sheets, information on programs such as "Building Healthy Communities for Active Aging," relevant news, and grant opportunities.

The Aging Initiative and partners have created an awards program to recognize counties, municipalities and tribes for their efforts to promote livable communities for all ages called "Building Health Communities for Active Aging." Smart Growth, as you know, is characterized by development patterns that create attractive, distinctive, walkable communities to enable people, no matter their age, wealth, or physical ability, a range of safe, affordable, convenient choices in where they live and how they get around. Growing smart also ensures that existing resources are used efficiently and that lands and buildings that shape communities are preserved. Communities across the country, using creative strategies, are developing ways to preserve natural lands and critical environmental areas, protect water and air quality, and reuse developed land. They conserve resources by reinvesting in the infrastructure and reclaiming historic buildings. By designing neighborhoods to contain homes, shops, offices, parks, and other amenities, these communities are giving their residents and visitors the option to walk, bike, take public transportation, or drive as they go about their lives.

In addition, our fact sheets have been translated into Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Haitian Creole, Italian, French, Arabic and Russian. These can be downloaded on our website at <http://epa.gov/aging/resources/factsheets/index.htm#fs>. Moreover, we have prepared a purple series of the five fact sheets that are written for persons with limited reading ability. We also have created a large font series of the fact sheets for persons with limited vision that are on our website at <http://epa.gov/aging/resources/factsheets/index.htm#lowvision>.

On our website, you will also find news, grant opportunities and other information on environment and aging. We have also developed a monthly list serve that shares information about federal and non-governmental funding opportunities and the latest news topics in the field of aging and environment. I also invite you to subscribe to our list serve on the homepage of our website <http://www.epa.gov/aging> _or you can send me an email and I will be happy to handle that for you.

If you have any questions or concerns, or would like to order some materials, please give me a call or send an email to aging.info@epa.gov I thank you for your attention to these important environmental health issues for older adults and their families.

Sincerely, Kathy Sykes

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