

**A Summary of EPN's All-Hands Call:
EPN Community Assistance Partners -
Supporting Frontline Communities
Friday, January 21, 2022**

We began Friday's call with a brief update on EPN's current activities, including our [capacity-building technical assistance](#) work.

Kathy Pope reported that EPN has connected communities and NGOs to EPN members on local issues over 70 times on a variety of issues including fracking, wetlands, Superfund, air monitoring, PFAS contamination, and more! Since November, we have been introduced to over almost 40 communities and have made about 30 connections between these communities and volunteers in our network. We are integrating our work with other efforts such as [Public Lab](#), [Justice40 Accelerator](#), and [Center for Health, Environment and Justice](#) and have built a core partnership with the [Anthropocene Alliance](#), [Thriving Earth Exchange](#), [Environmental Integrity Project's Center for Applied Environmental Science](#) and [Environmental Law Clinic's Pro Bono Clearinghouse](#) (see below).

Harriet Festing, Executive Director, described the work of [Anthropocene Alliance](#), a coalition of over [100 frontline](#) member-communities across 34 U.S. states and territories, impacted by flooding, toxic waste, wildfires, drought, and heat—compounded by reckless development and climate change. They provide organizing support such as helping communities gain access to foundation and government funding, and assisting with advocacy campaigns.

Natasha Udu-Gama, Manager, Community and International Relations, presented AGU's [Thriving Earth Exchange](#) and its work connecting communities with scientists and community science fellows to work together to tackle community priorities related to natural hazards, natural resources, and climate change. Thriving Earth's volunteers help communities define scientific questions, design protocols, collect and analyze data, and apply this scientific knowledge to help with decision-making. Here are examples of current and past [projects](#).

Abel Russ, Director, shared the goals of the [Center for Applied Environmental Science](#) (CAES). CAES seeks to advance environmental justice by ensuring that communities and environmental advocates have access to high-quality science and engineering expertise. CAES provides grants to community organizations and NGOs from about \$3,000 to \$30,000 to hire scientists and engineers to assist with permitting and siting decisions, legal challenges, and rulemaking efforts. They have built a roster of over twenty-five experts with a wide range of skills, including air dispersion modeling, watershed modeling, engineering, hydrology, geology, remediation, exposure assessment, acoustics, and urban planning.

Jay Pendergrass, Vice President, Programs and Publications, and the [Environmental Law Institute's \(ELI\) Pro Bono Clearinghouse](#) will be working with lawyers across the U.S. to connect them via an online platform with communities who need pro bono legal support. The Clearinghouse will launch in the next month or so.