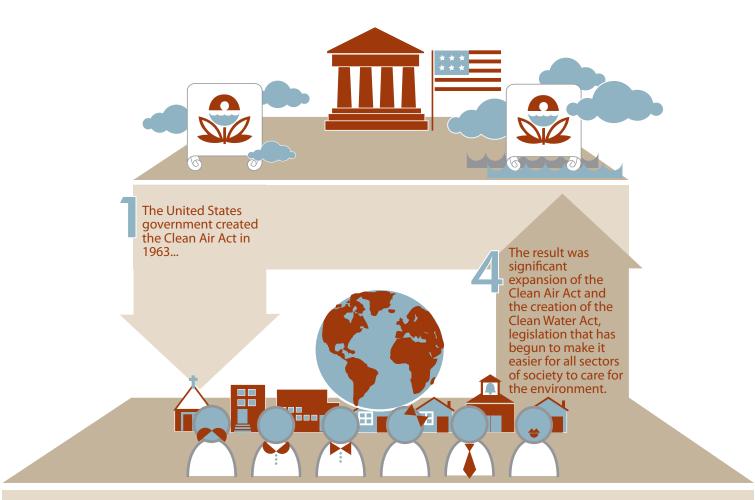
## CLIMATE ACTION INVOLVES ALL LEVELS OF SOCIETY

The four Chicago Community Climate Action Toolkit projects offer diverse models for taking climate action at the local level, in ways that build on community strengths to implement the region's climate action strategies and address key community concerns at the same time. They follow the Toolkit framework, designed to help projects attain maximum impact. This means that the projects:

- address a variety of issues;
- focus on a combination of education, action, advocacy, policy, and legislation;
- engage diverse stakeholders, including residents, business owners, policymakers, and nonprofit, governmental, and faith-based organizations;
- work on multiple geographic scales, including local, regional, national, and even international;
- work to effect individual, community, and policy change; and
- connect to partners' other activities and networks—a key strategy for maintaining the projects for the longterm, scaling them up, and increasing their impact.

The Toolkit framework embodies a key principle for social and environmental change: to be successful, all levels of society must be involved.

This principle is demonstrated in broader efforts, such as the process involved in the fight for clean air:



...but it wasn't until the first Earth Day held in 1970 that the world became aware of how severely industrial pollution was degrading the environment.

Countless numbers of individuals and community groups participated in local and legislative efforts to save the planet and its people.

The principle of involving multiple levels of society is also demonstrated by the processes undertaken by Toolkit partners. They addressed climate action in different ways. But all their projects include diverse players from a variety of sectors and scales—as shown by these examples from South Chicago and Bronzeville.

## SOUTH CHICAGO: • PARTNERING WITH THE CITY TO **ENHANCE AND EXPAND EXISTING GREEN EFFORTS** South Chicago and the Southeast Side more broadly have a long The City is partnering with Claretian Associates, a community development corporation known history of working on environmental issues. The Toolkit project itself is for its strong green and collaborative leadership. part of the South Chicago Retrofit Project, which was initiated by the City of Chicago. Claretian Associates is drawing on its extensive community network to bring diverse groups to the table: the local library, a strong Through their Facebook page, they even environmental alliance, local businesses, have conversations with churches, and youth organizations, internationally-based groups watching among others. and learning about their work from afar. \* \* \* At the same time, they are working with government agencies at the city, county, **BRONZEVILLE:** .. state, and federal levels to garner resources for economic development, transportation, **RECRUITING INTERNAL AND** and green infrastructure projects. **EXTERNAL PARTNERS TO WORK TOWARDS A NEIGHBORHOOD VISION** Bronzeville Toolkit partners are drawing on the community's rich They are working within the community African-American history to mobilize diverse stakeholders to help to engage businesses, social service

Learn more about how community-based action happens...

create and implement a new vision for the future.

Watch videos from The Field Museum's Abbott Hall of Conservation *Restoring Earth* exhibition about communities past and present working together for change that benefits people and nature.



agencies, gardens, and nature centers.



