

GIS FOR PARTICIPATION: A WAY OF SPATIALLY IDENTIFYING POLLUTION INEQUITY?**S. Cinderby, J. Forrester, S. Yearley, P. Bailey***Stockholm Environment Institute, University of York, York, UK*

Social inequities and inequality in exposure to environmental hazards, including air pollution, are of concern to all those with a remit to protect the environment and human health. This group includes environmental and health policy makers, environment and health professionals, as well as concerned members of society as a whole. One route to making relevant and applicable policy to address inequities is through engagement with 'knowledge stakeholders' and one approach to identifying different stakeholders knowledge of their environment, pollution sources and levels, and possible actions to reduce exposure is through the use of Geographic Information Systems for Participation (GIS-P). GIS-P forms part of the continuum of techniques that make up the public participation GIS (PPGIS) methodologies and is useful for identifying and recording diverse citizen understanding and different concerns on various environmental issues. This paper will describe the methodology of GIS-P and its application in air pollution studies. In particular it will focus on its use in identifying the public's experiential understanding of what constitutes air pollution amongst different groups and how these differ from the expert more evidence-led viewpoint. Examples of stakeholder knowledge of pollution levels and the use of GIS-P to formulate possible strategies and action plans to tackle air pollution issues amongst different groups will then be presented. The paper will make reference to findings from workshops amongst different social groups in Bristol, Sheffield and York.