



Organization: DeKalb County Board of Health in DeKalb County, Georgia

Contact: Jyotsna Blackwell

Q: What did you change a law, a regulation, an ordinance, a policy or other?

A: We passed a clean indoor air ordinance in unincorporated DeKalb, where 80% of the county's restaurants are located.

Q: Where did the idea to make the change originate?

A: We followed the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) Four Goals and the coalition called Prevention Alliance for Tobacco Control and Health (PATCH), which was interested in the ordinance.

Q: What elected or other government officials did you meet with to accomplish this change? And at what point(s) in the process did you meet with them?

A: We were fortunate and had a champion commissioner. The first time a coalition member met the commissioner was after the education piece was in place.

Q: What materials did you use to make your case that the change was necessary and would produce the desired results?

A: We developed a briefing book that had numerous educational materials (e.g. economic impact). We also circulated a petition among DeKalb County residents.

Q: Through what system/process did you make your change?

A: The change was made through the County Commissioners.

Q: Who were your allies in making this change?

A: Our main ally was PATCH.

Q: Who opposed this change?

A: The hospitality industry opposed this change.

Q: Did you testify in front of local boards or state governing bodies?

A: The Director of the DeKalb County Board of Health testified and PATCH members testified in front of the County Commission.

Q: Did you participate in media advocacy to make your change?

A: We did participate in media advocacy.

Q: Please describe in detail the outcome of your change.

A: Due to the coalition's efforts, DeKalb County has a clean indoor air ordinance.

Q: Any other comments about your environmental change that you wish to share?

A: This was a community driven process.