"Participatory action research built on longstanding community engagement efforts can simultaneously improve scientific knowledge and community capacity to address local needs. Prior research evidence suggests that resident participation enhances the assessment of environmental risks, raises awareness, and empowers residents to fight for equitable distribution of environmental hazards and climate risk adaptations. Despite this, many environmental health research efforts still fail to actively involve community members, co-learn alongside local organizations, and utilize expertise within the areas in which they operate. Three flexible and effective approaches to community engagement that can improve research are presented: (1) Citizen science efforts empower local communities to collect and analyze data on their environment, leading to increased awareness, more targeted interventions, and better informed policy decisions that can positively impact public and environmental health; (2) Block captains serve as local leaders who can quickly disseminate information and mobilize community members, invaluable for implementing targeted interventions that improve public and environmental health at the neighborhood level; (3) Working alongside local organizations at every stage, from concept to dissemination, builds not only local capacity but also scholarship, particularly among students and junior investigators. Partners for this work include examples of engagement based on multi-year partnerships with the Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services (t.e.j.a.s.), the Coalition of Community Organizations (CoCo), and ARISE Adelante. Frameworks for successful community engagement and participatory action for environmental health research can provide adaptable tools that can be used in many types of communities facing a range of environmental justice issues. Case study evidence will include testimony of citizen scientists who have completed the program, community organizations’ experiences within their neighborhood, and promotoras (community health workers) positive community impact from these approaches. "