

Smart Moves: Making Sense of the Math in Environmental Data

Martha Merson, Selene Gonzalez-Carrillo, Ethan Contini-Field, Meredith Small

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Summary

Environmental organizers and their constituents, local community group members concerned about environmental health, operate in a context with rich and varied opportunities for learning about and applying mathematics to communicating environmental data. Prior to *Statistics for Action*, project partners—organizers at environmental non-profits—spent little time with group members analyzing data. Organizations did not have a method or protocol for considering the most effective way to frame findings for neighbors and decision makers. During the *Statistics for Action* Project, STEM educators and environmental organizers collaborated to use the context of environmental organizing as a platform for science and math learning. This article describes Smart Moves and Memorable Messages, two approaches that advanced goals for both math learning and organizing.

[Access article »](#)

Smart Moves

Take Control of the Math

-  **Slow Down.** Believe you can understand it better.
-  **Use your senses.** Visualize it. Touch it.
-  **Compare it.** Connect to what you already know.
-  **Use friendly numbers.**
-  **Play with different ways to show it and say it.**
-  **Talk it out loud.** Learn from each other.
-  **Seek verification.** Think about how to check yourself: consult a peer, a calculator, or an expert.

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