

# National Parks Conservation Association Et Al

NPCA et al. Enclosures 9 through 17

# Environmental Justice at Ecology

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Pollution and environmental contamination can affect everyone living in Washington, but some people are significantly more burdened than others. Research shows that people of color, low-income people, and indigenous people are disproportionately harmed by environmental hazards like toxic contamination, diesel emissions, and climate change. These environmental exposures have real impacts on the lives of many in Washington, such as:

- Higher rates of illness and disease
- More frequent hospitalization
- Lower life expectancy

We're committed to making decisions that do not place disproportionate burdens on disadvantaged communities. And we seek to lift the weight of pollution and contamination borne by those communities. Focusing our time and resources toward strategic actions to address these long-standing inequities will lead to improvements in health and the environment, and more resilient communities in Washington.

## I want to...

- › Find out about Ecology's public meetings and comment periods
- › Learn more about Ecology's commitment to non-discrimination
- › Find out more about Ecology's language access services

*"I have a deep personal commitment to environmental justice. It's one of my highest priorities. For me, environmental justice is about achieving the highest environmental quality for Washington's diverse communities. We will work strategically to eliminate environmental and health disparities in communities of color, indigenous communities, and economically disadvantaged communities." Laura Watson, Ecology Director*

## Advancing environmental justice

Lawmakers took a historic step to eliminate environmental and health disparities in communities of color, indigenous communities, and economically disadvantaged communities by passing the HEAL (Healthy Environment for All) Act in the 2021 legislative session.

This landmark policy makes environmental justice an integral part of the way Washington state does business. The departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Ecology, Health, Natural Resources, Transportation, and the Puget Sound Partnership are all required to conduct EJ assessments and incorporate EJ into strategic plans and budgets. The HEAL Act also creates an EJ Council, interagency workgroup, community engagement plans, tribal consultation processes, and defines what environmental justice is.

The HEAL Act will bring a greater focus and additional resources to over-burdened communities — ensuring that we protect and preserve the environment for every Washingtonian.

# Environmental justice at Ecology

Environmental justice is a priority in our efforts to restore and protect land, air, and water. Below are some examples of our work to meaningfully engage communities, and strategically address environmental issues in areas with environmental justice considerations.



## What's in My Neighborhood?

We developed and maintain a map of contaminated cleanup sites around the state. This easy-to-use, interactive map allows everyone living in Washington to be able to find contaminated cleanup sites near them. It also provides the latest information on cleanup efforts at each site.

To see what's in your neighborhood, take a look at [our map](#).

## Funding affordable housing & public participation in Bellingham

We're working on 12 contaminated cleanup sites in Bellingham Bay. One of them is called "[Georgia Pacific West](#)," an area that has contaminated soil and groundwater from former industrial operations.

We awarded the Port of Bellingham an Integrated Planning Grant to help determine the extent of contamination, and then the Port will work with local affordable housing organizations to study viability of providing healthy and affordable housing options on the site.

Gentrification can be a big problem with cleanup efforts. As areas are cleaned up and developed, local communities are priced out of affordable places to live. This project will help provide affordable homes for those people who could be priced out of the area. Plans also include a food campus for local producers that will incorporate storage, workforce training kitchens, retail and event space, as well as affordable housing. Construction could start as early as 2021.

Using Public Participation Grants, we also help fund, and collaborate with, a local non-profit called RE Sources to help reach and connect with people in the community. Read more about their [environmental justice efforts](#) in Bellingham Bay.

Also, see our website for more information about [cleanup efforts in Bellingham Bay](#).

## Striving for equity in the Lower Duwamish Waterway

We're leading efforts to control sources of pollution from the drainage area surrounding the Lower Duwamish Waterway (LDW) Superfund site in Seattle. The [LDW Superfund site](#) is a 5-mile portion of the Duwamish River that flows into Elliott Bay. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) oversees cleanup of the river sediments.

Before sediment cleanup can begin, we need to control the sources of pollution to the river sediments. That means we must investigate more than 20,000 acres of land that drains into the river. [Source control](#) means finding the sources and extent of contamination, then taking actions to stop or reduce them before they reach the LDW.

The Duwamish Valley communities are diverse, encompassing a broad range of backgrounds, cultures, and languages. To effectively engage and involve the community, we conduct environmental justice analyses of project areas using the Environmental Protection Agency's [Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping tool](#). We then tailor outreach strategies to address equity issues.

Providing language access to cleanup information is an important part of public involvement. To assess language needs, we use census data to identify populations speaking languages other than English. We provide translation of written materials and interpretation services in various languages including Spanish, Vietnamese, and Chinese.

Ensuring that public meetings and open houses integrate with peoples' lives is crucial to support meaningful involvement. This means holding events in locations accessible by public transportation, as well as providing interpretation services, food, and childcare.

Working with community organizations allows us to further connect with the community. We partner with the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition (DRCC) to involve the public in the cleanup process and address community concerns. We provide funding to DRCC through the [Public Participation Grant program](#).

See our [Lower Duwamish Waterway website](#) for more information.

### Cleaning up 100 years of pollution in the Tacoma smelter plume

For almost 100 years, the Asarco Company operated a copper smelter in Tacoma. Air pollution from the smelter settled on the surface soil of more than [1,000 square miles](#) of the Puget Sound basin. Arsenic, lead, and other heavy metals are still in the soil as a result of this pollution. We started cleanup work in the area in 2006, and we continue to work with local communities to protect public and environmental health.

The communities affected by the Tacoma smelter plume are diverse. Our outreach and cleanup efforts are modified to meet the needs of the various communities.

We fund and work with local health departments through interagency agreements. The health departments in turn fund community projects and conduct targeted outreach. Our goal is to fund those closest to the work.

Some examples include:

- Public Health Seattle & King County works with local community grantees like Tilth Alliance to help get the information out to the communities

- Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department offers free soil sampling and offers a toolkit and resources to get free mulch to cover bare dirt; the program is specifically targeted to families with children

We created a [Dirt Alert map](#) to provide information on free soil sampling in the service area. The service area is a small area of the plume where arsenic concentrations are the highest. In this area, we operate the Yard Program and the Soil Safety Program. We offer free sampling and soil replacement to residential properties with the highest concentrations of arsenic and lead. The map makes it easy for anyone to find out if they live in the affected area, if their soil was replaced, or is eligible for cleanup.

We have conducted extensive outreach in the yard sampling service area. Our initial emphasis was on sampling soil at schools and childcare play areas through the Soil Safety Program. Our Healthy Action outreach materials are available in a variety of languages.

We work with businesses to help them voluntarily clean up their soil.

For more information, see our [Tacoma Smelter website](#).

### Converting brownfields into affordable housing

For more than 30 years, we've been cleaning up contaminated properties — more than 7,000 completed cleanups so far. Removing toxic threats helps protect human health and the environment, and opens the door to put properties back into use. We're working to make it easier for affordable housing developers to redevelop once-contaminated properties into housing that communities can afford.

To learn more about our efforts, see our "[Affordable housing-related cleanup](#)" web page.

### Prioritizing Volkswagen settlement funds

We're investing Volkswagen settlement and penalty funds in programs that are drastically reducing harmful emissions from transportation sources. We're prioritizing investments that maximize air pollution reductions and improve public health in communities that have historically borne a disproportionate share of the air pollution burden in Washington.

We worked with partners to use a variety of tools to identify and consider beneficial impacts of projects in these communities. See our "[Improving air quality & public health](#)" web page for more information.

### Protecting communities from threats of climate change

Climate change poses a threat to Washington's snowpack, coastlines, forests, and agricultural economy. But climate change also adds to existing health disparities and increases the burdens on the state's most vulnerable and sensitive populations.

Extreme heat events and increasing air pollution mean increases in diseases like asthma, diabetes, heart disease, and COPD, and it may mean that these diseases become more prevalent.

The impacts to vulnerable and sensitive populations of urban heat islands, food deserts, and homelessness will also be magnified by the effects of climate change.

Climate change worsens environmental injustice. The health concerns influenced by climate change are more acute for communities who already face disproportionate exposure to diesel emissions, toxic contamination, and other forms of pollution.

Other factors, like a person's age, language spoken, disability, and their access to affordable health care, technology, and the internet, may create barriers to receiving essential information and resources needed to protect health or ensure well-being for their families and communities.

Scientists and researchers at the Washington State Department of Health built a database of geographic, demographic, environmental, and health information to help understand health data and identify health disparities in Washington.

Ecology uses this powerful tool to develop criteria to evaluate potential investments from the \$140 million settlement the state received from the Volkswagen diesel cheating scandal. Using the database helps us direct funding for electric transit and school buses, cleaner diesel vehicles, and charging infrastructure for zero-emission vehicles toward projects that benefit communities disproportionately burdened with air pollution.

## Related links

[Accessibility services](#)

[Recommendations for Prioritizing EJ in Washington State Government](#) [🔗](#) (pdf)

[EJSCREEN online mapping tool](#) (EPA) [🔗](#)

[Washington Tracking Network online environmental health mapping tool](#) (Dept of Health) [🔗](#)

[Environmental justice at EPA](#) [🔗](#)

## Contact information

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## The Council's Work

The Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities was established by the Legislature in 2006 when it passed, and the Governor signed a bill to create it.

- The Council creates an action plan for eliminating health disparities by race, ethnicity, and gender in Washington.
- The Council convenes advisory committees to assist in the planning and development of specific issues in collaboration with several state agencies and non-government stakeholders.
- The Council has developed many recommendations to support language assistance .

### Contact the Council

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### Notices

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# THE GOVERNOR'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HEALTH DISPARITIES

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**State Policy Action Plan to Eliminate Health Disparities**

January 2020



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## INTRODUCTION

The Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities (Council) is charged with creating a state policy action plan to eliminate health inequities by race/ethnicity and gender. This report outlines strategies to address health inequities by: (1) recommending the passage of legislation to create and fund a Washington State Office of Equity, (2) reiterating the recommendations from the Council's Literature Review on Inequities in Reproductive Health Access, and (3) recommending the continued support and use of Health Impact Reviews to promote health and equity in legislative decision making. In addition, this report includes an update on the work of the Environmental Justice Task Force, which the Council was directed to convene through a proviso in the 2019-2020 biennial operating budget.

The recommendations in this report, including those the Council is endorsing from other reports, focus on the social determinants of health and root causes of health inequities. By focusing upstream on these determinants of health, the Council believes its recommendations will ultimately work to reduce inequities for all health outcomes, including those listed in its authorizing statute (RCW 43.20.280).



Above: Office of Equity Task Force members. Back row, l-r: RaShelle Davis, Rep. Melanie Morgan, Maria Siguenza, Allison Spector, Karen Johnson, Mandeep Kaundal. Middle row, l-r: Sen. Manka Dhingra, Michelle Gonzalez, Toshiko Hasegawa, Mystique Hurtado. Front row, l-r: Benjamin Danielson, Jan Ward Olmstead. Full list of members available on page 3.



Closing circle at the Council's Everett Community Forum on Sept. 5, 2019

## EQUITY OFFICE TASK FORCE

The Legislature directed the Council to convene and staff an Equity Office Task Force through a proviso in the 2019-2021 operating budget (Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1109, Section 221, subsection 7).

The Task Force is charged with developing a proposal for the creation of a Washington State Office of Equity, submitting a preliminary report to the Governor and the Legislature by December 15, 2019, and submitting a final proposal by July 1, 2020.

The Task Force is directed to include the following recommendations in its final proposal:

1. A mission statement and vision statement for the office;
2. A definition of “equity,” which must be used by the office to guide its work;
3. The organizational structure of the office, which must include a community liaison for the office;
4. A plan to engage executive-level management from all agencies;
5. Mechanisms for facilitating state policy and systems change to promote equity, promoting community outreach and engagement, and establishing standards for the collection, analysis, and reporting of disaggregated data regarding race and ethnicity;
6. Mechanisms for accountability to ensure that performance measures around equity are met across all agencies, including recommendations on audits of agencies and other accountability tools as deemed appropriate; and,
7. A budget proposal including estimates for costs and staffing.

The Task Force convened for its first meeting on August 19 in Tacoma with subsequent meetings in Vancouver on September 16, Yakima on October 21, Tumwater on November 25, and Olympia on December 16. The Task Force has been intentional in creating opportunities to listen, learn, and seek input from communities impacted by inequity to guide its work, including

both government-to-government engagement with tribes as sovereign nations and more general community engagement.

Specific engagement activities have included hosting community forums in Everett on September 5 and in Yakima on October 20, administering an online survey that had 214 responses, and employing a community engagement coordinator position to share information directly with communities across the state and seek input to guide the Task Force’s work.

In addition, the Task Force staff met with leaders of the Yakama Nation prior to its public meeting in Yakima and members and staff attended the 30th Annual Centennial Accord meeting on November 6-7 to learn about tribes’ priorities and speak to tribal leaders about the Task Force’s work.

To inform the development of its recommendations, the Task Force sought community input, explored existing efforts and infrastructure in the state related to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), and looked at model equity initiatives undertaken by government jurisdictions in the state and nationally.

The Task Force’s December 2019 Preliminary Report to the Governor and the Legislature is expected to inform legislation for the upcoming 2020 legislative session to create a Washington State Office of Equity.

### RECOMMENDATION 1:

The Council recommends the passage of legislation to create and fund a Washington State Office of Equity.

Responsible Party: Legislature  
Measure: Passage of Legislation  
Timeline: 2020

**Table 1 - Equity Office Task Force Membership**

Governor’s Interagency Council on Health Disparities	Benjamin Danielson (co-chair), Jan Olmstead (co-chair)
Legislators *	Sen. Manka Dhingr, Rep. Mia Gregerson (alternate)
* One legislator seat, to be appointed by the President of the Senate, remains vacant.	Rep. Jeremie Dufault, Alec Regimbal (alternate)
	Rep. Melanie Morgan
Office of the Governor	RaShelle Davis
Commission of African American Affairs	Ed Prince
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council	Karen A. Johnson
Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs	Toshiko Hasegawa, Carrie Huie Pascua (alternate)
Human Rights Commission	Sharon Ortiz
Commission on Hispanic Affairs	Maria Siguenza
WA State Women’s Commission	Michelle Gonzalez, Marie Vela (alternate)
Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs	Craig Bill, Mystique Hurtado (alternate)
Office of Minority and Womens’ Business Enterprises	Lisa van der Lugt
	Rex Brown (alternate), Dawn Rains (alternate)
Disability Community	Elizabeth Gordon, Mandeep Kaundal (alternate)
LGBTQ+ Community	Allison Spector

## EQUITABLE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ACCESS

In 2018, the Washington State Legislature passed Substitute Senate Bill 6219 (SSB 6219). The bill directed the Council to conduct a literature review on disparities in access to reproductive healthcare in Washington State and to propose recommendations to reduce those disparities.

Council staff conducted a review of literature between April and August 2018 to identify barriers to accessing reproductive healthcare. Barriers served as a means to understand disparities in access in order to provide greater understanding of the potential root causes of disparities and to develop relevant, specific recommendations. Staff completed key informant interviews to gain additional context and background information and to refine staff understanding of the literature and recommendations for some population groups.

Council staff evaluated recommendations identified in the literature as well as reports from Washington State agencies and community-based organizations addressing reproductive health. Recommendations that could be addressed at the state level were then further evaluated to determine if they could be acted on by the Washington State Legislature or a state agency.

In January 2019, the Council submitted its report, *Literature Review on Inequities in Reproductive Health Access*, which identified 14 populations experiencing inequities, 45 unique barriers to access, and 14 recommendations to improve access in the areas of criminal justice, education, healthcare providers, health insurance, and state funding.

### RECOMMENDATION 2:

The Council reaffirms the recommendations submitted in its January 2019, *Literature Review on Inequities in Reproductive Health Access*.

Responsible Parties: Various (see recommendations)

Measure: To be determined

Timeline: To be determined

## HEALTH IMPACT REVIEWS

RCW 43.20.285 authorizes the State Board of Health (Board) in collaboration with the Council to conduct Health Impact Reviews (HIRs). HIRs are objective, non-partisan, evidence-based analyses that provides the Governor and Legislators with information about how legislative proposals may impact health and health equity in Washington State.

Since 2014, Council staff have completed 81 HIRs at the request of 48 different legislators. Staff have completed requests on a range of policy topics including, behavioral health, education, and criminal justice, to name just a few. HIRs rely primarily on evidence published in the scientific literature. However, additional staff capacity has allowed staff to complete key informant interviews to address gaps in published literature and to better understand how legislative proposals may impact people in Washington State, which has been of particular interest to the Council.

The Board currently employs 1.6 FTE to complete HIRs. The additional capacity (0.6 FTE) was included in the Board's budget during the last biennium through Foundational Public Health Services. The added capacity will allow the Board and Council to conduct more HIRs, thereby improving the state's ability to use evidence to inform policy and to promote health and health equity.

## HEALTH IMPACT REVIEWS (CON'TD)

In addition to providing legislators with information on specific proposals, HIR findings have been used to inform related policy work. For example, in fiscal year 2019, analysts completed an interim request on ESSB 5395, concerning comprehensive sexual health education. The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction requested Council staff provide a briefing on the HIR findings to the legislatively mandated Sexual Health Education Workgroup (ESHB 1109 Section 501 [3][h]). Specifically, the group was tasked with considering the merits and challenges associated with requiring all schools to offer comprehensive sexual health education to students in all grades. Workgroup members were particularly interested in the HIR finding that inclusive comprehensive sexual health curriculum has the potential to reduce health inequities for multiple student groups.

Similarly, in fiscal year 2019, analysts completed a request on HB 1932, concerning vapor products. The analysis focused on provisions which would ban the sale of flavored vapor products in Washington State. Overall, the HIR found evidence that banning the sale of flavored vapor products would likely decrease initiation and use of vapor products and other tobacco products among youth and young adults, thereby improving health outcomes. The review could not conclude how the bill would impact health inequities. Shortly after analysts began conducting the review, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced that, in collaboration with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, state and local health departments, and other clinical and public health partners, it was investigating outbreaks of severe lung injury associated with e-cigarette and vapor products.

Results of the HIR were used in the state's response to the outbreak of severe lung injury associated with vaping products. On September 27, 2019 Governor Jay Inslee issued Executive Order 19-03, addressing the Vaping Use Public Health Crisis. As a part of the Executive Order, Governor Inslee directed the Washington State Department of Health to, "request that the State Board of Health use its emergency rulemaking authority to impose a ban on all flavored vapor products, including flavored THC vapor products". At the Board's October 9 meeting, staff briefed the Board on the

HIR findings for HB 1932. The Board adopted the emergency rulemaking order to create chapter 246-80 WAC, Vapor Products and Flavors rule. Among its provisions, the emergency rule bans the sale of flavored vapor products, including flavored THC vapor products. The emergency rule went into effect on October 10, 2019 and will be in effect for 120 days.

The understanding of HIRs as a policy tool and ways in which requesters use findings continue to develop. While legislators initially requested HIRs primarily to support policies that may positively impact health and health equity, legislators are more frequently requesting HIRs on proposed legislation to understand potential unintended consequences. Other requesters have also used HIRs to understand whether a bill would have the intended impact. Requesters have used findings from HIRs to adjust their proposals to eliminate or address potential concerns.

Requesters have indicated that HIRs are important for informing legislative decision-making by providing important information to talk with other legislators, delivering unbiased data and information, and giving weight and credibility to proposals. Consequently, the demand for HIRs continues to grow and surpass staff capacity.

### RECOMMENDATION 3:

The Council recommends that legislators and the Governor continue to support and make requests for Health Impact Reviews to ensure legislative policy development promotes health and equity for all Washingtonians.

Responsible Party: Legislature, Governor, State Board of Health  
Measure: Number of requested and completed HIRs per fiscal year  
Timeline: Ongoing

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE

Section 221, subsection 48 of the 2019-2021 biennial operating budget (Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 1109) directed the Council to convene and staff an Environmental Justice Task Force. The Task Force is responsible for recommending strategies to incorporate environmental justice principles into future state agency actions. The task force must submit a final report by October 31, 2020 to include:

1. Guidance for using the Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map, hosted on the Department of Health's website to identify communities that are highly impacted by environmental justice issues with current demographic data.
2. Best practices for increasing meaningful and inclusive community engagement that takes into account barriers to participation.
3. Measurable goals for reducing environmental health disparities for each community in Washington state and ways in which state agencies may focus their work towards meeting those goals.
4. Model policies that prioritize highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations for the purpose of reducing environmental health disparities and advancing a healthy environment for all residents.

The Environmental Protection Agency defines environmental justice as, "...the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies."<sup>1</sup>

Environmental justice is one important outcome of a truly equitable society and is a critical part of the work to eliminate health disparities. To date, the Environmental Justice Task Force has held two meetings, one in

Lakewood on September 30 and the other in Yakima on November 21. In 2020, the Task Force will meet in Vancouver on January 14 and in Spokane on April 2. Future meeting location and dates for the spring and summer of 2020 are forthcoming.

The Task Force is supported by two subcommittees that will meet monthly. The Task Force, as well as each subcommittee, has its own set of objectives and timeline to address the four required outcomes for the final report.

One subcommittee will focus on providing guidance to state agencies for how to use the Washington Environmental Health Disparities map and the other subcommittee will provide recommendations for best practices for meaningful community engagement.

The Task Force and its subcommittees will also recommend measurable goals and model policies that prioritize environmental justice in the state. Task Force membership is included in Table 2 on the following page.



Office of Equity Task Force and Environmental Justice Task Force staff.  
From l-r: Esmael Lopez, LinhPhung Huynh, Elise Rasmussen, Hannah Fernald

<sup>1</sup>Accessed at: [EPA web page online](#) on 11/24/2019

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE (CONT'D)

**Table 2 - Environmental Justice Task Force Membership**

Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities	Victor Rodriguez (co-chair)
Statewide Environmental Justice Issues	David Mendoza (co-chair)
Puget Sound Partnership	Larry Epstein, Leah Kintner (alternate)
Department of Transportation	Allison Camden, Megan White (alternate)
Public Lands (Dept. of Natural Resources)	Cassie Bordelon
Department of Health	Laura Johnson
Department of Commerce	Michael Furze, Sarah Vorpahl (alternate)
Department of Agriculture	Ignacio Marquez
Department of Ecology	Millie Piazza
CBO: Tacoma League of Young Professionals	Emily Pinckney
Union/Organized Labor Association: UAW Local 4121	Judy Twedt
CBO: Community to Community Development	Tomás Madrigal
CBO: Asian Pacific Islander Coalition	Rowena Pineda
Statewide Agricultural Interests: WA State Farm Bureau	John Stuhlmiller
Business Interests: Association of WA Business	Gary Chandler, Peter Godlewski (alternate)
Tribal Leader	Unconfirmed

## COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

The Council has 17 members: a chair appointed by the Governor; representatives of 14 state agencies, boards, and commissions; and two members of the public who represent health care consumers. A list of current Council members is provided below. The interagency structure of the Council allows it to have a statewide and broad approach to addressing health disparities. The Council considers not only health and health care issues, but also the social factors that influence health, such as education, poverty, employment, and the environment.

**Table 3 - Governor’s Interagency Council on Health Disparities Membership**

Governor’s Representative and Council Chair	Benjamin Danielson
Consumer Representative and Council Vice Chair	Victor Rodriguez
Consumer Representative	Leah Wainman
Commission on African American Affairs	Sara Franklin-Phillips
Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs	Lydia Faitalia
Commission on Hispanic Affairs	Anita Ahumada, Diana Lindner (alternate)
Department of Agriculture	Jill Wisehart
Department of Commerce	Diane Klontz
American Indian Health Commission <sup>2</sup>	Willie Frank, Jan Ward Olmstead (alternate)
Department of Children, Youth, and Families	Greg Williamson
Department of Ecology	Millie Piazza, Rian Sallee (alternate)
Department of Health	Paj Nandi
Department of Social and Health Services	Marietta Bobba
Health Care Authority	Jessie Dean , Lena Nachand (alternate)
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction	Haley Lowe
State Board of Health	Stephen Kutz, Michelle Davis (alternate)
Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board	Liz Coleman

<sup>2</sup> The Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs delegated authority to the American Indian Health Commission to appoint a representative to the Council



striving to eliminate health disparities by race/ethnicity and gender in washington state



# Environmental Justice Task Force Meeting Materials

Filter:

**2020**

**2019**

**January 8, Mapping Subcommittee - Call In Only**



**January 9, Community Engagement Subcommittee - Pacific**



**January 14, Task Force - Vancouver**



**February 4, Community Engagement Subcommittee - Bullitt Center**



**February 12, Mapping Subcommittee - Call In Only**



**March 3, Community Engagement Subcommittee - Tacoma**



**March 11, Mapping Subcommittee - Call In Only**



**April 2, Task Force - Teleconference**



**April 7, Community Engagement Subcommittee - TBD**



**April 8, Mapping Subcommittee - Call In Only**



**May 5, Community Engagement Subcommittee**



**May 13, Mapping Subcommittee - Call In Only**



**May 18, Task Force - Virtual Only**



**June 17, Community Engagement Subcommittee** >

**June 22, Task Force - Virtual Only** >

**July 16, Task Force Feedback Listening Session** >

**July 21, Mapping Subcommittee - Call In Only** >

**July 22, Community Engagement Subcommittee** >

**August 7, Task Force - Virtual Only** >

**August 18, Task Force Work Group - Virtual Only** >

**September 11, Task Force - Virtual Only** >

**September 25, Task Force - Virtual Only** >

## **Important Information to Know**

### **Timelines and Deadlines**

- A proposed final agenda is distributed one week before each meeting via email and posted to our website.
- Meeting materials are posted to our website 24 hours in advance of the meeting.
- Written and electronic testimony is accepted until 12:00 Noon the Friday before each meeting.
- Draft meeting minutes are posted with the following month's meeting materials.
- Final meeting minutes are posted to our website in a timely manner after they have been approved by the Task Force members.

### **Public Involvement Resources**

- Learn how to be involved. Give public comments at a meeting .
- Learn how to request public records .

### **Formal Communications**

- Letter to the Governor - Office of Equity In This Moment (June 2020)
- Letter to House of Representatives - Office of Equity In This Moment (June 2020)
- Letter to Senate - Office of Equity In This Moment (June 2020)

## **Contact the Council**

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**January 14, Task Force - Vancouver**



**February 4, Community Engagement Subcommittee - Bullitt Center**



**February 12, Mapping Subcommittee - Call In Only**



**March 3, Community Engagement Subcommittee - Tacoma**



**March 11, Mapping Subcommittee - Call In Only**



**April 2, Task Force - Teleconference**



**April 7, Community Engagement Subcommittee - TBD**



**April 8, Mapping Subcommittee - Call In Only**



**May 5, Community Engagement Subcommittee**



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**June 17, Community Engagement Subcommittee**



**June 22, Task Force - Virtual Only**



**July 16, Task Force Feedback Listening Session**



**July 21, Mapping Subcommittee - Call In Only**



**July 22, Community Engagement Subcommittee**



**August 7, Task Force - Virtual Only**



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**September 25, Task Force - Virtual Only**



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## Environmental Justice

# Join us for the NEJAC and WHEJAC Public Meetings!

Learn more about upcoming NEJAC public meetings

<<https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-advisory-council>> and learn more about upcoming WHEJAC public meetings

<<https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/white-house-environmental-justice-advisory-council>>.

**1      2      3      4**

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. This goal will be achieved when everyone enjoys:





<<https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/factsheet-epas-office-environmental-justice>>

Read the Factsheet about the EPA's Office of Environmental Justice.

<<https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/factsheet-epas-office-environmental-justice>>

## Grants and Resources



- EJ Grants, Funding, and Technical Assistance  
<<https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-grants-funding-and-technical-assistance>>
- Resources for Communities <<https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/resources-creating-healthy-sustainable-and-equitable-communities>>
- EJ in Your Community <<https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-your-community>>
- EJ Program Funded Projects <<https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-grants-and-resources>>
- EJ Learning Center <<https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-learning-center>>
- EJSCREEN <<https://epa.gov/ejscreen>>
- EPA American Rescue Plan (ARP) Funding <<https://epa.gov/arp>>

- The same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards, and
- Equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work.

Still have questions? Contact your Regional Staff.

<<https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/forms/contact-us-about-environmental-justice>>

# Strategic Planning



- Learn about Environmental Justice <<https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/learn-about-environmental-justice>>
- EJ 2020 Action Agenda <<https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/ej-2020-action-agenda-epas-environmental-justice-strategy>>
- Equitable Development <<https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/equitable-development-and-environmental-justice>>
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)  
<<https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-and-national-environmental-policy-act>>
- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 <<https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/title-vi-and-environmental-justice>>
- Community Outreach and Engagement <<https://epa.gov/node/264611>>

# Collaborative Partnerships



- Community Voices <<https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/community-voices-environmental-justice>>
- National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC)  
<<https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-advisory-council>>
- White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC)  
<<https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/white-house-environmental-justice-advisory-council>>
- International Human Rights and Rights of Indigenous People  
<<https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/epas-role-promoting-international-human-rights-rights->

indigenous-peoples-and>

- Tribes and Indigenous Peoples <<https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-tribes-and-indigenous-peoples>>

# How Did the Environmental Movement Arise?

The environmental justice movement was started by individuals, primarily people of color, who sought to address the inequity of environmental protection in the United States.

Professor Robert Bullard wrote, "whether by conscious design or insidious processes of color in urban ghettos, in rural 'poverty pockets', or on economically distressed Native-American reservations face some of the worst environmental conditions in the nation."

The Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s sounded the alarm about the environmental conditions that threatened their families, their communities and themselves.



**Memphis Sanitation Stril**

1968

1969

This timeline presents EPA's involvement in the Environmental Justice Movement and the major events leading up to it. This is not meant to be an all inclusive history of the movement in general.

[epa.gov/report-environmental-violations](https://epa.gov/report-environmental-violations)



**Report a Violation** <<https://echo.epa.gov/report-environmental-violations>>

Report possible violations of environmental laws and regulations.

Contact Us <<https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/forms/contact-us-about-environmental-justice>> to ask a question, provide feedback, or report a problem.



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## Environmental Justice

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# Learn About Environmental Justice



*President Clinton signing the EJ Executive Order in 1994.*

**Environmental justice (EJ)** is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.

**Fair treatment** means no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental and commercial operations or policies.

**Meaningful involvement** means:

- People have an opportunity to participate in decisions about activities that may affect their environment and/or health;
- The public's contribution can influence the regulatory agency's decision;
- Community concerns will be considered in the decision making process; and
- Decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.

### **Want to learn more about the EPA's Office of Environmental Justice**

<<https://epa.gov/aboutepa/about-office-policy-op#oej>>?

- Factsheet on the EPA's Office of Environmental Justice  
<<https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/factsheet-epas-office-environmental-justice>>
- Learn about Identifying Communities with Environmental Justice (EJ) Concerns  
EXIT <<https://youtu.be/rq5qqbbvfxw>>

Read the accomplishment reports to learn more about the progress that the EPA has made in advancing environmental justice principles? Click here to read annual progress reports on the Agency's most recent EJ accomplishments.

<<https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/annual-environmental-justice-progress-reports>>

“Whether by conscious design or institutional neglect, communities of color in urban ghettos, in rural 'poverty pockets,' or on economically impoverished Native-American reservations face some of the worst environmental devastation in the nation.”

- Overview
- Executive Order 12898
- Interagency Working Group
- Laws and Statutes
- Integrating EJ at EPA

## **EPA and Environmental Justice**



EPA's goal is to provide an environment where all people enjoy the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards and equal access to the decision-making process to maintain a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work.

EPA's environmental justice mandate extends to all of the Agency's work, including:

- setting standards
- permitting facilities
- awarding grants
- issuing licenses
- regulations
- reviewing proposed actions by the federal agencies

EPA works with all stakeholders to constructively and collaboratively address environmental and public health issues and concerns. The Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) coordinates the Agency's efforts to integrate environmental justice into all policies, programs, and activities. OEJ's mission is to facilitate Agency efforts to protect environment and public health in minority, low-income, tribal and other vulnerable communities by integrating environmental justice in all programs, policies and activities.

## **Executive Order 12898**

Executive Order 12898 <<http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/executive-orders/1994.html#12898>> directed federal agencies to develop environmental justice strategies to help federal agencies address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs on minority and low-income populations.

The Presidential Memorandum <<https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/presidential-memorandum-heads-all-departments-and-agencies-executive-order>> accompanying the order underscores certain provisions of existing law that can help ensure that all communities and persons across the nation live in a safe and healthy environment.

## **Federal Interagency Working Group**

The executive order established an Interagency Working Group

<https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/federal-interagency-working-group-environmental-justice-ej-iwg> on Environmental Justice (EJ IWG) chaired by the EPA Administrator and comprised of the heads of 11 departments or agencies and several White House offices. The EJ IWG now includes 17 agencies and meets on a monthly basis to continue collaborative efforts.

## **Laws and Statutes**

The statutes that EPA implements provide the Agency with authority to consider and address environmental justice concerns. These laws encompass the breadth of the Agency's activities including:

- Setting standards
- Permitting facilities
- Making grants
- Issuing licenses or regulations
- Reviewing proposed actions of other federal agencies

These laws often require the Agency to consider a variety of factors that generally include one or more of the following:

- Public health
- Cumulative impacts
- Social costs
- Welfare impacts

Moreover, some statutory provisions, such as under the Toxics Substances Control Act, explicitly direct the Agency to target low-income populations for assistance. Other statutes direct the Agency to consider vulnerable populations in setting standards. In all cases, the way in which the Agency chooses to implement and enforce its authority can have substantial effects on the achievement of environmental justice for all communities.

## **Integrating EJ at EPA**

Since OEJ was created, there have been significant efforts across EPA to integrate environmental justice into the Agency's day-to-day operations. Read more about how EPA's EJ 2020 Action Agenda <<https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/ej-2020-action-agenda-epas-environmental-justice-strategy>> will help EPA advance environmental justice through its programs, policies and activities, and support our cross-agency strategy on making a visible difference in environmentally overburdened, underserved, and economically distressed communities.

Every regional and headquarter office has an environmental justice coordinator who serves as a focal point within that organization. This network of individuals provides outreach and educational opportunities to external, as well as internal, individuals and organizations. To find out more about Agency efforts to address environmental justice, contact an EJ coordinator <<https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/forms/contact-us-about-environmental-justice#local>> based on your location or area of interest.

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[Environmental Justice \(EJ\) Home <https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice>](https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice)

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## **Learn About Environmental Justice**

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[EJ 2020 Action Agenda <https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/ej-2020-action-agenda-epas-environmental-justice-strategy>](https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/ej-2020-action-agenda-epas-environmental-justice-strategy)

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## [National Environmental Justice Advisory Council](https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-advisory-council)

<<https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-advisory-council>>

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[Grants and Resources <https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-grants-and-resources>](https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-grants-and-resources)

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[EJ in Your Community <https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-your-community>](https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-your-community)

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[Federal Interagency Working Group on EJ <https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/federal-interagency-working-group-environmental-justice-ej-iwg>](https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/federal-interagency-working-group-environmental-justice-ej-iwg)

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## [EJ and National Environmental Policy Act](https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-and-national-environmental-policy-act)

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[EJ and Title VI <https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/title-vi-and-environmental-justice>](https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/title-vi-and-environmental-justice)

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[EJ for Tribes and Indigenous Peoples <https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-tribes-and-indigenous-peoples>](https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-tribes-and-indigenous-peoples)

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[Equitable Development and EJ <https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/equitable-development-and-environmental-justice>](https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/equitable-development-and-environmental-justice)

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[Community Voices on EJ <https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/community-voices-environmental-justice>](https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/community-voices-environmental-justice)

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# **EPA Administrator Announces Agency Actions to Advance Environmental Justice**

## **Administrator Regan Directs Agency to Take Steps to Better Serve Historically Marginalized Communities**

April 7, 2021

### **Contact Information**

EPA Press Office ([press@epa.gov](mailto:press@epa.gov))

**WASHINGTON** – Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Michael S. Regan directed all EPA offices to clearly integrate environmental justice considerations into their plans and actions.

“Too many communities whose residents are predominantly of color, Indigenous, or low-income continue to suffer from disproportionately high pollution levels and the resulting adverse health and environmental impacts,” **said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan in a message to all agency staff.** “We must do better. This will be one of my top priorities as Administrator, and I expect it to be one of yours as well.”

The new measures announced today are one part of EPA's response to the Biden-Harris Administration's directive to all federal agencies to embed equity into their programs and services to ensure the consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals. In his message, Administrator Regan, while acknowledging the agency's past environmental justice efforts, called on all EPA offices to take the following steps:

1. Strengthen enforcement of violations of cornerstone environmental statutes and civil rights laws in communities overburdened by pollution.
2. Take immediate and affirmative steps to incorporate environmental justice considerations into their work, including assessing impacts to pollution-burdened, underserved, and Tribal communities in regulatory development processes and to consider regulatory options to maximize benefits to these communities.
3. Take immediate and affirmative steps to improve early and more frequent engagement with pollution-burdened and underserved communities affected by agency rulemakings, permitting and enforcement decisions, and policies. Following President Biden's memorandum on strengthening the Nation-to-Nation relationship with Tribal Nations, EPA staff should engage in regular, meaningful, and robust consultation with Tribal officials in the development of federal policies that have Tribal implications
4. Consistent with the Administration's Justice 40 initiative, consider and prioritize direct and indirect benefits to underserved communities in the development of requests for grant applications and in making grant award decisions, to the extent allowed by law.

Today Administrator Regan is engaging in a series of roundtables to hear directly from representatives of underserved communities and environmental justice leaders about pollution burdens and the importance of EPA leadership. These meetings include one with national Environmental Justice leaders, a Congressional roundtable with the co-chairs of the Senate EJ Caucus, Senator Tom Carper and Senator Corey Booker along with the co-chairs of the United for Climate and Environmental Justice Congressional

Task Force, Congresswoman Nanette Barragán and Congressman Donald McEachin, followed by a meeting with mayors and city councilmembers in the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials.

EPA defines environmental justice as “the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.” Environmental justice is a major part of the agency’s core mission of protecting human life and the environment.

For more information: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice>

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