

**2024 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE
AND TRAINING PROGRAM**

**Enhancing Communities Through Capacity
Building and Technical Assistance**

AGENDA

***Providing Equitable and Just Access to a Healthy, Sustainable, and Resilient
Environment***

DAY 1 – Tuesday, April 16, 2024

**FIRST FULL DAY OF THE 2024 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE
AND TRAINING PROGRAM**

**Walter E. Washington Convention Center
801 Allen Y. Lew Place, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001**

Room 146A-B

***7:00 a.m.–8:00 a.m.* Continental Breakfast**

***7:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.* Registration**

Exhibit Hall Open

Poster Presentations:

Pre-College University, Inc. recruits and places undergraduate students at U.S. Department of Energy laboratories for 8–10 weeks during the summer. Students who need basic research experience are placed at the Savannah State University Department of Energy sponsored Lab. This poster session will provide these student interns with the opportunity to present on and explain their research.

Poster 1 - Elements in Influent, Biosolids and Effluent from Eight Wastewater Treatment Plants in Savannah, Georgia

**Najar'ye Ivey
Bennett College
Biology**

Poster 2 - *Sediment Analysis for Various Organic Elements from Selected Locations in Savannah River Estuary*

Ja'Myiah Clark
North Carolina A&T State University
Agricultural and Environmental Systems

8:00 a.m.–8:30 a.m.

Welcome/Opening Remarks

Conference Facilitator
Ms. Carolyn Sawyer
Communications Strategist
Tom Sawyer Company

The Honorable Emile C. Thompson
Chairman, Public Service Commission of the
District of Columbia

Dr. Melinda Downing
Environmental Justice Program Manager
U.S. Department of Energy

8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

PANEL

Educate, Motivate, Innovate. *Building the Next Generation of Environmental Justice Leaders (the White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council's Educate, Motivate, and Innovate (EMI) Initiative).*

OVERVIEW AND REMARKS

Joanna Mounce Stancil
EMI Co-Chair
USDA Forest Service

Dr. Bernadette Hence
Senior Program Manger
Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program
(MSEIP)
U.S. Department of Education

Jeannie Williamson
EMI Co-Chair
College/Underserved Community Partnership Program
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4

PRESENTATIONS

Therapeutic Recreation-Horticulture Therapy

Telaya Montgomery
Winston-Salem State University

A Study on Air Quality and Human Health in the City of Fairfield in Western Jefferson County, Alabama from the Citizen's Perspective

Kevin Mason, Jr.
Miles College

Detecting Spatial Changes in Fugitive Methane in Urban Communities

Tony Munnings
Benedict College

10:00 a.m.-10:30 am

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Dr. Kim Lambert
Environmental Justice Coordinator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

KEYNOTE REMARKS

The Honorable Deb Haaland
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior

10:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m.

BREAK

10:45 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Dr. Melinda Downing
Environmental Justice Program Manager
U.S. Department of Energy

KEYNOTE REMARKS

The Honorable James E. Clyburn
(Democrat, 6th District, South Carolina)

11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

**Dr. Melinda Downing
Environmental Justice Program Manager
U.S. Department of Energy**

KEYNOTE REMARKS

U.S. Department of Energy

12:15 p.m.–12:45 p.m.

BREAK

12:45 p.m.–1:30 p.m.

NETWORKING LUNCH

1:30 p.m.–1:45 p.m.

BREAK

1:45 p.m.–2:45 p.m.

PANEL

Pre-College University, Inc. works to bring Environmental Justice content to the community. Utilizing its Train-the-Trainer and Community Engagement foci, the organization provides onsite content through its Environmental Justice Outreach Programs, and online content through its Virtual Environmental Justice Academy. Three current Environmental Justice (EJ) interns will join in to discuss content from their newly launched EJ courses. Additionally, the organization will give highlights and share deliverables from this past summer's EJ Camp co-sponsored at Prairie View A&M University.

**Clarence T. Brown
Executive Director
Pre-College University, Inc.**

**Elyssa Baker
Interamerican University of Puerto Rico – Ponce
Environmental Science**

**Cobie Mooney
East Tennessee State University
Electrical Engineering**

**Madison Jefferson
Mississippi State University
Mechanical Engineering**

2:45 p.m.–3:45 p.m.

PANEL

The Intersection of CAFOs (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation), Climate and Environmental Justice

Sherri White-Williamson

Executive Director

Environmental Justice Community Action Network (EJCAN)

Jasmine Washington

Associate Attorney

Southern Environmental Law Center

Blakely Hildebrand

Senior Attorney

Southern Environmental Law Center

Deborah Dicks Maxwell

President, North Carolina Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

3:45 p.m.–4:00 p.m.

BREAK

4:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

PANEL

Bringing Equity to Renewable Energy

Janet Whittick

Smart Sectors Program - Office of Policy

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Camryn Millon

Sustain Our Future Foundation

Virginia State University

Yinka Bode-George

Founder, President, and CEO

Sustain Our Future Foundation

Jenny Carney

Vice President

WSP

Danielle Decatur

Director of Environmental Justice

Microsoft

5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

PANEL

The State of the State: Progress Implementing the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act

**Crystal Upperman, Ph.D., MPA
Senior Manager
Deloitte Consulting LLP**

**Julie Woosley
Director, North Carolina State Energy Office**

**Kandyce Perry
Director, Office of Environmental Justice
State of New Jersey**

**Aneca Atkinson
Assistant Secretary of Environmental Justice
Maryland Department of the Environment**

**Chitra Kumar
Managing Director of Climate & Energy Program
Union of Concerned Scientists**

6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Deloitte Cocktail Reception

7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

**Film Screening and Panel Discussion
*Our Movement Starts Here***

In 1982, a rural community in North Carolina mobilized to fight a toxic landfill in their county and gave birth to the environmental justice movement. 40 years later, filmmakers John Rash and Melanie Ho set out to document these events in an upcoming feature length film *Our Movement Starts Here*, featuring interviews with the original activists as well as contemporary organizers still grappling with the long-tail impacts of the dumping in their community. Panelists Rev. William Kearney and Cameron Oglesby of the Warren County Environmental Action Team join the filmmakers to share excerpts from the film and a discussion of strategies for long-term, wholistic organizing that acknowledges the health and economic impact long after the protest ended.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING PROGRAMS

Room 145 B

DAY 1 - Tuesday, April 16, 2024

9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Listening Session on Ways to Advance Environmental Justice to Inform Federal Agencies' Strategic Planning

Executive Order (EO) 14096 on Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All advances the Federal government's efforts to deliver real, measurable progress on environmental justice. This workshop will begin with a brief overview of EO 14096 that will highlight the overarching charge to Federal agencies to make achieving environmental justice part of their mission, as appropriate and consistent with their relevant statutory responsibilities and authorities. Several Federal agencies will then solicit input from conference participants on ideas of what each agency could do to advance environmental justice, for consideration as part of the agencies' forthcoming Environmental Justice Strategic Plans. Topics may include: meaningful involvement, engagement, and information; just treatment, equitable access, and protection from environmental injustice; work and partnership with non-federal entities; and institutionalizing environmental justice. The session seeks to create space for conference participants to dialogue directly with Federal agencies about Environmental Justice Strategic Plans.

Dr. Jalonne L. White-Newsome
Federal Chief Environmental Justice Officer
The White House Council on Environmental Quality

Sharmila L. Murthy
Director for Environmental Justice
The White House Council on Environmental Quality

Christina Bowman
Deputy Director for Environmental Justice Strategic Initiatives
The White House Council on Environmental Quality

Catherine Doyle-Capitman, Ph.D.
Environmental Justice and Justice40 Initiative Lead
Office of Budget & Program Analysis (OBPA)
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Sharunda Buchanan, M.S., Ph.D.
Interim Director, Office of Environmental Justice
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health
U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS)

Stephanie Fell
Deputy Section Chief
Antidiscrimination Group
Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

Sarah Koepfel
Deputy Federal Preservation Officer/
Senior Environmental Protection Specialist
Environmental Planning & Historic Preservation Program
Office of the Chief Readiness Support Officer
U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

Aaron Bell, Ph.D.
Environmental Justice Specialist
Office of Energy and Environment
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Cheryl Kelly
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)

Cynthia Ferguson
Director
Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ)
U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)

Kelsey Owens
Senior Electric Vehicle Policy Analyst
Office of the Secretary - Office of Policy
U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)

Shahra Lambert
Senior Advisor for Engagement – Equity
Office of the Administrator
The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

Laura Ebbert
Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Environmental
Justice
Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Kelly Crawford
Senior Advisor, Energy and Environmental Justice
Office of Economic Impact and Diversity

U.S. Department of Energy

2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. Community Support for Offshore Wind Projects

Community support is critical to the success of offshore wind projects, especially where environmental justice or tribal communities are implicated. Dominion Energy embarked on an extensive public outreach and engagement campaign for the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind Project (CVOW), one that started over a decade ago but intensified and expanded in 2021 in the lead up to federal and state regulatory filings. This workshop will begin with a presentation examining the community engagement effort and the associated environmental justice analysis for the CVOW project, demonstrating through this case study several best practices for an effective, collaborative public outreach and methods for documenting those activities for permitting and regulatory approvals. The second half of the session will be a small group activity and group discussion designed for attendees to explore different perspectives for meaningful involvement in the siting of energy infrastructure – an aspect of environmental justice that industry, agencies, advocacy organizations, and individual community members all have a role in.

**Kathryn MacCormick
Supervisor, Environmental Justice
Dominion Energy**

4:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. The Intersections of Environmental Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion, and Tribal Sovereignty inside a Natural Resource Management Agency

A suite of executive orders released within the first few months of the Biden-Harris administration called upon federal agencies to tackle converging climate, economic, and health crises that continue to exacerbate historic and ongoing inequities in underserved communities. This workshop aims to tell a multidimensional story of the USDA Forest Service’s journey to advance environmental justice, diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA), and tribal sovereignty within the federal government and across the Tribes and communities they serve.

Presenters will speak on the ideas, challenges, successes, strategies, and activities that embark the Forest Service on a new era of equitable service delivery. Presenters will invite colleagues and partners into dialogue on the development and implementation of three key strategies (Equity Action Plan, DEIA Action Plan and Tribal Relations Action Plan), exploration of agency origin stories, equitable leadership behaviors and accountability practices, personal employee connections, elevated trainings through external partnerships, analysis of internal workforce data, cross-staff coordination, and grassroots to grassroots organizing practices within the USDA Forest Service to meet this historic whole-of-government call to action. Through this overview, presenters hope to spark reflection, conversation, and innovation on the heart, mind, and systems approaches required for centering justice and tribal sovereignty as grounding values and practices in government.

Tasha Lo Porto
Senior Program Manager
National Equity and Engagement Team
Work Environment and Performance Office
USDA Forest Service

Shandra Terry
Communications and Engagement Program Manager
National Equity and Engagement Team
Work Environment and Performance Office
USDA Forest Service

Diana Perez
Equity and Environmental Justice Specialist
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Branch
Office of Civil Rights
USDA Forest Service

Room 147 A

9:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m. Funding an Equitable Energy Transition

The Inflation Reduction Act has provided a historic opportunity to advance clean energy. For example, the Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental and Climate Justice Program provides the single largest investment in environmental justice history. This workshop will explore the federal funding opportunities available to support an equitable clean energy transition. Expect a robust discussion about the innovative approaches to leveraging federal funds to support communities disproportionately impacted by energy inequities, and the challenges community groups face in accessing these funds.

Anthony Walters
Government Affairs Lead Indian Country
Ørsted

Khalil Shahyd
Senior Strategist, Environmental and Equity Strategies
NRDC

Valerie Grussing
Executive Director
National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers

Theodore Toon
Senior Advisor for Building Decarbonization and Finance
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

2:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m. Community Connections: An Exploration into the Complex Decisions Facing Rural Communities and Their Sustainable Future

The Community Connections Project is designed to cultivate a generation of individuals who actively contribute to the betterment of their communities by making informed, balanced, and sustainable decisions. By fostering a culture of open dialogue, problem-solving, and community involvement, the program will pave the way for a brighter, more resilient future. Demonstrated outcomes from this program include: 1. Students understand how to shape a more equitable, sustainable, and prosperous future for their communities, 2. Students can articulate the challenges and trade-offs associated with transportation infrastructure, including the impact on mobility, safety, and the environment, 3. Students understand the choices communities make in sourcing energy, evaluating the effects on sustainability, efficiency, accessibility, and cost, and 4. Students understand the intricacies of resource development decisions and their implications for the local economy, environment, and community.

**Ella Ede
Executive Director
Alaska Resource Education**

**Beki Toussaint
Program Director
Alaska Resource Education**

4:30 p.m.—5:30 p.m. Pro-Bono Technical Assistance to Navigate Resources & Funding Opportunities

The Environmental Protection Network (EPN) began its pro bono capacity-building technical assistance program in June of 2021 to help disadvantaged communities, community-serving NGOs, and under-resourced agencies navigate and understand government programs, data, and processes; gain access to partners, allies, and decision-makers; and apply for funding. Our Community Outreach Associates, along with our more than 650+ EPA alumni volunteers across the country, work on community-identified issues, including petrochemicals, air quality, safe drinking water, brownfields redevelopment, Superfund cleanups, climate resilience, accessing federal funding, and more. The session will feature the chance to hear more about EPN directly from the community and EJ leaders who have worked with EPN and their experience navigating the resources to leverage this moment of racial reckoning and federal funding opportunities.

**Kya Williams
Community Outreach Manager
Environmental Protection Network**

**Romona Taylor Williams
Executive Director, Mississippi Communities**

**United for Prosperity
Yvonka Hall
Executive Director
Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition**

Room 147 B

9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Environmental Career Worker Training Program as a Model of Workforce Development

This workshop aims to share how ECWTP engages with stakeholders and builds off the occupational health and safety training and education community. ECWTP increases employment opportunities for individuals, addresses occupational health disparities, and contributes to the environmental and economic revitalization of disadvantaged communities. To achieve such success, ECWTP aims to leverage partnerships within communities and the grant funded organizations, built on decades of trust, support, and societal benefit. Through stakeholder engagement, of local and state government, other federal agencies, and the communities impacted, ECWTP graduates can give back to their communities, build careers, and lead more sustainable lives. Such practices by ECWTP on stakeholder and community engagement will be shared and how it can serve as a model of workforce development and environmental justice. ECWTP Grantees will share their approach to working with environmental justice communities to recruit, train, and employ individuals using a community engagement model.

**Sharon Beard, MS
Worker Training Program
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences**

**Eric Persaud, DrPH, MEA
Worker Training Program
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences**

**Krystal Hepburn, Ph.D.
OAI, Inc.**

2:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. Enabling Equitable and Just Energy Transitions: Resources for Communities Considering Coal-to-Nuclear

Many coal plants have retired or are scheduled to retire by 2035. Often, the coal power plant is the primary economic driver of the host community. Indeed, in some communities where coal plants have already closed, communities faced loss of jobs, less local tax revenue, reduced economic activity, and, in some cases, increased electricity costs. For communities that are already economically disadvantaged, overburdened, or underserved, the economic consequences of plant closure can be even more drastic.

As we work to tackle the climate crisis and meet the nation’s goal of net-zero greenhouse gases by 2050, we cannot leave energy communities behind. The transition of coal power plants to nuclear power plants provides an opportunity for energy communities across the country. A 2022 U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) [1] study found that hundreds of coal power plant sites across the country could be converted to nuclear power plant sites. Based on the case study in the report, replacing the coal plant with a nuclear one could result in 650 more permanent jobs in the region, additional annual economic activity of \$275 million, and an increase of 92% tax revenue from the plant. Much of the workforce supporting the coal plant could also transition to a nuclear plant with some planning and retraining. Importantly, the study also found that, even with additional population and economic activity contributing to emissions, transitioning to a nuclear plant would reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the region by 86%. This is especially important for communities that have been disproportionately impacted by decades of fossil fuel pollution.

As communities consider coal-to-nuclear transitions, they need access to credible information to make informed decisions. This includes understanding the socio-economic impacts of a transition for each affected community, such as types and numbers of jobs to be created or lost, added income and revenues to be generated, and the impacts to the population size. Other factors to consider are the changes to current jobs and new workforce needs, including opportunities to retrain and meet new educational requirements, as well as environmental impacts to the area.

This workshop will use considerations for coal-to-nuclear transitions as a case study to discuss elements needed for equitable and just energy transitions. The session will begin with a short overview of the considerations for coal-to-nuclear transitions and informational resources that were developed for communities. The interactive portion of the workshop will explore the materials and how they intertwine with Environmental Justice (EJ) principles. We hope to also collect feedback on how to better operationalize EJ principles in energy transitions and in coal-to-nuclear transitions specifically. The resulting facilitated dialogue will draw upon the rich and diverse experiences of conference participants to further reduce barriers to community participation in conversations about energy transitions, such as coal-to-nuclear, and identify additional informational and resource needs.

Alisa Trunzo
Director, Office of Communications and Engagement
Office of Nuclear Energy
U.S. Department of Energy

Natalia Saraeva
Lead, Community and Stakeholders Engagement
Office of Nuclear Energy
U.S. Department of Energy

**Katie Pollock
Public Affairs Specialist
Office of Nuclear Energy
U.S. Department of Energy**

**Kaitlin Steiger-Meister
Public Affairs Specialist
Office of Nuclear Energy
U.S. Department of Energy**

**Denise Freeman
Environmental Justice Senior Advisor
Office of Nuclear Energy
U.S. Department of Energy**

**Tony Feric
Program Manager
Office of Nuclear Energy
U.S. Department of Energy**

**Jason Hansen
Senior Research Economist
GAIN, Idaho National Laboratory**

**Emily Nichols
Program Coordinator
GAIN, Idaho National Laboratory**

4:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m. Engaging with Indigenous Communities in STEM

At the 2023 NEJC, we shared a draft of FIRST STEPS and asked for edits and feedback to integrate into the document. We would now like to present FIRST STEPS as a tool for Engaging with Indigenous Communities in STEM as well as other topics. FIRST STEPS has been co-developed with over 50 members of Tribal Nations and is available for download and use. This workshop will guide participants in best ways to interact with this resource to enhance communication in a respectful and meaningful way.

**Melinda Higgins
Director of STEM Programs
Office of Nuclear Energy
U.S. Department of Energy**

DAY 2 – Wednesday, April 17, 2024

***SECOND FULL DAY OF THE 2024 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
CONFERENCE AND TRAINING PROGRAM***

**Walter E. Washington Convention Center
801 Allen Y. Lew Place, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001**

Room 146A-B

7:00 a.m.–8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast

8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Registration

Exhibit Hall Open

**Conference Facilitator
Ms. Carolyn Sawyer
Communications Strategist
Tom Sawyer Company**

8:00 a.m.–8:15 a.m. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

**Rodney Oddoye
Senior Vice President Governmental, Regulatory &
External Affairs
Pepco Holdings**

8:15 a.m.–9:45 a.m. PANEL

Community and College Partners Program (C2P2)

***Building a Solar Greenhouse for an Urban Farm in in the
Environmental Education Center, West Philadelphia***

**Jerome Shabazz
Executive Director
Overbrook Environmental Education Center**

**Dr. William Oakes
Assistant Dean of Engineering
Purdue University**

**Katrina Leon
Purdue University**

Designing New Housing for the Native Village of Tyonek, Alaska

Dr. Bradley Waters
Associate Director of Graduate Programs
University of Florida, Gainesville

Edward M. ‘Ted’ Fearney
Endowed Associate Professor
University of Florida, Gainesville

Chet King
Program Manager
Tebughna Foundation

Vide Kroto
Executive Director
Tebughna Foundation

Flowing Towards Change: How the South River Watershed Alliance Used the Triennial Review to Elevate Water Quality

Erin Clem
Daniela Robles
University of California, Santa Barbara

Jacqueline Echols
Executive Director
South River Watershed Alliance

Providing Opportunities for Youth to Bring Down Barriers

Leo Horton
Student, Brooklyn High School
New York City, New York

Michael Burns
Executive Director
Community and College Partners Program (C2P2)

Ms. Ramona Williams
Executive Director
MCUP

9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m.

PANEL

The ReGenesis Institute and Milken Institute Technical Assistance to Communities

**Timothy Fields, Jr.
Senior Vice President, MDB, Inc.
Chairman, Board of Directors
National Environmental Justice Conference, Inc.**

**Harold Mitchell
President and CEO
The ReGenesis Institute
Board Member, National Environmental Justice Conference, Inc.**

**Sarah Ortner
Senior Associate
Milken Institute**

**Richard Moore
Co-Coordinator, Los Jardines Institute
Board Member, National Environmental Justice Conference, Inc.**

10:45 a.m.-11:15 a.m.

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

**Dr. Jalonne L. White-Newsome
Federal Chief Environmental Justice Officer
The White House Council on Environmental Quality**

KEYNOTE REMARKS

**Chair Brenda Mallory
The White House Council on Environmental Quality**

11:15 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

BREAK

11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

PRESENTATION

Why Advancing Environmental Justice & the Justice40 Initiative is Essential for USDA Forest Service, Our Government Responsibilities to Tribal Nations, and the Public We Serve

Tania Ellersick
Senior Policy Analyst
Environmental Justice & Justice40 Advisory Team
USDA Forest Service

12:45 p.m.–1:00 p.m.

BREAK

1:00 p.m.–1:45 p.m.

NETWORKING LUNCH AND PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

1:45 p.m.–2:00 p.m.

BREAK

2:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m.

PRESENTATION

Environmental Justice and Innovating Community Engagement in Consent-Based Siting

Marissa Bell
Social Scientist
Office of Nuclear Energy
U.S. Department of Energy

2:30 p.m.–3:45 p.m.

PANEL

Environmental Justice, The America Bar Association, and the Future of EJ

Dr. Jalonnie L. White-Newsome
Federal Chief Environmental Justice Officer
The White House Council on Environmental Quality

Mustafa Ali
Executive Vice President
National Wildlife Federation

Todd Kim
Assistant Attorney General
Environment and Natural Resources Division
U.S. Department of Justice

Gwen Keyes Fleming
EJTF Co-Chair, Emeritus
Chair, U.S. Environmental Practice Group, DLA Piper

3:45 p.m. – 4:45p.m.

PANEL

What Exactly Do We Mean by Energy Justice, and How Will We Know When We've Achieved It?

Vernice Miller-Travis
Executive Vice President, Metropolitan Group
Board Member, National Environmental Justice
Conference, Inc.

Adrienne Hollis, Ph.D./J.D.
Vice President, Environmental Justice, Public Health, and
Community Revitalization
National Wildlife Federation

Beverly Wright, Ph.D.
Founder and Executive Director
Deep South Center for Environmental Justice
Member, White House Environmental Justice Advisory
Council

Margot Brown, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President, Justice and Equity
Environmental Defense Fund

Montina Cole, J.D.
Principal
Jai Green Consulting

Roishetta Sibley Ozane, M.S.
Founder, Vessel Project of Louisiana

Shalanda H. Baker, J.D.
Director, Office of Economic Impact and Diversity
U.S. Department of Energy

Kelly Crawford
Senior Advisor, Energy and Environmental Justice
Office of Economic Impact and Diversity
U.S. Department of Energy

4:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

BREAK

5:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.

PANEL

**The False Promise of Waste to ‘Renewable’ Energy Projects:
It’s Still Adversely Impacting Communities of Color and Low-
Income Communities**

Sherri White-Williamson

Executive Director

Environmental Justice Community Action Network (EJCAN)

6:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

Deloitte Cocktail Reception

7:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

Film Screening and Panel Discussion: *The Smell of Money*

The Smell of Money is an award-winning feature-length documentary about a rural North Carolina community taking on the world’s largest pork company in a fight for environmental justice.

DAY 2 - Wednesday, April 17, 2024

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING PROGRAMS

Room 145 B

9:00 a.m.-10:15 a.m.

**Bridging the Canopy Gap: Urban Trees Climate Justice, and
Equitable Solutions**

This workshop delves into the critical intersection of urban trees, carbon sequestration, and climate justice, with a spotlight on their disproportionate impact on vulnerable low-income communities located in selected cities in Tennessee. Through an insightful presentation and interactive discussion, we will examine the disparities in tree distribution, exploring how this inequality contributes to climate change vulnerabilities in marginalized neighborhoods. This presentation will share innovative strategies to address these disparities, emphasizing the pivotal role of urban trees in adapting direct and indirect impacts from climate change and enhancing community resilience. Engage in thought-provoking conversations and leave equipped with actionable insights to advocate for and implement inclusive tree-centric solutions. Together, let’s pave the way for a more equitable and sustainable urban communities in Tennessee, the United States and around the globe.

Emmanuel Wallace

**Department of Environmental Science, College of Agriculture
Tennessee State University**

Bharat Pokharel

**Department of Environmental Science, College of Agriculture
Tennessee State University**

Anish K C
Department of Environmental Science, College of Agriculture
Tennessee State University

10:30 a.m.–12:00 noon **Community-Centered Approaches to Community Benefits Plans**

This workshop will introduce participants to an innovative model of community engagement called a public forum. Public forums are a model for creating a deliberative public venue to learn and about and discuss social and ethical question around emerging technologies and science developed by the National Informal STEM Education Network (NISE). Forums have been developed and lead by science museums particularly Boston Museum of Science on nanotechnologies, climate change, vaccines, and other topics of civic importance (Sittenfeld et al., 2022). The goal of a forum is to create a space for open and informed public conversation and deliberation on emerging technologies and social issues unrelated to any particular DOE program, office, or funding opportunity. Building on this model of community engagement we developed a deliberative forum focused on supporting communities to understand Hydrogen projects and create community benefits plans (CBPs), DOE’s foremost mechanism of engaging in energy and environmental justice work.

The objectives of this workshop are:

- 1. Expand participant understanding of public forums as tools for community engagement,*
- 2. Expand participant understanding of community benefits plans as a mechanism to address environmental injustice,*
- 3. Understand participant questions and feedback about forum to inform next iteration of forum.*

Dr. Sara Wylie
Office of Energy Justice & Equity
U.S. Department of Energy

Kelly Crawford
Senior Advisor, Energy and Environmental Justice
Office of Economic Impact and Diversity
Office of Energy Justice & Equity
U.S. Department of Energy

Dr. Emily Loker
Hydrogen Fuel Technology Office
U.S. Department of Energy

2:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. **The Forest Service Equity Data Strategy: Demonstrating Our Commitment to Programmatic Equity and Building Trust Among Stakeholders**

This presentation introduces the new Forest Service Equity Data Strategy, which is part of the Forest Service Equity Action Plan. The Forest Service (FS) manages public lands in national forests and grasslands and must ensure programs are administered fairly, without bias, and equitably to all citizens. Tracking programmatic equity helps ensure all individuals and communities receive equal opportunities and benefits. When our programs are equitable, we reach and benefit a wider range of individuals and communities, leading to more comprehensive, and sustainable, and just outcomes. A strategy to collect and analyze programmatic equity data helps us equitably manage our nation's natural resources. Specifically, data on equity informs Forest Service decision-making processes and allows us to make evidence-based decisions that consider the needs and concerns of all people.

In addition, this session will introduce a key initiative to enhance transparency and foster equity in Forest Service contracting processes. It is an innovative, data-driven dashboard that not only tracks our progress towards achieving statutory equity goals, but also underscores our commitment to inclusivity. It highlights the symbiotic relationship between environmental justice and equitable economic opportunities, while underscoring a holistic approach to sustainability and community empowerment.

Finally, participants will be introduced to a tool created to examine treatments, such as hazardous fuels, vegetation management, and access to recreation, and their impacts on underserved communities. The geospatial analysis tool helps the Forest Service meet its board mission, as outlined in law, to achieve quality land management under the sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of people.

Elisabeth Grinspoon, Ph.D.
National Social and Economic Data Coordinator
Business Operation
USDA Forest Service

Ashley Thompson
Small Business Specialist
Procurement and Property Services
USDA Forest Service

Keith Ryan O'Loughlin
Coordinator for BIL, IRA, and Shared Stewardship
National Forest System

3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

**Providing Equitable Access to BIL and IRA Funding with
Community Navigators**

This workshop will introduce the USDA Forest Service's Community Navigators initiative and its overarching goals. The Forest Service's Community Navigator program exists to break down barriers and ensure equitable access to funding and technical assistance opportunities for communities most in need. Many underserved communities are eligible for technical

assistance and funding from a variety of Forest Service programs, but they face barriers to access. The Forest Service is committed to addressing this and will discuss the goals of the initiative and the Federal, State, Tribal, and non-governmental partners working with the Forest Service. Ongoing work being accomplished collaboratively with these partners will be discussed and additional information on future work will be provided. The panel will also discuss the target communities and the types of assistance being offered to these communities.

Sandra Burnett
SPTF BIL, IRA, and Community Navigator Coordinator
USDA Forest Service

Craig Cheresposey
BIL & IRA Coordinator
USDA Forest Service

Jessyca Saavedra
Director, Community Navigator Program
Hispanic Access Foundation

5:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.

What Exactly Do We Mean by Energy Justice, and How Will We Know When We've Achieved It? (Continued)

Vernice Miller-Travis
Executive Vice President, Metropolitan Group
Board Member, National Environmental Justice
Conference, Inc.

Adrienne Hollis, Ph.D./J.D.
Vice President, Environmental Justice, Public Health, and
Community Revitalization
National Wildlife Federation

Beverly Wright, Ph.D.
Founder and Executive Director
Deep South Center for Environmental Justice
Member, White House Environmental Justice Advisory
Council

Margot Brown, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President, Justice and Equity
Environmental Defense Fund

Montina Cole, J.D.
Principal
Jai Green Consulting

Roishetta Sibley Ozane, M.S.
Founder, Vessel Project of Louisiana

Shalanda H. Baker, J.D.
Director, Office of Economic Impact and Diversity
U.S. Department of Energy

Kelly Crawford
Senior Advisor, Energy and Environmental Justice
Office of Economic Impact and Diversity
U.S. Department of Energy

Room 147 A

9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. **The Path Towards a National Strategy to Assess, Prevent and Address Environmental Racism and to Advance Environmental Justice**

In alignment with its own mandate, the Government of Canada has supported a private member's bill in Canadian parliament (C-226) focused on governmental development of a national strategy combatting environmental racism and advancing environmental justice. The national strategy would also include a study examining the link between race, socio-economic status, and environmental risk in Canada at a national level. Reflecting the community-level nature of environmental racism and injustice, early efforts in Canada's policy development on environmental justice will be informed by outreach and engagement activities with environmental justice practitioners. This Canada-led workshop will reflect on the Canadian context, such as national drivers for environmental justice, historical and operating context, and demographic realities. Given Canada's unique Nation-to-Nation relationship with First Nations, Inuit and Métis, this workshop will also consider explore Canada's early efforts to engage Indigenous peoples in the development of the strategy, policy alignment with the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), and Canada's United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. This workshop will look to share learning experiences in environmental justice policy development and open a dialogue to gather perspectives, experiences, and knowledge on institutionalizing environmental justice in governance systems.

Amanda Monforton
Director of Policy Development
Strategic Policy Directorate
Environmental and Climate Change Canada

11:00 a.m.–12:00 noon

Current and Future Environmental Impact Analysis Tools

This workshop will provide training on tools from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) to help community-based organizations (CBOs), governments, and other stakeholders in environmental justice communities assess environmental impact. First, the training will discuss current U.S. EPA tools that may be helpful to CBOs, including the Toxics Release Inventory, Environmental Justice (EJ) Screen, and Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). Next, the panel will provide information about other U.S. EPA tools, such as the Emissions and Generation Resource Integrated Database (eGRID), National Emissions Inventory, and CO-Benefits Risk Assessment Health Impacts Screening and Mapping Tool (COBRA), that policymakers can use to assess environmental and health impacts.

The workshop will also provide an overview of new tools recently completed and those under development under EPA's Community Change Grant program, a \$2 billion program which will assist environmental justice communities reduce pollution, increase community climate resilience, and build community capacity to address environmental and climate justice challenges. Within the program, tools are in development to break down the barriers for applicants, grantees, and technical assistance providers. The aim of the tools is to provide application support, capacity building, and project planning services for communities and their partners as they work to access critical federal resources.

James Schroll
Associate
Abt Global

Jonathan Dorn
Senior Associate
Abt Global

TJ Pepping
Associate
Abt Global

Sarah McGrath
Data Analyst
Abt Global

2:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

**Empowering Communities with Environmental Justice
Concerns Through U.S. EPA's Community Lead Awareness
Initiative**

Lead exposure can cause serious health issues— especially for children. Even though lead-based paint was banned for consumer use in 1978, lead exposure from lead-based paint and other sources is still a concern. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency launched its

“Community Lead Awareness” initiative in 2023 to reduce childhood lead exposure in environmentally overburdened communities. This session will detail the program design to educate citizens and local community leaders about lead exposure using the Lead Awareness Curriculum. We will offer insight on how EPA is using English and Spanish educational materials, community partnerships, EJScreen, and surveys to empower communities and drive public health awareness.

Shayna Sellers
Stakeholder & Partner Engagement
Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Chloe Durand
Stakeholder & Partner Engagement
Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Judith Kendall
Stakeholder & Partner Engagement
Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

4:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

Beekeeping for Environmental Justice: Pollinators, Food Security, & Community Empowerment

Explore the critical role bees play in our environment and food systems and discover how beekeeping initiatives are tackling environmental injustices in marginalized communities. Witness the power of urban and community beekeeping projects in fostering food security, economic opportunity, and community engagement. Gain practical knowledge and resources to support beekeeping efforts in your own community, fostering environmental stewardship and positive change. This session is ideal for individuals passionate about environmental justice, community organizers, and aspiring beekeepers seeking to make a difference. Leave the session inspired to take action and be a part of the solution.

Sade Shofidiya, MBA
Head Beekeeper/CEO
BEEnevolent

Room 147 B

9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Using CDC Tools to Advance Environmental Justice and Health Equity

How the CDC Tracking Program Leverages Satellite Data for Environmental Justice and Public Health Surveillance

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Environmental Public Health Tracking Program (Tracking Program) collects and displays health and environmental data from national, state, and city sources. Racial and ethnic minority, low-income, and indigenous communities are most often disproportionately affected by environmental hazards such as environmental pollutants and climate-related events. These types of exposures, along with historical injustices, racism, inadequate community design, limited access to resources, and other socio-economic factors, can lead to poorer health outcomes such as increased chronic disease and adverse birth outcomes. While there are currently several federal tools available to explore environmental justice (EJ)-related data in the United States, limitations with data interoperability, as well as spatial or temporal discontinuities with common environmental measurement techniques (e.g., sparse ground monitoring tools) persist. To address these gaps, the Tracking Program is leveraging the technical advantages of satellite data into its publicly available environmental health surveillance tools and dashboards, like the Data Explorer, Heat & Health Tracker, and EJ Dashboard. Satellite data can provide measurements of environmental burdens (e.g., air pollution) or benefits (e.g., access to greenspace) at higher spatial and temporal resolutions than previously possible and can be explored alongside local-level health outcome, socioeconomic, and other community characteristic data using any one of the Tracking Program's surveillance tools. This presentation aims to 1) describe how satellite data has been applied to monitor environmental injustice in the United States and 2) how the Tracking Program is processing and integrating more granular satellite data into its public health surveillance tools. Overall, increased satellite data alongside relevant socioeconomic and health outcome data will aid public health researchers and practitioners to identify and address environmental justice and health disparities at scales that are relevant to impacted communities.

Mitra Kashani, MS

**Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) Fellow
National Center for Environmental Health, Environmental
Health Tracking Program
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**

The Environmental Justice Index – How a Cumulative Impacts Mapping Approach is Advancing Environmental Justice and Health Equity

EJ screening and mapping tools allow government agencies and other entities to identify communities experiencing cumulative impacts to health from environmental injustice and to prioritize these communities for policies and interventions designed to reduce inequities. There

have been calls for state and federal tools that address the cumulative impacts of environmental injustice on health. The CDC/ATSDR Environmental Justice Index (EJI) is the first nationwide index designed to address cumulative impacts through the lens of environmental justice and health equity. This presentation will provide updates on the EJI, including 1) examples of how the tool has been used for public health research, practice, and policy, 2) how ongoing community engagement is driving improvements, and 3) next steps for the tool.

The findings and conclusions in this presentation have not been formally disseminated by [the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry] and should not be construed to represent any agency determination or policy.

Sharunda Buchanan, MS, Ph.D.
Director, Office of Priority Projects, Innovation and Environmental Justice, National Center for Environmental Health/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Interim Director, Office of Environmental Justice, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH)
Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

Ana Mascareñas, MPH
Senior Advisor for Environmental Justice
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH)
Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

Benjamin McKenzie, MS
Epidemiologist, Geospatial Research, Analysis, and Services Program (GRASP), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)

11:00 a.m.–12:00 Noon **Increasing Accessibility, Discoverability, and Use of NASA Earth Science Data: Introducing the Science Discovery Engine for Environmental Justice**

NASA's Earth Science Division (ESD) is committed to empower Environmental Justice (EJ) communities by expanding awareness, accessibility, and use of Earth science data to enable contributions to Earth science research and applications. To that end, the NASA Earth Science Data Systems (ESDS) Program developed an EJ Data Catalog, a simple guide to NASA datasets and socioeconomic datasets that may be useful in EJ research. The EJ Data Catalog is divided by topics—such as disasters, urban flooding, extreme heat, food availability, water availability, climate, and health and air quality—and possible use cases for each dataset. The new version of the EJ Data Catalog is now integrated into NASA's Science Discovery Engine (SDE), an open-source science infrastructure to enable collaborative and interdisciplinary science. In this workshop you will learn about NASA's Equity and

Environmental Justice (EEJ) activities and opportunities as well as participate on an interactive live demo of the new Science Discovery Engine for Environmental Justice.

Dr. Yaítza Luna-Cruz
NASA Headquarters
Earth Science Division

Helen Parache
NASA Marshall Space Flight
Center
Earth Science Data Systems (ESDS) -
IMPACT

Dr. Katherine Saad
NASA Headquarters
Earth Science Division
Earth Science Data Systems (ESDS)

Cynthia Hall
NASA Headquarters
Earth Science Division
Early Career Research Program

**2:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m. Increasing Public Participation in Federal Energy Regulatory
Commission Infrastructure Proceedings**

This workshop will review and examine the Office of Public Participation’s efforts to identify leaders and trusted resources within communities with environmental justice concerns, and the strategies and tools it uses to build rapport, inform, educate, and lower barriers to public participation in these communities.

Pamela Young
Gulf Coast Outreach Lead
Office of Public Participation
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Lisbeth Bouchelle
Outreach Analyst
Office of Public Participation
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Brittney Martinez
Attorney Advisor
Office of General Council
Environmental Justice and Equity
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Kelley Munoz-Lytle
Outreach Analyst
Office of Public Participation
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

John Peconom
Energy Infrastructure Program Manager
Office of Public Participation
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

3:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m.

Integrating Frontline Communities’ Priorities: Climate Action Planning in Local Government Through a Community-driven Process

During this workshop representatives of the King County Executive Climate Office will share the strategies, successes and learning outcomes gained from establishing the County’s first climate justice framework. County staff partnered directly with frontline communities to update the 2020 five-year King County Strategic Climate Action Plan (SCAP) to incorporate a new section focused on climate equity and community-driven policy, the Sustainable & Resilient Frontline Communities (SRFC) section. The SRFC was co-developed through a community-driven process where leaders of frontline communities established the goals and priority areas for climate action based on climate justice values and community needs. Approximately 22 community leaders brought their unique lived experience and strengths to form the King County Climate Equity Community Task Force (CECTF). The presenters will share the structure of the CECTF that has contributed to its success and how their expertise continues to inform and lead King County’s climate equity work. The second half of the workshop will include participant breakouts, a plenary discussion, and a Q&A so that participants can share successes and opportunities for growth in advancing climate equity initiatives and policies.

**Samara Almonte
Climate Equity & Community Partnerships Program
Coordinator
King County, Washington**

**Vicky Raya
Climate Equity Program Manager
King County Executive Climate Office
King County, Washington**

5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

**The HBCU Environmental Justice Technical Team (HEJTT)
Justice 40 Mapping and Tracking Tools Demonstration**

Workshop attendees will participate in a live demonstration of two mapping tools developed by the HEJTT – the HBCU Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (HCEJST), and the HBCU Justice 40 Funding Data Tracking Tool.

In early 2023, the HEJTT developed and released the HCEJST, which was created by extracting data from the Biden Administration’s Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) and migrating the data into a geographic information systems (GIS) environment. The GIS platform provides additional options for users to explore and visually display potential environmental threats to their communities. The HCEJST also includes racial demographics data that was omitted from the CEJST methodology for determining “disadvantaged community” (DAC) status by Census Tract. In December 2023, the HEJTT

developed and released a beta version of the HBCU Justice 40 Funding Data Tracking Tool. The primary objective is to enable environmental justice stakeholders in “red states” to geographically trace the path of Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), and other Justice 40-related funds.

Workshop participants are strongly encouraged to provide comments on the efficacy of the tools as they continue to be under development. Attendees are encouraged to follow the demonstration steps using laptop personal computers).

Dr. David A. Padgett
Tennessee State University

Dr. Reginald Archer
Tennessee State University

Ms. Cari Harris
The Butterfly Effect

Dr. Linda Loubert
Morgan State University

Ms. Lauren Johnson
HEJTT

DAY 3 – Thursday, April 18, 2024

***THIRD FULL DAY OF THE 2024 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
CONFERENCE AND TRAINING PROGRAM***

**Walter E. Washington Convention Center
801 Allen Y. Lew Place, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001**

Room 146A-B

7:00 a.m.–8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast

8:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Registration

8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Exhibit Hall Open

**Conference Facilitator
Ms. Carolyn Sawyer
Communications Strategist
Tom Sawyer Company**

8:00 a.m.–9:00 a.m.

PANEL

The U.S. Department of Justice’s Collaborative Effort to Address the Drinking Water Crisis in Jackson, Mississippi

**Karl Fingerhood
Senior Counsel, Environmental Enforcement Section
Environment and Natural Resources Division
U.S. Department of Justice**

**Mitzi Dease Paige
Assistant United States Attorney
Southern District of Mississippi**

**Sherika McPherson
Policy Advisor (Contractor)
Office of Environmental Justice
Environment and Natural Resources Division
U.S. Department of Justice**

9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

PANEL

Community Relations Service Conflict Resolution Approach to Responding to EJ Cases

**Walter Atkinson
Lead Conciliation Specialist
Community Relations Service
U. S. Department of Justice**

**Knight Sor
Lead Conciliation Specialist
Community Relations Service
U. S. Department of Justice**

**Dominique Caamano
Assistant U.S. Attorney and Environmental Justice
Coordinator
U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Central District of California**

10:00 a.m.-10:15 a.m.

BREAK

10:15 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

FIRESIDE CHAT: Centering Equity: Resetting the Dialogue on Sustainability:

It is increasingly apparent that the pathway to a sustainable future requires strategies based

on centering equity. Executive Order 13985 on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities through the Federal Government ushered in a historic shift. Since 2021, policy makers and government officials are learning how to align quality of life goals while being socially responsible and supporting community parity. For the first time, sustainability is experiencing the proper push it needs at the federal level for encouraging outcomes that are more equitable. This session will feature civil servants, and they will clarify why future advancements in sustainability in the United States require demonstrating equity and a healthy economy are not mutually exclusive goals.

Carlton Eley
Senior Director for Federal Strategies
Race Forward

Arsenio Mataka
Senior Advisor on Climate Change and Health Equity
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Angela D. Brooks FAICP
President
The American Planning Association

Cat Goughnour
Assistant Secretary, Just Communities
Maryland Department of Housing and Community
Development

Robin Morris Collin
Former Senior Advisor to the Administrator for
Environmental Justice, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Professor of Law (Retired)

11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

PANEL

Everybody Forward - Why a Diverse Supply Chain Matters

Donovan Casanave
Supplier Diversity/Advocacy Advisor
Shell USA, Inc.

Ron Busby
President and CEO
U.S. Black Chambers

Karen Lewis
CEO, Karmic

Patricia Sanford
CEO, Alexander Perry, Inc.

12:30 p.m.–1:00 p.m.

BREAK

1:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.

LUNCH

Introductions

Nes Parker
Principal, Public Sector Sustainability, Climate and Equity
Leader, Deloitte US

FIRESIDE CHAT

Kwasi Mitchell
Chief Purpose & DEI Officer
Deloitte US

Adam Ortiz
Regional Administrator (Region 3)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

2:00 p.m.–2:15 p.m.

BREAK

2:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

PANEL

Maximizing Federal Grant Impact and Building Sustainable
Communities

Vernice Miller-Travis
Executive Vice President, Metropolitan Group
Board Member, National Environmental Justice
Conference, Inc.

Peggy Shepard
Co-founder and Executive Director
WE ACT for Environmental Justice

Margo Brown
Senior Vice President, Justice and Equity
Environmental Defense Fund

Crystal Upperman, Ph.D., MPA
Senior Manager
Deloitte Consulting LLP

Kenneth Olden
Director (*Retired*)
National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences

3:15 p.m.–4:00 p.m.

PANEL

**Mapping the Power Sector and EJ communities through
EPA's Power Plants and Neighboring Communities (PPNC)
Tool**

Anna Seifert
Environmental Policy Analyst
Office of Air and Radiation
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Dana Freeman
Environmental Policy Analyst
Office of Air and Radiation
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

4:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

PANEL

**Regional Electricity Markets in the United States: How They
Function and Why They Matter for Communities**

Amanda Bradshaw
Energy Markets Manager, Office of Public Participation
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Laura Hersch
Outreach Specialist, Office of Public Participation
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Clara Summer
Build a Better Grid Campaign Manager
Citizens Utility Board

Jennie Chen
Senior Manager
World Resources Institute

Tyson Slocum
Director of Energy & Climate Program
Public Citizen

Emily Hammond
Professor of Law
George Washington University

5:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m.

CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. Melinda Downing
Environmental Justice Program Manager
U.S. Department of Energy

Timothy Fields, Jr.
Senior Vice President, MDB, Inc.
Chairman, Board of Directors
National Environmental Justice Conference, Inc.

DAY 3 - Thursday, April 18, 2024

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING PROGRAMS

Room 146 C

9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

Urban Waters Learning Network: Advancing Equity and Justice by Providing Time and Space to Connect, Collaborate, and Build Knowledge

With funding from EPA’s Urban Waters Program—and in cooperation with the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (NPS-RTCA)—Groundwork USA and River Network coordinate the Urban Waters Learning Network (UWLN). The UWLN is a nationwide peer-to-peer network of people and organizations working to conserve, restore, and revitalize America’s urban waterways. We deliver tools, training, mentoring, and financial assistance to support the work of UWLN members as they collaborate, develop solutions, and elevate community priorities. Since membership largely consists of community-based organizations, individual leaders, and NGOs, much of the work has centered on building healthier, more sustainable communities around waterways by focusing on water equity and environmental justice, healthy ecosystems (including the people who live there), and strategies to address the disparate impacts of environmental degradation and climate change.

The presentation portion of this workshop will be followed by an interactive discussion involving workshop participants. Participants will leave this workshop with knowledge about how to access UWLN resources, get involved in discussions around key topic areas, and contribute to the future of the UWLN.

Maria Brodine
Director of Network Support and Learning
Groundwork USA

**Renee Mazurek
Resilient Communities Manager
River Network**

**Diana Toledo
Senior Director
River Network**

**Jalisa Gilmore
Senior Manager of Environmental Justice Programs
Groundwork USA**

**10:30 a.m.–12:00 Noon Environmental Justice, the Energy Transition, and Emerging
Decarbonization Technologies**

This workshop will highlight key federal and state developments in the area of emerging technologies at the center of recent decarbonization and energy transition efforts, including carbon management and hydrogen. Featured participants will include representatives of community organizations, industry, and government agencies with experience in considering and integrating environmental justice into the funding, planning and deployment of these technologies to advance climate objectives, while ensuring equitable outcomes. Following the presentation and overview by featured speakers, participants will engage an interactive discussion on key challenges, potential solutions, and areas for future conversation.

**Shanisha Smith, Esquire
Senior Counsel, Health, Safety, and Environmental (HSE)
LyondellBasell**

**Stacey Sublett Halliday
Partner, Arnold & Porter
Vice Chair, National Environmental Justice Conference, Inc.**

Room 145 B

**9:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m. Listening Session on Leveraging Federal Research, Data, and
Science to Advance Environmental Justice**

Executive Order (EO) 14096 on Revitalizing Our Nation’s Commitment to Environmental Justice for All, signed by President Biden on April 21, 2023, aims to advance environmental justice for all people in the United States. Environmental Justice is the just treatment and meaningful involvement of all people in agency decision-making and Federal activities that impact human health and the environment, regardless of income, race, color, national origin,

Tribal affiliation, or disability. The order deepens the Administration's whole-of-government commitment to environmental justice, including by creating new mechanisms of interagency coordination, directing federal agencies to develop environmental justice strategic plans, and charging agencies with expanding public participation and access to information.

Additionally, section 5 of Executive Order 14096 outlines the need for a coordinated Federal strategy to identify and address gaps in science, data, and research to advance environmental justice. It directs the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, in consultation with the Chair of the Council of Environmental Quality, to establish an Environmental Justice Subcommittee of the National Science and Technology Council. The order then tasks the Environmental Justice Subcommittee to prepare an Environmental Justice Science, Data, and Research Plan (Research Plan) that outlines recommendations for federal agencies that support alignment of their data policies and processes with the goal of advancing environmental justice.

This session will provide an opportunity to learn about the launch of the Environmental Justice Subcommittee and provide an opportunity for participants to provide input on the high-level priorities of the future Research Plan.

Kristi Pullen Fedinick, Ph.D.
Assistant Director for Environmental Justice Science &
Technology
White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)

Karen Andrade, Ph.D.
Senior Policy Advisor, Science & Society White House Council
on Environmental Quality (CEQ)
White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)

Natasha DeJarnett, Ph.D.
Deputy Director of Environmental Justice Data and
Evaluation
Council on Environmental Quality
White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)

Gretchen Goldman, Ph.D.
Director, Climate Change Research and Technology
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)

Sarah Mazur
Principal Associate National Program Director
Sustainable and Healthy Communities Research Program
EPA Office of Research and Development
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Kelly Crawford
Senior Advisor, Energy and Environmental Justice
Office of Economic Impact and Diversity
Office of Energy Justice Policy & Analysis
U.S. Department of Energy

11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Techniques for Tertiary Education Engagement in Environmental Justice

This session will engage in group discussion and group workshopping around Systems Analysis and Practice (SAP), an environmental justice education and engagement framework which combines elements of participatory learning, critical literacy, and systems thinking. Successes and limitations of the SAP technique will be explored, and workshop participants will be invited to use this technique to create, share, and discuss effective environmental justice education and engagement activities tailored to undergraduate learners.

E. Britt Moore, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Environmental Protection
University of North Carolina Wilmington

2:15 p.m.–3:45 p.m. Title VI and Environmental Justice: The Future of Federal Enforcement

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 has often been highlighted as a tool to achieving environmental justice. This session aims to provide participants with an overview of Title VI and an opportunity to hear from Federal civil rights offices about how their Title VI enforcement efforts advance environmental justice. The workshop will consist of a panel discussion by representatives of federal agencies followed by a question-and-answer session. The panelists will cover topics such as: 1) the current legal landscape impacting future federal enforcement efforts, 2) recent developments in federal Title VI programs, and 3) efforts to improve interagency coordination and other enforcement tools.

Daria Neal
Deputy Chief, Federal Coordination and Compliance Section
Civil Rights Division
U.S. Department of Justice

Sharese C. Paylor, Ed.D.
Civil Rights Director
U.S. Department of Agriculture - Rural Development

Stephanie Fell
Deputy Section Chief, Antidiscrimination Group
Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Jody TallBear
Chief, External Civil Rights Compliance and Enforcement
Division
Office of Civil Rights and EEO
Office of Energy Justice and Equity
U.S. Department of Energy

Imron Bhatti
Compliance Branch Chief, Region V
Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Kurt Temple
Senior Advisor
Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**4:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. A Local Approach to Health in All Policies as a Tool for
Achieving Environmental Justice**

Health in All Policies (HiAP) is a proven tool that can be used by agencies and organizations as they work to embed health considerations into decisions, policies, and programs in health and non-health sectors. This workshop is designed to provide attendees with a better understanding of a HiAP approach, particularly in how it can be used to advance environmental justice and facilitate connections between local health departments and their communities. The workshop will begin with presentations on the HiAP framework by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) and on the real-life implementation of HiAP in Kent County, Michigan, by the Kent County Health Department. Following the presentations, participants will work in small groups to discuss how they would approach their own or provided scenarios, utilizing the new insights they have gained.

Daan Wind, MPH
Program Analyst Public Health Law and Policy
National Association of County and City Health Officials

Hassanatu Blake, PHD, MPH, MBA
Director of Health Equity & Social Justice
National Association of County and City Health Officials

Sara Simmonds, REHS, MPA
Director, Environmental Health
Kent County Health Department

Javier Cervantes
Bilingual Community Connector – Hispanic/Latinx community
Kent County Health Department

Room 147 A

9:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m.

Just Transitions in Agriculture: Best Practices

Climate adaptation in our agricultural systems is a political process with justice and equity implications. The United States Department of Agriculture is working to overcome past discriminatory action that impacted underserved and underrepresented communities of farmers and eaters. This was especially prevalent beginning in the 1970s when farm size and yields increased, and patterns of discriminatory lending and consolidation led to the loss of small-scale farmers. The past three and a half years under the Biden Administration have brought about several landmark initiatives to integrate environmental and climate justice across the Executive Branch including the Justice 40 initiative, that targets 40% of government investment to benefit disadvantaged communities overburdened by unequal impacts from climate change. These efforts have the potential to support the scaling up of environmentally just agricultural solutions to climate change across urban and rural communities in ways that reduce the burdens on and increase the resilience of the most vulnerable communities.

The idea of just transition in agriculture ensures that justice and equity are integral to our forest and agricultural systems as we adapt to climate change and reduce reliance on fossil fuels in our economy. Broadly, these transitions outline the pathway towards the development of a carbon neutral and climate-resilient food system. This pathway ensures that the development of new policies and systems are decentralized and democratic. One of the main activities for forming “a just transition” stems from careful design that is inclusive, decentralized, and co-developed with the stakeholders experiencing the transition. Furthermore, a just transition stems from a process of decarbonization of the farming systems that is equitable and profitable for all. To better highlight the ways in which programs across the USDA are engaging with just transitions, speakers during this workshop will discuss case studies of just transitions in agriculture and forestry. They will present best practices and discuss the challenge of balancing multiple values when designing and making policy for just agricultural futures.

Julie Snorek
AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow
Office of the Chief Scientist
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Sabine O’Hara, Ph.D.
Distinguished Professor & Ph.D. Program Director
College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability & Environmental
Sciences
University of the District of Columbia

Zach Ducheneaux
Administrator, Farm Service Administration
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Grace Leatherman
Director, Future Harvest

Daniel Firth Griffith
Founder, The Robinia Institute and Kincentric
Rewilding Pioneer of Timshel Wildland

Linsey Haram
Climate Fellow, Office of Chief Scientists
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Keegan Kautzky
Senior Advisor for Equity at Research, Education, and
Economics Mission Area
U.S. Department of Agriculture

11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Promoting Energy Justice and Equity Through DOE Programs

This workshop will provide insights into current programs and projects to increase community voice, engagement, and participation in the clean energy transition and provide examples of DOE's plans to support healthy and resilient environments and economies. Panelist from multiple DOE offices will discuss how their offices have and will continue to implement Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Inflation Reduction Act, and other funding to support equitable and just access to the benefits of implementing clean energy technologies, and the larger ecosystem in which these technologies will be designed, built, distributed, and utilized. This group will discuss new initiatives to support regional efforts to promote proactive engagement on participating in the application process and how equity is core to the development of our clean energy programs. A Q&A session will follow up to promote clarity and transparency for participants based on the information shared from the DOE staff. The second half of the workshop will be a listening session to inform how DOE can improve programs to support accessibility, equity, and benefit disadvantaged communities (e.g. low-income households, frontline communities, and historically underrepresented groups). We are particularly interested in how we can structure programs to support more effective community benefits plans, clean energy workforce and training, energy efficient upgrades, and promote small businesses engagement throughout the agency to enrich the connection between clean energy technologies and environmental justice.

Zack Valdez, Ph.D.
Strategic Advisor
Office of Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains
U.S. Department of Energy

Sonrisa Lucero
Special Advisor for Stakeholder Engagement
Office of Energy Justice and Equity
U.S. Department of Energy

Keishaa Austin
Director of Engagement
State and Communities Program Office
U.S. Department of Energy

Jordan Dickinson
Workforce and Program Analyst
Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains
U.S. Department of Energy

2:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

**Update on Developing a Screening Review Process for
Identifying Environmental Justice and Equity Concerns:
Considerations for the Regulated Community**

This workshop is a continuation of the workshop from the 2023 Conference, with updated case studies and knowledge from the previous year added to make the workshop fresh and relevant. The aim is to review the proposed framework for a desktop EJ scoping review protocol that industry stakeholders can use to identify and prioritize site-specific cumulative risks and opportunities to a host community's health, well-being, and quality of life. To accomplish this, the workshop presenters will facilitate discussion and knowledge sharing across the different stakeholders in attendance. The workshop will include an interactive exercise that will be broken down by each step identified below, along with the scientific and regulatory basis for the proposed protocol. Attendees will then walk through different hypothetical cases and discuss the highlights and limitations of the proposed protocol and elements of the report and action plan.

Uni Blake
Director, Environmental Health and Community Engagement
American Petroleum Institute

Kenyatta Miles
U.S. Science Policy and Advocacy Advisor
Shell Oil

3:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m.

**Using Research Tools to Support Environmental Justice:
Practical Applications and Tips for Inclusive Engagement**

This workshop will introduce participants to a set of practical research tools and frameworks that can help groups (e.g., community-based organizations, coalitions, public agencies) to define and advance environmental justice projects. Participants will be equipped to 1) describe the benefits of incorporating research practices into planning and implementing of community-led Environmental Justice (EJ) projects, and 2) describe key components of participatory action research and specific practices that center equity. Participants will receive a set of curated materials, including templates and to support the incorporation of research practices into their community-led EJ projects.

Daniela Pineda, Ph.D.
Senior Director, Center for Equity and Social Justice Research
RTI International

Janelle Armstrong-Brown, Ph.D.
Senior Manager, Center for Equity and Social Justice
Research
RTI International

Tatiana Bustos, Ph.D.
Researcher and Instructor, Center for Equity and Social
Justice Research
RTI International

Room 147 B

9:00 a.m.–10:15 a.m. Environmental Mapping Tools for Health and Human Services: Using Data to Protect the People We Serve

This workshop presents two new interactive environmental- and climate-risk mapping tools relevant to health and human services programs and practitioners, and others who serve children and families and other people disproportionately exposed to environmental and climate hazards. The Climate and Health Outlook Portal and the Head Start Environmental Exposure Mapping Tool and Resource Library were developed in 2023 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to support those seeking to advance environmental and climate justice among those we serve. The presenters will offer an overview and demonstration of each tool and associated resources and will then guide workshop participants in exploring the tools to understand how they can best meet their own needs (participants may want to bring laptops for this activity).

Pamela Winston, Ph.D.
Senior Social Science Analyst
HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and
Evaluation

Lauren Jensen, MPH, MCRP
Public Health Analyst
HHS Office of Climate Change and Health Equity

**Irena Gorski Steiner, PhD, MPH
ORISE Fellow
HHS Office of Climate Change and Health Equity**

**Maretta McDonald, Ph.D.
National Poverty Fellow
HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and
Evaluation**

**Amy Rogin, BA
Data Scientist
Urban Institute Metropolitan Housing and Communities
Policy Center**

**10:30 a.m.–11:15 a.m. Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change
Grants**

Do you want to learn about the largest environmental and climate justice funding opportunity in history? Join us! EPA will give an overview of the historic \$2 billion Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants funded by the Inflation Reduction Act. Learn about these transformative grants that will fund community-driven projects that address climate and pollution challenges while strengthening communities through thoughtful implementation. Details about the two funding tracks, target investment areas, and application process will be shared. There will be a Q&A. Please note EPA cannot give feedback on individual proposal ideas.

**Alexandra Gallo
Special Advisor
Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

**Janel Kemp
Environmental Protection Specialist
Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

**11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Making the Road Towards Environmental Justice While We
Walk it—A Case Study and Workshop with a State Agency
Mid-Journey**

The Washington State Healthy Environment for All, or HEAL Act, was enacted in 2021 to advance recommendations made by the Environmental Justice Task Force report to the Governor and Legislature. It is the first law in Washington to create a coordinated state agency approach to environmental justice. In this presentation and workshop, attendees will learn about the critical steps taken and tools used to translate the broad strokes of a statute

into actionable steps and iterative process for a state agency with a broad scope of work. Topics and sample tools will address:

- Identifying the roles and responsibilities of initial project staff and leadership,*
- Clarifying deliverables, high-level tasks, and the distinction between strategy vs implementation,*
- Unpacking white supremacy culture by integrating intra and interpersonal equity and inclusion skills development into the implementation team,*
- Righting relations with tribal partners*
- Centering community engagement and empowerment – considerations for non-regulatory and regulatory agencies*
- Launching an embedded environmental justice subject matter expert strategy to facilitate compliance and agency culture transformation*
- Assessing progress and navigating course corrections*

Karen Francis-McWhite
Environmental Justice Management Analyst Lead
Washington State Department of Commerce

Laura Armstrong
Environmental Justice Management Analyst
Washington State Department of Commerce

Lexi Becker
Environmental Justice Management Analyst
Washington State Department of Commerce

2:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Accessing HUD’s Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Programs

In this session, staff from HUD’s Office of Technical Assistance (OTA) will provide an overview of HUD’s Technical Assistance (TA) and Capacity Building Programs, including the programs and initiatives eligible for HUD TA and resources currently available. Attendees will gain an understanding of how HUD TA can benefit their communities and learn how to access TA, the process, and general timelines for assistance.

Benjamin Spears
Government Technical Representative (GTR), Office of
Technical Assistance
Office of Policy Development and Research
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

NOTICE

The National Environmental Justice Conference, Inc., prohibits discrimination against any person’s race, color, national origin, age, disability, gender, and gender identity in all its

programs and activities. Persons who need special accommodations to fully participate in the conference, workshops, or training programs, and persons with disabilities who require alternative means for interpreting program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the Conference Coordinator at (202) 827-2224. Due to many peoples' chemical sensitivities, we are requesting that attendees wear unscented toiletry items.

Images from this conference may be captured, published, and distributed.

Race Forward’s “Sustaining Racial Equity Across the Federal Government” Training Program for Federal Civil Servants

Room 146C

Founded in 1981, Race Forward brings systemic analysis and an innovative approach to complex race issues to help people take effective action toward racial equity. In 2021, Race Forward launched the Federal Initiative to Govern for Racial Equity (FIRE). FIRE builds on Race Forward’s deep expertise in working with government partners, and it seeks to encourage sustained change on racial equity at the federal level. The predecessor to FIRE is the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), a national network of local government working to achieve racial equity and advance opportunities for all.

Training is a key strategy in Race Forward’s work to transform institutions, policies, and culture so they are racially just. We are excited to offer training in conjunction with the 2024 National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program. This conference — brings us together in our nation’s capital — is an opportunity to discuss environmental justice and equity under one roof. “Sustaining Racial Equity Across the Federal Government” is the theme for this training program designed for federal civil servants.

Racial equity is more than a topic of interest, it is a field of practice that is trending upwardly. Since 2014, local and regional membership in GARE has expanded from 12 to more than 449 jurisdictional members across the nation. For this reason, the “Sustaining Racial Equity Across the Federal Government” training is an opportunity to be in community with federal policymakers and government officials who are committed to sustaining the momentum to advance equity, as well as weave together racial equity efforts across all levels of government.

DAY 1 – Tuesday, April 16, 2024

7:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m. BREAKFAST

8:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m. Advancing Racial Equity: The Role of the Federal Government

**Jennifer Godinez
Senior Director of Training and Education for Federal Strategies
Race Forward**

**Teshone Jones
Training Strategies Manager for Learning and Content
Race Forward**

Participants will learn about the history and impact of racism; discuss the federal government’s role in creating and perpetuating inequities; and gain a pragmatic tool to

normalize conversations about race and operationalize new policies and practices that advance racial justice.

10:00 a.m.–10:15 a.m. BREAK

10:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m. Using a Racial Equity Tool in the Federal Government

Jennifer Godinez
Senior Director of Training and Education for Federal Strategies
Race Forward

Tony Pattillo
Training Affiliate
Race Forward

Participants will be introduced to a racial equity tool and the role it plays in embedding racial equity into government. They will build internal skills and capacity for advancing racial equity, including community engagement strategies and will develop next steps for applying the racial equity tool.

12:15 p.m.–12:45 p.m. BREAK

12:45 p.m.–1:30 p.m. LUNCH

1:30 p.m.–1:45 p.m. BREAK

1:45p.m.–3:45 p.m. Using a Results Accountability Framework in the Federal Government

Kimberlee Archie
Founder and Principal of Knowledge + Skills = Options
Consulting, a Managing Partner of O&G Racial Equity
Collaborative, and a Partner and Affiliate with the Government
Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) at Race Forward

Tony Pattillo
Training Affiliate
Race Forward

Participants will define an equitable results framework and the role it plays in embedding racial equity into government. The key elements of this framework will be discussed, including data visualization, future visioning, looking at root causes of current racial disparities, developing strategies, action steps and equitable outcomes review. This session will

help participants build the internal skills and capacity for advancing racial equity and strategy development approaches key to an equitable results framework.

3:45 p.m.–4:00 p.m. BREAK

4:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. Equitable Development: Centering Racial Equity in Place-Based Projects

**Carlton Eley
Senior Director of Federal Strategies
Race Forward**

Participants will get acquainted with the principles of equitable development; discuss strategies for improving the built environment through collaborative problem solving; and visualize the tangible outcomes from place-based interventions that advance community parity by aligning with the social pillar of sustainability.

DAY 2 – Wednesday, April 17, 2024

7:00 a.m.–8:00 a.m. BREAKFAST

8:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m. Developing a Racial Equity Plan in the Federal Government

**Teshone Jones
Training Strategies Manager for Learning and Content
Race Forward**

**Tony Pattillo
Training Affiliate
Race Forward**

Participants will learn the five-step process to creating a Racial Equity Action Plan. They will practice determining the necessary components of Racial Equity Action Plans, and they will develop and refine next steps along an agency’s path to creating a Racial Equity Action Plan.

10:00 a.m.–10:15 a.m. BREAK

10:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m. Developing Racial Equity Core Teams in the Federal Government

**Carlton Eley
Senior Director of Federal Strategies
Race Forward**

Participants will gain an overview of Racial Equity Core Teams. They will also learn about the Diffusion of Innovation and Tipping Point Theory. The training emphasizes doing equity work while keeping in mind a long-term vision and sustained progress.

12:15 p.m.–12:30 p.m. BREAK

12:30 p.m.–12:45 p.m. Joining the Federal Initiative to Govern for Racial Equity Portal

**Sloane Kali Faye, Ph.D.
Outreach and Marketing Director for Federal Strategies
Race Forward**

Race Forward’s Federal Strategies team is preparing to launch an online community portal to aid federal civil servants in embedding racial equity practices in their work. The FIRE virtual community portal will support federal employee participants in the following ways:

- *Fostering the dissemination and adoption of innovative practices, co-created by FIRE network members.*
- *Enabling members to connect, learn from, and collaborate with one another in the service of impact.*
- *Creating and standardizing shared language and narrative strategies to make racial equity conversations accessible and engaging across various agencies.*

Participants will learn about the vision for the portal, the benefits of joining, and share insights on how to optimize learning and networking experiences as members.

12:45 p.m.-1:00 p.m. BREAK

1:00 p.m.–1:45 p.m. LUNCH

1:45 p.m.-2:00 p.m. BREAK

2:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. Narrative Strategy for a Just, Sustainable Multiracial Democracy

**Jane Mantey, Ph.D.
Director, Narrative and Cultural Strategies
Race Forward**

**Jennifer Godinez
Senior Director of Training and Education for Federal Strategies
Race Forward**

As we move nationally and globally into a rapidly changing climate and environment, racial equity practitioners inside and outside of the federal government need to coalesce around a new language and shared narrative strategy for addressing systemic environmental racism and reshaping public policies, rules, and practices to advance racial and climate justice. In

this workshop, participants will gain a shared understanding of narrative strategy, how to integrate narrative into their communications work, and best practices for advancing environmental and climate communications that invoke interdependence, abundance, dignity, and a sense of the “Bigger We” among the American populace. We encourage participants who lead or work in communications or regularly engage with the public to attend this workshop.

DAY 3 – Thursday, April 18, 2024

7:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m. BREAKFAST

**10:15 a.m.-11:30 a.m. PLENARY SESSION (Room 146AB): Centering Equity:
Resetting the Dialogue on Sustainability**

It is increasingly apparent that the pathway to a sustainable future requires strategies based on centering equity. Executive Order 13985 on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities through the Federal Government ushered in a historic shift. Since 2021, policy makers and government officials are learning how to align quality of life goals while being socially responsible and supporting community parity. For the first time, sustainability is experiencing the proper push it needs at the federal level for encouraging outcomes that are more equitable. This plenary will feature civil servants, and they will clarify why future advancements in sustainability in the United States require demonstrating equity and a healthy economy are not mutually exclusive goals.

**Carlton Eley
Senior Director of Federal Strategies
Race Forward**

**Arsenio Mataka
Senior Advisor on Climate Change and Health Equity
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

**Angela D. Brooks FAICP
President
The American Planning Association**

**Cat Goughnour
Assistant Secretary, Just Communities
Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development**

**Robin Morris Collin
Former Senior Advisor to the Administrator for Environmental
Justice, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Professor of Law (Retired)**

1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

LUNCH

2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Continuing the Conversation on Sustaining Racial Equity Across the Federal Government (Room 146C)

Cathy Albisa

Vice President of Institutional and Sectoral Change

Race Forward

Sloane Kali Faye, Ph.D.

Outreach and Marketing Director for Federal Strategies

Race Forward

Warren Whitlock

Deputy Director for Federal Strategies

Race Forward

Join us for facilitated conversations on sustaining racial equity across the federal government. This final gathering gives federal civil servants the opportunity to debrief the training sessions and plenary, discuss strategies for what's to come in advancing racial equity and connect with federal colleagues who are leading racial equity initiatives.