



2024 National Environmental Justice Conference & Training Program

Enhancing Communities Through Capacity Building and Technical Assistance



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

April 16-18, 2024
thenejc.org

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.



2024 National Environmental Justice Conference & Training Program

*Message from the Chairman of the Board of Directors
of the National Environmental Justice Conference, Inc.*

Dear Friends and Attendees:

We are so pleased you have chosen to join us at the 2024 National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program. This year's conference will be held in conjunction with Race Forward's "Sustaining Racial Equity Across the Federal Government" Training Program for Federal Civil Servants. It is great that we are coming together this year on the 30th anniversary of the first Presidential Executive Order on Environmental Justice. We will celebrate the major past accomplishments and discuss community needs and conference attendee plans for the future.

It is an honor and privilege to participate in this national gathering of leaders who have come together to engage communities as full partners in collaborative solutions to the many major issues and challenges affecting the nation today. This year's conference theme, *Providing Equitable and Just Access to a Healthy, Sustainable, and Resilient Environment* builds upon the past 17 annual conferences and recognizes the rapidly changing and diversifying landscape in which we live. We have filled these three days with thought-provoking panels and workshops and numerous opportunities to hear from young people, activists, and others from all over the country who are engaged and committed to the principles of Environmental Justice.

Together, we can do great things! We can make a real difference in the lives of millions of our fellow citizens.

Sincerely,

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

National Environmental Justice Conference & Training Program Sponsors



Kim Lambert





Working together for just and equitable outcomes

Across the public and private sectors, the climate crisis is disrupting the current way of conducting business. Deloitte is proud to have a long history supporting public sector clients across federal, state, and local governments to construct a more sustainable world. We work to embed equitable outcomes by operationalizing and institutionalizing transformation, benefits measures and impact analysis, and human-centered community engagement.

Come see us at Booth 1 to learn more about how we help our clients achieve their goals, support the public good and shape a future that centers around people, planet and prosperity.

<https://www2.deloitte.com/us/en/services/sustainability-climate-equity.html>

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April 16, 2024

Welcome Participants!

We are pleased to extend our warmest greetings to everyone attending the annual National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program. Please accept my best wishes for a productive conference.

I'd like to personally acknowledge the renowned Dr. Melinda Downing, Founder of NEJC, Lloyd Moore Esq, Executive Director, the Board of Directors, and the long-standing dedicated team underscoring policies and practices and increasing awareness of the challenges. The architects delivering gigantic results. Our NEJC sponsors played a paramount role noteworthy of appreciation and profound gratitude.

Environmental injustices are fundamentally rooted in people living on borrowed time; many have already run out of time. Simply put, *saving lives* should dictate a path forward that urgently reduces the destructive harms inflicted daily upon communities with little to no hope. Time consumed talking, layering plans and processes, understanding definitions, and in endless meetings are not the *investments benefitting EJ communities*. With no shortage of meetings, plans, processes, and platforms, etc., conceivably, things are improving and/or help is arriving. From the lenses of EJ advocates and communities, they wonder how much return of investments spent in these areas are turning into deliverables their communities can see for the betterment of their lives. On April 16, 2023, the White House released the updated EJ definition, which includes input from the public.

Before Executive Order 12898 (1994) and subsequently following additional orders steering the federal government to address and help eradicate environmental injustices, "*17 Principles of EJ*" emerged in 1991, a defining document created by grassroots organizations, a golden platter offered for adoption to help those most in need. April 1968, the night before the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., he told a group of striking sanitation workers in Memphis, Tennessee, "We got to give ourselves to this struggle until the end" ... He believed to expose the need for economic equality and social justice would highlight it nationally, if not worldwide. The 1960s sounded the alarm about the public health dangers for communities of color, urban ghettos, rural areas, and economically impoverished Native-American reservations. Through no fault of their own, frontline communities have been marginalized, disinvested, and disempowered. Now in 2024, can you hear them? Do you know them?

Today, we already know what important indicators show, the impacts of climate change, mounting harms from pollution, health crises, inequities, socioeconomic ramifications, and so forth, and worse, people are sick, dying, or already dead. Saving lives is the most important mission on this planet. Paperwork has a purpose so take what is already known through science, data collections, reports, and findings, and, more importantly, community-driven problem-solving partnerships that work. Communities' outcries are painful. When a trauma patient shows up for emergency care, it's not all right if doctors are not on duty.

It's not all right after 60-plus years, outcries for life are growing. Take inspiration from those executing expedited solutions past and present. Anything less can result in loss of life.

Dr. Kim Lambert
Philanthropist



Greetings

2024 National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program



April 16, 2024


As Mayor of Washington, DC, I am delighted to extend greetings to the organizers and attendees of the 2024 National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program.

In conjunction with Race Forward's Sustaining Racial Equity Across the Federal Government Training Program, your conference brings together a broad range of leaders to exchange ideas and train participants in approaches to achieving environmental justice.

Under the theme, "Providing Equitable and Just Access to a Healthy, Sustainable, and Resilient Environment," your conference seeks to empower governments, municipalities, tribes, faith-based organizations, and citizens to address environmental challenges.

The District of Columbia takes great pride in its work to promote environmental justice and racial equity, and we are delighted that you have chosen the nation's capital to host this important conference.

On behalf of the nearly 700,000 residents of Washington, DC, I offer my heartfelt thanks for your service to our communities and my best wishes for a productive and memorable event.


Muriel Bowser
Mayor, Washington, DC



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., Room 146 A-B
Washington, D.C. 20001

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 (DOE) laboratories for 8–10 weeks during the summer. Students who need basic research experience are placed at the Savannah State University U.S. 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 Agricultural and Technical (A&T) State University
Agricultural and Environmental Systems

8:00 a.m.–8:30 a.m.

WELCOME AND 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 (White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council's Educate, Motivate, and Innovate [EMI] Initiative).*

OVERVIEW AND REMARKS

Joanna Mounce Stancil

EMI Co-Chair
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service

Dr. Bernadette Henc

Senior Program Manager
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



A **Commitment** that Grows Every Day

Powering a cleaner and brighter future for our customers and communities is a vital part of our everyday work. We are proud to support The National Environmental Justice Conference & Training Program and join in their commitment to promoting environmental stewardship and conservation in our local communities.

[pepco.com](https://www.pepco.com)



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10:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m.

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 (EJ) content to the community. Using its train-the-trainer and community engagement foci, the organization provides on-site content through its environmental justice outreach programs and online content through its Virtual Environmental Justice Academy. Three current environmental justice 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 Agricultural and Mechanical (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

Dr. Na'Taki Osborne Jelks

Co-founder and Executive Director
West Atlanta Watershed Alliance

Felicia Davis

Founder and Managing Director
HBCU Green Fund and Affiliate of the Zero Waste Westside Initiative

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

Notes From the Ground: Cultivating Trust and Transparency

Julie Woosley

Director, North Carolina State Energy Office

Dr. Tony Reames

Director, Detroit Sustainability Clinic
and Tishman Professor of Environmental Justice
University of Michigan

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, giving birth to the environmental justice movement. Forty 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-term 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 discuss strategies for long-term, holistic organizing that acknowledges the health and economic impact long after the protest ended.



In Memory of the late
Dr. David E. Rivers

- Professor, Academic Affairs Faculty
- Founding Director, Public Information & Community Outreach
 - PI, DOE's CLI and Allen University's EJ
- Chair, National Conference on Health Disparities



Programs:

- Community Leaders Institutes
- Technical Assistance Workshops
- Our Health Made-for-Television Dialogues
 - Listening Sessions
- Culturally Sensitive Care National Conferences



Dr. Latecia Abraham-Hilaire

- Associate Professor, Academic Affairs Faculty
- Director, Public Information & Community Outreach
 - PI, DOE's CLI
- Chair, Culturally Sensitive Care National Conference

"Building and Sustaining Healthy Communities to Eliminate Health Disparities Nationwide"



Michael Baker



Tim Fields



Joy Lee



MDB is a 60-person strategic consulting firm providing environmental science, worker training, public health, and environmental justice mission support to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Energy, and other clients.

Our services include program management and evaluation, program training support, data research and analysis, communications and outreach, program mission support, conference planning and meeting support, facilitation and mediation services, and support to minority academic institutions.

Washington D.C. | Durham, NC • www.michaeldbaker.com • T: 202-331-0060



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 highlights 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 for ideas about 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 nonfederal 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.

Kelly Crawford

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

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
U.S. Department of Agriculture

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

Stephanie Fell

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

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

Aaron Bell

Office of Energy and Environment
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Cheryl Kelly

Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cynthia Ferguson

Director
Office of Environmental Justice
U.S. Department of Justice

Kelsey Owens

Senior Electric Vehicle Policy Analyst
Office of the Secretary - Office of Policy
U.S. Department of Transportation

Shahra Lambert

Senior Advisor for Engagement – Equity
Office of the Administrator
The National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Laura Ebbert

Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Environmental Justice
Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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 more than 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, internal workforce data analysis, cross-staff coordination, and grassroots to grasstops 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 (IRA) has provided a historic opportunity to advance clean energy. For example, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Environmental and Climate Justice Program provides the single largest investment in environmental justice history. This workshop will explore 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
Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

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 and Funding Opportunities

The Environmental Protection Network (EPN) began its pro bono capacity-building technical assistance program in June 2021 to help disadvantaged communities, community-serving nongovernmental organizations (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, federal funding access, 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 the Environmental Career Worker Training Program (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 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. Practices by ECWTP on stakeholder and community engagement and how it can serve as a model of workforce development and environmental justice will be shared. 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 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 a 92% tax revenue increase 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 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 socioeconomic 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 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.

continued

2:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.
continued

Enabling Equitable and Just Energy Transitions: Resources for Communities Considering Coal-to-Nuclear

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 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 like 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
Gateway for Accelerated Innovation in Nuclear (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 more than 50 members of tribal nations and is available for download and use. This workshop will guide participants in the 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., Room 146 A-B
Washington, D.C. 20001

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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, and
External Affairs
Pepeco 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

continued

8:15 a.m.–9:45 a.m.
continued

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
University of California, Santa Barbara

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

Romona Taylor Williams
Executive Director
Mississippi Communities United for Prosperity

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 and 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. Jalonne 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

Environmental Justice Task Force (EJTF) Co-Chair, Emeritus Chair,
U.S. Environmental Practice Group, DLA Piper



Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR)

OEJECR coordinates implementation of EPA's environmental justice and external civil rights priorities, providing resources and support.

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Learn more about Technical Assistance:

Visit <https://www.communitychangeTA.org>



Contact us with questions at

EJ_TechAssist@epa.gov or 1 (800) 540-8123.

***Receiving TA does not guarantee applicant selection.**



3:45 p.m.–4:45 p.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**

Sherr White-Williamson

Executive Director
Environmental Justice Community Action Network

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.

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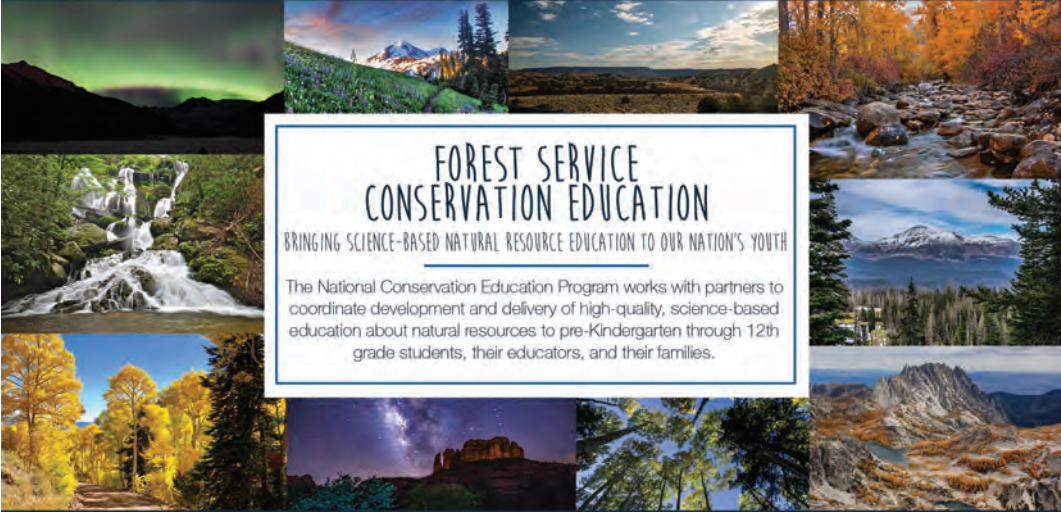


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United States Department of Agriculture



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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING PROGRAMS

ROOM 145 B

DAY 2 – Wednesday, April 17, 2024

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 about and discuss social and ethical questions 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.

This workshop's objectives 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 forums to inform the next iteration of the forum.*

Dr. Sara Wylie

Office of Energy Justice and Equity U.S. Department of Energy

Kelly Crawford

Office of Energy Justice and 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 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 toward 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 peoples' diverse needs.

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 Bipartisan
Infrastructure Law, Inflation
Reduction Act, 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 initiative goals and federal, state, tribal, and nongovernmental partners working with the Forest Service. Ongoing work accomplished collaboratively with these partners will be discussed and additional information on future work will be provided. The panel will also discuss target communities and types of assistance offered to these communities.

Sandra Burnett

State, Private, and Tribal Forestry
BIL, IRA, and Community Navigator
Coordinator
USDA Forest Service

Craig Cheresposey

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and
Inflation Reduction Act 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, socioeconomic 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 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 to help community-based organizations (CBOs), governments, and other stakeholders in environmental justice communities assess environmental impact. First, the training will discuss current EPA tools that may be helpful to CBOs, including the Toxics Release Inventory, EJScreen, and the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). Next, the panel will provide information about other 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 within EPA's Community Change Grant program, a \$2 billion program which will help 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 barriers for applicants, grantees, and technical assistance providers. The tools' aim 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 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 and Partner
Engagement
Office of Pollution Prevention
and Toxics
U.S. Environmental Protection
Agency

Chloe Durand

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

Judith Kendall

Stakeholder and 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, and 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 part of the solution.

Sade Shofidiya, MBA

Head Beekeeper, CEO
BEEevolent

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 (CDC) National Environmental Public Health 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 socioeconomic 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 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 the 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) describe 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 help public health researchers and practitioners 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

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/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (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/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and should not be construed to represent any agency determination or policy.

continued

9:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m.
continued

Using CDC Tools to Advance Environmental Justice and Health Equity

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
Interim Director, Office of Environmental Justice, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Ana Mascareñas, MPH

Senior Advisor for Environmental Justice
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Benjamin McKenzie, MS

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

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 empowering environmental justice 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

Dr. Katherine Saad

NASA Headquarters
Earth Science Division
Earth Science Data Systems

Helen Parache

NASA Marshall Space Flight Center
Earth Science Data Systems - IMPACT

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

Rachel McNamara

Director, Office of Public Participation
Outreach and Assistance Division
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 Justice40 Mapping and Tracking Tools Demonstration

Workshop attendees will participate in a live demonstration of two mapping tools developed by the HBCU Environmental Justice Technical Team: the HBCU Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (HCEJST) and the HBCU Justice40 Funding Data Tracking Tool.

In early 2023, 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 Justice40 Funding Data Tracking Tool. The primary objective is to enable environmental justice stakeholders in "red states" to geographically trace the path of the Inflation Reduction Act, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and other Justice40-related funds.

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

HBCU Environmental Justice Technical Team



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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., Room 146 A-B
Washington, D.C. 20001

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

10:00 a.m.–10:15 a.m.

BREAK

10:15 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

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 who 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 Oil

Ron Busby

President and CEO
U.S. Black Chamber of Commerce

12:30 p.m.–1:00 p.m.

BREAK

1:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.

LUNCH

Introduction of Luncheon Keynote Speaker

Nes Parker

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

KEYNOTE REMARKS

Kwasi Mitchell

Chief Purpose & DEI Officer
Deloitte US

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

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.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING PROGRAMS

ROOM 146 C

DAY 3 – Thursday, April 18, 2024

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 UWLN.

Maria Brodine

Director of Network Support and Learning
Groundwork USA

Diana Toledo

Senior Director
River Network

Renee Mazurek

Resilient Communities Manager
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 funding, planning, and deploying these technologies to advance climate objectives while ensuring equitable outcomes. Following the presentation and overview, participants will engage in 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 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 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 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 high-level priorities of the future Research Plan.

Kelly Crawford

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

Kristi Pullen Fedinick, Ph.D.

Assistant Director for Environmental Justice
Science & Technology
White House Office of Science and Technology Policy

Karen Andrade, Ph.D.

Senior Policy Advisor, Science & Society White House
Council on Environmental Quality
White House Office of Science and Technology Policy

Natasha DeJarnett, Ph.D.

Deputy Director of Environmental Justice
Data and Evaluation
Council on Environmental Quality
White House Council on Environmental Quality

Gretchen Goldman, Ph.D.

Director, Climate Change Research and Technology
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation

Sarah Mazur

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

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 workshoping around Systems Analysis and Practice (SAP), an environmental justice education and engagement framework that 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 Q&A 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 Equal Employment
Opportunity
Office of Energy Justice and Equity
U.S. Department of Energy

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 agencies and organizations can use 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 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 gained.

Daan Wind, MPH

Program Analyst Public Health Law and Policy
National Association of County and City Health Officials

Hassanatu Blake, Ph.D., 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 (USDA) 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 Justice40 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 scaling up environmentally just agricultural solutions to climate change across urban and rural communities in ways that reduce 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 toward the development of a carbon neutral and climate-resilient food system.

This pathway ensures development of new policies and systems is 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 USDA are engaging with just transitions, workshop speakers 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 and Ph.D. Program Director
College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability, and
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

Dr. Carlos Ortiz

National Program Leader, Division of Community and
Education at National Institute of Food and Agriculture
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, the 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 in 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 DOE staff share.

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 business 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

Keishaa Austin

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

Sonrisa Lucero

Special Advisor for Stakeholder Engagement
Office of Energy Justice and Equity
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 Institututen

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) define and advance environmental justice projects. Participants will be equipped to: (1) describe benefits of incorporating research practices into planning and implementing community-led environmental justice 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, to support incorporating research practices into their community-led EJ projects.

Daniela Pineda, Ph.D.

Senior Director, 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

Janelle Armstrong-Brown, Ph.D.

Senior Manager, 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 those 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 the people 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
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation

Maretta McDonald, Ph.D.

National Poverty Fellow
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

Amy Rogin, BA

Data Scientist
Urban Institute Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center

Irena Gorski Steiner, Ph.D., MPH

Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education Fellow
HHS Office of Climate Change and Health Equity

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 versus 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 nonregulatory 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

Lexi Becker

Environmental Justice Management Analyst
Washington State Department of Commerce

Laura Armstrong

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 the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) 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

3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

Uplifting Our Stories: An Environmental Justice Superpower

How are YOU taking action on climate change in, for, and with your community? What climate change solutions in your community give you hope? In a world where the stories of frontline communities — and of environmental justice advocacy — are often overlooked, it's often on us to tell our stories for the world to hear them.

Join this engaging, story-focused workshop led by Matt Scott, a young Black queer storyteller and the director of storytelling and engagement at the global nonprofit climate solutions resource Project Drawdown, to not only hear why stories matter in the climate space but why your story matters. Watch clips from the Drawdown's Neighborhood climate change solutions short documentary series — hosted by Matt and featured on The Weather Channel's Patrn digital network — and pair up with other workshop participants to explore your own story.

In this workshop, you'll be invited to consider your own climate story and to work with a partner to prepare your own short cell phone videos amplifying your story and work for Project Drawdown's new community-generated library of climate change solutions stories, the Global Solutions Diary.

Matt Scott

Director of Storytelling & Engagement
Founding Director, Drawdown Stories
Project Drawdown

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For ten years, Race Forward helped to build the growing community of practice on racial equity in local government jurisdictions. Now, the federal government is drawing from this wealth of experience with the Federal Initiative to Govern for Racial Equity (FIRE).

FIRE supports significant advances in racial equity across the federal government. FIRE seeks to reshape how the government serves its people by encouraging sustained change on racial equity at the federal level. Through Race Forward's experience in racial equity standard setting and partnering with federal agencies to design and implement equitable policies,

FIRE aims to:

- Support and promote acceptance across the federal government that "good governance centers racial equity"
- Make racial equity a core value of public administration at the federal level
- Cultivate a community of practice that equips federal employees with the knowledge and support to realize their ambitious racial equity goals.

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 — bringing 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 upward. 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

1:45 p.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 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 long-term vision and sustained progress in mind.

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 and benefits of joining, as well as share insights on how to optimize learning and networking experiences as potential members of the first cohort.

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 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 146 A-B

Centering Equity: Resetting the Dialogue on Sustainability

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)

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 who will clarify why future advancements in sustainability in the United States require demonstrating equity and a healthy economy are not mutually exclusive goals

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

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

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is honored to support this year's National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program.

We further Environmental Justice by listening to the community and asking questions to understand local conservation issues. It is not what we think is best. It is what the community knows it needs.



A Commitment to Communities Thriving

WM strives to be a responsible environmental steward dedicated to ensuring communities are thriving, protecting our neighbors' health and well-being, and providing safe and effective recycling and waste services.

With a commitment to meaningful engagement, we are focused on actively listening and addressing community needs.

Action is key and the National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program offers a unique opportunity to imagine how we can achieve a more just world, together.

It is an honor to continue to support this dialogue.



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