

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

MILESTONES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS: 1964-2014

**A Report Prepared in Commemoration of the
Twentieth Anniversary of the Environmental Justice
Executive Order 12898**

PRINCIPAL AUTHORS

**Robert D. Bullard, Ph.D.
Glenn S. Johnson, Ph.D.
Danae W. King, Ph.D.
Angel O. Torres, M.C.P.**

**Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs
Texas Southern University**

FEBRUARY 2014

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PRINCIPAL AUTHORS

ROBERT D. BULLARD, PH.D.

GLENN S. JOHNSON, PH.D.

DENAE W. KING, PH.D.

ANGEL O. TORRES, M.C.P.

**Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs
Texas Southern University**

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The opinions, conclusions, and recommendations expressed or implied within are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Houston Endowment, and United States Climate Action Network that supported this project.

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INTRODUCTION

About the MLC

ABOUT THE MICKEY LELAND CENTER

The Mickey Leland Center for Environment, Justice and Sustainability at Texas Southern University conducts research, analyzes policy, and designs innovative program practices and community initiatives. Its aim is to cultivate a new type of leadership to address the environmental and health challenges, as well as, be responsive to populations and communities at greatest risk with the goal of facilitating their inclusion into the mainstream of environmental decision-making. The Center has four major components: (1) Education and Training, (2) Research and Policy Analysis, (3) Community Engagement and Technical Support, and (4) Information Clearinghouse. The Center uses the community-based participatory research (CBPR) approach and provides a range of technical assistance and support services on a range of environmental justice, transportation equity, fair/smart growth, and related issues to at least five low-income and people of color groups.

Mickey Leland
Center for
Environment,
Justice and
Sustainability
at Texas Southern
University

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Robert D. Bullard is Dean of the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs at Texas Southern University in Houston, Texas. He is the author of 18 books. His award-winning book *Dumping in Dixie: Race, Class and Environmental Quality* (Westview Press, 2000), is a standard text in the environmental justice field. A few of his other related titles include *Just Sustainabilities: Development in an Unequal World* (MIT Press, 2003); *The Quest for Environmental Justice: Human Rights and the Politics of Pollution* (Sierra Club Books, 2005); *Growing Smarter: Achieving Livable Communities, Environmental Justice, and Regional Equity* (MIT Press, 2007); *Race, Place and Environmental Justice After Hurricane Katrina: Struggles to Reclaim, Rebuild, and Revitalize New Orleans and the Gulf Coast* (Westview Press, 2009); *Environmental Health and Racial Equity in the United States: Building Environmentally Just, Sustainable, and Liveable Communities* (APHA Press, 2011); and *The Wrong Complexion for Protection: How the Government Response to Disaster Endangers African American Communities* (NYU Press, 2012).

Glenn S. Johnson is the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies of the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs and the Interim Director of the Mickey Leland Center for Environment, Justice and Sustainability at Texas Southern University. He is the co-editor of *Just Transportation: Dismantling Race and Class Barriers to Mobility* (New Society Publishers, 1997); *Sprawl City: Race, Politics, and Planning in Atlanta* (Island Press, 2000); *Highway Robbery: Transportation Racism & New Routes to Equity* (South End Press, 2004); and *Environmental Health and Racial Equity in the United States: Building Environmentally Just, Sustainable, and Liveable Communities* (APHA Press, 2011). Johnson received his B.A. degree (1987), M.A. degree (1991), and Ph.D. degree (1996) in sociology from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

Denae W. King is a Research Associate Professor and Interim Associate Director of the Mickey Leland Center for Environment, Justice and Sustainability, at the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs at Texas Southern University. She received her B.S. degree in chemistry (1992) from Texas Southern University, as well as, a M.S. degree (1996) and Ph.D. degree (2001) in environmental science/toxicology from the University of Texas Health Science Center - Houston, School of Public Health.

Angel O. Torres is currently an independent researcher, Geographical Information System (GIS) consultant, and free-lance writer in Atlanta, Georgia. Formerly, he was a GIS training specialist with the Environmental Justice Resource Center at Clark Atlanta University. He is the co-editor of *Sprawl City: Race, Politics, and Planning in Atlanta* (Island Press, 2000); *Highway Robbery: Transportation Racism and New Routes to Equity* (South End Press, 2004); and *Environmental Health and Racial Equity in the United States: Building Environmentally Just, Sustainable and Liveable Communities* (APHA Press, 2011). Torres received his B.S. degree (1993) in mathematics from Clark Atlanta University and his Masters of City Planning (MCP) degree (1995) from Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia.

Dedication and Acknowledgments

DEDICATION

We dedicate this report in memory of the many courageous warriors who gave their lives in the pursuit of environmental and economic justice over the past three decades and who are no longer physically with us today. While their numbers are countless, we call out and lift up a few: Dana Alston (Washington, DC), Luke Cole (San Francisco, CA), Jeanne Guana (Albuquerque, NM), Grover Hankins (Houston, TX), Harry Holt (Dickson, TN), Hazel Johnson (Chicago, IL), Edgar J. Mouton (Mossville, LA), Patsy Ruth Oliver (Texarkana, TX), Damu Smith (Washington, DC); Emelda West (Convent, LA), and Margaret Louise Williams (Pensacola, FL). Their legacy remains alive and well.

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We would like to acknowledge the many individuals who aided us in completing the research for this report. The outcome was made possible by a team effort. First, we extend special thanks to the staff at the Mickey Leland Center for Environment, Justice and Sustainability at Texas Southern University for their tireless efforts to bring this report to closure. We are especially grateful to the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland Student Scholars, Steven C. Washington, Jamila M. Gomez, N. Jenise Young, Subrity Rajbhandari, and Ingrid Flornoy, who took on the work as a special learning project. We would like to extend special thanks to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Houston Endowment, and United States Climate Action Network (USCAN) whose funding supported our effort. Numerous individuals from around the country provided us with valuable information on their organizations' work and accomplishments over the years on which this report is based. We want to thank them for taking time out of their busy work schedules to respond to our many queries, e-mails, faxes, and phone calls soliciting information. It is their work on which the larger Environmental Justice Movement is built. And we are grateful for their leadership, dedication and dogged persistence over the decades. Environmental justice leaders, we salute you.

Preface

PREFACE

This report is a compilation of several previous reports. In preparation for the four-day Second National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit, held in Washington, DC in October 2002, the Environmental Justice Resource Center (EJRC) compiled the [Environmental Justice Timeline/Milestones - 1964-2002](#) report, one of the first comprehensive documents to chronicle accomplishments of the Environmental Justice (EJ) Movement. The milestones were later updated in the 2007 United Church of Christ [Toxic Wastes and Race at Twenty - 1987-2007](#) report and in 2010 in [Environmental Health and Racial Equity in the United States: Strategies for Building Environmentally Just, Sustainable, and Liveable Communities](#) (American Public Health Association 2011).

February 11, 2014 marked the 20th anniversary of the historic [Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898](#) “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations” signed by President Clinton. This report was prepared and released as part of the 20-year commemoration.

This Executive Order attempted to address environmental injustice within existing federal laws and regulations. It also reinforced the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VI, which prohibits discriminatory practices in programs receiving federal funds and put the spotlight back on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a law that set policy goals for the protection, maintenance and enhancement of the environment. NEPA’s goal is to ensure for all Americans a safe, healthful, productive and aesthetically and culturally pleasing environment. It called for improved methodologies for assessing and mitigating impacts, health effects from multiple and cumulative exposure, collection of data on low-income and minority populations who may be disproportionately at risk, and impacts on subsistence fishers and consumers of wild game. It also encouraged participation of the impacted populations in the various phases of assessing impacts, including scoping, data gathering, alternatives, analysis, mitigation and monitoring.

The [EJ Executive Order](#) after twenty years and three U.S. presidents has never been fully implemented. It was signed in 1994 on the second day of the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) “[Health and Research Needs to Ensure Environmental Justice](#)” in Arlington, VA. And after lying dormant for nearly a decade under the George W. Bush administration, the EJ Executive Order received some new life in 2010 under the Obama administration—with the reinvigoration of the [Interagency Working Group](#) (IWG) that called for updating more than a dozen agencies’ EJ strategic plans and [Plan EJ 2014](#), a roadmap that will help the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) integrate environmental justice into its programs, policies, and activities. The goals of the plan are to: Protect health in communities over-burdened by pollution; empower communities to take action to improve their health and environment; and establish partnerships with local, state, tribal and federal organizations to achieve healthy and sustainable communities.

CHAPTER 1

Executive Summary

During its 44-year history, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has not always recognized that many government and industry practices (whether intended or unintended) have adversely and disproportionately impacted poor people and people of color. It took an entire movement and decades for the government to acknowledge this fact and three decades to begin implementing equal protection and dismantling institutional racism. The EPA is mandated to enforce the nation's environmental laws and regulations equally across the board. It is required to protect all Americans—not just individuals or communities who have money to hire lawyers, lobbyists, scientists, and experts. The right to health and a clean environment is a basic human right.

The nation is not color blind even though Barack Obama was elected as the country's 44th president and Lisa P. Jackson was appointed as administrator of the U.S. EPA, the first African American to hold these offices. Because of the persistent challenges created by institutionalized racism, environmental justice advocates continue to employ a racial equity lens—applied to public health, exposure to harmful chemicals, pesticides, toxins in the homes, schools, neighborhoods, and workplace, faulty assumptions in calculating, assessing, and managing risks, zoning and land-use practices, and exclusionary policies and practices that limit participation in decision making. Many of these problems could be eliminated if the existing environmental, health, housing, transportation, land use, and civil rights laws were vigorously enforced in a nondiscriminatory way.

In 1994, only four states (Louisiana, Connecticut, Virginia, and Texas) had a law or an executive order on environmental justice. Twenty years later, all [50 states](#) and the District of Columbia have instituted some type of environmental justice law, executive order, or policy, indicating that the area of environmental justice continues to grow and mature. However, we know all states and their environmental justice laws are “not created equal.”

The last two decades have seen environmental justice become a household word. Out of the small and seemingly isolated environmental struggles, emerged a potent grassroots community driven movement.

There are still individuals, even some in the U.S. Congress, who still refuse to acknowledge the fact the country has an environmental injustice problem that needs attention and action.

We now see an increasing number of community-based groups, environmental justice networks, environmental and conservation groups, legal groups, faith-based groups, labor, academic institutions and youth organizations teaming up on environmental justice and health issues that differentially impact poor people and people of color.

Many of the on-the-ground environmental struggles in the new millennium have seen the quest for environmental and economic justice become a unifying theme across race, class, gender, age, and geographic lines. Nevertheless, there are still individuals, even some in the U.S. Congress, who still refuse to acknowledge the fact the country has an environmental injustice problem that needs attention and action.

After more than two decades of intense study, targeted research, public hearings, grassroots organizing, networking, and movement building, environmental justice struggles have taken center stage. Yet, all communities are still not created equal. Where you live can impact your health and quality of life. Zip code is still the most potent predictor of health. Some neighborhoods, communities, and regions have become the dumping grounds for all kinds of toxins. Today, too many low-wealth and people of color communities have too few residential amenities such as sidewalks, bike lanes, parks and green space, full-service grocery stores, accessible public transit, health care, and quality schools.

Some progress has been made in mainstreaming environmental protection as a civil rights and social justice issue. We now see an increasing number of community-based groups, environmental justice networks, environmental and conservation groups, legal groups, faith-based groups, labor, academic institutions and youth organizations teaming up on environmental justice and health issues that differentially impact poor people and people of color. Many of these groups have adopted a racial equity lens to analyze and frame the issues, mobilize constituents, shape public policy, and craft legislation and legal strategies to dismantle institutionalized barriers to opportunity, including environmental racism.

Environmental racism and environmental justice panels have become “hot” topics at national conferences and forums sponsored by law schools, bar associations, public health groups, scientific societies, professional meetings, and university lecture series. In just a short

time, environmental justice advocates have had a profound impact on public policy, industry practices, national conferences, private foundation funding, and community-based participatory research (CBPR) where community and “expert” are equal partners.

Environmental justice research, writing, and publications have flourished over the past two decades. Today, there is a rich body of work that supports an array of disciplines from the social and behavioral sciences to physical sciences to law and legal studies. Environmental justice courses and curricula can be found at nearly every college and university across the country. It is now possible for students to receive a baccalaureate and advanced degrees in environmental justice. Similarly, environmental justice is now an acceptable discipline whereas that college and university professors can select as a major research concentration, and receive tenure and promotion.

Environmental justice groups have been successful in blocking numerous permits for new polluting facilities and forced government and private industry buyout and relocation of several communities impacted by Superfund sites and industrial pollution. Environmental justice and health equity concepts and principles are making their way into initiatives that are moving the nation toward a “green economy”, green buildings and healthy schools, clean and renewable energy, smart growth, and just climate policies.

Although permitting and facility siting still dominate state environmental justice programs, a growing number of states are beginning to use land use planning techniques, such as buffer zones, to improve environmental conditions, reduce potential health threats, and prevent environmental degradation in at-risk communities. States are also incorporating environmental justice in their brownfields, Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP), and climate policies. Some states rely on enforcement procedures in environmentally burdened communities, while other states use grants and community education.

MOVEMENT BUILDING

Clearly, a lot has happened in twenty years since those of us who were summoned to the White House to witness the signing of Executive Order 12898 on that cold snowy day in February. We have made progress, but much more work still remains. The last two decades have seen some positive change in the way environmental groups in the United States relate to each other around health, environment, economic, and racial justice. An increasing number of community-based groups, networks, university-based centers, environmental and conservation groups, legal groups, faith-based groups, labor, and youth organizations have formed partnerships and collaboratives to address environmental and health issues that differentially impact poor people, people of color, and children. The number of people of color environmental groups has grown from 300 groups in 1992 to more than 3,000 groups and a dozen networks in 2014.

RESEARCH AND POLICY ADVANCEMENTS

Because of research, policy work and grassroots mobilization, we know much more today than we did two decades ago. From 1990-1993, [Dumping in Dixie](#) topped the list of only a half dozen environmental justice books in print. In 1994, five additional environmental justice books were added to the list. Environmental justice research, writing, and publications have flourished over the years. Today, there are hundreds of environmental justice books covering a wide range of disciplines spanning the globe. Environmental justice courses and curricula can be found at nearly every college and university in the U.S. This was not always the case.

Despite this progress, frontline communities and their leaders are demanding that environmental justice be made a centerpiece in closing the gap in [climate action plans](#), [energy policies](#), [transportation initiatives](#), and [disaster management](#) which still leave too many low-wealth communities and people of color behind.

Some progress has been made in mainstreaming environmental protection as a civil rights and social justice issue.

EXPANDING THE “PIPELINE” OF NEW LEADERS

Community-based organizations play an important role in providing a space and training ground for growing youth leaders. The key to a successful movement rests with how effective organizations and institutions solve “pipeline” challenges. An expanding “[pipeline](#)” of diverse scholars, scientists, researchers, policy analysts, and community leaders is leading on environmental justice, including climate change and vulnerable communities. Much more is needed. Not surprising, resources continue to be a major barrier to building, supporting, and sustaining strong national youth and student leadership across various environmental and climate justice and health equity movements that use a racial equity lens.

Bringing young people into the movement to address environmental and climate justice, health equity and racial justice at every level, from activists to analysts to academics, can only strengthen the movement—and make us a stronger and fairer nation. Today, much of the youth work takes place within an intergenerational form (community-based organizations, networks, centers, legal clinics that have a youth focus or youth component) and a youth-led form (organizations founded by and led by youth), that are both important and complementary.

UNIVERSITY-BASED CENTERS AND ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

University-based centers and academic programs serve as important venues to train, educate, and mentor students, faculty, and researchers in the environmental justice, health, and racial equity fields. In 1990, there was not a single university-based environmental justice center or a program that offered a degree in environmental justice. In 1994, there were just four university-based environmental justice centers. It is no accident that all of these early environmental justice centers were located at historically black colleges and universities ([HBCUs](#)). Today, there are [dozens](#) of university-based environmental justice centers and 22 legal clinics that list environmental justice as a core area, and six academic programs that grant degrees in environmental justice, including one legal program.

NATIONAL AWARDS, HONORS AND RECOGNITION

The Environmental Justice Movement has seeded a number of social movements that use a racial equity lens, including healthy homes, reproductive justice, transportation equity, smart growth, regional equity, parks justice and green access, green jobs, food justice, and climate justice. Prior to 1994, only a couple of Environmental Justice (EJ) leaders had won national recognition and environmental awards for their work. In the past two decades, more than two-dozen environmental justice leaders have won prestigious national awards, including the Heinz Award, Goldman Prize, MacArthur “Genius” Fellowship, Ford Foundation Leadership for a Changing World Award, Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leaders Award, and others. For example, [Hilton Kelly](#), who directs Community In-power and Development Association (CIDA), won the 2013 Goldman Prize for his environmental justice work in addressing pollution near oil refineries in Port Arthur, Texas. And in 2014, [Kimberly Wasserman Nieto](#) of the [Little Village Environmental Justice Organization \(LVEJO\)](#) won the Goldman Prize for her collaborative work in shutting down the [Fisk and Crawford coal plants](#) in Chicago.

FUNDING CHALLENGES

The number of foundations that have funded designated environmental justice programs has been shrinking since the 2002 Environmental Justice Summit. However, there are hopeful signs from a number of foundations that are funding multidisciplinary work that intersects environment, health, and racial equity. Much of this funding is filtered through portfolios of smart growth, transportation equity, clean and renewable energy, green jobs, chemical policy reform, green chemistry, green products, parks and green access, green buildings, healthy schools, food security and food justice, sustainable agriculture, sustainable communities, equitable development, brownfields redevelopment, worker training, worker safety, health disparities, reproductive health and justice, immigrants' rights, human rights, disaster response, regionalism and regional equity, climate change, and climate justice, all of which fall under the broad category of environmental justice.

Strategic foundation support has enabled the success of the [environmental justice movement](#). Yet, the movement is still under-funded after three decades of proven work. This is true for private foundation and government funding. Overall, foundation and government funding support for environmental justice has been piecemeal. Environmental funders spent a whopping [\\$10 billion](#) between 2000 and 2009. However, just 15 percent of the environmental grant dollars benefitted marginalized communities, and only 11 percent went to advancing “social justice” causes, such as community organizing.

Government funding of environmental justice has been spotty and unpredictable. Funding has come primarily from two federal agencies—the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences—two federal agencies that community leaders established working relationships with in the early 1990s. Relationships matter in the funding world. Economic recessions in the 2000s combined with shrinking foundations' portfolios and government cutbacks over the years, hit environmental and other social justice organizations especially hard—actions that heightened inequality. Overall, constrained funding has made it difficult for building organizational infrastructure, community organizing, leadership development and participating effectively in the policy arena. Clearly, much more is needed to ensure that all Americans enjoy healthy, livable and sustainable communities.

CHAPTER 2

What People Are Saying About the Environmental Justice Executive Order after Twenty Years and Three U.S. Presidents

The Environmental Justice Executive Order has survived three U.S. presidents (Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama). The vast majority of environmental justice leaders two decades ago preferred to have environmental justice codified in law. However, that did not happen. As part of the commemoration, reactions were solicited from leaders representing diverse stakeholder groups from activists to academics. We asked the following question: “What is the state of the Environmental Justice Executive Order and the Environmental Justice Movement?” The responses are presented in the following section.

VOICES FROM THE FRONTLINE

The focus of the environmental justice movement is now just and sustainable development. This means using our unlimited mental and creative resources, not our limited natural resources. If this is true, as I believe it to be, then we need to develop more constructive ways to unleash these phenomenal mental and creative resources in our communities, and quickly. Currently, in the U.S. and around the globe we waste human potential as wantonly and comprehensively as we lay waste to our environmental potential, and this is no surprise, as both actions are directly related. We need to understand that while there is growing human inequality, there will never be environmental quality. ([Julian Agyeman, Ph.D., FRSA](#), Department of Urban and Environmental and Policy Planning, Tufts University, Medford, MA)

“What is the state of the Environmental Justice Executive Order and the Environmental Justice Movement?”

The Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law has promoted environmental justice for many years. The most recent example of its work in this area grew out of a request from fair housing advocates in Texas who are monitoring implementation of a disaster recovery program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). They reached out to the Lawyers’ Committee for assistance in appraising housing proposals in Port Arthur, Texas to replace low income, predominantly African American public housing projects which abutted an area with dozens of petrochemical refineries that had steadily expanded over the years to become the largest concentration of refineries in the country. Indeed, in 2009, Port Arthur was named an “Environmental Showcase Community” by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which concluded that

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relocation of the residents of low income predominantly African-American public housing projects damaged by Hurricane Ike should be a high priority because of the environmental dangers posed by the refineries. Working with the organizations that are monitoring the disaster recovery program, the Lawyers' Committee is providing legal assistance to ensure replacement housing is environmentally safe. ([Barbara Arnwine](#), President and Executive Director, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Washington, DC)

While there has been some progress in environmental justice, much remains to be done. The federal legal foundation is still very weak, based as it is on Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin, by recipients of federal financial assistance. There are almost no federal discrimination protections on the basis of low income, which the Environmental Justice (EJ) Executive Order addresses. There needs to be a statutory basis for EJ protections, which includes low income. ([Marc Brenman](#), The Evergreen State College, Olympia, Washington)

The Executive Order (E.O.) on EJ is a sham. The only thing the E.O. has produced is jobs for the people at these federal agencies tasked to create the illusion that they are working to achieve environmental justice. I have witnessed heartless and clueless representatives of federal agencies visit hardcore EJ communities and board their plane back to DC untouched, unmoved and, despite numerous attempts on our part, were never heard from again. I have witnessed good people at federal agencies that wanted to truly help. But, before they could do anything significant they were removed from their position, or lost their job. A friend of mine, who must remain anonymous, once told me, "Within the framework of the Executive Order on Environmental Justice, which is explicitly directed at Federal agencies, and to no one else, the environmental injustices arise not because there are EJ issues, but on the failure of the cognizant Federal agency to address the

problem." The only ones celebrating the 20th anniversary of the E.O. is the federal government for succeeding to put on the biggest fraud and sin against EJ communities everywhere. ([Suzie Canales](#), Executive Director, Citizens for Environmental Justice, Corpus Christi, TX)

Here in Oregon, our legislature passed a law requiring all natural resource agencies to include EJ in their official actions, and created the EJ Task Force to report on whether they do so. Without E.O. 12898, environmentalists do not recognize EJ. Without E.O. 12898, sustainability advocates do not include equity. There is a color line between environmentalism, sustainability and environmental justice—and the color of that line is not green. E.O. 12898 is an essential foundation for recognizing the single, unified nature of these struggles. I was the founding chair of the Oregon EJ Task Force. ([Robin Morris Collin](#), Norma J. Paulus Professor of Law and Director of the Certificate Program in Sustainability, Willamette University, Salem, OR)

The most immediate mission of the EJ movement is to dismantle the mechanisms by which capital and the state disproportionately displace ecological hazards onto poorer communities and people of color. One of the movement's most important accomplishments has been President Clinton's Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice. Despite bringing some substantial improvements to many communities, however, the Executive Order is primarily about "identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs, policies and activities on minority populations and low income populations" rather than eliminating the root causes of such ecological hazards. But the struggle for environmental justice is not just about distributing environmental risks equally but about preventing them from being produced in the first place so that no one is harmed at all. What is now needed for the 21st Century is a richer conception of environmental justice oriented toward a major transformation of the U.S. (and global)

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economy. Such a conception includes the phase-out of toxic chemicals and fossil fuels in favor of clean production and energy systems, efficient public transportation, affordable housing and vibrant communities, green jobs and full employment at a living wage, and more precautionary and sustainable approaches to environmental policy. In this sense, the Executive Order is a necessary ingredient but in-and-of-itself insufficient for achieving true environmental justice. The challenge confronting the EJ movement is to help forge a truly broad-based, multi-issue, multi-movement approach which emphasizes social and eco-justice for all Americans and people around the world...both present and future generations. ([Dr. Daniel Faber](#), Director, Northeastern Environmental Justice Research Collaborative, Northeastern University, Boston, MA)

After 20 years, environmental justice is a familiar phrase in the nation's capital, the fifty states and around the world.

Twenty years ago President Clinton authorized the federal government to address environmental justice in its programs and policies. President Obama renewed that authority when he came into office. While Clinton's Executive Order and Obama's reauthorization provide a framework for addressing environmental injustice, that framework has not resulted in concrete changes in environmental justice communities. Rather, it is the communities themselves working together as part of the environmental justice movement that have brought about the pollution reductions, clean green jobs, sustainable community plans, and environmental benefits that communities experience. The federal government has much more to do to catch up to the progress communities have made and to follow through on its commitment to environmental justice. ([Caroline Farrell](#), Executive Director, Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment, Delano, CA)

The Executive Order's longevity is a major landmark. After 20 years, environmental justice is a familiar phrase in the nation's capital, the fifty states and around the world. Community advocates achieved this milestone but their fight for it at home goes on. Now, we need legislation that fills the gaps and a Marshall Plan that ensures clean, healthy and prosperous neighborhoods for everyone. ([Deeohn Ferris, JD](#), President, Sustainable Community Development Group, Washington, DC)

The EJ movement has been the conscience of the environmental movement. The EJ movement has been about making a way when there has been no way. Through the unceasing activism of affected communities and stalwart supporters of these communities, E.O. 12898 has been utilized to move federal (and other) stakeholders to

It is my hope that President Obama will give new meaning to the Executive Order in his final years in office, by ordering its effective implementation in all federal departments.
¡Si Se Puede!

make EJ central to their decision-making. Much more work needs to be done by the other agencies in the Interagency Working Group (IWG) on EJ. Hopefully, this anniversary will spark a greater commitment by the other agencies in the IWG to comply with the E.O. 12898. Congratulations, on this anniversary, to all the EJ activists and supporters who have seriously struggled with making E.O. 12898 work within the agencies and for the affected communities. ([Leslie G. Fields](#), National Environmental Justice Director, Sierra Club, Washington, DC)

It has been twenty years since President Bill Clinton issued his executive order on environmental justice. The executive order itself reflected the growing strength of a movement centered among the poorest and most racially unequal communities in the nation. Regrettably, little has changed with regard to the practices of the federal government since the order was issued. Nevertheless, the environmental justice movement has achieved remarkable successes at the local and regional level—mobilizing hundreds of thousands of people to close coal-fired power plants, to stop oil refinery projects, to expand clean energy infrastructure, to expand green space, urban gardens, and sustainable agriculture, to safeguard and expand public transportation. Most importantly, they have enhanced U.S. democracy by creating spaces where those most affected by pollution, toxic emissions, and climate change impacts can have their voices heard in a meaningful way. This is the incredible foundation on which the environmental justice movement will continue in its efforts to protect the health of our children and our communities, to address the systemic inequality that continues to plague our country, and ultimately to save our planet. It is my hope that President Obama will give new meaning to the Executive Order in his final years in office, by ordering its effective implementation in all federal departments. Si Se Puede! ([Bill Gallegos](#), Executive Director, Communities for a Better Environment, Oakland, CA).

The President's Executive Order 12898 on environmental justice is greening Los Angeles. Federal agencies are not just talking about the EJ Executive Order, they are taking action. The National Park Service (NPS) recognizes there are unfair disparities in park access for people who are of color or low-income people, that these disparities hurt human health, and that park agencies need to promote equal access to parks and active living for all, citing the EJ Executive Order. NPS has published a strategic action plan, and a science plan, for Healthy Parks, Healthy People. NPS recommends new national recreation area lands in the San Gabriel Mountains and Valley to promote environmental justice and health. The Army Corps of Engineers proposes greening the Los Angeles River to promote environmental justice and health, citing the EJ Executive Order.

Andrew Cuomo, who was then Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, withheld federal funding for a proposed warehouse project in the heart of downtown Los Angeles unless there was full environmental review that considered the park alternative and the impact on people who were of color or low income. Secretary Cuomo cited the EJ Executive Order and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, acting in response to an administrative complaint filed by diverse allies. The site could have been warehouses. Instead, today it's the Los Angeles State Historic Park. Attorneys, activists, and agencies are working together for healthy green land use, equitable development, and planning by and for the community under the EJ Executive Order. Let's do it! ([Robert Garcia](#), Founding Director and Counsel, The City Project, Los Angeles, CA)

The EJ Executive Order helped focus agency and public attention on the incidence of race-based environmental inequality, and provided greater basis for redress of the most egregious cases of environmental racism. However, it is important to remember that capitalist economies are predicated on the distribution of social goods and bads by wealth. Just as housing, food, and higher education,

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environmental hazards and amenities are, and will continue to be, distributed by economic class. And as long as class remains correlated with race, environmental hazards will continue to be distributed disproportionately to people of color. The EJ Executive Order was an important milestone on what will be a very long road to environmental justice. ([Kenneth A. Gould, Ph.D.](#), Professor of Sociology, Brooklyn College-CUNY, Professor of Sociology and Earth and Environmental Sciences, CUNY Graduate Center, Brooklyn, NY)

We also realized that the road was long to get state and local authorities to embrace environmental justice and incorporate EJ considerations into their decision-making; in fact it has been a very long hard road.

In 1994, when President Bill Clinton signed Executive Order 12898 many of the grassroots activists felt 'environmental justice' (EJ) was finally being recognized and substantive actions would be taken to clean up communities and relieve suffering caused by environmental insults of various kinds. Every federal agency was mandated to craft a strategic plan to address environmental justice and we thought this was a huge move to finally bring comprehensive attention and action to communities all over the country. Reality was, some strides were made and some successes have been documented. But, we soon came to understand that having a 'plan' didn't necessarily guarantee action. We also realized that the road was long to get state and local authorities to embrace environmental justice and incorporate EJ considerations into their decision-making; in fact it has been a very long hard road. Executive Order 12898 paved the way for justice but didn't guarantee it. Undoing past wrongs, such as cleaning up dumpsites, changing siting habits, and changing lax rules and regulations to better protect communities, in many cases hasn't happened. Contamination at many Superfund sites has lingered for various reasons including lack of funding to address the problems, as well as in some cases authorities are still defending poor/bad decisions. Local folks and their communities have spent a huge amount of time and money fighting to prove their cases and justify their claims. Over the years, communities and individuals have filed Title 6 complaints only to have them shelved because of lack of political will and muscle; legal maneuvers were used in some cases to protect those (polluters) at fault. EJ is still being ignored and in some arenas only given lip service.

Environmental justice has been steered by the political tide over the tenure of the past three Presidents while many state and local authorities continue to dig their heels in even deeper to avoid adequately addressing EJ issues. Even though some states have so-called EJ staff, they have not worked to sufficiently alleviate suffering and bring about

As we look toward the future to address monumental environmental challenges like climate change, environmental justice activism must continue to reshape and connect the broader agendas of sustainability and social equity.

justice in struggling communities. We lost a great deal of momentum for EJ during the Bush Administration, which made the states bristle against effectively addressing EJ even more. During the Obama administration, we are trying to regain the momentum we once had, and try to move more aggressively to work on a backlog of EJ issues. However, even in the Obama administration the rise of the Tea Party is working to hinder EJ activities, block the strengthening of environmental laws, and strike against any efforts toward sustainability and/or environmental justice. Our efforts need to be re-doubled. ([Rita Harris](#), Sierra Club EJ Program, Memphis, TN)

The Executive Order on EJ was an historic act that helped to awaken the consciousness of our federal government to the long-standing suffering in low-income communities and communities of color across the country facing environmental racism and economic injustice. Unfortunately, twenty years later we still have communities across the country that are unnecessarily exposed to toxic pollution that threatens their health and quality of life. Many of these communities also lack basic environmental benefits too like a healthy home free of toxins, access to open spaces like parks, the availability of healthy foods, and safe and affordable public transportation. So on this anniversary, our collective struggle for justice continues and our voices grow louder and stronger. ([Al Huang](#), Senior Attorney and Director of Environmental Justice, Natural Resources Defense Council)

Even now 20 years after the signing of the Environmental justice Executive Order, communities in Louisiana's Cancer Alley are still fighting for justice and a safe future for their communities. ([Darryl Malek-Wiley](#), Sierra Club Environmental Justice & Community Partnership Program, New Orleans, LA)

As a relatively new EJ community activist and advocate, I am so impressed and grateful to those who have blazed the trail over the past twenty years – you've set

an awfully high standard for us new comers! As we all share in the joy of this well-deserved celebration, may we be committed to utilizing all of the accomplishments to inspire and empower our work in the days ahead. Special thanks to all of our courageous, hard-working, committed EJ pioneers! ([Margaret J. May](#), Executive Director, Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council, Kansas City, MO)

The President's 1994 Environmental Justice Executive Order is the high water mark in federal policy making regarding Environmental Justice in the U.S. It is also a testament to the rapid rise, potency, and enduring nature of the Environmental Justice movement. The Executive Order is indeed the culmination of the progression of potent and rapidly unfolding events. From the 1982 Warren County, North Carolina, protests, to the 1987 United Church of Christ report, *Toxic Wastes and Race in the United States*, to Robert Bullard's 1990 book, *Dumping in Dixie*, to the 1990 Michigan Conference, to the 1991 National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit that produced the *17 Principles of Environmental Justice*, to Bunyan Bryant and Paul Mohai's 1992 book, *Race and the Incidence of Environmental Hazards*, to the U.S. EPA's 1992 report, *Environmental Equity: Reducing Risks for All Communities*, to the 1994 Executive Order, a high water mark was achieved within a twelve-year span and has endured as the foundation of Environmental Justice Policy in America under three Presidential Administrations. ([Paul Mohai, Ph.D.](#), Professor, School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI)

The 20th Anniversary of the Executive Order highlights how profoundly the environmental justice movement has transformed the face of U.S. environmentalism. As we look toward the future to address monumental environmental challenges like climate change, environmental justice activism must continue to reshape and connect the broader agendas of sustainability and social equity. ([Rachel Morello-Frosch, Ph.D.](#), M.P.H., Professor, Director- Doctor of Public Health Program, Department of Environmental Science, Policy and

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Management & School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley, CA)

Hope Diminished, the Executive Order 12898 on environmental justice initially resonated among environmental justice organizations, People of Color, and low-income communities as a sign of hope and justice for communities over-burdened with environmental toxins and disproportionately impacted by polluters. Sadly, the E.O. pits low-income communities and people of color, with little to no resources against Corporate America—with the EPA taking a mediator position, in which case, the low-income communities and People Color are left to take on challenges beyond their immediate capacities, in terms of resources, technical support, scientific evidence, legal representation, and time. It is often a battle of divine hope and intervention from above that keeps the struggle a live. Lastly, I would like to suggest that the principles of environmental justice should include: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” Environmental justice communities deserve a level playing field for the insurmountable obstacles facing their daily lives. ([Juan Parras](#), Executive Director, Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services, Houston, Texas)

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act has special significance to environmental justice in that it prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in all programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance.

The issuance of the Executive Order in 1994 reflected the culmination of organizing, raising awareness, and breaking through to policymakers. But it really just set the stage for the next twenty years of work that has followed. Progress has been slow but steady - and our goals keep moving. In California, for example, EJ groups have certainly tackled disparate exposures to hazards and poor air but they have also moved the needle on such cutting edge issues as transit equity, access to parks, and the very nature of the state’s response to climate change. And it is the recipe that brought us the Executive Order in the first place - strong community organizing, a solid base of research, and a sophisticated ability to play the inside *and* outside games - that will allow the environmental justice movement to continue to meet the challenges ahead. ([Manuel Pastor](#), Professor, Sociology/American Studies & Ethnicity, Director, Program for Environmental and Regional Equity, Director, Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration, Los Angeles, CA)

President Clinton’s Executive Order on environmental justice was a handful of words that launched a thousand ships: federal and state agencies scrambled to figure out how to address it, polluters had a new

uncertainty in their forward planning, and communities of color had a new tool with which to seek to gain redress against exposure to hazards. And yet to this day the executive order's potential to bring environmental justice is still far from being realized. Twenty years on, it's time for government and society to rededicate themselves to achieving environmental justice, locally, nationally, and globally. ([J. Timmons Roberts](#), Ittleson Professor of Environmental Studies and Sociology Brown University, Providence, RI)

The many communities I serve are hoping to have the process result in strong policy guidance, standards and recommendations that can be enforced. Environmental justice communities are tired of being 'sacrifice zones' or 'kill zones' where the air, water and community are not protected. President Obama recognized this problem in his State of the Union and promised to do more to protect communities. ([Michele Roberts](#), Co-Coordinator, Environmental Justice & Health Alliance for Chemical Policy Reform, Washington, DC)

The Obama Executive Order on Environmental Justice reiterates the mandates of the first Clinton Executive Order and implies that environmental impacts and exposures on communities of color and low income are of critical concern. However, it represents a lost opportunity to have assessed the effectiveness of the prior order and to provide a stronger mandate for achieving, evaluating, and reporting progress by federal agencies on achieving environmental justice in the most vulnerable communities. It reveals a lack of vision for how those localities that bear a disparate burden of industrial pollution and our consumerism, can achieve the goal of healthy, sustainable, livable communities in which we live, work, play, pray and go to school. That goal is at the heart of our democracy and of the American Dream. ([Peggy M. Shepard](#) Executive Director, Co-Founder, WE ACT For Environmental Justice, New York, NY)

The signing of the Executive Order 12898 on environmental justice marked a moment in time when

the federal government signaled that social inequalities arising from environmental decision-making could no longer be ignored. The Executive Order was a triumph for activists who worked tirelessly to make their concerns about environmental impacts in their communities known and considered in the policy-making process. Despite limits on what can be achieved with an Executive Order, the EJ Executive Order fundamentally changed the way in which people thought about the environment in low-income and minority communities. ([Dorceta E. Taylor](#), University of Michigan, School of Natural Resources and Environment, Professor, Environmental Justice Field of Studies Coordinator, Ann Arbor, MI)

I can clearly remember that day in Washington, DC, when we finished the proposal to present to President Clinton. It all came down to the "Power of the Pen," after hours of drafting and redrafting the language, it all came down to the President when he placed his signature on Executive Order 12898. This was an historical moment captured in time that has helped changed the course of history in our fight for environmental justice through the "Power of the Pen." ([Rev. Charles N. Utley](#), Community Organizer and Campaign Coordinator, Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League/Hyde Park Improvement Committee, Augusta, GA)

It's hard to believe that the Environmental Justice Executive Order is reaching its 20th year. As a community that started organizing itself to protect its children from environmental exposures at a local school, we did know that what we were fighting for was environmental justice. The Executive Order and Principles allowed our community to build their vision for our community. This vision included shutting down the dirty coal power plants in Chicago, demanding the clean up of a Superfund site in our community and better public transit options. In 2012, we won the shutdown of the plants, building of a new park on the capped superfund site and implementation of a new bus line. While these campaigns were long it shows the power of organizing for environmentally

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just communities. ([Kimberly Wasserman](#), North American Goldman Prize Recipient, Community Trainer, Little Village Environmental Justice Organization, Chicago, IL)

As I reflect, it is significant to note that it has been twenty years since the signing of the environmental justice (EJ) Executive Order. Since that time, on the one hand, much has changed; and then on the other, nothing has changed. The Executive Order brought serious attention to the disproportionate exposure of minority and poor communities to environmental pollution. That order triggered a response from federal agencies, by charging them to include environmental justice as a part of their missions. In addition it created a mechanism for working together to address environmental justice issues through inter-agency working groups. The executive order raised the importance of protecting the environmental health of minorities and the poor to the highest level in our government—the office of the President.

Since that time, there has been an explosion within the research community, creating a huge body of literature and developing a unique field of study we have come to know as Environmental Justice; while turning the pursuit of its study and addressing its issues into the EJ Movement.

The EJ Executive Order made a tremendous contribution to this movement that we EJ leaders have painstakingly given birth to and nurtured over the years. I would characterize the order as the “Legitimizing” of the movement. Of course, there are those of us who were activists working with communities, researching, examining impacts and documenting the struggles of EJ communities around the globe. We demonstrated, advocated and actively engaged governments, always knowing that the EJ cause was a righteous one. Through it all, we recognized that convincing others to care about the cause would be one of the greatest, yet most worthwhile challenges of our careers.

The Executive Order made environmental justice a legitimate parameter within our government and resulted in the development of a structure and the creation of a process from within government to provide resources to agencies to address “disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low income populations.” It was the beginning of a means to an end; and over the

We demonstrated, advocated and actively engaged governments, always knowing that the EJ cause was a righteous one.

We successfully doubled the amount of open space, stopped the siting of power plants, made avenues pedestrian friendly, increased surface transit, retro-fitted diesel trucks, planted hundreds of trees, helped pass legislation addressing brownfields, solid waste and power plants, got our young people into college and graduate school and built an intergenerational movement committed to addressing climate change and community resiliency—the work continues.

course of time, the Executive Order has provided us with much needed fuel for the fires of change that have been ignited in the struggle for environmental justice. We still have a long way to go. ([Beverly Wright, Ph.D.](#), Executive Director, Dillard University, Deep South Center for Environmental Justice New Orleans, LA)

As a member of the NYC Environmental Justice Alliance, UPROSE benefits locally from the technical/policy expertise and organizing support of our citywide collective. In Sunset Park, Brooklyn, our EJ work began by organizing to stop the onslaught of environmental burdens hoisted onto the lungs of our loved ones, but during the journey we successfully doubled the amount of open space, stopped the siting of power plants, made avenues pedestrian friendly, increased surface transit, retro-fitted diesel trucks, planted hundreds of trees, helped pass legislation addressing brownfields, solid waste and power plants, got our young people into college and graduate school and built an intergenerational movement committed to addressing climate change and community resiliency—the work continues. ([Elizabeth C. Yeampierre](#), Executive Director, UPROSE, Brooklyn, NY)

A Twenty-Point Plan for Advancing Environmental Justice

A TWENTY-POINT PLAN FOR ADVANCING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

As the nation grows *smarter*, greener, and *sustainable*, we also need to become more just to address longstanding disparities and *inequalities*. There are no silver-bullet solutions to these challenges. Nevertheless, there are some concrete action steps that can be taken to build, strengthen and support the Environmental Justice Movement going forward.

Strategy 1: Support efforts of the larger Environmental Justice Movement and its member organizations to “re-invent” themselves, refine their message, and articulate a proactive vision. Environmental justice organizations, networks, and university-based centers and programs need to better articulate their broad and diverse scope of work that falls under the environmental justice umbrella. Reinvention alone is not enough as long as institutionalized racism remains ingrained in the fabric of American society. Unfortunately, the Environmental Justice Movement and individual environmental justice organizations in the 21st century must still combat artificial barriers that block opportunity.

Strategy 2: Assist organizations build economically vibrant and socially just communities with emphasis on health and well-being of families and children. Build networks, partnerships, and collaboratives that create trusting and nurturing relationships. Influence public policies that support safe, healthy, sustainable, and socially-just communities. Support launching initiatives to clean up and redevelop degraded and vacant land exemplified by the following: use economic incentives to attract clean technology businesses; support job training and retraining the workforce that develops and produces “green jobs” for clean technologies; use zoning ordinances and other land-use tools to ensure healthy housing, adequate green space, and access to healthy foods and quality health care; and support transportation equity that ensures efficient and health-enhancing transit, safe biking, and walking routes.

Strategy 3: Support programs and strategies that strengthen the capacity of organizations to analyze and solve place-focused problems at the national, regional, statewide, and local community level. Nongovernmental organizations need support to grow a movement and leaders that emphasize solution-oriented, place-based strategies and approaches such as “Sustainable Development

Zones,” “Green Impact Zones,” and “Health Impact Zones” to transform dying, redlined, and burdened neighborhoods into thriving centers of social connection, economic activity, and health-enhancing environments.

Strategy 4: Foster strong collaborations, alliances, and multigenerational networking. Assist with multi-generational, multidisciplinary, cross-issue collaboration, networking, and training opportunities for young people and emerging leaders who are transitioning to greater leadership roles. Broaden support for organizations that are in the process of leadership transition and expansion and collaborate with organizations to access organizational development consultants, researchers, scientists, educators, health professionals, and other experts with specialized training.

Strategy 5: Support youth and student work that intersects with a broad range of organizing areas across the broader environmental, health, and racial equity fields. Investing in youth and student organizing around environment, health, and racial equity provides an opportunity to connect youth leadership and young people to the broader goals of social change. Every successful social movement in the U.S. has had an active and informed youth and student component. Community-based organizations and university-based programs provide an important training ground for future leaders, technical experts, and professionals.

Strategy 6: Invest in work that intersects environmental health and reproductive health. Encourage multi-sector approaches that seek to change policies and practices designed to reduce toxic exposure and environmental degradation on women, children, and families. A number of groups are working on campaigns to regulate, disclose, and ultimately eliminate toxic ingredients in consumer products, including cosmetics, cleaning and household products, and toys/products for infants and children. Groups are also calling for the elimination of toxic chemicals from consumer goods

because of their long-term, cumulative impacts on human health and reproduction.

Strategy 7: Invest in long-term campaigns and programming to demonstrate improvement in health outcomes over time. A long-term commitment is necessary to change the conditions in underserved and environmentally-burdened communities. Support long-term campaigns, organizing, education/training, community-based participatory research, and policy infrastructure to enhance networking and collaborations among nongovernmental organizations within the Environmental Justice Movement and with other organization allies working on similar topics and initiatives.

Strategy 8: Broaden the base of foundations and government funding of environmental justice and health equity work that extends beyond funding silos. Environmental justice is integrative and holistic in its approach—encompassing a broad array of solution-driven protocols, including “anti-toxic” campaigns, pollution prevention, precautionary principle, chemical reform, green chemistry, green products, food security, green jobs, green economy, etc. Incentives are needed to promote investment in clean technologies and healthy products, including renewable and non-polluting energy, safer chemical and materials, organic and sustainable agriculture, and sustainable fish harvesting, by using revenues from taxes levied on especially damaging consumer products and technologies.

Strategy 9: Help local governments, particularly public health departments, build and prioritize healthy communities’ initiatives. Cities and counties must reorient their planning and operations, establish new methods of collaborating across sectors, and focus much more on prevention. Public health, medical, and social scientific research should continue to establish the link between health and community conditions, assess the effectiveness of existing policies, and help identify the priorities within and across communities.

A Twenty Point Plan for Advancing Environmental Justice

Strategy 10: Strengthen the collaborative work on climate justice, public health, and vulnerable communities. Climate justice looms as a major environmental justice issue. Investments are needed in the growing Climate Justice Movement since the most vulnerable populations will suffer the earliest and most damaging setbacks because of where they live, their limited income and economic means, and their lack of access to health care. Yet, low-income people and people of color contribute least to global warming. Unless appropriate actions are taken to mitigate its effects or adapt to them, climate change will worsen existing equity issues within the United States.

Strategy 11: Leverage public and private resources to support translations of environmental health and racial equity research. Information is power. Foster translation of research and technical reports and documents to highlight the link between community conditions and individual health and to provide insights about the effectiveness of different approaches. Getting community-friendly research materials in the hand of local leaders can sometimes make the difference between victory and a loss.

Strategy 12: Increase organization capacity and access to scientific data, policy analysis, and communications expertise. Support translation of on-the-ground experiences of communities working on an array of campaigns. Nongovernmental organizations that represent low-income communities and people of color need rigorous research and scientific data, economic analysis, and the ability to communicate their work to constituencies in larger policy arenas.

Strategy 13: Document and disseminate success stories. Environmental justice leaders have always subscribed to the principle of “people must speak for themselves” and telling their own stories. In order to be authentic, success stories need to be told through the voices of the individuals who produced the successes. Vulnerable and environmentally-burdened communities need to sense that change is possible in their lifetime. Stories about advocacy and policy change need to highlight how change can happen and the ways it can make a difference.

Strategy 14: Help frame proactive communications and media campaigns. Stories about environmental, health, and racial equity need to emphasize communities, organizations, and people overcoming challenges and creating change. They also need to highlight the

connection between health and protective factors in the social, physical, and economic environments. Media stories need to provide possibilities for replication.

Strategy 15: Maintain a focus on racial equity and eliminating environmental and health disparities. Apply a racial equity lens to grant making. Achieving racial equity remains a core tenet of the Environmental Justice Movement. Community advocates need to be involved in decision making about the specific environmental and health challenges confronting their communities, the approaches to address them, and broader societal issues, to ensure that new policies and practices are equitable and overcome previous barriers to full inclusion and participation.

Strategy 16: Help align formal and informal systems that support environmental justice, healthy communities, and racial equity and promote optimal health outcomes for vulnerable families and children. Build innovative education, training and learning partnerships between schools, families, grassroots groups, communities, government, and the business community that strengthen the conditions for healthy communities. Programs should be relevant to community needs, support community change agendas, designed to document and better understand local issues, and provide diverse stakeholders with information needed to bolster efforts seeking policy change.

Strategy 17: Support movement for toxic-free neighborhoods and healthy schools. Healthy people and healthy environments are related. Advocates are fighting to get access to affordable housing in toxic-free neighborhoods and healthy schools. They are working on strategies to address the root causes of environmental risks, eliminate racial and ethnic disparities within geographic areas, and increase public sector investments in prevention, and health promotion.

Strategy 18: Increase the percentage of grant dollars devoted to advocacy, community organizing, and civic engagement. Nongovernmental organizations need sustained resources to respond effectively to current challenges. As the nation grows smarter, greener, and sustainable, we also need to become more just to address longstanding disparities and inequalities. There are no silver-bullet solutions to these challenges. Nevertheless, there are some concrete action steps that can be taken to build, strengthen and support the Environmental Justice Movement going forward.

Strategy 19: Increase general operating support and multi-year grants. The vast majority of environmental justice and health equity work is cross-disciplinary, holistic, and in most instances fits into several categorical program areas. In general, organizations prefer multi-year, reliable core support to project support, where the strategic goals of the funder and the nonprofit organization are substantially aligned. Reliable, predictable, and flexible multi-year core support allows organizations to carry out their mission and respond to new challenges and opportunities.

Strategy 20: Invest in community-university partnerships (CUPs) that advance the new corporate environmental justice performance scorecard and related Health Impact Assessment tools that assess the potential human health risk of toxic emissions at industrial sites. The time is right for achieving the goal of clean and safe environments for all Americans. More CUPs are needed to support the health and racial equity goals of the Environmental Justice Movement. There is a need to use Health Impact Assessments (HIA) to minimize adverse health outcomes. More emphasis should be on planning for good health, rather than managing risks, prevention, and precaution.

Chapter 4

Environmental Justice Timeline and Milestones— 1964–2014

On February 11, 2014, dozens of environmental justice groups and coalitions from around the country held events commemorating the 20th anniversary of the [Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898](#). In addition to the Executive Order, 2014 also has special significance for racial justice and civil rights, including the 50th anniversary of the [Civil Rights Act of 1964](#) signed by [President Lyndon B. Johnson](#) on July 2, 1964. The Civil Rights Act is a centerpiece of the Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898. Moreover, [Title VI](#) of the Civil Rights Act has special significance to environmental justice in that it prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in all programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance. Title VI itself prohibits intentional discrimination. The Environmental Justice timeline in this report begins in 1964, timed with the passage of the Civil Rights Act.

1964

U.S. Congress passes the [Civil Rights Act, 1964](#). Title VI prohibits use of federal funds to discriminate based on race, color, and national origin.

1968

In April, [Martin Luther King, Jr. leads black Memphis sanitation workers in garbage strike](#). Dr. King was assassinated on April 4, 1968 before he could complete his environmental and economic justice mission in Memphis, Tennessee.

1969

[Cesar Chavez](#) and the United Farm Workers (UFW) declare National Grape Boycott Day.

[Ralph Abascal](#) of the California Rural Legal Assistance files suit on behalf of six migrant farm workers that ultimately resulted in ban of the pesticide [DDT](#) (dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane).

Congress passes the [National Environmental Policy Act \(NEPA\)](#).

1970

As far back as 1970, the United States Public Health Services (USPHS) acknowledged that [lead poisoning](#) was disproportionately impacting African Americans and Hispanic children.

1971

[Presidents' Council on Environmental Quality \(CEQ\) annual](#) report acknowledges racial discrimination adversely affects urban poor and quality of their environment.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act has special significance to environmental justice in that it prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in all programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance.

The EPA, U.S. Department of Justice, Department Of Defense and Olin Chemical Company settle \$25 million lawsuit with black residents in Triana, Alabama.

The tiny all-black community was contaminated with DDT from Redstone Arsenal Army base and was dubbed the “unhealthiest town in America.”

1978

Houston Northwood Manor subdivision residents protest the Whispering Pines Sanitary Landfill.

1979

Linda McKeever Bullard files Bean v. Southwestern Waste Management Corp lawsuit on behalf of Houston’s Northeast Community Action Group, the first civil rights suit challenging the siting of a waste facility.

Robert D. Bullard completes Houston Waste and Black Community Study for the Bean v. Southwestern Waste Management Corp lawsuit.

1980

Environmental Health Coalition is founded in San Diego, California.

1981

Environmental Health Coalition sponsors the first Toxic Substances Conference, featuring Dr. Sam Epstein, author of The Politics of Cancer.

1982

Warren County residents protest the siting of a polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) landfill in Warren County, North Carolina. It is also noteworthy that it was in Warren County that Dr. Benjamin Chavis coined the term “environmental racism”.

Hazel Johnson founds People for Community Recovery in Altgeld Gardens, a public housing development located on Chicago, Illinois’s Southside—making People for Community Recovery one of the first environmental justice organizations in the country.

Environmental Health Coalition (EHC) secures one of first community Right-to-Know laws in the nation.

1983

“Solid Waste Sites and the Houston Black Community” article published in the Sociological Inquiry, a quarterly journal of the International Sociology Honor Society.

U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) publishes Siting of Hazardous Landfills and Their Correlation with Racial and Economic Status of Surrounding Communities. The GAO report found that 3 out of 4 of the off-site commercial hazardous waste facilities in EPA Region IV are located in African American communities. However, African-Americans make up just one-fifth of the region’s population.

Urban Environment Conference’s Taking Back Our Health conference was held in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The EPA, U.S. Department of Justice, Department of Defense and Olin Chemical Company settle a \$25 million lawsuit with black residents in Triana, Alabama. The tiny all-black community was contaminated with DDT from Redstone Arsenal Army base and was dubbed the “unhealthiest town in America.”

1984

Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers (UFW) announce a new grape boycott focusing on pesticides.

1985

The Bean v. Southwestern Waste Management Corp case is removed from Judge Gabrielle McDonald, the only African-American judge in Texas, and assigned to Senior Federal District Judge John Singleton. The Bean case finally goes to trial and Judge Singleton rules in favor of the defendants.

1986

West Harlem Environmental Action’s (WE ACT) community organizing began in 1986 to combat the harmful impacts of the North River Sewage Treatment Plant on the people of the West Harlem community.

Environmental Health Coalition expands to address toxic pollution from Maquilado Industries by co-sponsoring the first International Environmental Conference in Tijuana, Mexico.

1964–2014 Environmental Justice Timeline and Milestones

1987

United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice issues the famous *Toxic Wastes and Race in the United States* report, the first national study to correlate waste facility siting and race.

Texas Southern University sociologist Robert D. Bullard publishes *Invisible Houston: The Black Experience in Boom and Bust* (Texas A&M University Press, 1987) that chronicles the social, economic, political, educational, land use and environmental quality of black Houston neighborhoods as the “dumping grounds.”

Environmental Health Coalition and Southeast San Diego neighborhood residents fight for emergency Superfund removal of cyanide waste.

1988

Revielletown buyout and relocation by Georgia Pacific (now Georgia Gulf).

Britain’s Black Environment Network was formed.

The Alston/Bannerman Fellowship Program began in 1988 to advance progressive social change by helping to sustain longtime activists of color. The program honors those who have devoted their lives to helping their communities organize for racial, social, economic and environmental justice. The program provides resources for organizers to take time out for reflection and renewal. Fellows receive a \$25,000 award to take sabbaticals of three months or more. Since 1988, there have been 181 Fellows. They worked on a broad range of issues from environmental justice to fair wages, immigrant rights to native sovereignty, and political empowerment to economic revitalization. They are from 32 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Guam.

Latino grassroots group Mothers of East L.A. (MELA) defeats the construction of a huge toxic waste incinerator in their community.

In Dilkon, Arizona, a small group of Navajo community activists spearhead a successful effort to block siting of a \$40 million toxic waste incinerator.

The Great Louisiana Toxics March led by the Gulf Coast Tenants and communities in “Cancer Alley” (corridor between Baton Rouge and New Orleans). The march brought public attention to their toxic living conditions in Louisiana’s “Cancer Alley” — the 85-mile stretch from Baton Rouge to New Orleans.

The Alston/Bannerman Fellowship Program began in 1988 to advance progressive social change by helping to sustain longtime activists of color. The program honors those who have devoted their lives to helping their communities organize for racial, social, economic and environmental justice.

1989

Morrisonville, Louisiana relocation (Dow Chemical Company buyout).

Paul Mohai and Bunyan Bryant are appointed Faculty Investigators of the University of Michigan's 1990 Detroit Area Study and begin the first comprehensive examination of environmental inequity in the Detroit metropolitan area.

In 1989, Indigenous communities, organizations, traditional societies and tribal nations begin meeting together on environmental and natural resource extraction issues. This led to national meetings in 1990 on the Diné (Navajo) territory and in 1991, near the sacred Bear Butte in South Dakota that ultimately formed the Indigenous Environmental Network, as a grassroots-lead Indigenous voice in regional, national and international forums on environmental and economic justice issues.

Presidential Commission on the Outdoors holds a conference focusing on People of Color and the Environment. The conference, organized by the Conservation Leadership Project, is held in Seattle, Washington, in August.

1990

Clean Air Act passed by U.S. Congress.

Under the leadership of Bunyan Bryant and Paul Mohai, the Race and the Incidence of Environmental Hazards Conference brought together academics and activists. The Michigan Coalition (an ad hoc group formed during the conference) wrote letters and met with William Reilly (EPA) and Michael Deland (CEQ).

The Bush EPA administrator William Reilly established the Environmental Equity Work Group.

Robert D. Bullard publishes Dumping in Dixie, the first textbook on environmental justice.

The Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice (SNEEJ) was established.

First of four meetings on Environmental Justice was held between grassroots leaders and EPA Administrator Riley.

In January 1990, nine activists of color wrote a letter to the "Group of 10" national environmental organizations calling on them to dialogue with activists of color on the environmental crisis impacting communities of color and to hire people of color on their staffs and boards of directors.

In early April 1990, the Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP) convened over 80 representatives from 32 organizations working on environmental and economic justice issues in the southwest. From these efforts, the Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN) was established.

A second letter was sent to the Big 10, this time signed by 103 activists of color representing grassroots, labor, youth, church, civil rights advocates, social justice and coalitions in the Southwest. The letter challenged and reinforced the first letter challenging mainstream environmentalists on issues of environmental racism and lack of accountability towards Third World Communities in the Southwest.

The *Proceedings of the Michigan Conference on Race and the Incidence of Environmental Hazards* are published in September 1990 and delivered to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Paul Mohai publishes "Black Environmentalism" in the journal *Social Science Quarterly*, the first national level study to dispel the myth that African Americans are less concerned about the environment than white Americans.

Environmental Health Coalition releases the first comprehensive toxics report, *Communities at Risk: Your Right to Know about Toxics in San Diego*. The report ranks communities by toxic hazards and gives total amount of waste generated by local industries. San Diego environmental justice communities are identified.

1964–2014 Environmental Justice Timeline and Milestones

1991

In October, the [First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit](#) was held in Washington, DC, attracting over 1,000 participants. The [Seventeen Principles of Environmental Justice](#) were developed at the four-day summit.

In October, People Organized in Defense of Earth and her Resources (PODER) actively participates in the first People of Color Summit which adopted the principles of environmental justice in Washington, DC. This Summit led to President William Clinton's signing of [Executive Order 12898](#), "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations" on February 11, 1994.

December 30, [El Pueblo para el Aire y Agua Limpio v. County of Kings](#), judge rules that the permit process for toxic waste incinerator was flawed because failure to translate documents into Spanish meant that the affected public was not "meaningfully involved" in the environmental review, in case brought by Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment.

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry convenes the [National Minority Environmental Health Conference](#) in Atlanta, Georgia.

United Nations Commission on Human Rights Working Group on Indigenous Populations, 1991-2002.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Accountability Campaign was initiated by [SNEEJ](#), their grassroots members, and joined by other networks and their grassroots affiliates to ensure equitable treatment of communities of color by the EPA.

The Southern Organizing Committee (SOC) for Economic and Social Justice held its 1992 post-summit.

["Dumping in Dixie"](#) receives National Wildlife Federation Conservation Achievement Award for Science.

[Environmental Health Coalition](#) proposes Toxic-Free Neighborhoods "buffer zone" ordinance to the San Diego City Council.

In October, PODER actively participates in the first People of Color Summit which adopted the Principles of Environmental Justice in Washington, DC. This Summit led to President William Clinton's signing of Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations" on February 11, 1994.

Governmental Accountability Campaign persuades the U.S. EPA and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to clean up waste sites and support sustainable economic development efforts, enforce laws and regulation in communities.

1992

First edition of the *People of Color Environmental Groups Directory* published by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.

The “[Environmental Justice Act of 1992](#)” was introduced into Congress by Congressman John Lewis (D-GA) and Senator Albert Gore (D-TN).

[First Title VI administrative complaint filed with U.S. EPA](#), by St. Francis Prayer Center in Flint, Michigan, against Genesee Power. This complaint was lost by EPA and not found, and accepted for investigation, until 1994 (it is still under review).

The [Deep South Center for Environmental Justice](#) was founded at Xavier University of Louisiana (later moved to Dillard University 2005) in New Orleans.

Bunyan Bryant and Paul Mohai published the book, [Race and the Incidence of Environmental Hazards: A Time for Discourse](#) (Westview Press, 1992), containing the papers presented at the 1990 Michigan Conference and the first systematic review of the empirical evidence pertaining to racial disparities in the distribution of environmental hazards.

Governmental Accountability Campaign persuades the U.S. EPA and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to clean up waste sites and support sustainable economic development efforts, enforce laws and regulation in communities.

Environmental justice delegation participates in the [United Nations Conference on Environment & Development \(UNSED\)](#) or [Earth Summit](#), Rio de Janeiro.

[National Law Journal](#) publishes a special issue on [Unequal Environmental Protection](#) that chronicles the double standards and differential treatment of people of color and whites.

Discussions started on establishing a Northeast Environmental Justice Network.

EPA releases [Environmental Equity: Reducing Risk for All Communities](#), one of the first comprehensive government reports to examine environmental justice.

The Environmental Justice and Labor Conference, follow-up to the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit and spearheaded by SOC, was held at Xavier University in New Orleans with over 2,000 persons in attendance.

The EPA, ATSDR, and National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences jointly sponsor the “[Equity in Environmental Health: Research Issues and Needs](#)” Workshop in Research Triangle Park, NC; papers from the workshop were later published in a 1993 special issue of *Toxicology and Industrial Health* journal.

The [EPA Journal](#) devotes its entire Volume 18, No. 1 (March/April) issue to environmental justice.

[WE ACT](#), with the assistance of [National Resource Defense Council \(NRDC\)](#) and the law firm of [Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison](#), sued the City of New York for operating the North River plant as a public nuisance to the people of the West Harlem Community. [WEACT](#) settled its lawsuit with the City of New York and was awarded a \$1 million dollar settlement and the City of New York agreed to set aside \$55 million dollars in capitol funds to repair the air pollution and engineering design problems at the North River Waste Water Treatment facility.

Two environmental justice leaders, [Rev. Benjamin Chavis](#) and [Robert D. Bullard](#), appointed to the [Clinton-Gore Presidential Transition Team](#) in the Natural Resources Cluster (EPA, Department of Energy, Agriculture, and Interior).

[Deeohn Ferris](#) coordinates national campaign for drafting of the “Environmental Justice Position Paper” for submission to the Clinton-Gore Transition Team.

1964–2014 Environmental Justice Timeline and Milestones

Rigoberta Menchú Tum wins the Nobel Peace Prize. Rigoberta Menchú Tum is a (Quiche) Mayan Indian from Guatemala who fought for indigenous and women's rights, ethnocultural reconciliation, and land reform in her country.

EPA publishes *Tribes at Risk: The Wisconsin Comparative Risk Project*, which documents that the Ojibwe and other Native nations in northern Wisconsin suffer a disproportionate environmental risk of illness and other health problems from eating fish, deer and other wildlife contaminated with industrial pollutants like airborne polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), mercury and other toxins deposited on land and water.

The World Uranium Hearing is convened in Salzburg, Austria. At this historic gathering indigenous people from all continents gave testimony about the daily deadly impact of uranium mining, atomic weapons testing and radioactive waste storage. The proceedings are published as *Poison Fire, Sacred Earth*.

The Office of Environmental Equity is established in November. The name was changed to the Office of Environmental Justice in 1994.

Environmental Health Coalition and community residents win revocation of permit to operate Chem Waste's toxic waste incinerator in Tijuana.

1993

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality creates an Environmental Equity Program.

The Environmental Justice Act was redrafted and reintroduced in 1993 by Congressman Lewis (D-GA) and Senator Max Baucus (D-MT).

Virginia begins addressing environmental justice through the Joint Legislative Audit Review Commission.

Arkansas passes the Environmental Equity Act, which addresses environmental justice issues in the siting of solid waste disposal facilities.

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection develops an Environmental Equity Policy.

Rigoberta Menchú Tum wins the Nobel Peace Prize. Rigoberta Menchú Tum is a (Quiche) Mayan Indian from Guatemala who fought for indigenous and women's rights, ethnocultural reconciliation, and land reform in her country.

The Farmworker Network for Economic and Environmental Justice (FNEEJ) was formed to support the struggle of more than 50,000 workers in nine independent farmworker organizations.

SOC worked with Communities at Risk and coordinated participation of Region IV Task Force Members to a Superfund Reauthorization Roundtable.

EPA established the 25-member [National Environmental Justice Advisory Council](#) (NEJAC).

Local community leaders and their allies defeated the [Formosa Plastics Plant from locating in Wallace, Louisiana](#).

The first two EPA Title VI (Civil Rights Act) administrative complaints were filed against the MS Department of Environmental Quality and LA Department of Environmental Quality. Other network members follow and file administrative Title VI complaints against state agencies and the EPA.

The *Second Race and the Incidence of Environmental Hazards Conference* held at the School of Natural Resources, University of Michigan.

[UN Commission on Sustainable Development](#), 1993-2002.

[Asian Pacific Environmental Network \(APEN\)](#) forms in 1993 to inject an Asian Pacific Islander (API) perspective into the environmental justice movement and to build an environmental justice framework and principles into work in API communities.

[West Harlem Environmental Action \(WE ACT\)](#) leads fight over the North River Sewage Treatment Plant drawing in activists across 12 northeastern states. This initial gathering catalyzes the formation of a multi-state regional network: the Northeast Environmental Justice Network (NEJN).

The [Farmworker Network for Economic and Environmental Justice \(FNEEJ\)](#) was formed to support the struggle of more than 50,000 workers in nine independent farmworker organizations.

First wave of Title VI administrative complaints filed with EPA, by Tulane Environmental Law Clinic and Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund in New Orleans, on behalf of groups in Louisiana and Mississippi. More than 100 such complaints have since been filed.

Ken Sexton and Yolanda Banks Anderson serve as guest editors of *Toxicology and Industrial Health* Special issue on “Equity in Environmental Health: Research Issues and Needs,” volume 9, number 5 (September/October).

The “Toxic Racism” documentary produced for WGBH Boston airs on PBS.

Predominantly Latino residents of Kettleman City, California, succeed in preventing siting of a toxic waste facility in their community.

[Environmental justice courses approved at the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment](#)—setting the stage for the schools’ Environmental Justice Program—the nation’s first and only academic program to offer bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees in environmental justice.

[Stella M. Capek](#) publishes “The Environmental Justice Frame: A Conceptual Discussion and an Application,” *Social Problems*, Volume 40, No.1, pp.5-24.

The [Toxic “Tank Farm” \(fuel storage facilities\) was closed](#) as a result of health risk to area residents. For more than 35 years, residents living near the tank farm had been exposed to many toxic chemicals and were physically ill. PODER and East Austin Strategy Team (EAST) began holding community meetings and informing residents about the release of chemicals in the air, water, and soil. PODER and EAST challenged Mobil’s oil permit, which led to the relocation of six of the largest multinational multibillion dollar corporations (Exxon, Citgo, Chevron, Mobil, Texas, and Gulf Coastal States) from the East Austin community.

1964–2014 Environmental Justice Timeline and Milestones

1994

The [Environmental Justice Resource Center at Clark Atlanta University](#) was formed in Atlanta, Georgia.

Environmental Justice Resource Center publishes 2nd edition of the *People of Color Environmental Groups Directory* that lists over 600 groups in the U.S., Puerto Rico, Canada, and Mexico.

The Environmental Law and Justice Center was formed at [Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law](#) in Houston, Texas.

The Washington Office on Environmental Justice (WOEJ) opens in Washington, DC.

Environmental justice delegates participate in the International Conference on Population & Development, Cairo, Egypt.

Environmental justice leaders meet with [Dr. Kenneth Olden, director of the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences \(NIEHS\)](#), to begin dialogue.

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services incorporates an environmental equity policy and implementation strategy into its agenda.

In February, [NIEHS](#), along with six other federal agencies, hold the “Symposium on Health and Health Research Needs to Ensure Environmental Justice,” Washington, DC.

In February, President Bill Clinton issues [Executive Order 12898, “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations.”](#)

[Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice](#) established.

[United Church of Christ](#) issues *Toxic Waste Revisited*. The updated report strengthens the association between race and siting of waste facilities.

Women of Color Environmental Justice Conference takes place at the University of Michigan in March.

University of Massachusetts issues a study, funded by Waste Management, Inc., challenging siting demographics. This study triggers the first wave of attacks on environmental justice.

University of Massachusetts issues a study, funded by Waste Management, Inc., challenging siting demographics. This study triggers the first wave of attacks on environmental justice.

The Environmental Justice Fund was founded by six networks to promote the creation of alternative funding strategies to support the grassroots EJ organizing.

The Title IV lawsuit *Labor/Community Strategy Center, Bus Riders Union, et al. v. Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA)* was filed. The lawsuit charged that the MTA operated separate and unequal bus and rail systems that discriminated against the poor minority bus riders of Los Angeles.

The Playas de Tijuana community after a great deal of organizing was able to defeat the waste management incinerator, with help from the organization *El Pueblo y Agua Limpia* from Kettleman City, California, Environmental Health Coalition and SNEEJ.

The Mole Lake Sokaogon Chippewa became the first Wisconsin tribe granted independent authority under the federal Clean Water Act by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to regulate water quality on their reservation. Tribal regulatory authority would affect all upstream industrial and municipal facilities, including Exxon's proposed Crandon mine. The state of Wisconsin immediately files suit against the EPA in federal court, demanding that the federal government reverse its decision to let Indian tribes establish their own water quality standards.

The U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) publishes report to Congressional Requestors, Superfund Sites, Cost, and Timeliness of Hazardous Waste Site Cleanups.

The Environmental Health Coalition, SNEEJ, and Comité Ciudadano Pro-Restauración del Cañón del Padre file a petition to the EPA to clean up the New River; the EPA issues subpoenas to U.S.-owned maquiladoras, twin plants that operate on the U.S.-Mexico border.

1995

In January, the First Interagency Public Hearing on Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898 was held at Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia.

The Environmental Justice Resource Center holds the Environmental Justice and Transportation: Building Model Partnerships Conference at Clark Atlanta University.

Diné Community Action for Renewed Environment (CARE) was the first native community group to get the Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs to produce an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and a ten-year Forest Management Plan (FMP) for a federally recognized tribe (Navajo Nation). Before this, EISs were produced by Peabody Coal Company and other corporations rubberstamping EISs on Indian lands.

Environmental justice delegates participate in the 4th World Conference on Women, Beijing 1995.

UN Convention on Biological Diversity, 1995–2002.

Laotian Organizing Project (LOA) started as APEN's first organizing project in Richmond, CA, to organize the Laotian refugee community as a new voice in the EJ movement. LOP also forms Asian Youth Advocates (AYA) as a youth leadership development and organizing arm for high-school aged Laotian young women. AYA's formation marks APEN's push to include a gender, race and class framework into the EJ movement while committing to the development of a generation of new leaders.

The Environmental Justice Fund was founded by six networks to promote the creation of alternative funding strategies to support the grassroots EJ organizing. The six networks include: Asian Pacific Environmental Network, Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice, Indigenous Environmental Network, Farmworker Network for Economic and Environmental Justice, Southern Organizing Committee for Economic and Social Justice, and the Northeast Environmental Justice Network.

Region IV Environmental Justice Task Force supports Communities at Risk Platform for Superfund Reauthorization.

The Georgia House of Representatives 1995/1996 session enacts the HB-204 Environmental Justice Act of 1995.

NIEHS establishes the Minority Worker Training Program in September 1995 to provide a series of national pilot programs to test a range of strategies for the recruitment

1964–2014 Environmental Justice Timeline and Milestones

and training of young persons who live near hazardous waste sites or in communities that are at risk of exposure to contaminated properties with the specific focus to obtain work in the environmental field.

The GAO publishes *Hazardous and Non-Hazardous Waste: Demographics of People Living Near Waste Facilities (1995)*.

As part of the Good Neighbor Campaign, PODER works to persuade Congress to earmark 10% of SEMATECH's \$100 million taxpayer subsidized budget for an environmentally sustainable manufacturing process.

PODER initiates Summer Youth Leadership Development Program and its *Young Scholars for Justice*. This project is dedicated to the development of youth and young adults of color to address education, environmental, economic, and social justice issues affecting them and ensure gender, racial and resource equity.

San Diego-based Environmental Health Coalition wins first cleanup standards protective of human health and the environment for contamination in San Diego Bay.

1996

Washington Office on Environmental Justice facilitates environmental justice leaders' participation in the *United Nations Conference on Human Settlements*, Habitat II, Istanbul, Turkey.

The Environmental Justice Resource Center and CAU-TV co-produce the "*Just Transportation*" documentary.

Indigenous Anti-Nuclear Summit 1996, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Under sponsorship of the Seventh Generation Fund, with IEN and affiliate support, brought together a network of Indigenous peoples from North America and the Pacific negatively affected by the nuclear chain. A declaration was developed that established the mandate of work on nuclear issues.

In July, a ten-person *environmental delegation visits South Africa* and meets with diverse community, labor, health, youth, and other leaders who were struggling to throw off the shackles of apartheid.

Jean Sindab, an environmental justice trailblazer with the National Council of Churches, expires.

Indigenous Anti-Nuclear Summit 1996, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Under sponsorship of the Seventh Generation Fund, with IEN and affiliate support, brought together a network of Indigenous peoples from North America and the Pacific negatively affected by the nuclear chain. A declaration was developed that established the mandate of work on nuclear issues.

EPA Superfund Relocation Roundtable Meeting, Pensacola, Florida. Because of the hard work of Margaret Williams and local grassroots leaders, EPA decided to relocate the entire community of 358 African American and or low-income households living next to the Escambia Wood Treatment Plant in Pensacola, Florida.

People of Color & Disenfranchised Communities Environmental Health Network established. The network addresses the Department of Energy and Department of Defense federal facilities. Due to the network's work, EPA formed the Federal Facilities Work Group in December.

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) conducts the Community Tribal Forum.

Environmental Justice Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Round Table, Texas, sponsored by the NEJAC Enforcement Committee and Region IX.

The African American Environmental Justice Action Network (AAEJAN) was established.

Institute of Medicine started the Toxic Tour of "Cancer Alley" as part of its fact-finding mission and preparation for its report on health and environmental justice.

PODER forces the city of Austin to relocate Browning-Ferris Industries (BFI) recycling plant located in the Latino community. The community was impacted daily with industrial traffic, noise, rodents, and trash. BFI, a multinational waste management company, was contracted by the city of Austin to collect recyclables such as plastics, glass, cans, and newspapers of more than 350,000 households.

1997

Earth Summit II held in New York.

Ingram barge spill of Toluene and Benzene at Southern University site in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Environmental justice provisions are added to Louisiana's statutes.

The Just Transition Alliance is founded in 1997 as a coalition of environmental justice and labor organizations.

The Environmental Justice Resource Center's Healthy and Sustainable Communities Conference brought EJ leaders from across the country to explore sustainable development strategies.

Community Tribal Advisory Board for ATSDR Board of Scientific Counselors was established and network members were appointed to this board.

African-American farmers bring a lawsuit against the USDA charging it with discrimination in denying them access to loans and subsidies.

The Just Transportation: Dismantling Race and Class Barriers to Mobility (edited by Robert D. Bullard and Glenn S. Johnson) is published. The book chronicles transportation racism cases across the United States.

Chattanooga Make the Link: Health and Environmental Justice major meeting.

President Clinton issues Executive Order 13045: Protection of Children from Environmental Health and Safety Risks.

Waste Management Division of Region IV US EPA and SOC hold Environmental Justice Summit.

Second Environmental Justice Enforcement Round Table sponsored by the NEJAC Enforcement Committee and Region IV Environmental Accountability Office.

EPA establishes the National Advisory Council on Policy and Technology (NACEPT), Title VI Implementation, to examine facility permitting.

Citizens Against Nuclear Trash (CANT) and residents in Homer win a major victory over Louisiana Energy Services (LES) on Earth Day. LES nuclear decision by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission was based largely on Robert D. Bullard's exhaustive written testimony.

1964–2014 Environmental Justice Timeline and Milestones

Environmental Justice Action Group organized a regional environmental justice conference in Portland, Oregon, in October. The conference, attended by about 150 people, explored the formation of a Pacific Northwest environmental justice alliance.

Tennessee Legislature passes a resolution for Superfund sites, due to the work of the Defense Depot Memphis Tennessee Concerned Citizens Committee. The resolution requires posting of warning signs at all Superfund sites.

The community of El Florido in Baja California, Mexico, won a victory with the cleanup of the 60,000 metric tons of lead waste from the Alco Pacifico Lead Smelter Site. This company had abandoned a major Superfund site complex in West Dallas, Texas. Organization from West Dallas also played a crucial role, along with Environmental Health Coalition and SNEEJ.

Maryland enacts House Bill 1350, establishing the Maryland Advisory Council Environmental Justice (MACEJH).

In August, Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber issues Executive Order 97-16 creating the Governor's Environmental Justice Advisory Board.

CEQ publishes Environmental Justice Guidance Under the National Environmental Policy Act (December 1997).

PODER convinces the City Council to approve the East Austin Overlay Ordinance, which tightens restrictions on the types of industries allowed to move or expand into East Austin area neighborhoods and requires notifications of all proposed projects.

1998

EPA issues Interim Guidance for Investigating Title VI Administrative Complaints Challenging Permits.

United Church of Christ Commission on Racial Justice convenes an array of grassroots environmental justice, civil rights, faith-based, legal, and academic centers leaders on the Shintech Title V permit application planned for Convent, Louisiana and publishes From Plantations to Plants: Report of the Emergency National Commission on Environmental and Economic Justice in St. James Parish, Louisiana (September 15, 1998).

The community of El Florido in Baja California, Mexico, won a victory with the cleanup of the 60,000 metric tons of lead waste from the Alco Pacifico Lead Smelter Site. This company had abandoned a major Superfund site complex in West Dallas, Texas.

After fierce public opposition and mounting political pressure, Japanese-owned Shintech suspends its effort to build a PVC plant in Convent, Louisiana.

After fierce public opposition and mounting political pressure, Japanese-owned [Shintech](#) suspends its effort to build a PVC plant in Convent, Louisiana.

The Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU), the nation's oldest and largest independent black labor organization, initiated its [Community Action and Response Against Toxics \(CARAT\) Team Program](#) in an effort to address the fact that low-income and minority communities are more likely than other communities to suffer from exposure to poor quality air, polluted water sources and toxic hazards.

UN Environmental Programme Negotiating Sessions on Elimination of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) 1998-2001.

[UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.](#)

The First [International Agricultural Worker Forum was held in 1998](#). The purpose of the Forum was to create a space for workers to present their problems and encourage leadership development through future training programs. Over 60 delegates attended.

IEN facilitated for the participation of Native grassroots, tribal traditional leadership and elders in the Native Peoples/Native Homelands Climate Change Workshop held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This led to the development of the "[Albuquerque Declaration](#)" that was sent to the UN Fourth Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. From this point on, IEN has participated in climate change meetings from the local, regional, national and international level.

[EPA denies the Title VI Select Steel complaint](#), its first administrative decision under Title VI.

"Justice for All: Racial Equity and Environmental Wellbeing" conference attended by several hundred participants held at the University of Colorado - Boulder (September). This conference focused on diversity in the environmental institutions as well as access to open space for people of color and the poor.

[The North Carolina Environmental Justice Network \(NCEJ\)](#) grew out of the 1st Annual NC Environmental Justice Summit held in 1998 at the Historical Franklinton Center at Bricks.

Florida Legislature passes the 1998 Environmental Equity and Justice Act.

The [Environmental Justice and Equity Institute](#) is created at Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, Florida.

The U.S. Supreme Court dismisses the [Chester, Pennsylvania case](#) because Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) revoked the permit at issue.

More than a dozen bishops and church leaders in the Council of Black Churches participate in "[Toxic Tour of Cancer Alley](#)." The church leaders on the tour represent over 17 million African Americans.

The [Wisconsin Mining Moratorium Law](#) is passed by the legislature after a major grassroots lobbying campaign by Indian Tribes, environmental and sport fishing groups. The law prohibits the state from issuing a permit for metallic sulfide mining unless an applicant can provide at least one example from the United States or Canada where a metallic sulfide mine has operated for ten years without pollution and been closed for ten years without pollution.

Louisiana Governor M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr., issues an executive order to address environmental justice in the parishes bordering "Cancer Alley".

The [Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice](#) is founded in 1998 by a former director of the Hartford Health Department, Mark A. Mitchell, MD, MPH, as a result of his concerns about the need for community action to fight the increase in environmentally related diseases in communities of color. It established chapters in Hartford, New Haven, and Bridgeport, Connecticut.

1964–2014 Environmental Justice Timeline and Milestones

As a member of Surface Transportation Policy Project for more than ten years, PODER worked with other groups which were instrumental in having President Clinton sign [TEA-21](#) (Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century).

1999

UN [Intergovernmental Forum on Forests \(IFF\)](#) Experts' meeting in Costa Rica.

National Emergency Meeting of Blacks in the United States, New Orleans, LA. Groups came from 37 states. This and subsequent meetings laid the foundation for the creation of the [National Black Environmental Justice Network \(NBEJN\)](#).

[IEN](#) established a Native POPs campaign office in Alaska in partnership with [Alaska Community Action on Toxics \(ACAT\)](#).

The [Black farmers' discrimination case](#) against the U.S.D.A. settles for a reported \$400 million to more than \$2 billion.

[Asian Youth Advocates \(AYA\)](#) wins a campaign victory at Richmond High School in Richmond, CA, that increases advisory and guidance services to students. AYA broadens the notion of environmental justice to recognize school environments as a key arena for youth.

[Third Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization \(WTO\)](#), Seattle, Washington, 1999 (SNEEJ, Southwest Workers Union (SWU), IEN, International Indian Treaty Council (IITC)).

Congressional Black Caucus Chair James Clyburn (D-SC) convenes "[Environmental Justice: Strengthening the Bridge Between Economic Development and Sustainable Communities](#)" at Hilton Head, SC.

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) publishes [Toward Environmental Justice: Research, Education and Health Policy Needs](#) (National Academy Press).

[Dana Alston](#), a heroine of the Environmental Justice Movement, best known for her famous speech at the 1991 First People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit, and *We Speak for Ourselves* booklet, expires.

U.S. Representative [Hilda Solis](#), then a senator in the California legislature, introduces landmark environmental justice legislation in California establishing a working definition and requiring the California EPA to

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Dursban – the most dangerous and widely used insecticide in the country – is taken off the market for indoor use thanks to a concerted national advocacy campaign focused on protecting children’s health.

develop a mission, policy and guidance on environmental justice.

“[America’s Parks, America’s People: A Mosaic in Motion](#)” conference held in San Francisco in January. Hundreds of activists and government representatives attended this conference (Mosaic I) which focused on diversity and access to open space for people of color and the poor.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality sponsors an Environmental Justice Working Group and issues a report setting out four recommendations.

The Florida state legislature creates the [Community Environmental Health Program](#).

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency adopts an environmental justice policy.

The [Little Village Environmental Justice Organization](#) (LVEJO) hosts a community Bucket Brigade Training.

2000

[Dursban](#) – the most dangerous and widely used insecticide in the country – is taken off the market for indoor use thanks to a concerted national advocacy campaign focused on protecting children’s health.

[Environmental Justice Resource Center](#) publishes [3rd edition of the People of Color Environmental Groups Directory](#) that lists over 1,000 environmental justice groups in the U.S., Puerto Rico, Canada, and Mexico.

Special issue of *American Behavioral Scientist* titled *Advances in Environmental Justice: Research, Theory and Methodology*. Vol. 43 (4, January). Edited by [Dorceta E. Taylor](#).

[Diné CARE](#) spearheads a national organizing effort with a multi-racial and multi-state coalition to amend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) legislation.

Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN) developed a training partnership with Project Underground, to hire

and train a Native mining campaigner to address mining issues. This launched the Indigenous Mining Campaign Project, as a response to address unsustainable mining and oil development in Native lands.

[Executive Order No. 26](#), the Alabama Commission on Environmental Initiatives is created.

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation completes a draft of an environmental justice plan.

Hundreds of environmental justice leaders participate in the [Climate Justice Summit](#) in The Hague, Netherlands.

The December 2000 Listening Session initiated by the Congressional Black Caucus’ National Commission on Environmental Justice Policy reflected the Network’s increasing ability to mobilize grassroots participation; the National Black Environmental Justice Network (NBEJN) coordinated development of a statement, testified and submitted formal comments to the Commission.

The North Carolina General Assembly released \$7 million in appropriations to begin the [detoxification of the Warren County PCB Landfill](#).

Macon County Citizens for a Clean Environment successfully wage a major fight to stop the siting of a mega landfill near historic Tuskegee University campus.

[The National Black Environmental Justice Network \(NBEJN\)](#) holds [National Press Conference](#) on “End Toxic Terror in Black Communities,” in Washington, DC.

[NBEJN coordinates Congressional Black Caucus Hearing](#) on environmental justice, in Washington, DC.

The [Fort Ord Environmental Justice Network](#) hosted first EJ Forum in Monterey County, California at California State University Monterey Bay.

The Florida Brownfield Redevelopment Act addresses environmental justice concerns.

1964–2014 Environmental Justice Timeline and Milestones

[Maryland HB 1350](#) and the House Joint Resolution 6 address environmental justice concerns in Anne Arundel County.

The [Missouri Department of Natural Resources](#) includes environmental justice in its integrated strategic plan.

The North Carolina Department of Natural Resources issues its Environmental Equity Initiative.

[California SB 89](#), authored by Senate Member Martha Escutia (D-Montebello) requires the Secretary for Environmental Protection to convene a working group on environmental justice.

[WE ACT files Title 6 civil rights complaint](#) at the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

The Committee on Health Effects of Waste Incineration, Board on Environmental Studies and Toxicology, and National Research Council release [Waste Incineration and Public Health](#) (Washington, DC: National Academies Press).

[Alaska Community Action on Toxics \(ACAT\)](#) prompts the Anchorage School Board to adopt nationally precedent-setting least-toxic pest management policy to prevent the use of harmful pesticides in schools.

2001

Dr. [Yvonne Scruggs Leftwich](#) played an extensive role in educating Congressional Black Caucus members and traditional black organizations about climate change. [Vernice Miller-Travis](#) contributed extensively at World Conference Against Racism ([WCAR](#)).

Jesus People Against Pollution founder [Charlotte Keys](#) wins the Robert Wood Johnson Health Leadership Award for her work in Columbia, Mississippi.

[National Black Environmental Justice Network](#) lends its support and expertise to the African/African Descent Caucus. The goal is to get the African/African Descent declared a Major Group in the United Nations.

Environmental justice leaders participate in Climate Justice Summit in The Hague, Netherlands.

[“Trade Secrets” documentary](#) airs on PBS.

Environmental justice leaders participate in Climate Justice Summit in The Hague, Netherlands.

On April 25, 2001, residents of Anniston, Alabama Sweet Valley/Cobb Town Environmental Task Force won a \$42.8 million settlement against Monsanto chemical company. The community had to be relocated because of PCB contamination.

“Celebrity Tour of Cancer Alley Louisiana” held. This event sparked some celebrities, including writer Alice Walker and Congresswoman Maxine Waters, to revisit some of the impacted communities and work directly with the people.

EPA clean-up at Agriculture Street Landfill neighborhood begins (completed 2001).

Judge Orlofsky rules in South Camden Citizens in Action v. NJ Dept of Environmental Protection that compliance with environmental laws does not equal compliance with civil rights laws, and determines that New Jersey has violated Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the first EJ case to prevail under this theory. Decision later overturned by Third Circuit on grounds that plaintiffs do not have the right to enforce EPA's disparate impact regulations.

On April 25, 2001, residents of Anniston, Alabama Sweet Valley/Cobb Town Environmental Task Force won a \$42.8 million settlement against Monsanto chemical company. The community had to be relocated because of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination.

Environmental justice leaders participate in World Conference against Racism (WCAR) held in Durban, South Africa.

Warren County, North Carolina PCB landfill community secures state and federal resources to detoxify the PCB landfill and build strategies for community driven economic development.

Environmental justice leaders participate in the Environmental Justice and Labor Conference held at the University of Niteroi, Niteroi, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The university and nongovernmental organizations are interested in starting a community-university center.

Native American activists and their allies succeed in preventing siting of a nuclear waste dump in Ward Valley, California, after ten years of struggle.

In April 2001, U.N. Commission on Human Rights lists living free of pollution as a basic human right.

Environmental justice delegation from the Environmental Justice Resource Center and Deep South Center for Environmental Justice visits and meets with faculty and administrators at the University of Puerto Rico, community leaders in Vieques, and makes a presentation to several dozen groups in the San Juan area.

California AB 1390 is enacted in the 2001–2002 state budget and directs air districts to target at least 50% of the \$48 million general fund appropriated for three diesel emission reduction programs to environmental justice communities.

Governor Parris Glendening creates Maryland's Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities by executive order.

The Indiana Department of Environment Management develops “Environmental Justice Strategic Plan”.

California SB 828 adds deadlines for developing and interagency environmental justice strategy affecting boards, departments, and offices within the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA).

Daniel Faber and Deborah McCarthy publish Green of Another Color study that highlights underfunding of environmental justice within environmental philanthropy.

The Central California Environmental Justice Network holds its first environmental justice conference in Fresno in California's Central Valley.

Environmental justice lawyers, Luke W. Cole and Shelia R. Foster, publish, From the Ground Up: Environmental Racism and the Rise of the Environmental Justice Movement (New York University Press, 2000).

WEACT Peggy Shepard is appointed to the National Advisory Environmental Health Sciences Council of National Institutes of Health.

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National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) produces *Environmental Justice in EPA Permitting: Reducing Pollution in High-Risk Communities Is Integral to the Agency's Mission*.

Manuel Pastor, Jr., publishes *Racial/Ethnic Inequity in Environmental-Hazard Exposure in Metropolitan Los Angeles* (University of California Policy Research Center).

Kathi Hanna and Christine Coussens publish a workshop summary for the Roundtable on Environmental Health Sciences, Research, and Medicine, Division of Health Sciences Policy titled *Rebuilding the Unity of Health and the Environment: A New Vision of Environmental Health for the 21st Century* (Washington, DC: National Academy Press).

The International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN), coalition of more than 300 environmental justice and health groups from Asia, Africa, Europe, North America, Central America, South America, and the Pacific Islands prompts the governments of the world to sign the Stockholm Convention on persistent organic pollutants (POPs), a global, legally-binding treaty that bans 12 of the most toxic chemicals with precautionary provisions that allow for the inclusion of new POP chemicals under phase-out provisions of the treaty.

Connecticut College presents a conference “A Quest for Environmental Justice: Healthy High Quality Environments for all Communities,” featuring Bunyan Bryant, Mark Mitchell, Manuel Lizarralde, and John A. Stewart. This resulted in the book, *Our Backyard: A Quest for Environmental Justice*, which focused on national and state environmental justice issues.

In 2001, Daniel Faber and Deborah McCarthy publish *Green of Another Color: Building Effective Relationships Between Foundations and the Environmental Justice Movement*. The report represents the findings of a year-and-one-half investigation and assessment of the state of relations between the foundation community and the environmental justice movement. The findings show that organizations representing communities of color are grossly underfunded in comparison to other segments of the environmental movement.

2002

California voters pass Proposition 40, the largest resource bond in United States history, which provides \$2.6 billion for parks, clean water and clean air, with an unprecedented level of support among communities of color and low-income communities.

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Project Return to Sender (a coalition of Haitian, Haitian American, and U.S. and European EJ and environmental groups) succeeds in returning a load of incinerator ash to the U.S., which was dumped on a beach at Gonaïves, Haiti, 15 years earlier in 1987.

The National Black Environmental Justice Network forms a partnership with the South African [Environmental Justice Networking Forum](#) (EJNF) to host a week-long pre-World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) side event, workshops and site tours.

[Environmental justice delegates participate](#) in the WSSD, Rio +10 Earth Summit, in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The Diamond Community in Norco, Louisiana secured full [relocation and buyout](#) by the Shell Chemical Refinery.

The [Fenceline: A Company Town Divided](#), a documentary film by Slawomir Grünberg with Jane Greenberg, airs July 23, on PBS television.

The [Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs](#) (MEOEA) adopts environmental justice policies.

The [first North American Indigenous Mining Summit](#) is held that forms working groups to develop action plans to address coal, uranium and metallic mining activities on Native American lands. In 2002, a Native American oil campaigner is hired.

[Project Return to Sender](#) (a coalition of Haitian, Haitian American, and U.S. and European EJ and environmental groups) succeeds in returning a [load of incinerator ash](#) to the U.S., which was dumped on a beach at Gonaïves, Haiti, 15 years earlier in 1987.

Paul Mohai and David Kershner publish "[Race and Environmental Voting in the U.S. Congress](#)" in the *Journal Social Science Quarterly*, demonstrating that members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) have consistently voted more pro-environmentally than Republican or Democratic Congressional colleagues over a two-decade period.

Power in Asians Organizing (PAO) founded as Asian Pacific Environmental Network's (APEN) created a second organizing project in Oakland, California, to organize a multi-ethnic Asian constituency for environmental justice.

PAO and Laotian Organizing Project (LOP) work together and choose housing as its next campaign, looking at housing affordability and community displacement as issues to broaden the EJ movement.

The [New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance](#) is formed with 40-member organizations from local community groups, traditional environmental groups, civil rights organizations, labor unions and other groups.

The [Air of Injustice: African Americans & Power Plant Pollution](#) report is published in October 2002 in coalition with Black Leadership Forum, The Southern Organizing Committee for Economic and Social Justice, The Georgia Coalition for the Peoples' Agenda, and Clear the Air Campaign.

[Latinos and the Environment Conference](#) is organized by the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment's Environmental Justice Initiative.

The [Second National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit](#) or EJ Summit II is convened on October 24-27 in Washington, D.C. The event attracts more than 1,400 attendees.

The Environmental Justice Resource Center (EJRC) at Clark Atlanta University releases the [Environmental Justice Timeline/Milestones - 1964-2002](#) report at the EJ Summit II.

[California Assembly Bill 2312](#) establishes an EJ Small Grant Program administered by Cal/EPA. The program provides grants up to \$20,000.

[California Senate Bill 1542](#) ensures that state regulators include low-income and minority communities in the decision making for the siting of landfills. The bill requires that the California Integrated Waste Management Board provide EJ models and information to local jurisdictions for siting landfills by April 1, 2003.

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Institute of Medicine (IOM) landmark study, [Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care](#), helped broaden the base of health philanthropy considering racial and ethnic disparities in quality of health services.

WE ACT convenes national conference: [“Human Genetics, Environment and Communities of Color: Ethical and Social Implications.”](#)

WE ACT serves as first community-based editor of special monograph of [Environmental Health Perspectives: Advancing Environmental Justice Through Community-Based Participatory Research](#).

EPA Region 2 [conducts first assessment](#) of Northern Manhattan’s air quality. Data gathered is used to promulgate national fine particulate standards for PM 2.5.

[United States Conference of Catholic Bishops](#) (USCCB) makes its first and largest environmental justice grant (\$40,000) to a black Catholic organization in the United States, the [Knights of Peter Claver, Inc](#) (KPC).

Atlanta-based [GreenLaw](#), on behalf of Friends of the Chattahoochee and the Sierra Club, and the Coalition for the People’s Agenda, launches its legal campaign against coal-fired power plants in Georgia.

[LOP of APEN](#) wins the prestigious [Leadership for a Changing World award](#) from the Ford Foundation.

The California Environmental Justice Alliance is organized. It is comprised of grassroots environmental justice organizations including Environmental Health Coalition, PODER, Communities for a Better Environment (CBE), APEN, Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice, and the [Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment](#) (CRPE).

2003

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation adopts a [policy requiring environmental justice reviews](#) before the issuance of permits.

West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection issues an Environmental Equity Policy.

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights issues its report, [Not in My Backyard: Executive Order 12,898 and Title VI as Tools for Achieving Environmental Justice](#),

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights issues its report, *Not in My Backyard: Executive Order 12,898 and Title VI as Tools for Achieving Environmental Justice*, concluding that “minority and low-income communities are most often exposed to multiple pollutants and from multiple sources.”

Cleanup of the Warren County, North Carolina, PCB Landfill is completed at a cost of \$17.1 million, and plans for the "Justice Park" on the site by Warren County Government begins.

concluding that "minority and low-income communities are most often exposed to multiple pollutants and from multiple sources."

The [U.S. Navy closes Camp García](#), the firing zone in Vieques, Puerto Rico on May 1, after using the area for target practice since the 1940s.

WE ACT's Peggy M. Shepard receives the [Heinz Award for the Environment](#) for her courageous advocacy and determined leadership in combating environmental injustice within urban America.

University of California Sociology Professor David N. Pellow's [Garbage Wars: The Struggle for Environmental Justice in Chicago](#) co-wins the Society for the Study of Social Problems C. Wright Mills Award in 2003.

Paul Mohai publishes "[Dispelling Old Myths: African American Concern for the Environment](#)" in the journal *Environment* and provides a comprehensive examination of African-American concern for the environment over a three-decade period.

The [Minority Environmental Leadership Development Initiative](#) (MELDI) is launched at the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment in January. MELDI's goal is to provide resources to enhance career and leadership development opportunities for people of color interested in environmental professions.

Cleanup of the [Warren County, North Carolina, PCB Landfill](#) is completed at a cost of \$17.1 million and plans for the "Justice Park" on the site by Warren County Government begins.

[California Assembly Bill 1497](#) passes requiring operators of solid waste facilities to receive regulatory approval before making "significant changes" to a waste facility's design or operation beyond the scope of the original permit.

[California Assembly Bill 1360](#) directs the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHA)

at Cal/EPA to develop "environmental indicators," or "scientific measurements of environmental conditions or trends."

California Thermal Power Plant Permitting requires applications for the siting of a thermal power plant to address disproportionate impacts "in a manner consistent with Section 650410.12 of the Government Code."

[Rhode Island's Industrial Property Remediation and Reuse Act](#) mandates that the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RI DEM) "shall consider the effects that clean-ups would have on the population surrounding each site and shall consider the issues of environmental equity for low-income and racial minority populations."

[Maryland Commission of Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities](#) (CEJSC) is tasked with examining environmental justice and sustainable communities' issues that may be associated with creating healthy, safe, economically vibrant, environmentally sound communities for all Marylanders in a manner that allows for democratic processes and community involvement.

New Haven Environmental Justice Network, an affiliate of Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice, prevents the re-opening of [English Station power plant in New Haven](#); the event was the first instance in Connecticut state history where an air pollution permit is denied.

[Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles](#) (PSR-LA) helps craft California EPA's EJ Guidelines, a first of its kind in the United States.

Chicago Historical Society under the direction of its first African-American president creates a training program for [Knights of Peter Claver](#) (KPC) Chicago teen members to conduct an EJ oral history of African-American Catholics in Chicago. KPC conducts an environmental health disparities survey of 350 adult members at their Northern District Conference meeting in Newark, NJ.

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National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) issues report [Addressing Community Concerns: How Environmental Justice Relates to Land Use Planning and Zoning.](#)

[California Environmental Justice Alliance](#) wins adoption of landmark environmental justice policies for [landmark environmental justice policies for Cal/EPA.](#)

In March 2003, People Organized in Defense of Earth and her Resources (PODER) convinced City Council to down zone over 600 properties zoned industrial and commercial in Govalle/Johnston Terrace Neighborhood Plan area. This community plan was approved by City Council in March 2003, making history by re-zoning over 600 properties from industrial to less intense uses and more compatible with residential areas. Included in this re-zoning were properties that were zoned industrial but the actual use was residential. While numerous properties have been re-zoned, many facilities which store hazardous chemicals are still located next to schools and in residential areas. PODER will continue to organize for relocation.

In 2003, a [neighborhood association and two citizen groups filed a citizen suit seeking to halt a dredging and lock modernization project on an industrial navigation canal near New Orleans,](#) alleging that the project would churn up solid and hazardous waste on the canal's bottom and create an imminent endangerment under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

2004

The American Bar Association Special Committee on Environmental Justice publishes [Environmental Justice For All: A Fifty-State Survey Of Legislation, Policies, and Initiatives.](#)

New Jersey Gov. James McGreevey signs the state's first [Environmental Justice Executive Order.](#)

Georgia passes Anti-Concentration Law for Solid Waste Facilities, [GA. CODE ANN. § 12-8-25 \(2004\).](#)

The Los Angeles Harbor Hispanic Environmental Justice Organization, Coalition for a Safe Environment, and San Pedro residents win a victory when the California South Coast Air Quality Management District Arbitration Board finds [San Pedro Kinder Morgan Fuel Storage Tank Facility](#) guilty of not negotiating in good faith and cancels their permit to conduct future business permanently.

In October 2004, Wangari Muta Maathai, a professor and environmental justice activist from Kenya, becomes the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize. Professor Maathai founded the Green Belt Movement where, for nearly thirty years, she has mobilized poor women to plant some 30 million trees.

More than 45 environmental justice and mainstream environmental groups oppose the EPA's plan to drop race from its draft Environmental Justice Strategic Plan.

A March 2004 EPA Office of Inspector General report, [EPA Needs to Consistently Implement the Intent of the Executive Order on Environmental Justice](#), sums up the treatment of environmental justice under the Bush administration.

On April 19, 2004, Norco, LA environmental justice leader [Margie Eugene-Richard](#) makes history by becoming the first African American to win the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize.

In October 2004, [Wangari Muta Maathai](#), a professor and environmental justice activist from Kenya, becomes the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize. Professor Maathai founded the Green Belt Movement where, for nearly thirty years, she has mobilized poor women to plant some 30 million trees.

The University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment's [Environmental Justice Initiative](#) organize an international [Climate Change Conference](#).

Arkansas passes an Environmental Equity Act that addresses environmental justice issues in the siting of solid waste disposal facilities.

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection issues its [Environmental Justice Public Participation Policy](#).

[Knights of Peter Claver Inc.](#) receives funding from the [United States Conference of Catholic Bishops \(USCCB\)](#), Illinois Humanities Council and DePaul University's Vincentian Endowment grant to develop a faith-based EJ film focused on environmental health disparities in Chicago.

Center for Justice, Tolerance & Community publishes [Building a Regional Voice for Environmental Justice](#). (University of California, Santa Cruz).

Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc. and Redefining Progress publish [African Americans and Climate Change: An Unequal Burden](#).

Lynn Goldman and Christine M. Coussens, Editors, Roundtable on Environmental Health Sciences, Research,

and Medicine publish [Environmental Health Indicators: Bridging the Chasm of Public Health and the Environment](#) – Workshop Summary. Washington, D.C.: The National Academies Press.

M.K. Dorsey publishes [The Promise and Threat of Climate Justice: Geographies of Resistance in the Context of Uneven Development](#). Social Science Research Network.

2005

The Oakland-based Environmental Justice Coalition for Water releases its report [Thirsty for Justice: A People's Blueprint for California Water](#).

The [New Jersey Work Environment Council](#) organizes a successful campaign that leads to the adoption of an [Administrative Order by the NJDEP](#) that allows workers and union representatives to participate in investigations of facilities that use extremely hazardous chemicals. This is the first agreement of its kind in the nation and will help protect workers and fenceline communities from toxic dangers.

North Carolina passes [solid wastes permitting statute](#) requiring local demographics to be considered in the selection of or approval of landfills.

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation names Sustainable South Bronx leader [Majora Carter as one of the 2005 MacArthur Fellows](#).

Congress [passes an amendment](#) to the EPA's appropriations bill directing the Agency not to spend any congressionally appropriated funds in a manner that contravenes Executive Order 12898 or delays its implementation.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office issues [Environmental Justice: EPA Should Devote More Attention to Environmental Justice When Developing Clean Air Rules](#).

More than 45 environmental justice and mainstream environmental groups oppose the EPA's plan to drop race from its draft [Environmental Justice Strategic Plan](#).

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Twenty-five Democrats in the Senate and House send a letter to the EPA for its failure to apply the [Executive Order 12898](#) in its flawed “strategic plan for environmental justice.”

In August 2005, the [Minority Environmental Leadership Diversity Initiative \(MELDI\)](#) held a National Diversity Summit at the University of Michigan’s School of Natural Resources and Environment in Ann Arbor, Michigan. MELDI published and distributed *The Paths We Tread*, a book of profiles of more than 70 people of color who have had outstanding careers in the environmental field.

The California EPA - Air Resources Board selects the Hispanic community of Wilmington for a two-year [Children’s Environmental Risk Reduction Program and Cumulative Impact Assessment](#).

August 28, 2005, [Hurricane Katrina](#) devastates Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama Gulf Coast.

[Summit 2005: Diverse Partners for Environmental Progress](#) is held in Wakefield, Virginia.

In December, the [Associated Press \(AP\)](#) publishes the study “[More Blacks Live With Pollution](#).”

Sierra Club Books publishes Robert D. Bullard [The Quest for Environmental Justice: Human Rights and the Politics of Pollution](#), a follow-up to his 1996 *Unequal Protection: Environmental Justice and Communities of Color* anthology.

Hawaii legislature passes resolution authorizing the Environmental Council to create a state environmental guidance.

[Illinois EPA creates an environmental justice advisory group.](#)

California [Senate Bill 1110](#) requires Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to develop advisory guidelines for addressing EJ matters in city and county general plans.

Governor Bill Richardson signs the [New Mexico Environmental Justice Executive Order 2005-056](#).

[Hartford Park Tenants Ass’n v. R.I. Dep’t of Env’tl. Mgmt.](#), 2005 R.I. Super. LEXIS 148 (R.I. Super. Ct. 2005). School siting lawsuit in Providence, Rhode Island is a lawsuit filed to keep two schools from opening because they

August 28, 2005, Hurricane Katrina devastates New Orleans and Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama Gulf Coast.

Mossville Environmental Action Now bring the first ever environmental human rights legal challenge against the U.S. government for establishing an environmental regulatory system that deprives people of color their fundamental human rights to life, health, racial equality and a healthy environment.

are built on top of city dump. While the suit did not stop the schools from opening, court orders are issued to the state to create a stakeholder group to develop proposals on a variety of subjects for legislation, regulations, and policies concerning public participation on contaminated site cleanups and EJ.

Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles (PSR-LA) hosts a groundbreaking summit on the subject of chemical policy reform in California, bringing together environment, women's health, and environmental justice advocates.

Citizens for Environmental Justice in Corpus Christi, Texas receives the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Award for Outstanding Achievements in Environmental Justice.

The Center for Law in the Public Interest (Robert Garcia, Executive Director and Christopher T. Hicks, Policy Director) submits public comments regarding the EPA's "Framework for Integrating Environmental Justice," and "Environmental Justice Strategic Plan Outline."

Mossville Environmental Action Now brings the first ever environmental human rights legal challenge against the U.S. government for establishing an environmental regulatory system that deprives people of color their fundamental human rights to life, health, racial equality and a healthy environment.

Laotian Organizing Project wins implementation of the nation's first multilingual warning system in Contra Costa County.

WEACT and NRDC file lawsuit against EPA upheld in U.S. District Court charging EPA with inadequate protection of children from rat poison exposure.

National Research Council and Institute of Medicine (2005). Ethical Considerations for Research on Housing-Related Health Hazards Involving Children. Committee on Ethical Issues in Housing-Related Health Hazard Research

Involving Children, Youth and Families, Bernard Lo and Mary Ellen O'Connell, Editors.

Redefining Progress publishes Climate Change and Extreme Weather Events: An Unequal Burden on African Americans. Issue Brief, No. 2. Oakland: Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc. Center for Policy Analysis and Research.

U.S. General Accountability Office publishes Environmental Justice: EPA Should Devote More Attention to Environmental Justice When Developing Clear Air Rules.

The Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN) members from the Laotian Organizing Project win implementation of the nation's first multilingual warning system in Contra Costa County.

Alaska Community Action on Toxics' community-based health researchers and academic partners publish an article in the International Journal of Circumpolar Health 2005;64(4):322-335 about the disproportionately high body burden of PCBs in the Yupik people of St. Lawrence resulting from military contamination and long-range transport of chemical contamination into the Arctic.

On September 20, 2005 Georgia's Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal by developers hoping to establish a controversial landfill in Taliaferro County. According to said Justine Thompson, an attorney at the Georgia Center for Law in the Public Interest "From our perspective, this case is over, and the citizens of Taliaferro County are planning their party." Attorney Thompson helped the residents opposed to the landfill. The residents in the sparsely populated county spent more than three years in their campaign to block the 1,000-acre landfill proposed by Complex Environmental Inc. of Atlanta.

In October 2005, Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice held its First Annual Environmental Justice Conference which was attended by 100 activists from throughout the state.

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Environmental Health Coalition (EHC) sponsored the first state law to ban the sale of lead contaminated candies. EHC also collaborated with the California Attorney General's office to win over \$1 million from a [Proposition 65 lawsuit against Mars & Hershey](#) for selling lead-tainted candies. The funds are being used to provide technical assistance and certification to smaller, mostly Mexican candy companies enabling them to produce lead-safe candies.

The [report *Unequal Exposure to Ecological Hazards 2005: Environmental Injustices in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts*](#) (By Daniel R. Faber and Eric J. Krieg) is released and uncovers profound racial and class-based disparities around pollution exposures.

In 2005, Rowman & Littlefield published [Foundations for Social Change: Critical Perspectives on Philanthropy and Popular Movements](#), by Daniel R. Faber and Deborah McCarthy. In Chapter Six, "Breaking the Funding Barriers: Philanthropic Activism in Support of the Environmental Justice Movement," the dissonance that exists between the stated goals of foundations and their grantees, and the actual institutional practices of foundations beyond the dispersion of grants is explored.

On September 18, 2006 the EPA's Office of Inspector General issues another study, "EPA Needs to Conduct Environmental Reviews of Its Programs, Policies, and Activities," chastising the agency for falling down on the job when it comes to implementing environmental justice.

2006

The [Concerned Citizens of Agriculture Street Landfill](#), after [thirteen years of litigation](#), wins their class-action lawsuit to be relocated and bought out from their contaminated community.

Plans for "Justice Park" on the site of the Warren County's PCB Landfill by [Warren County](#) (North Carolina) Government begin.

[Indiana Department of Environmental Management](#) issues new environmental justice policy.

More than 50 environmental, environmental justice organizations, unions and academic institutions participate for over a year to release the abstract of the top 18 recommendations in six environmental categories in Green Los Angeles.

In March 2006, [PODER](#) becomes lead organizer of the "Annual Cesar E. Chavez March". [Cesar Chavez](#) demonstrated the need for all working people to support those who are oppressed and exploited.

On April 2006, a [neighborhood association settled a lawsuit with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management concerning clean-up of a](#)

In December, EPA announces its decision to finalize gutting changes to the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) program. Changes announced by the EPA will exempt nearly 3,000 facilities that release up to 2,000 pounds of toxic chemicals from issuing detailed reports and also will exempt companies that manage up to 500 pounds of the most dangerous substances, including mercury and lead.

contaminated site. Pursuant to the terms of the settlement, the Department was required to establish a stakeholder group to develop legislation, regulations and policies addressing methods for insuring proper notice to abutting property owners and tenants.

In May, Race, Place, and the Environment After Hurricane Katrina Symposium is sponsored by the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice at Dillard University in New Orleans.

In May, EJ advocates win an important victory when the Hastings Amendment was adopted into the House Interior and EPA appropriations bill.

In May, PG&E Hunters Point Power Plant in San Francisco ceases operation.

In May, longtime environmental justice and human rights activists Damu Smith expires. At the time, Damu was the Executive Director of the National Black Environmental Justice Network (NBEJN).

Environmental justice scholars Manuel Pastor, Robert D. Bullard, James K. Boyce, Alice Fothergill, Rachel Morello-Frosch and Beverly Wright publish In the Wake of the Storm: Environment, Disaster, and Race After Katrina (Russell Sage Foundation, May 15, 2006).

Paul Mohai and Robin Saha publish "Reassessing Racial and Socioeconomic Disparities in Environmental Justice Research" in the journal *Demography*, demonstrating that newer methods that better match where people live and hazardous sites are located reveal far greater racial disparities around hazardous waste sites than previously reported.

On September 18, the EPA's Office of Inspector General issues another study, "EPA Needs to Conduct Environmental Reviews of Its Programs, Policies, and Activities," chastising the agency for falling down on the job when it comes to implementing environmental justice.

In September, Dr. Beverly Wright, Director of the Deep

South Center for Environmental Justice at Dillard University, is honored with the Special Gulf Coast Award for outstanding leadership in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina by the Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Program (CHLP).

The Oakland-based Pacific Institute releases a Ditching Dirty Diesel Collaborative Report titled Paying with Our Health: The Real Cost of Freight Transport in California. The report presents new data and insight from an Environmental Justice perspective and includes 14 EJ Community organizations and a union.

The environmental justice organizations Communities for a Better Environment, the Coalition for a Safe Environment and California Environmental Rights Alliance lead a campaign in which the California South Coast Air Quality Management District Board votes unanimously to adopt the most stringent oil refinery anti-flaring rules in California and U.S. history.

The 32-acre Los Angeles State Historic Park at the Cornfield opens in September 2006 after the community stops a proposal to build warehouses there by the City of Los Angeles and wealthy developers. It is the last vast open space in downtown Los Angeles.

On September 24, 2006, a coalition of more than 70 environmental justice, social justice, public health, human rights and workers' rights groups launched the National Environmental Justice for All Tour to highlight the devastating impact of toxic contamination on people of color and in poor communities across the United States.

The Deep South Center for Environmental Justice (DSCEJ) at Dillard University holds the Race, Place and the Environment after Katrina: Looking Back to Look Forward Symposium in New Orleans, October 19-21. More than 250 people attend the three-day symposium.

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3,000 facilities that release up to 2,000 pounds of toxic chemicals from issuing detailed reports and also will exempt companies that manage up to 500 pounds of the most dangerous substances, including mercury and lead.

In December, the [Indigenous World Uranium Summit](#) (individuals, tribes and organizations from Indigenous Nations and from Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, India, Japan, the United States and Vanuatu) [draft and approve a Declaration](#) calling for a ban on uranium mining, processing, enrichment, fuel use, weapons testing and deployment, and nuclear waste dumping on indigenous lands. The ban is justified on the basis of the extensive record of “disproportional impacts” of the nuclear fuel chain on the health, natural resources and cultures of Indigenous Peoples. The Declaration calls attention to “intensifying nuclear threats to Mother Earth and all life,” and asserts that nuclear power — the primary use for uranium — is not a solution to global warming.

Alabama Executive Order creates the [Alabama Commission on Environmental Initiatives](#).

The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 ([AB 32](#)) is passed. The law imposes a statewide greenhouse gas cap and reduction measures, and the Act directs the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to undertake measures to safeguard EJ communities and their ability to provide meaningful input.

Lois Marie Gibbs, at the [Center for Health, Environment and Justice](#) (CHEJ), publishes the Center’s 25th anniversary issue of The Journal of the Grassroots Environmental Movement.

After a five-year campaign, [APEN](#) and the Stop Chinatown Evictions Committee successfully save 50 units of affordable housing in Chinatown while also securing funds to build 50 additional, low-income senior apartment rental units in Chinatown.

[Power in Asians Organizing](#) (PAO) leaders in Oakland, California receive a landmark Community Benefits Agreement issued by the City to ensure stringent environmental clean-up of a brownfield site that results in 465 new units of affordable housing and open space for surrounding communities and its residents.

[WEACT](#) and [UPROSE](#) are appointed to New York City Mayor’s Sustainability Advisory Board which helps produce [PlaNYC 2030](#).

In August, The Children Environmental Health Network (CEHN) launches a three-year project to educate leaders in three key communities - pediatric and other health professions, environmental justice, and public health - about the impact of environmental hazard exposures on the health and welfare of children, and to encourage leaders in these communities to promote awareness of the issues of children’s environmental health.

Led by Alaska Community Action on Toxics and Pesticide Action Network North America (PANNA), 86 non-governmental environmental health and justice organizations in 18 countries signed a letter to the governments of Mexico, Canada, and the U.S. to eliminate production and use of lindane, a pesticide that harms the health of farm workers and communities, in North America.

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The film [Struggles for Environmental Justice and Health in Chicago](#) along with a peer reviewed educational guide is completed and distributed to 3,000 Knights of Peter Claver, Inc. members at their national convention.

Sylvia Hood Washington, Heather Goodall, and Paul C. Rosier publish [Echoes from the Poisoned Well: Global Memories of Environmental Injustice](#) (Rowan & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.).

Tides Foundation publishes [Changing the Social Climate: How Global Warming Affects Economic Justice: The Future of the Progressive Movement, and Whether Your Child Walks to School](#), San Francisco: CA.

Rachel Morello-Frosch and Russ Lopez publish [The Riskscape and the Color Line: Examining the Role of Segregation in Environmental Health Disparities](#). *Environmental Research*, 2006, 102(2):181-196.

Manuel Pastor, R. Morello-Frosch, & J. Sadd publish, [“Breathless: Air Quality, Schools, and Environmental Justice in California.”](#) *Policy Studies Journal*, 2006, 34(3):337-362.

APEN leaders from [Power in Asians Organizing \(PAO\)](#) in Oakland, California receive a landmark Community Benefits Agreement issued by the City to ensure stringent environmental clean-up of a brownfield site that results in 465 new units of affordable housing and open space for surrounding communities and its residents.

Led by Alaska Community Action on Toxics and Pesticide Action Network North America (PANNA), 86 non-governmental environmental health and justice

organizations in 18 countries [signed a letter](#) to the governments of Mexico, Canada, and the U.S. to eliminate production and use of lindane, a pesticide that harms the health of farm workers and communities, in North America. Mexico cancelled all uses of lindane and Canada banned agricultural uses. In 2006, the U.S.-based groups prompted the U.S. EPA to withdraw agricultural uses of lindane in the United States ([www.akaction.org](#) and [www.panna.org](#)).

In 2006, [Dr. Daniel Faber](#) received the Champion for Justice Award, granted by the Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow (AHT), and the Friend of the Earth and Environmental Justice Award from Salem State College and HealthLink for his path-breaking leadership and work in environmental justice in Massachusetts and beyond.

Dr. Beverly Wright, founder of the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice at Dillard University in New Orleans receives the [Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Award](#).

2007

On January 24, Congressman Alcee Hastings (D-FL) and the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation hold [Environmental Justice Policy Forum](#) on Executive Order 12898 in Washington, D.C.

The two-square-mile [Baldwin Hills Park](#), the largest urban park designed in the U.S. in over a century, opens in the historic African American heart of Los Angeles. Community efforts defeated efforts to site a power plant and garbage dump there.

In February, the advocacy work of the [Labor Community Strategy Center/Bus Riders Union](#) pays off such that in the Omnibus Appropriations Bill that passed, the U.S. Senate includes a \$9.8-million first installment for the [12-mile bus-only lanes project](#) along Wilshire Boulevard in California.

In March, the United Church of Christ releases [Toxic Wastes and Race at Twenty, 1997-2007](#) report at the National

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Press Club in Washington, D.C. The report is authored by Robert D. Bullard, Paul Mohai, Robin Saha, and Beverly Wright.

On April 10, [EPA Working Group](#) conducts EJ reviews to assess the extent to which its programs, policies, and activities address environmental justice concerns.

In [South Carolina in May 2007, the Legislature passes HB 3933](#), a Joint Resolution to create the multi-agency South Carolina Environmental Justice Advisory Committee to the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC).

On June 7, EPA Office of Environmental Justice launches its [Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Program](#) where ten community-based organizations receive \$100,000 to undertake a local project on environmental and health issues.

On June 21, The African American Forum on Race and Regionalism completes a report for the Presidents' Council of Cleveland. Angela Glover Blackwell, Robert D. Bullard, Deoohn Ferris, and John A. Powell, [Regionalism: Growing Together to Expand Opportunity to All](#). Cleveland, OH: The Presidents' Council of Cleveland.

On June 13, South Carolina passes Environmental Justice Bill ([H-3933](#)) into law.

On June 14, EPA releases "[Environmental Justice: The Power of Partnerships—The Collaborative Problem Solving Model at Work](#)," a documentary video that chronicles a story of a low-income Black community in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

In June [EPA Region 3](#) Office collaborates with several partners to develop the first formalized, controlled demolition practices designed to reduce exposure to lead dust.

In June the 74th Oregon Legislative Assembly enacts [Senate Bill 420](#) that creates an Environmental Justice Task Force.

In July, [EPA Finds Citgo Guilty of Environmental Crimes](#) in Corpus Christi, Texas.

On July 25, the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Superfund and Environmental Health holds first-ever environmental justice hearing on [Oversight of the EPA's Environmental Justice Programs](#) in Washington, D.C.

In June EPA Region 3 Office collaborates with several partners to develop the first formalized, controlled demolition practices designed to reduce exposure to lead dust, protecting residents living around the project's perimeter from lead emissions.

In July, Mossville Environmental Action Now, Advocates for Environmental Human Rights and the Subra Company release the report, [Industrial Sources of Dioxin Poisoning in Mossville, Louisiana: A Report Using the Government's Own Data.](#)

In August, Youth United for Community Action, Environmental Justice Working Group, Gila River Alliance for a Clean Environment, Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice, tribal members of the Gila River Indian Community, and other allies shut down Romco Environmental Technologies Corporation in East Palo Alto, CA. Additionally around the same time, Gila River Alliance for a Clean Environment, Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice, Youth United for Community Action and other allies protested, supported and pushed the Tribal Council of Gila River Indian Community to [deny the renewal of operations to Romco Environmental Technologies Corporation—Southwest.](#) The Tribal Council's denial subsequently led the EPA to deny Romco's renewal permit and ultimately close the facility.

The Haida village of Hydaburg and Alaska Community Action on Toxics, with a coalition of conservation and fishing organizations, [blocked multiple attempts by the timber industry to spray harmful herbicides from helicopters](#) on Alaska forests using grassroots organizing methods. These actions protected the health of streams and coastal areas that the Haida people depend on for their traditional foods and culture (yearly 2001-2007). In September 2007, [PODER's organizing work](#) led to the closure of the polluting Holly Street Power Plant that was negatively impacting the health of the community in East Austin, TX.

On November 1, [Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm issues Executive Order 2007-23](#), "Promoting Environmental Justice."

On November 21, 2007, [Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm signed Executive Directive No. 2007-23](#), "Promoting Environmental Justice."

[The Environmental Justice Leadership Forum on Climate](#)

[Change](#), a new effort focused on influencing national climate change policies, and bringing the voice of people of color into the dialogue around solutions.

[Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice \(DWEJ\)](#) joins the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice at Dillard University and launches a comprehensive Green Jobs Workforce Development Training Program.

[Arbor Hill Environmental Justice Corporation \(AHEJC\)](#) hosts Second National Leadership Summit sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health.

[New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance \(NJEJA\)](#) organizes a statewide environmental justice tour of New Jersey for foundation program officers in spring 2007.

Thousands of activists gather at the [U.S. Social Forum 2007](#), Atlanta, Georgia, under the banner, "Another World is Possible."

[Harambee House, Inc./Citizens for Environmental Justice](#) help form Savannah Environmental Collaborative a group of 25 diverse partners working in the Hudson Hill and Woodville neighborhoods that are surrounded by 17 industries.

APEN helps found [Oakland Rising](#), a formation of six community-based organizations that have come together to build progressive political power in Oakland, California.

Public Law Research Institute at the University of California's Hastings College of the Law publishes [Environmental Justice for All: A Fifty State Survey of Legislation, Policies and Cases](#), Third Edition (April 2007).

GreenLaw and Turner Environmental Law Clinic, Emory University School of Law publishes, [Putting the Law to Work in Our Communities: A Citizen's Guide to Environmental Protection and Justice in Georgia](#) (Atlanta, Georgia).

In California, [SB 375 \(Steinberg 2007\)](#) requires that the 18 metropolitan planning regions in California demonstrate that planning scenarios will result in carbon emissions

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reductions. It builds on the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32) by stipulating that curbing sprawl will be a mandatory part of curbing greenhouse gas emissions.

Healthy Heart and Lung Act (AB 233) will make California's air cleaner by addressing the need for enhanced enforcement of diesel emission regulations which protect public health and reduce toxic exposure.

Hazardous Waste Cleanup (SB 32 - 2007) authorizes local governments to investigate and cleanup small parcels of property contaminated with hazardous waste.

California Alternative and Renewable Fuel, Vehicle Technology, Clean Air and Carbon Reduction Act of 2007 (AB 118) creates the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program that provides loans, grants, and other funding measures to develop and deploy innovative technologies that transform California's fuel and vehicle types to help attain the state's climate change policies.

Michigan HB 5247 (Lemmons 2007) is introduced in the house to amend the National Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require that notices of certain cleanup activities and related public hearings to be published in at least one ethnic/minority-owned media.

In Oregon, SB 420 (Gordly 2007), establishes an Environmental Justice Task Force with 12 members appointed by the Governor.

In December, University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) professor Dr. Sylvia Hood Washington launches Environmental Justice, a quarterly peer-reviewed journal.

There were several environmental groups who brought suit in federal court under NEPA and other statutes seeking to prevent the Department of Defense (DoD) and other government agencies from continuing shipments of the chemical warfare agent VX (also known as hydrolysate) from a chemical weapons depot in Indiana to an incineration facility in a low-income area in Texas and to enjoin a private company from incinerating hydrosate at the Texas facility.

2008

January 1, 2008, a law passed in Oregon (S.B. 420/L. 2007 Ch. 909) established an environmental justice task force and requires all 14 state natural resources agencies to follow prescribed steps to provide greater public

The Haida village of Hydaburg and Alaska Community Action on Toxics, with a coalition of conservation and fishing organizations, blocked multiple attempts by the timber industry to spray harmful herbicides from helicopters on Alaska forests using grassroots organizing methods.

In 2002, two dozen black residents filed a complaint with the Ohio Civil Rights Commission, alleging that they had been denied service because of their race. In 2003, the Commission found probable cause of discrimination.

participation and to ensure the involvement of persons who may be affected by agency actions.

On January 30, 2008, a Louisiana state appellate court reduced the amount of emotional distress damages awarded to state residents who although showing no signs of injury, lived, worked or attended school on a contaminated landfill site in New Orleans.

In Rights of People Displaced by Disasters, Walter Kälin, tours the U.S. Gulf Coast and conducts trainings with Civil Society on the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

In March, the Los Angeles Harbor Commission approve a Clean Truck Program (CTP) designed to achieve long-term sustainability, accelerate the replacement of high-polluting trucks with cleaner trucks lessening the impact of harbor pollution on the adjacent community of color.

On March 2008, an Environmental Justice Task Force created by the Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Air Quality Task Board (AQCB) issued its final report. The report includes nine key recommendations relating primarily to air quality.

Alternatives for Community & Environment (ACE) helps pass a green jobs bill with their partners (Boston Green Justice Coalition & Massachusetts Green Jobs Coalition).

In May, Connecticut passes its first Environmental Justice Law (Public Act No 08-94) which recognizes 25 distressed municipalities and over 50 other low-income neighborhoods as environmental justice communities. It required enhanced informational processes to increase community participation in state environmental permitting and also required negotiation of environmental benefits for EJ communities when there is the establishment or expansion of a major polluting facility in these locations.

In May, a delegation of environmental justice leaders residing in Louisiana's "Cancer Alley" testify before the UN Special Rapporteur on Racism, Dienne Doudou

on his official fact-finding mission on racism to the United States.

On July 10, 2008, a federal jury returned a verdict for \$11 million, finding that Zanesville, Ohio and the county in which it is situated had violated the civil rights of several of its citizens by failing to provide water to them for 45 years. In 1956, a local water board voted not to extend service to parts of the town. In 2002, two dozen black residents filed a complaint with the Ohio Civil Rights Commission, alleging that they had been denied service because of their race. In 2003, the Commission found probable cause of discrimination. After construction began, the residents filed suit in federal court.

Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice (DWEJ) partners with the Sustainable Business Forum of Southeast Michigan to develop the Detroit Sustainability Center, an institution that will provide a focal point for sustainable development.

Citizens for Environmental Justice, located in Corpus Christi, Texas, conducts monitoring study of a fenceline community (first ever in the country) that finds high levels of benzene in the blood and urine of adults and children tested.

New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance organizes a conference on the siting of schools on contaminated land. The conference is held in Trenton, New Jersey, in spring 2008.

Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment (CRPE) achieves a victory on buffer zones to protect Tulare county school children and rural residents from pesticides. This is a major step in protecting children, farm workers and rural residents from pesticide drift.

Residents in Hinkley, California, a rural California town featured in the movie "Erin Brockovich," wins another environmental case, this time against the county, for its approval of a proposed open-air sewage sludge compost facility.

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Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment Air Project Director Brent Newell receives Breathe California's Clean Air Award in honor of his extraordinary efforts to combat global warming through his successful campaign to regulate air pollution from agricultural sources.

WE ACT convenes the Environmental Justice Leadership Forum on Climate Change.

Illinois EPA adopts the film "Struggles for Environmental Justice and Health in Chicago" as a training tool for its workers and for communities across the state.

GreenLaw, Newfields, LLC, and the University of Georgia School of Law Land Use Clinic publish Health, Environment, and Quality of Life Impacts: Newtown Community, Gainesville, GA (July).

Center for Health, Environment and Justice celebrates its 30th Anniversary of Love Canal due to the environmental crisis that occurred in 1978 in this neighborhood of Niagara Falls, New York.

Center for Health, Environment and Justice launches BE SAFE initiative and campaign that advances precautionary approach to environmental decision making at all levels of government.

California Green Collar Jobs Act of 2008 requires the California Workforce Investment Board (CWIB) to establish a special committee called the Green Collar Jobs Council (GCJC).

San Joaquin Valley Clean Air Attainment Program - AB 2522 (Arambula 2008) provides funding for air pollution control programs. The San Joaquin Clean Air Attainment Program authorizes the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District to increase fees on motor vehicles under specified conditions for incentive-based programs to achieve motor vehicle emissions reductions.

On November 4, 2008, Senator Barack H. Obama is elected president of the United States.

Caroline Farrell, Assistant Director of the Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment, is named one of five rising stars in public interest by OMB Watch.

Environmental Health Coalition leads the fight for adoption of the Children's Right to Lead Safe Housing Ordinance by the San Diego City Council

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Executive Order 131 (New Jersey Governor Jon S. Corzine) signed on February 5, 2009, directs all state entities involved in decisions that affect environmental quality and public health to provide opportunities for input by representatives of low-income and minority groups.

requiring lead hazard control in rental units and lead-safe practices to protect workers.

Environmental Health Coalition led a successful campaign for the adoption of a [Climate Change Initiative by the City of Chula Vista](#) which will result in an 80 percent reduction of 1990 levels by 2010.

Environmental Health Coalition celebrated the conclusion of the historic, [bi-national toxic site cleanup at Metales y Derivados](#), an abandoned battery recycler in Tijuana. EHC and colonia residents successfully submitted a bi-national citizen complaint to the Commission on Environmental Cooperation who declared the site posed a serious threat to the health of the neighboring community and to the environment.

Dr. Beverly Wright, founder of the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice at Dillard University in New Orleans receives the 2008 Rainbow PUSH Coalition Community Award.

2009

On January 20, 2009, Senator [Barack H. Obama](#) is sworn in as the 44th President of the United States, the first African American to hold this office.

On January 23, 2009, [Lisa P. Jackson](#) is confirmed by the United States Senate as U.S. Environmental Protection Administrator.

In January, the [S.642 bill](#) codifies Executive Order 12898 (relating to environmental justice) to require the Administrator of the EPA to fully implement the recommendations of the Inspector General of the Agency and the Comptroller General of the United States.

In February, Robert D. Bullard and Beverly Wright release [Race, Place and Environmental Justice After Hurricane Katrina: Struggles to Reclaim, Rebuild, and Revitalize New Orleans and the Gulf Coast](#) (Westview Press, 2009).

[Executive Order 131](#) (New Jersey Governor Jon S. Corzine) signed on February 5, 2009, directs all state

entities involved in decisions that affect environmental quality and public health to provide opportunities for input by representatives of low-income and minority groups. The order further creates the Environmental Justice Advisory Council to make recommendations to the State Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection regarding issues of environmental justice and equality.

On February 27, 2009, [EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson stated in an interview that the agency's determination on whether greenhouse gas \(GHG\) emissions endanger public health and welfare would include a focus on effects on disadvantaged people and communities.](#)

In March, Citizens for Environmental Justice, Corpus Christi, Texas receives [Community Service Award](#) from a fenceline community.

On March 27, 2009, [one of the nation's largest nonprofit urban housing developers agreed to pay a \\$200,000 penalty and, along with 23 associated property owners, to spend more than \\$2 million in lead abatement actions](#) under the terms of a consent decree. The decree resolves allegations by the EPA and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that The Community Builders Inc. (TCB) and nearly two dozen property owners violated the federal Lead Disclosure Law by failing to inform tenants that their homes might contain potentially dangerous levels of lead at properties in 11 communities in Massachusetts and Connecticut.

In April, Labor/Community Strategy Center publishes the policy report: [The Bus Riders Union Transit Model: Why a Bus Centered System Will Best Serve U.S. Cities.](#)

In May, an international coalition of environmental justice and health groups (International POPs Elimination Network) prompted the 164 nations who are Parties to the Stockholm Convention to add nine new chemicals under provisions of the legally-binding treaty for global phase-out. Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT) published a new report highlighting the particular threats

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of persistent chemicals to northern Indigenous peoples and a call for the phase of these chemicals as a necessary measure to protect health and cultural survival: *Persistent Organic Pollutants in the Arctic: A Report for the Delegates of the 4th Conference of the Parties Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants* (www.akaction.org).

In May, the [National Academy of Public Administrators](#) published an independent evaluation of the Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) demonstration program. The CARE model provides a solid and tested framework for engaging communities and other stakeholders. The CARE model involves decades of thought and effort by EPA's career staff, especially those working in environmentally overburdened and economically disadvantaged communities.

In May 2009, [several environmental justice organizations in Detroit filed a lawsuit challenging the Federal Highway Administration's \(FHWA\) record of decision \(ROD\)](#) concerning the proposed construction of a new international bridge known as the Detroit River International Crossing, connecting Detroit, Michigan with Windsor, Ontario. The lawsuit alleged that the ROD violated NEPA by not properly accounting for environmental justice because the community where the bridge was to be located was an economically depressed and minority community. *Latin Americans for Social and Economic Development v. Federal Highway Administration*, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 48452 (E.D. Mich. April 5, 2012).

In May, President Barack Obama proposed allotting [\\$1.25 billion](#) in the fiscal year 2010 budget to settle discrimination lawsuits by thousands of black farmers against the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Nearly \$1 billion in damages were paid out on almost 16,000 claims, but nearly 75,000 additional black farmers filed their claims after the deadline.

On May 2, 2009, [GreenLaw and Georgia Appleseed, with the help of Liberty County resident Meredith Devendorf, organized a legal seminar](#) to address the complex issues facing African-American heirs to property in coastal Georgia. Dubbed a "People's Law School," this seminar familiarized landowners with basic property law and addressed pressing concerns such as estate planning, title, heirs property, community preservation, zoning, and legal protection from nuisances including facility-siting and neighboring polluters. Knowing their rights and responsibilities will enable the descendants of slaves who were granted land by General Sherman's 1865 Field Order, to defend their property in the face of the

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On June 24, 2009, Cincinnati, Ohio passed an 'Environmental Justice Ordinance.'

According to a city press release, the ordinance is the first of its kind where a municipality is using their police powers to enforce environmental justice in the form of an 'environmental justice permit.'

onslaught of pressures from complex inheritance laws as well as exploitation by real estate developers and industrial facilities.

On June 10, 2009, [environmental justice advocates filed a lawsuit challenging the California Air Resources Board's \(CARB\) plan](#) to implement the state's Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, more commonly known by its bill number AB 32. The complaint, filed in California Superior Court in San Francisco, alleges that the plan fails to maximize greenhouse gas emissions reductions and protect vulnerable communities, as required by AB 32.

On June 24, 2009, [Cincinnati, Ohio passed an 'Environmental Justice Ordinance'](#). According to a city press release, the ordinance is the first of its kind where a municipality is using their police powers to enforce environmental justice in the form of an environmental justice permit. The ordinance applies to major new or modified air, water or land sources that pose a cancer risk exceeding a one in one million excess lifetime cancer risk, a hazard quotient exceeding 1.0 or an Acute Exposure Guideline Level from a projected accident of Level 2. The Ordinance explains the particular environmental and justice issues unique to Cincinnati.

In June, the City of Cincinnati passes a groundbreaking [Environmental Justice Ordinance](#) which is the first of its kind where a municipality uses their police powers to enforce environmental justice in the form of an environmental justice permit.

In June, the Royal Dutch Shell oil company [agrees to pay \\$15.5 million to settle](#) a lawsuit filed against them by the son of [Ken Saro-Wiwa](#), a Nigerian environmental activist who, along with eight others, was executed in 1995 by the military regime that ruled Nigeria at the time.

In June, the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility (ICCR), a national group of social responsible investors, conducts a [fact finding mission on environmental justice](#) along the Gulf Coast's "Cancer Alley."

In June, the [Deep South Center for Environmental Justice \(DSEJ\)](#) holds the first meeting of the Public Policy Task Force, "The State of Recovery in New Orleans."

On July 21, 2009, EPA Assistant Administrator for Solid Waste announced that [EPA would thoroughly examine concerns that the definition of solid waste rule promulgated in October 2008 could have an adverse effect on minority communities](#). EPA reconsidered the final rule in response to a petition from Earthjustice.

In July, a judge orders Chevron to [stop work on its controversial oil refinery expansion](#) in Richmond, California. The plaintiffs to push this through the courts were West County Toxics Coalition, Communities for a Better Environment and the Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN).

[New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance](#) organizes a conference called "The People's Assembly" that focuses on how several communities in New Jersey fought or are fighting various environmental injustices. The conference is held in Trenton, New Jersey, in late spring 2009.

Colorado state legislature passes HB 09-1233 "[Recognition of Acequias](#)."

WE ACT convenes [Advancing Climate Justice: Transforming the Economy, Public Health and Our Environment](#) Conference in New York, New York.

[Oregon Senate Bill 420](#) that created an Environmental Justice Task Force is passed in 2009. In Connecticut, [Public Act No. 08-94](#) allows Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection to expand notice requirements to increase public participation opportunities for certain permit applications for new facilities and expanded facilities located in environmental justice communities.

In an unprecedented victory for public health, the [California Energy Commission \(CEC\) voted unanimously to deny the MMC Peaker Plant expansion](#), a proposed expansion of a polluting power plant that would have

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sacrificed the health of hundreds of low-income families that live and work in nearby Chula Vista neighborhoods. Environmental Health Coalition was an official party to the CEC proceedings and organized opposition to the expansion.

On August 26, 2009, a [prominent civil rights leader joined with a coalition of environmental groups in filing an appeal](#) seeking to block a \$2 billion plan to build Georgia's first new coal-fired power plant in more than two decades. The Reverend Joseph Lowery's Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda, along with several environmental groups, filed briefs with the Georgia Supreme Court seeking to derail the Longleaf Energy Plant in southwest Georgia.

On October 5, 2009, [a coalition of environmental groups opposed to mountaintop mining petitioned EPA](#) to include environmental justice in its extended review of surface coal mining permit requests in Appalachia. In its petition, the coalition requested that EPA include in its consideration of surface coal mining an environmental justice plan and strategy that will assess and prevent further disproportionate environmental and health effects from mountaintop removal mining.

On October 5, 2009, a coalition of environmental groups opposed to mountaintop mining petitioned EPA to include environmental justice in its extended review of surface coal mining permit requests in Appalachia.

On November 19, 2009, a [power company in Connecticut reached an agreement with the City of New Haven, Connecticut and several environmental groups](#), agreeing to take steps to ensure there will be no net increase in emissions as a result of a planned expansion at the company's plant in New Haven. In exchange, city officials and environmental groups agreed not to oppose the project, the permit renewal for the existing unit, or the permits to construct and operate the new units.

On December 3, 2009, the [Ninth Circuit held that the federal Bureau of Land Management \(BLM\)](#) failed to take the requisite 'hard look' at the environmental impacts of ore transport and mine dewatering on federal land under NEPA.

In December 2009, EPA required additional environmental justice analyses on an industry petition to import and incinerate polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). [Veolia ES Technical Solutions, LLC petitioned EPA under the Toxic Substances Control Act \(TSCA\) for a one-year exemption from a federal ban on importing PCBs](#), in order to have authority to import the chemicals from Mexico and incinerate them at the company's Port Arthur, Texas, facility.

Dr. Beverly Wright, founder of the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice at Dillard University in New Orleans receives the prestigious 2009 Heinz Award.

In January 2010, EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson announced that expanding Environmentalism and Environmental Justice and one of the top seven priorities for the EPA.

2010

In January 2010, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator named environmental justice and environmentalism as one of the [top seven priorities](#) for the Agency.

On January 15, 2010, EPA announced that it will use a six-step process to assess the potential impacts of its hazardous waste recycling rule on low-income, minority, and tribal populations. The [“Revisions to the Definition of Solid Waste” rule](#) creates specific conditions for recycling hazardous secondary materials under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

In January 2010, EPA for the first time proposed a [geographically focused air toxics program](#) to address the needs of communities that are disproportionately affected by toxic air pollution.

In January, EPA Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS), Deep South Center for Environmental Justice, Dillard University and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), Worker Education and Training Program host the [Environmental Justice, Air Quality, Goods Movement and Green Jobs: Evolution & Innovation Conference](#) in New Orleans.

On February 12, 2010, the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) announced that it would hold up \$70 million in federal stimulus funding for an Oakland Airport Connector Project in response to an [administrative complaint filed with FTA’s Office of Civil Rights in September 2009 by several nonprofit groups alleging that the Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Commission](#).

In February, the Environmental Justice Resource Center at Clark Atlanta University held [The State of Black Atlanta Summit 2010](#) and published the report [State of Black Atlanta: Exploding the Myth of the Black Mecca](#).

In February, the University of California Hastings College of the Law Public Law Research Institute published

[Environmental Justice for All: A Fifty State Survey of Legislation, Policies and Cases](#), Fourth Edition.

In February, the [Obama Administration denies BART \\$70M in stimulus funds citing civil rights failures](#). In the first action of its kind, the Obama Administration has pulled \$70 million in federal stimulus funds from a proposed Oakland Airport Connector (OAC) project due to multiple civil rights violations by the Bay Area Rapid Transit district (BART). Title VI violations found in the investigation were spearheaded by a complaint from civil rights, transportation and environmental advocates.

In March, the National Center for Environmental Economics, National Center for Environmental Research, The National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory, Office of Children’s Health Protection, and Office of Environmental Justice host [“Strengthening Environmental Justice and Decision Making: A Symposium on the Science of Disproportionate Environmental Health Impacts”](#) in Washington, DC.

In March, EPA hosts [“Symposium to Strengthen Research and Policy on Environmental Justice”](#) in Washington, DC. Participants included leaders from across the country including researchers, academics, policy-makers, non-governmental organizations, government officials, tribal leaders, Environmental Justice activists and community experts.

In March, African-American [residents of Mossville](#), a community located just west of Lake Charles, have won a hearing before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on charges that the U.S. government has violated their rights to privacy and racial equality in not forcing local chemical plants to stop polluting. It’s the first time the international organization has agreed to hear complaints of environmental racism against the United States by its own citizens.

In March, Alternatives for Community and Environment (ACE) and Working Group release new report [Environmental Justice and the Green Economy: A Vision Statement and Case Studies for Just and Sustainable Solutions](#).

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In March, the University of Washington, Vancouver Center for Social and Environmental Justice (CSEJ) releases its [2010 Clark County Equity Report](#).

On March 9, 2010, [EPA announced the release of EJView](#), a new public mapping tool. EJView will replace the agency's Environmental Justice Geographic Assessment Tool. The tool was one of the first mapping tools designed to screen for areas with potential environmental justice concerns.

On March 19, 2010, a [federal court in Washington State entered a stipulated judgment in favor of the Rosemere Neighborhood Association](#). Rosemere is a non-profit community organization based in Clark County, Washington dedicated to environmental protection and improving the status of environmental justice communities. In entering the judgment, the court approved the final settlement agreement between Rosemere and EPA that concludes a seven year stretch of administrative Title VI complaints and litigation.

On March 29, 2010, the [Inter-American Commission on Human Rights \(IACHR\) agreed to examine environmental racism complaints of Mossville, Louisiana](#), saying that U.S. courts and federal agencies have not provided a remedy for the toxic pollution in the community from fourteen nearby chemical plants.

In April, EPA's Pollution [Right-to-Know Program](#) gets revived after 10 years of neglect from the Bush Administration. EPA is now proposing to revitalize the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI)—the bedrock public right-to-know program that tracks toxic pollution from thousands of businesses. EPA's proposals would expand the number of chemicals reported to the program. This would be the first expansion since 1999.

In May, the Movement Strategy Center publishes its new report entitled [Dare to Change: Environmental Justice Leadership for Climate Justice, Sustainable Communities and a Deep Green Economy](#).

On June 22-26, nearly 20,000 leaders from across the nation attended the [United States Social Forum \(USSF\)](#) in Detroit, Michigan.

On June 5th, [Luke Cole](#), a San Francisco attorney who was one of the pioneers in the field of environmental justice—filing lawsuits for poor plaintiffs or people of color whose communities were being ravaged by corporate polluters —died in a head-on car crash in Uganda.

On March 9, 2010, EPA announced the release of EJView, a new public mapping tool. EJView will replace the agency's Environmental Justice Geographic Assessment Tool. The tool was one of the first mapping tools designed to screen for areas with potential environmental justice concerns.

On November 23, 2010, the EPA announced the release of research suggesting that low-income neighborhoods appear to be the most susceptible to the West Nile Virus. According to EPA, the study is the first to use a statistical model to determine links between economic conditions and disease. West Nile Virus is a mosquito-transmitted disease that first appeared in the U.S. in 1999, causing human illness and death and costing millions of dollars to control.

On July 20, 2010, the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law released a report entitled "[Now is the Time: Environmental Injustice in the U.S. and Recommendations for Eliminating Disparities.](#)" which called on the Obama administration to take steps to entrench the principles of environmental justice in all government projects and decisions.

On July 28, 2010, students in New Orleans with disabilities are being denied access to the city's public schools and are often pushed into schools unable to provide them with the special education services they deserve under federal law, according to a [complaint lodged](#) by the Southern Poverty Law Center and other advocacy groups.

In September, Steve Lerner's [Sacrifice Zones: The Front Lines of Toxic Chemical Exposure in the United States](#) is published by MIT Press.

On November 23, 2010, the EPA announced the release of research suggesting that [low-income neighborhoods appear to be the most susceptible to the West Nile Virus.](#) According to EPA, the study is the first to use a statistical model to determine links between economic conditions and disease. West Nile Virus is a mosquito-transmitted disease that first appeared in the U.S. in 1999, causing human illness and death and costing millions of dollars to control.

On November 17, 2010, the [National Environmental Justice Advisory Council](#) recommended that EPA establish a formal workgroup to further study how to address environmental justice considerations in its permitting process.

In December, the [Oregon Environmental Justice Task Force](#) received a National Achievements in Environmental Justice Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for effectively implementing Oregon's environmental justice legislation and incorporating environmental justice considerations into state agency programs.

[Robert García](#), Founding Director and Counsel of The City Project, received the [President's Award from the American Public Health Association in 2010](#) for helping make public health and the environment a social justice imperative.

On December 21, 2010, EPA announced that it was forming a new tribal committee to provide tribes with an opportunity for greater input on issues related to toxic chemicals and pollution prevention. [EPA announced that it was establishing a National Tribal Toxics Committee \(NTTC\)](#) that will give tribes a forum for providing advice on the development of EPA's chemical management and pollution prevention programs that affect tribes.

In 2010, Dr. Daniel Faber received the [Environmental Sociology Practice and Outreach Award](#) from the Environmental Sociology and Technology Section of the American Sociological Association.

Margaret Gordon, co-founder and co-director of the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project (WOEIP), a resident led, community-based environmental justice organization [received the Purpose Award](#) honoring individuals over the age of 60 who are changing the world.

2011

January 12, 2011, the nation lost [Hazel Johnson](#), an icon of the Environmental Justice Movement in the United States. Nearly two decades ago in October 1991, Ms. Johnson was tagged the "Mother of the Environmental Justice Movement" at the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit.

A [Native American tribe in Colorado filed a lawsuit against the Department of Interior \(DOI\)](#) concerning leases that allow private companies to extract coal on the tribe's land in New Mexico for use at a power plant in New Mexico. It therefore voided the environmental analysis and remanded the matter to OSM.

A number of [community organizations in Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota, filed a lawsuit](#) against the Department

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of Transportation, the Federal Transit Administration, and the local city council alleging that the defendants prepared a deficient final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a light rail construction project in violation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

On January 28, 2011, the [D.C. Circuit upheld the dismissal of a Native American tribe's case against the Department of Energy](#), which sought the cleanup of two contaminated sites under the Uranium Mill Tailings Remediation and Control Act. On appeal, the D.C. Circuit upheld the district court's decision.

In February, a class of plaintiffs alleged that the Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Commission, California's largest bus-only transit system, engaged in [funding decisions that disadvantage the transit system's largely minority riders](#) in comparison to the white ridership of the region's light and heavy rail trains, primarily by failing to cover the system's operational shortfalls.

On April 11, PPG Industries agreed to clean-up one of the largest remaining sites contaminated with cancer-causing hexavalent chromium in New Jersey.

On March 22, 2011, [Environmental Justice groups](#) in California win their "cap and trade" legal suit in its plan to implement AB 32, the California Climate Solutions Act. "Cap and trade" is pollution trading that allows the worst polluters to continue or increase their pollution by buying "reductions."

On April 7, 2011 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) [presented an award](#) for outstanding work to further environmental justice to the ENLACE Cano Martin Pena Project in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The group was recognized for work developing a comprehensive and environmentally sustainable economic development plan for the Cano Martin Pena, with the full engagement of the communities along the canal.

April 7, 2011 the South River Watershed Alliance represented by public interest attorneys from [GreenLaw](#), [took steps to ensure that the DeKalb residents](#) harmed by years of illegal sewer overflows from DeKalb County will have a seat at the table as regulators finalize a deal with the county on how to fix the ailing sewer system. The EPA and the Environmental Protection Division have filed a proposed Consent Decree in federal court which outlines a plan to clean up the DeKalb County sewer system. The proposed decree is the result of the County's long-term failure to prevent unpermitted discharges of untreated sewage into Snapfinger Creek, South River and many other water bodies in the county.

On April 14, Wilma Supra, an environmental chemist whose work has helped illuminate the ongoing health impacts of BP's Deepwater Horizon oil disaster won a human rights award from Global Exchange, an organization that promotes social, economic and environmental justice around the world.

On April 11, PPG Industries [agreed to clean-up](#) one of the largest remaining sites contaminated with cancer-causing hexavalent chromium in New Jersey.

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences releases [Environmental Justice and Hazardous Waste Worker Training Programs: 15 Years of Investment in Environmental Justice](#) report.

On April 12, 2011, environmental justice activist, Hilton Kelly won the [Goldman Prize award](#). He was recognized for his environmental work to protect Port Arthur, Texas from oil refinery pollution and raising the national awareness about the struggle of fenceline communities.

On April 9, 2011, a [federal court of appeals issued a ruling explaining its decision to set aside preliminary injunctions](#) previously granted against the State of Louisiana regarding its administration of the Road Home program. The preliminary injunctions were granted at the request of two fair housing groups and African-American homeowners in New Orleans who filed suit on behalf of families displaced in the wake of hurricanes Rita and Katrina.

On April 14, Wilma Supra, an environmental chemist whose work has helped illuminate the ongoing health impacts of BP's Deepwater Horizon oil disaster won a [human rights award](#) from [Global Exchange](#), an organization that promotes social, economic and environmental justice around the world.

In June, the [Louisiana State Court of Appeal orders the State Department of Environmental Quality](#) to examine the environment impact of discharges produced from oil and gas production activities within the Louisiana territorial waters in the Gulf of Mexico upholding the position of the Louisiana Environmental Action Network (LEAN).

On July 30, 2011, the voting on [environmentally destructive amendments to the House of Representatives 2012 Interior and EPA spending bill \(H.R. 2584\)](#) occurred, as one of the most extreme attacks on our environment and public health in modern history continues.

On August 4, 2011, [17 federal agencies announced that they signed a memorandum of understanding \(MOU\)](#) that will provide annual reports on their efforts to address disproportionate environmental burdens facing poor and minority communities. According to the MOU, the federal agencies will pay particular attention to environmental justice considerations relating to climate adaptation and commercial transportation.

On August 22, 2011, [EPA announced a settlement with the Department of the Interior \(DOI\)](#) to address alleged violations of waste, water, air, toxics and community right-to-know laws at schools and public water systems in Indian country owned, operated, or the legal responsibility of DOI's Indian Affairs Office. The settlement addresses all alleged violations under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Emergency Planning and Community-Right-to-Know Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act's PCB provisions, and the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA).

On August 25, 2011, EPA announced a settlement to a civil rights complaint, pursuant to which California pesticide regulators will install an air monitor at a Watsonville, California school to track concentrations of methyl bromide. Methyl bromide is an odorless, colorless gas used primarily as a fumigant in agriculture to control insects, nematodes, weeds, pathogens, and other pests. It is also used as a structural fumigant. For agricultural uses it is injected into the soil prior to planting and then the fields are covered with tarps. [Angelita C. v. California Department of Pesticide Regulation](#), Case No. 16R-99-R9 (EPA Aug. 25, 2011).

September 15, 2011, According to GreenLaw, six [DeKalb County groups \(in Georgia\) joined forces this year to ask the EPA for stricter penalties](#) for such spills in a bid for faster cleanup of waterways such as the South River, Snapfinger Creek and the South Fork of Peachtree Creek near Emory University. Moody's Investor Services gave DeKalb County

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a favorable bond rating for the \$412 million it plans to borrow to start upgrading its water sewer system.

On September 14, 2011, EPA released [“Plan EJ 2014.”](#) According to the agency, Plan EJ 2014 is a roadmap that will help it integrate environmental justice into the agency’s programs, policies, and activities for the next three years.

The City Project published the environmental justice and public health report, [Healthy Parks, Schools, and Communities](#), documenting disparities in green access, physical activity, and health in nine counties of Southern California and presenting recommendations for change, in September 2011.

On October 7, 2011, Environmental Justice Interagency Working Group (EJIWG) announced the release of a [community resource guide and interagency directory](#). The guide includes programs within agencies that may assist communities in reducing toxic exposures. These programs provide technical assistance, federal funding or a combination of both technical assistance and federal funding.

EPA released a document entitled [“An Update on Ongoing and Future EPA Actions to Empower Communities and Advance the Integration of Environmental Justice in Decision Making and Research.”](#) According to EPA, the update identifies ongoing efforts at EPA to develop and improve reliable scientific data for identifying disproportionate environmental and health impacts among racial/ethnic minorities, low-income populations, and indigenous people and tribes, while working to address and reduce these disparities.

In October 2011, in response to the August 4, 2011 MOU signed by federal agencies, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Department of Commerce (DOC) announced the release of their [draft Environmental Justice Strategies](#). [DOC’s draft EJ strategy](#) is also available.

EJRC staff members (Robert D. Bullard, Glenn S. Johnson, and Angel O. Torres) publish a new book entitled, [“Environmental Health and Racial Equity in the United States: Building Environmentally Just, Sustainable, and Livable Communities,”](#) that examines environmental health through a racial equity lens. The book was supported by the [W.K. Kellogg Foundation](#) and published by the American Public Health Association Press ([APHA](#)).

Women’s Voices for Earth releases, *Dirty Secrets: What’s Hiding in Your Cleaning Products*, revealing the hidden toxic chemicals in top brand name cleaners.

HB 2018, "Reduced Truck Idling Rule", is passed to limit the amount of time that a truck or commercial vehicle can idle. This helps reduce the amount of emissions produced by commercial vehicles. The limitation on idle time is five minutes in a 60-minute period.

EPA releases [School Siting Guidelines](#) which recommend best practices for sponsors of school projects to use when siting schools relative to a range of man-made environmental hazards. Significantly, the Guidelines recommend that school sponsors conduct rigorous environmental reviews of candidate sites, and that siting decisions and environmental reviews be developed with the participation of local school siting advisory committees.

The Cochabamba [World People's Conference On Global Warming and Rights Of Mother Earth](#) was held in 2011.

[Farmworkers and environmental health organizations](#) file methyl iodide lawsuit.

HUD awards first grant to the [Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Service](#), Inc. to improve health hazards for asthmatic children living in public or assisted multifamily housing.

Senator Warren of Ann Arbor introduces the [Safe Children's Product Act](#) to provide families with information about toxic chemicals in children's products sold in Michigan.

Women's Voices for Earth releases, [Dirty Secrets: What's Hiding in Your Cleaning Products](#), revealing the hidden toxic chemicals in top brand name cleaners.

Warning letters and hazard alerts are issued on the use of formaldehyde-containing [Brazilian Blowout](#) hair straightening treatments.

On November 7, 2011, the [Governmental Accountability Office \(GAO\)](#) released a report finding that EPA has not defined key environmental justice terms, such as "minority" and "low-income communities," which could hamper the agency's ability to identify communities with environmental justice concerns.

On December 16, 2011, the [Department of Transportation \(DOT\)](#) released a guidance document advising Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) offices on the process to address environmental justice issues during the NEPA process.

[HB 2018](#), "Reduced Truck Idling Rule", is passed to limit the amount of time that a truck or commercial vehicle can idle. This helps reduce the amount of emissions produced by commercial vehicles. The limitation on idle time is five minutes in a 60-minute period.

[Rita Harris is awarded the Sierra Club's Virginia Ferguson Award](#) for her work to diversify the organization.

2012

On January 3, 2012, [50 Alabama residents living near a landfill that took coal-combustion ash from a Tennessee Valley Authority \(TVA\) plant and filed an administrative complaint with EPA](#), alleging that the Alabama Department of Environmental Management should not have renewed the permit for the landfill and did so in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. *In re Alabama Department of Environmental Management Permitting of Arrowhead Landfill in Perry County, Alabama* (EPA, filed Jan. 3, 2012).

On January 6, 2012, [Marshall Shepherd](#), professor of geography in the University of Georgia Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, was voted president-elect of the American Meteorological Society. He is only the second African American to hold this office.

On January 18, 2012, EPA released a draft guidance document entitled ["Recommendations for Developing a Model Civil Rights Program at the Environmental Protection Agency"](#).

Approximately 175 people attend the [New England Environmental Justice Forum's](#) first Region-wide Environmental Justice Summit at Clark University in Worcester. This was the first time that environmental justice activists and advocates, as well as academics and government officials met face to face to discuss environmental justice issues on a regional basis. All six New England states were represented. Issues discussed at the summit included connecting urban and rural environmental justice issues, food justice, transportation

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justice, air pollution and asthma, and skills related to fundraising and communications.

Governor Lincoln Chafee signs into law legislation banning the siting of schools in Rhode Island on contaminated sites where there is an ongoing potential for toxic vapors to enter into school buildings, and establishing a public review process for using other contaminated sites formerly used for industrial or landfill purposes. The law was developed by a court-ordered stakeholder group arising out of the Hartford Park Tenant Association v. Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management lawsuit decided in the plaintiffs' favor in 2005.

On February 27, 2012, the Obama Administration announces that federal agencies are finalizing strategies for incorporating environmental justice into their operations (i.e., Federal Transit Administration, Labor Department, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

USDA releases its environmental justice strategic plan and provides an overall direction for continued integration of environmental justice at the department in February 2012. The goals were developed with the input of the USDA Environmental Justice Working Group, comprised of key staff and leadership from each of the department's mission areas.

Two nonprofit environmental groups filed a complaint in intervention in United States v. City of Baton Rouge, 01-CV-978 (M.D. Tenn.), alleging that EPA has failed to prosecute the lawsuit diligently and otherwise failed to enforce a consent decree entered into by the parties in 2002 concerning Clean Water Act violations at a wastewater treatment plant in Baton Rouge.

On March 20, 2012, GreenLaw informs the Georgia Public Service Commission that Georgia Power is not going far enough by retiring two aging coal-fired units at Plant Branch near Milledgeville. Based on Georgia Power's own analysis, additional pollution controls that are required to meet public health standards would render the operation of these units uneconomical.

April 2012, Maryland Legislature passes HB 644, authorizing Maryland Department of the Environment to administer the EPA Renovate, Repair and Paint rule and require lead dust testing after renovations on pre-1978 homes.

On April 4, 2012, the Southern California Association of Governments

April 18, 2012, EPA's Office of Environmental Justice launched its Environmental Justice in Action blog. The blog is a resource for educating, communicating and engaging with government employees, external stakeholders and the broader public about the actions and ideas that stakeholders are using to advance the mission of environmental justice.

On May 9, 2012, protesters of the 99 Percent Power Coalition rallied outside of Bank of America in Charlotte, NC against the financing of coal mining in the United States.

passed a landmark [Sustainable Communities Strategy](#) plan, potentially reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the region by 8% by 2020.

In April 2012, [EPA released a draft Plan EJ 2014 Supplement](#). According to the agency, the supplement sets forth goals, strategies, and activities that will assist the agency in building a robust Title VI civil rights program. In particular, the strategies outlined in the supplement include establishing a robust Title VI pre-award and post-award compliance program; strengthening Title VI in EPA's National Program Management guidance, performance partnership agreements and performance partnership grants; partner with other federal agencies to improve and strengthen compliance with Title VI.

On April 6, 2012, a [California federal district court rejects EPA's bid to dismiss a lawsuit](#) involving a 15-year-old administrative complaint filed over the permitting of hazardous waste dumps in low-income, rural, and Latino communities.

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In May 2012, [GreenLaw is working with Atlanta's Tire Commission, Mayor Kasim Reed, and The City of Atlanta to combat pollution from tire dumps](#). Dumped tires in the Atlanta metropolitan area contribute to blight and can form large tire piles that breed diseases such as West Nile virus.

On May 1, 2012, a three-judge panel on the North Carolina Court of Appeals unanimously affirmed a trial court decision in [Waste Industries v. NC](#) upholding the constitutionality of a state law that limits the size and location of new large landfills built in the state. The Rogers-Eubanks Neighborhood Association and the NC

NAACP had intervened in the litigation to defend the law, passed in 2007, because large landfills are often sited in low-income, minority communities. The NAACP had pushed the General Assembly to consider environmental justice when dealing with new landfills. The [decision from the Court of Appeals](#) expressly recognized the environmental justice protections provided by the challenged statutes.

May 2, 2012, The [Fulton County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution](#) urging the Georgia Environmental Protection Division to take swift action to develop, implement, and enforce regulations and policies to promote environmental justice for the citizens of Fulton County and the entire State of Georgia. The resolution, sponsored by Commissioner Emma J. Darnell, was drafted after the release of *The Patterns of Pollution* report by GreenLaw.

On May 9, 2012, protesters of the [99 Percent Power Coalition](#) rallied outside of Bank of America in Charlotte, NC against the financing of coal mining in the United States.

June 2012, the [Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning](#) committed to scaling its Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) to 25 new cities in the next three years through Clinton Global Initiative. This commitment will create 25,000 Green & Healthy Homes and 1,550 green construction jobs.

On July 2012, the [New York State Department of Environmental Conservation \(DEC\) proposed regulations](#) that would require electricity generating facilities in New York to evaluate potential environmental justice impacts in siting decisions.

In July 19, 2012, the Department of Justice (DOJ), EPA and a New Jersey municipal sewer utility entered into a [Clean Water Act consent decree](#) between the parties whereby the utility agreed to improve sewer collection infrastructure for low-income housing. The decree requires the Jersey City Municipal Utilities Authority to invest \$550,000

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in a supplemental environmental project to remove privately owned common sewers from homes in several neighborhoods and replace them with direct sewer connections, creating better wastewater collection. *U.S. v. Jersey City Municipal Utilities Authority & the State of New Jersey*.

2012, [Green and Healthy Homes Initiative \(GHHI\)](#) take steps to remove barriers for funding to fix low-income scattered-site housing across the country.

The PBS documentary [California Forever](#) on California State Parks features new urban state parks including the Los Angeles State Historic Park downtown, Rio de Los Angeles State Park in Latino Northeast Los Angeles, and Baldwin Hills Park in the historic heart of African-American Los Angeles.

[President Barack Obama](#), the first black president of the United States, honored one of the most revered figures in Mexican-American history and all people committed to social justice by [dedicating the César E. Chávez National Monument](#) in Keene, California, on October 8, 2012. The monument is the rolling hills in rural California, called Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz, where [Mr. César Chávez](#) made his home with his wife Helen, and worked as a labor organizer and civil rights leader with the United Farm Workers union. The National Monument is the first honoring a Latino born later than the 1700s.

Suzie Canales wins the Texas Observer's "[People Friend](#)" Award in 2012.

Mossville Environmental Action Now ([Mossville Group Files Lawsuit Against the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality](#)).

Safe Chemicals Act would reform a Broken system industry is poised to challenge [California communities against toxics v. EPA](#) (9th Circuit. July 26, 2012).

On August 28, 2012, The [Obama administration finalizes the historic 54.5 mpg fuel efficiency standards](#). The Obama Administration's program to improve fuel economy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions will save consumers more than \$1.7 trillion at the gas pump and reduce U.S. oil consumption by 12 billion barrels.

[Environmental Health Coalition](#) scores air quality victories in 2012.

President Barack Obama, the first black president of the United States, honored one of the most revered figures in Mexican American history and all people committed to social justice by dedicating the César E. Chávez National Monument in Keene, California, on October 8, 2012.

The first vote on chemical safety in over 30 years, the Safe Chemical Act, passes out of the Senate committee.

Clean air advocate, [Edgar Mouton](#), and leader of Mossville Environmental Action Now (MEAN) passes away.

[Mississippi Center for Justice](#) fights poverty caused by the BP oil spill disaster.

[Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition \(SVTC\)](#) releases its 2012 Solar Scorecard.

[Sixteenth Street Community Health Center](#) is one of the first health centers in Wisconsin to demonstrate meaningful use, which is a quality performance incentive program that relies on electronic patient records.

[Dr. Henry Clark and West County Toxics Coalition](#) continues to be a strong presence in the environmental justice movement in Richmond, California after three decades.

[Sustainable South Bronx \(SSBX\)](#) receives the 2012 NYC [Neighborhood Achievement Award](#) for workplace innovation.

[Children's Environmental Health Network](#) testifies before the U.S. Senate, Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies in support of U.S. EPA Appropriations for 2012.

The [Advisory Committee on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention \(ACCLPP\)](#) members pass the resolution on Low Level Lead Exposure Harms Children: A Renewed Call for Primary Prevention.

The [National Hispanic Environmental Council \(NEHC\)](#) supports the EPA proposed landmark standard to reduce industrial carbon pollution from new and existing power plants.

The first vote on chemical safety in over 30 years, [the Safe Chemical Act](#), passes out of the Senate committee.

On September 24, 2012, [Quail Brush fossil fuel power plant](#) is denied a permit by San Diego City Council.

The [Land Loss Prevention Project \(LLPP\)](#) celebrated the 30th anniversary of its founding. LLPP was founded in 1982 by the North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers to curtail

the widespread loss of African-American owned land in North Carolina.

On October 4-6, 2012, The University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment honored the career of Bunyan Bryant for his 40+ years of service to the field of environmental justice, ["Honoring The Career of Bunyan Bryant: The Legacy and Future of Environmental Justice."](#)

On October 15, 2012, The Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum exhibit on ["Reclaiming the Edge: Urban Waterways and Civic Engagement"](#) celebrates six communities across the nation and around the world who are rising up to reclaim urban waterways, change urban landscapes, and alter the relations of power. The exhibit includes the work of The City Project, Anahuak Youth Sports Association, Friends of the Los Angeles River, Consejo de Federaciones Mexicanas en Nortéamerica (COFEM), public officials, and others in greening the L.A. River for all.

November 2012, a [lawsuit filed against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\) launched by the Center for Biological Diversity, Greenpeace, and Port Townsend AirWatchers](#) could force new pulp and paper mills—and possibly even existing facilities—to cut back on their carbon dioxide emissions or shut down. The first-of-its-kind lawsuit demands that the EPA abide by Section 111 of the Clean Air Act, which requires the EPA to review air pollution standards for paper mills every eight years.

[Tar Sands Blockade](#) protested to stop the XL Pipelines from connecting Alberta's tar sands to Texas's oil refineries and shipping ports.

The Journal of Poverty Law and Policy publishes an article on 13 years of [environmental justice challenges and victories in Baldwin Hills and South Central Los Angeles](#), including the Baldwin Hills Park, setting the national standard for regulating urban oil fields, and fixing the sewer system through a \$2 billion agreement under the Clean Water Act. Robert García and Ramya Sivasubramanian, *Environmental Justice for All: Struggle in Baldwin Hills*

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and South Central Los Angeles, Clearinghouse Review: Journal of Poverty Law and Policy (Nov/Dec 2012).

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) strengthens air standards for fine particles, reducing harmful pollution.

On December 19, 2012, Lithonia, Georgia residents gathered at a public meeting to protest against Green Energy Partners from receiving an air permit to build an 11.5 megawatt electric generating facility (i.e., a Biomass Plant). The plant will emit tons of hazardous air pollutants such as carbon monoxide, nitrous oxide, and formaldehyde that are known to cause cancer and birth defects. GreenLaw and Citizens for a Healthy and Safe Environment (CHASE) oppose the siting of the facility because the owner has failed to adequately document the amounts and types of emissions that will be generated by the plant.

Methyl iodide, a fumigant pesticide, is withdrawn from U.S. markets.

Luke Cole Memorial Fellowship is established at the Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment to launch new attorneys into a career in environmental and social justice.

The City of Los Angeles created three multi-benefit park and water projects to improve water quality and quality of life in disproportionately African-American and Latino parts of L.A. as part of the settlement agreement in a clean water justice suit by U.S. EPA and civil rights advocates.

The South Central L.A. Wetlands Park transformed an eyesore – a bus lot paved in blacktop – into a green oasis in a community that lacks parks. Storm water is percolated through wet lands, there are birds and other habitat, and people can enjoy and walk in a healthy place across the street from a new high school.

The Garvanza Park Stormwater Project captures and cleans more than one million gallons of rain and runoff. The project helps save water and helps keep the L.A. River and the ocean healthy and clean.

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar attended the opening of the North Atwater Park as part of the greening of the L.A. River.

President Barack Obama dedicated the César Chávez National Monument in 2012. “Our world is a better place because César Chávez decided to change it,” according to the President. This is the first national monument dedicated to a Latino born after the 1700s, according to the National Park Service.

The South Central L.A. Wetlands Park transformed an eyesore – a bus lot paved in blacktop – into a green oasis in a community that lacks parks. Storm water is percolated through wet lands, there are birds and other habitat, and people can enjoy and walk in a healthy place across the street from a new high school.

The 2013 Environmental Justice Implementation Progress Report is released by HHS in February 2013 and describes the vision for environmental justice as “a nation that equitably promotes healthy community environments and protects the health of all people.”

2013

In January, [Greenaction](#) succeeds obtaining a voluntary agreement to reduce diesel truck idling in Kettleman City and Avenal.

[EPA releases for public comment](#) two draft policy papers intended to improve the agency’s enforcement of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. One draft policy paper proposes to change the way EPA assesses “adversity” by having the agency refrain from applying a “rebuttable presumption” in certain Title VI investigations. The rebuttable presumption, announced in the *Select Steel* case establishes a presumption that compliance with environmental standards means there is no “adversity” for purposes of establishing a violation of the agency’s Title VI “disparate impact” regulations. The second draft paper discusses EPA’s thinking about how to expand the roles of complainants and recipients in the Title VI complaints process. Both papers were developed in response to a series of meetings with EPA Administrator Jackson and environmental justice activists and attorneys in 2012.

The [National Park Service publishes the final report](#) on the proposed national recreation area in the San Gabriel watershed and mountains, which is a best practice example for park agencies to improve environmental justice, environmental quality, and public health, in response to public comments from diverse allies.

On February 7, 2013, the Los Angeles Times reports that [California leads the nation in advanced bio fuel companies](#) being named the “clean tech hub of the country”.

President Obama adds a climate adaption to sustainability planning in order to integrate sustainable strategies, to protect infrastructure from climate change and to improve water-use efficiency.

On February 12, 2013, [Southern Alliance for Clean Energy \(SACE\), the Atlanta Black Nurses Association \(ABNA\) and the West Atlanta Watershed Alliance \(WAWA\) kicked off Black History Month with a symposium focused on disproportionately environmental impacts](#) and how the production and consumption of energy affects communities of color.

This was the first time the three organizations convened a group of this kind to discuss energy and environmental health disparities in minority communities.

Robert D. Bullard, Dean Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs at Texas Southern University presents [“Environmental Justice: Building Healthy and Sustainable Communities in the Gulf Coast.”](#) EPA’s Gulf of Mexico Program to Hold Environmental Justice Conference in Biloxi, MS. February 22, 2013.

The [2013 Environmental Justice Implementation Progress Report](#) is released by HHS in February 2013 and describes the vision for environmental justice as “a nation that equitably promotes healthy community environments and protects the health of all people.”

Early in 2013, [Southern Coalition for Social Justice \(SCSJ\)](#) filed on behalf of the Southernside Neighborhoods in Action and two individuals a complaint under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 against the South Carolina Department of Transportation. In the complaint, they alleged that residents of the Southernside neighborhood, an economically disadvantaged community of color, were excluded from the decision-making process behind demolition of a pedestrian bridge that connected the community to the adjacent town.

Civil rights and environmental justice activist Dolores Huerta was inducted into the [California Hall of Fame](#), receiving the Spirit of California medal on March 20, 2013.

The [historic genocide and human rights trial](#) in Guatemala of the former president Efraim Rios Montt begins March 19, 2013. This is the first time anywhere in the world that a former head of state is being tried for genocide by a national tribunal. The United States overthrew the democratically elected government of Guatemala in 1954 and installed a military dictatorship. This led over the next 42 years to the murder, torture, and disappearance of 200,000 Guatemalan people. The government’s “scorched earth” policy led to the destruction of entire Mayan villages and the massacre of women, children,

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babies, and elderly people. Estimates of displaced persons vary from 500,000 to 1.5 million people in the most intense period from 1981 to 1983, according to the United Nations Commission for Historical Clarification. The government's war on its own people devastated the natural environment as well.

On March 22, 2013, Northwest-based community groups, health professionals, environmental organizations, a grassroots conservation and family agriculture group, and a clean-energy nonprofit [filed a formal petition with the United States Army Corps of Engineers](#) asking it to evaluate the cumulative and related impacts of all proposed coal export terminals in Oregon and Washington.

After five years of working with low-income and minority communities in Texas, [Matthew Tejada brings on-the-ground experience to his new job as director of the Office of Environmental Justice](#) at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Protesters took to the National Mall for a climate rally urging the rejection of the proposed Keystone XL pipeline that would carry oil sands from Canada through the United States.

Protesters took to the National Mall for a climate rally urging the [rejection of the proposed Keystone XL pipeline](#) that would carry oil sands from Canada through the United States.

The [Planning and Black Community Division of the American Planning Association \(APA\)](#) recently developed a [special issue on social equity](#) that is an environmental justice milestone, and it includes an article by Charles Lee, an environmental justice pioneer.

[House Bill 201](#) establishes buffer zones for pesticide and herbicide application and restores public participation.

Communities for a Better Environment (CBE) and [community members celebrate a new school \(Linda Esperanza Marquez High School\) and park opening](#) on the site of a former toxic concrete mountain.

[From Activist to EPA](#): Matthew Tejada becomes the EPA's new Director for the Office of Environmental Justice.

[The City of Seattle settled with EPA](#) and agreed to pay \$1.4 billion in upgrades to its sewer system over alleged violation of the Clean Water Act.

The California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) announce the availability of the [California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool](#).

On April 12, 2013, Texas Southern University enters into a significant agreement with the EPA Region 6 focused on the training of qualified professionals in environmental policy, economics, and several areas of science, business and technology.

Labor Occupational Health Program submits findings on efforts to improve refinery safety following the explosion at the Richmond Chevron refinery to the California Governor's Interagency Task Force on Refinery Safety.

Federal judge rules in favor of parents suing New York City to expedite removal of toxic polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from public schools.

The Safe Chemicals Act of 2013 was introduced by Montana's Senators Baucus and Tester to provide fixes to the nation's chemical policies and limit the use of unsafe chemicals.

The White House has selected 12 Champions of Change, including the Asian Pacific Environmental Network's Lip Chanthanasak, who display leadership in working to prepare their communities for the consequences of climate change.

Sustainable South Bronx is featured in an upcoming documentary, *Water Blues-Green Solution*.

Staying Green and Growing Jobs: Infrastructure Operations and Maintenance as Career Pathway Stepping Stones, a green infrastructure report, is released by Green for All and American Rivers.

Freedom Farms sponsored its Environmental Food Justice Conference during the last week of February 2013. The event was held at the Guild Theater and included participation from a number of stakeholders including local farmers and representatives from government agencies.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Gulf of Mexico Program hosted an Environmental Justice Conference, "Environmental Justice: Systems, Symptoms, and Solutions" on March 1-2, 2013 in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Deep South Center for Environmental Justice at Dillard University hosts the 1st Annual HBCU Student Climate Change Conference, "Bridging The Gap Between Climate Change Theory and Experience." April 4-6, 2013.

The Board of Directors of the National Environmental Justice Conference, Inc. held the 2013 National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program in Washington, DC, April 3-5, 2013.

The NAACP and Green for All join forces to demand protection against coal plant pollution.

President and CEO of Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies met with other prominent African American leaders at the White House to meet with President Obama about strengthening the middle class and providing opportunities for poverty stricken African American and other minority communities.

A federal judge ruled that the Obama Administration violated the law when it issued oil leases in Monterey County, CA without considering the environmental impacts of hydraulic fracturing, also known as fracking. The ruling came in response to a suit brought by the Center for Biological Diversity and the Sierra Club.

The EPA wins an important legal victory in a long-brewing battle over a West Virginia coal mining project that includes a controversial practice of blasting the tops off mountains and dumping the waste into streams.

Asa Needle, 17 of Worcester, MA won the Brower Youth Award, which goes to a young adult who is making outstanding contributions to the cause of environmental justice.

On April 12, 2013, Texas Southern University enters into a significant agreement with the EPA- Region 6, focused on the training of qualified professionals in environmental policy, economics, and several areas of science, business and technology. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will focus on bringing innovative strategies to the forefront to assure an adequate supply of highly trained and skilled personnel for the accomplishment of environmental research, policy and program development.

Robert D. Bullard spoke at the Second International Congress on Civil and State Liability, Benjamin Herrera

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Auditorium, Universidad Libre, Bogota, Columbia, April 15-16, 2013.

Fourteen Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries adopted an ambitious plan of action to improve environmental justice and public participation rights across the region on April 17, 2013.

Connecticut College brought together scholars, activists and concerned citizens to explore issues of global environmental injustice at “The Quest for Global Environmental Equity in an Increasingly Inequitable World” conference April 18-20, 2013.

The Earth Day Action for Environmental and Climate Justice Event was held in San Francisco. The event consisted of 65 community, environmental justice, indigenous, civil rights, health and environmental groups gathering to demand government agencies and the Obama Administration to stop protecting polluters and start protecting communities’ health and our climate.

In celebration of Earth Day 2013, noted author and scholar Robert D. Bullard presents a lecture on “Environmental Justice in the Twenty-First Century” in the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs at Texas Southern University.

The new documentary film, A Fierce Green Fire, The Battle for a Living Planet, that explores the environmental movement premieres at Texas Southern University on Earth Day, April 22, 2013.

The Sandy Regional Assembly (SRA) delivers a blueprint plan for grassroots-led recovery to President Obama’s Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force in early April.

Climate Central creates an interactive graphic that shows a state-by-state analysis of temperature trends since the first Earth Day took place in 1970.

A planetary report card on global warming suggests that carbon dioxide concentrations are the highest they’ve been in the past 800,000 years, an ignominious milestone for Earth Day 2013.

Chesapeake Climate Action Network, Emergency Preparedness for Industry and Commerce Council (EPICCs), and the Marine & Environmental Studies departments of Hampton University host an Environmental Justice & Sustainability panel.

The Earth Day Action for Environmental and Climate Justice Event was held in San Francisco. The event consisted of 65 community, environmental justice, indigenous, civil rights, health and environmental groups gathering to demand government agencies and the Obama Administration to stop protecting polluters and start protecting communities’ health and our climate.

May 4, 2013, [Jekyll Island-65/35 Defining Marsh Law](#) is needed because if marsh were defined as “land” in Jekyll’s case, the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act (CMPA)’s right to delineate Georgia’s tidal marshes could be promised. The state’s marshes can’t be fully protected unless there’s a clear definition of marsh and where it meets land.

[Sierra Club of Puerto Rico is honored](#) by the EPA with the 2013 U.S. EPA Environmental Quality Award for efforts to create an innovative recycling program.

On April 24, 2013, [citizens in Appalachia celebrated a huge victory in their fight to protect their families and communities from harmful mountaintop removal mining](#). In a [sharp 15-page ruling](#), a panel of three Republican-appointed judges in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit unanimously upheld the Environment Protection Agency’s veto of the permit for the Spruce No. 1 mine, the largest proposed mountaintop removal mine in West Virginia. Earthjustice, along with Appalachian Mountain Advocates, represented a handful of community and citizen groups in this case. This court decision comes after 15 years of court challenges by community groups whose members were in the fallout zone of the proposed mine. It’s a precedent-setting decision and historic. The Spruce Mine permit is the first mountaintop removal mining permit ever challenged in courts.

On April 25, 2013, the [Healthier Hospitals Initiative](#) launched initiatives to reduce carbon footprint, improve the health of patients in hospitals and possibly lower health costs. In this process, the participating hospitals were able to collect and report quantified data showing the success of the initiative. It has since then been reported that more than 50 million tons of waste has been recycled with more than 61.5 million pounds of construction and demolition waste kept out of landfills through reuse and recycling.

Robert D. Bullard is a featured speaker at the Tufts University Spring 2013 Colloquium at [40th Anniversary of UEP Celebration](#), Medford, MA, Saturday (evening), April 27, 2013.

May 4, 2013, [Jekyll Island-65/35 Defining Marsh Law](#) is needed because if marsh were defined as “land” in Jekyll’s case, the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act (CMPA)’s right to delineate Georgia’s tidal marshes could be promised. The state’s marshes can’t be fully

protected unless there’s a clear definition of marsh and where it meets land.

In a [formal petition for rulemaking](#), 19 Appalachian local, regional, and national groups are petitioning the EPA to set a numeric water quality standard under the Clean Water Act to protect streams in Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, Tennessee, Ohio, and Pennsylvania from pollution caused by mountaintop removal mining. This petition is backed by robust scientific studies that demonstrate that the dumping of mountaintop removal mining waste leads to harmful levels of conductivity – the ability of a waterway to conduct an electric current. Elevated conductivity is toxic to aquatic life, and studies show it is having an extreme ecological effect on Appalachian waters and streams.

May 13, 2013, [East Oakland Gains an Environmental Justice Victory](#). City Council unanimously passed a 180-day extension for the emergency ordinance that requires any new crematoriums in Oakland to first, obtain a Major Conditional Use Permit. Without this emergency ordinance, the city would allow human cremation to be classified as a “General Manufacturing” activity, and therefore not require a permit with public participation and environmental review. Cremation is not a manufacturing activity and the community has a right to know!

On May 28, 2013, The Washington, D.C. Circuit Court dismissed an [appeal by Sunflower Electric of a ruling requiring environmental review of Sunflower’s proposed new coal plant in Holcomb, Kansas](#). The decision lets stand a district court ruling that the United States government violated the law by allowing Sunflower to proceed with the polluting and financially risky plant without first examining its environmental effects and alternative actions.

Riverkeeper, Inc., Waterkeeper Alliance, Inc., Citizens Campaign for the Environment, Inc., Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter, Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper, Inc. Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper, Inc., and Theodore Gordon

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Flyfishers, Inc. against Joe Martens, in his capacity as the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), and NYSDEC regarding the decision to categorically remove two [regulatory environmental protections](#) for what NYSDEC estimates to be 357 concentrated animal feeding operations.

Lila Wickham received the Multnomah County Citizen Involvement Committee's (CIC) [6th Annual Sy Award](#) at its annual celebration dinner on June 13th. She received this award in recognition of her environmental justice efforts in Oregon.

In June 2013, The Mickey Leland Center for Environment, Justice and Sustainability, in the Barbara Jordan - Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs at Texas Southern University, launched its [Climate Education Community University Partnership \(CECUP\)](#) project. The CECUP will be an 11-state consortium of public and private Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and vulnerable communities located on the Gulf Coast and South Atlantic Region of the United States.

The [New England Environmental Justice Researchers Network](#) is formed out of the New England Environmental Justice Summit in July of 2013.

On July 29, 2013, a [coalition of environmental groups filed a lawsuit](#) against the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) for its deregulation of industrial dairy farms with 200–299 cows. NYSDEC's rulemaking has rolled back clean water protection standards to allow medium size dairy CAFOs (concentrated animal feeding operations) to operate without a permit, in clear violation of both federal and state law, with the likely result that untreated cow manure will run off into and contaminate nearby waters.

July 29-31, 2013 the [National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences \(NIEHS\)](#) in partnership with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Office of Minority Health (OMH), and Indian Health Service (IHS) hosted a meeting focused on identifying priorities for action to address environmental health disparities and environmental justice.

The 50th anniversary of the [March for Jobs and Justice](#) took place on August 28, 2013 in our nation's capital. This event was a part of a global struggle for environmental sustainability and social justice.

On July 29, 2013, a coalition of environmental groups filed a lawsuit against the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for its deregulation of industrial dairy farms with 200–299 cows. DEC's rulemaking has rolled back clean water protection standards to allow medium size dairy CAFOs (concentrated animal feeding operations) to operate without a permit, in clear violation of both federal and state law, with the likely result that untreated cow manure will run off into and contaminate nearby waters.

The US Human Rights Network, a national network of organizations and individuals working to strengthen a human rights movement and culture within the United States, hosted its 15th Annual NC Environmental Justice Summit on October 18 - 19, 2013.

In 2013, the Environmental Health Coalition (EHC) honored five heroes whose leadership led to major victories for [healthy kids in San Diego](#). EHC's four [Healthy Kids Champion Awards](#) went to EHC Promotora Martha Cortes, the California Attorney General, San Diego Housing Commission and the Channel 10 Investigative News Team. A sold-out crowd at Marina Village Baja Room in Mission Bay paid homage to these honorees along with the 3rd Annual Donna Frye Spirit of Justice Award winner Dr. Gerald Markowitz, public health professor, author and activist.

Dr. Robert D. Bullard spear-headed the Environmental Justice Conference in Brazil. The "father of environmental justice" gave several talks at the [III Seminar on Environmental Justice, Racial Equality and Education](#), which took place in two cities of the metropolitan area of Rio de Janeiro (Duque de Caxias and São Gonçalo), August 19-24, 2013.

In September 2013, Sierra Club's top national award, [the John Muir Award](#), went to [Dr. Robert Bullard, Dean of the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs at Texas Southern University in Houston](#). He is a leading scholar and advocate for environmental justice.

On September 6, 2013, a coalition of conservation and environmental justice groups, represented by Earthjustice, [challenged an extension of a federal air pollution permit for the Avenal Power Plant](#), a proposed 600-megawatt facility that would emit hundreds of tons of air pollution in the San Joaquin Valley.

Environmental justice comes of age with new science-based cumulative impact screening tool known as [CalEnviroScreen 1.0](#). The tool seeks to identify those California communities most burdened by pollution and most vulnerable to its effects.

On September 17, 2013, [Barrio Logan, the historic waterfront neighborhood south of downtown San Diego, got a new community plan](#). The plan for the 1,000-acre community with 4,300 residents seeks to reverse years of conflicts between polluting maritime industries and a relatively

poor neighborhood once considered a dumping ground for unwanted uses.

[New School announced that Michelle J. DePass](#) was named dean of the [Milano School of International Affairs, Management, and Urban Policy](#) in September 2013. Michelle J. DePass is a national leader on sustainability and environmental policy making and will also be the Tishman Professor of Environmental Policy and Management as part of her appointment.

On October 5, 2013, California passed [AB 1329](#) prioritizing enforcement of hazard waste violations in low income communities and communities of color.

[Come Hell or High Water: The Battle for Turkey Creek](#) premiered at the New Orleans Film Festival in October 2013. The film follows Derrick Evans and his neighbors to stand up to powerful corporate interests and politicians and face ordeals that include Hurricane Katrina and the BP oil disaster in their struggle for self-determination and environmental justice.

The US Human Rights Network, a national network of organizations and individuals working to strengthen a human rights movement and culture within the United States, hosted its [15th Annual NC Environmental Justice Summit](#) on October 18-19, 2013.

November 3-6, 2013, The African Environmental Ethics and Values Research Group in the Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts, University of Lagos, Nigeria and Espam-Formation University, Cotonou, Republic of Benin in collaboration with the Center for Environmental Philosophy (CEP) in the Department of Philosophy and Religion Studies, University of North Texas (UNT), hosted its fourth annual environmental justice conference themed, "[Peoples, Land, and Water: The Natural Connection](#)."

[Sierra Club hosts the 12th Annual Grassroots Environmental Conference](#) in Memphis, TN, Saturday, November 9, 2013.

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In December 2013, The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Environmental and Climate Justice Program Releases New Report Examining Energy Policies which is entitled "[Just Energy Policies: Reducing Pollution and Creating Jobs](#)". The report assesses states on five different criteria: renewable portfolio standards, energy efficiency resource standards, net metering standards, local hire provisions, and minority business enterprise provisions. The report lays out the potential for each state to become a leader in clean energy.

On December 17, 2013, a Santa Clara County judge handed a billion-dollar victory to [10 California cities and counties that sued the paint industry](#) in the interest of cleaning up old lead toxins permeating the walls of millions of homes.

Institute for Southern Studies presents an article called "[INSTITUTE INDEX: A Call For Racial Justice In Energy Policy](#)" on Dec 20, 2013 which provides an overview of NAACP report looking at state energy policy from a racial justice angle.

Dr. Jacqueline Smith, chair of the Environmental and Climate Justice Committee for the Houston [NAACP](#) Chapter is selected as a [clean air ambassador](#) for the state of Texas.

The [Environmental Justice Five-Year Implementation Plan Third and Fourth Year Annual Progress Reports](#) have been issued. These reports detail actions taken by the Department of Energy to implement each program's commitments to years three and four of the *Environmental Justice Five-Year Implementation Plan*.

[Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment](#) is named [Organization of the Year](#) by Planning and Conservation League (2013).

[Abre' Conner](#), Staff Attorney at the Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment, is named Top 100 Attorneys under 40 by Lawyers of Color.

[Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis](#) which is the contribution of Working Group I (WGI) to the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is released. This comprehensive assessment of the physical aspects of climate change puts a focus on those elements that are relevant to understand past, document current and project future climate change.

On December 17, 2013, a Santa Clara County judge handed a billion-dollar victory to 10 California cities and counties that sued the paint industry in the interest of cleaning up old lead toxins permeating the walls of millions of homes.

On January 9, 2014, Andrew Cuomo, Governor of Albany, New York has addressed the city with plans to invest \$1 billion in funding solar energy projects.

A report on [“2013 Just Energy Policies: Reducing Pollution and Creating Jobs, Mississippi Report: Just Energy Policies and Practices Mississippi Report on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Policies”](#) by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is released.

In 2013, [Kimberly Wasserman Nieto of the Little Village Environmental Justice Organization \(LVEJO\)](#) won the [Goldman Prize](#) for her collaborative work with her allies for shutting down the Fisk and Crawford coal plants in Chicago.

[EPA's Office of Environmental Justice officially launched a 20th Anniversary Video Series](#) making a visible difference in communities featuring federal and local government officials, non-profit leaders and students telling stories about the lessons learned working on environmental justice projects. These videos will be featured on the Environmental Justice in Action Blog.

[Citizens for Environmental Justice \(CFEJ\) and Flint Hills Refinery \(owned by Koch Industries\) reached a precedent setting settlement agreement.](#) Flint Hills Refinery agreed to a host of pollution reduction measures that go beyond state and federal requirements.

2014

[Historically black colleges and universities are leading climate change advocacy.](#) In partnership with federal agencies such as, NASA and the National Science Foundation, historically black colleges and universities are pioneering efforts to diversify research and access to this important field of natural science via efforts related to weather monitoring satellites, hurricane tracking, atmospheric assessment, and climate advocacy.

The [Metro Atlanta Equity Atlas](#), the first equity mapping system of its kind in the Southeast, offers fascinating insight into the state of the region, particularly as it relates to issues of access and opportunity by examining eight key areas of community well-being, such as demographics, economic development, education, environment, health, housing, public safety and transportation.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator, Gina McCarthy, announced President Barack Obama's selection of [Heather McTeer Toney as regional administrator for EPA's regional office in Atlanta.](#) EPA Region 4 includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and six tribal nations.

On January 9, 2014, Andrew Cuomo, Governor of Albany, New York has addressed the city with plans to invest \$1 billion in funding [solar energy projects.](#) The investments in solar energy projects can, “cut greenhouse gas emissions by 2.3 million tons annually—the equivalent of taking almost 435,000 cars off the road—and create more than 13,000 new solar jobs,” according to the Natural Resources Defense Council.

[#FrackingFighter](#) (written as a trending topic to social website Twitter) is a national movement sparked by [MoveOn.org](#) to support over 100 grassroots activists that oppose fracking in their communities. MoveOn.org is also awarding [\\$50,000](#) to the fracking fighters to assist in their movement.

On January 14, 2014, Albany, NY governor Andrew Cuomo announced that [\\$12 million](#) will be funded to local farmers in New York in order to provide cleaner water supplies, create more jobs and measures to provide safer soil that is less susceptible to pollution from run off.

[Transportation Research Board \(TRB\) Environmental Justice Committee](#) meeting was held on Tuesday January 14, 2014 at the Washington Hilton Hotel.

[“Why the Smartphone Became the Light saber of the Environmental Justice Movement”](#) presents the implication of smart technology on the environmental justice movement.

[“A Look at Environmental Justice in the United States Today”](#) in the Huffington post provides overview of environmental justice.

Scientists from Duke and Boston University finds more than [5,800 underground methane leaks in Washington D.C.](#)

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“Federal judge sides with EPA, Tosses Environmental Justice Lawsuit”

The case that began in 1999 in the state of California regarding high exposure of pesticide methyl bromide to Latino public school children. The family that sued the EPA based on the facts of pesticide levels and demographics at which the exposure affected them the most. The federal judge agreed with the EPA, stating the agency acted within their regulatory power and the case was dismissed in January 2014.

The Department of Justice on behalf of the EPA lodged a consent decree with the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia that requires the EPA to publish a final rule addressing the disposal of coal ash by December 19, 2014.

Plan EJ 2014 is a roadmap that will help the EPA integrate environmental justice into the Agency’s programs, policies, and activities. Plan EJ 2014 is named in recognition of the 20th anniversary of President Clinton’s issuance of Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations.

Environmental justice leaders will commemorate the Executive Order 12898 after 20 years and work on action plans to ensure its full implementation in 2014.

EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy declares February as “Environmental Justice Month,” as part of 20-year commemoration of Executive Order 12898, February 5, 2014.

The Department of Transportation holds a three-day symposium entitled, “2014 DOT Civil Rights Virtual Symposium” on February 4-6, 2014. The symposium will address environmental justice in minority and low-income populations, as civil rights continue to be a responsibility of every federal employee and external stakeholder.

February 11, 2014 will mark the 20th anniversary of the Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898 signed by President Clinton to commemorate this milestone activities are being planned throughout the year by different groups and environmental leaders.

The Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland, School of Public Affairs at Texas Southern University releases the EJ Timeline and Milestones 1964-2014 report, February 11, 2014.

National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) will be holding a

February 11, 2014 will mark the 20th anniversary of the Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898 signed by President Clinton. To commemorate this milestone activities are being planned by throughout the year by different groups and environmental leaders.

Graduate students at the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment work with the Environmental Justice Organizations, Liability, and Trade (EJOLT) project to help identify and map key environmental justice conflicts in the U.S.

Public Meeting on February 11-12, 2014, at US EPA, Region 8 Office, Denver, CO.

EPA commemoration of 20th anniversary of Executive Order 12898 at NEJAC in Denver, CO on February 11, 2014.

New Partners for Smart Growth held a half-day workshop Equitable Development: Smarter Growth through Environmental Justice on Thursday February 13, 2014 in Denver, CO.

The “Race, Gender & Class 2014 Conference” is being held at the University of New Orleans, March 27-29, 2014.

National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program will engage leaders from various sectors in three days of free exchange of new ideas and new approaches to environmental justice. This interactive training session will occur March 26-28, 2014 and feature voices of experience, research, discussions, and thought-provoking dialogue.

The Harvard Law Society will be hosting the National Environmental Justice conference on March 28-29, 2014. The theme is “Environmental Justice: Where Are We Now?” This is a commemoration for the 20th anniversary of President Clinton’s Executive Order on Environmental Justice.

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality is planning a conference in 2014 focused on environmental justice to mark the 20th anniversary of an executive order mandating that federal programs provide environmental protections equally and regardless of race or income.

Graduate students at the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment work with the Environmental Justice Organizations, Liability, and Trade (EJOLT) project to help identify and map key environmental justice conflicts in the U.S. This mapping project will become part of an international effort to map and document environmental justice controversies around the world in 2014.

Dillard University’s Deep South Center for Environmental Justice, will host its 2nd Annual HBCU Student Climate Change Training Symposium. March 27-29, 2014.

Conference of Minority Public Administrators will be hosting a conference entitled “Public Administration: Global Perspective for Addressing the Needs of Under-Represented Communities” on March 12-14, 2014.

EPA 2014 National Training Conference on the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) and Environmental Conditions in Communities is scheduled for May 7-9, 2014 in Arlington, VA.

Seattle University’s Center for Environmental Justice and Sustainability will be hosting a conference entitled “Just Sustainability: Hope for the Commons” on August 7-9, 2014. The Conference will focus on the connections of environmental justice and sustainability.

CHAPTER 5

Selected Bibliography

REPORTS

Government Reports

1999

National Environmental Justice Advisory Council, *Environmental Justice in the Permitting Process: A Report From the Public Meeting on Environmental Permitting Convened by the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council, Arlington, Virginia—November 30–December 2, 1999* (Washington, DC: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1999).

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) 1997 Strategic Plan commits the Agency to ensure that all Americans are protected from significant risk to human health and the environment where they live, learn, and work. Requirements for the siting of solid waste incinerators must minimize, on a site-specific basis, to the maximum extent practicable, potential risks to public health or the environment.

2000

National Environmental Justice Advisory Council, *Guide on Consultation and Collaboration With Indian Tribal Governments and the Public Participation of Indigenous Groups and Tribal Members in Environmental Decision Making* (Washington, DC: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2000).

The Guide responds to testimony before the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) that, in some instances, existing public participation processes have provided inadequate opportunities for tribal communities and tribal members to have meaningful involvement in environmental and public health decision-making processes. As citizens of the United States, tribal members (as individuals or representatives of indigenous organizations) have a right to environmental and public health protection under federal law comparable to that afforded to other citizens.

2001

Governor Paris N. Glendening and Lieutenant Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend. *The Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities Report* (Baltimore: State of Maryland, Department of Environment, December 2001).

The Commission made several recommendations that could result in the development of more sustainable communities. The Commission recommended that state agencies develop plans using Maryland Department of Environment's Strategic Environmental Justice Plan as a guideline for developing a comparable approach in achieving their own agency missions.

2002

Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice. *Status Report: Environmental Justice Collaborative Model: A Framework to Ensure Local Problem-Solving* (Washington, DC: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2002).

This collaborative model is an effective method for comprehensively and proactively addressing the interrelated environmental, public health, economic, and social concerns collectively known as environmental justice issues. This report summarizes the lessons learned from the ongoing projects, identifies the elements of success, examines the emerging outline of a coherent collaborative problem-solving model, and describes efforts to evaluate the model and specific demonstration projects.

2003

U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. *Not in My Backyard: Executive Order 12898 and Title VI as Tools for Achieving Environmental Justice* (Washington, DC: U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 2003).

This report, based on Commission hearings, interviews, research, and a review of relevant literature, reveals that while there has been some limited success in implementing Executive Order 12898 and the principles of environmental justice, significant problems and shortcomings remain. The report recommends that federal agencies coordinate and promulgate clear regulations, guidelines, and procedures for investigating, reviewing, and deciding without unnecessary delay of Title VI claims, and that federal agencies implement

formal Title VI compliance review programs to ensure nondiscrimination in programs and activities receiving federal funding.

2004

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. *Evaluation Report: EPA Needs to Consistently Implement the Intent of the Executive Order on Environmental Justice*, Report No. 2004-P-00007 (Washington, DC: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2004).

The report recommends that the EPA establish specific time frames for the development of definitions, goals, and measurements. It also recommends that the EPA develop and articulate a clear vision on the Agency's approach to environmental justice. This report contains findings that describe problems and corrective actions the Office of Inspector General (OIG) recommends. This report represents the opinion of the OIG, and the findings in this report do not necessarily represent the final EPA position.

2005

U.S. Government Accountability Office (GOA). *Environmental Justice: EPA Should Devote More Attention to Environmental Justice When Developing Clean Air Rules*. Report to the Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials, Committee on Energy and Commerce, House of Representatives, GAO-05-289 (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Accountability Office, 2005).

The GAO was asked to examine how the EPA considers environmental justice during two phases of developing clean air rules: (1) drafting the rule, including activities of the work group that considered regulatory options, the economic review of the rule's costs, and making the proposed rule available for public comment; and (2) finalizing the rule, including addressing public comments, and revising the economic review.

Selected Bibliography

2006

National Environmental Justice Advisory Council. *The 2005 Gulf Coast Hurricanes and Vulnerable Populations—Recommendations for Future Disaster Preparedness/Response* (Washington, DC: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2006).

NEJAC recommends that the EPA should work with appropriate agencies to address issues such as mold, debris, and sediments, and assess whether a health survey of Gulf Coast residents impacted by the hurricanes is appropriate. It is everyone's collective hope that, in the aftermath of disasters such as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, we as a nation not only will be able to rebuild healthier, more sustainable communities, but also will be better prepared both to respond to future such events and to prevent their negative consequences.

2007

Jennifer Pike. *Spending Federal Disaster Aid: Comparing the Process and Priorities in Louisiana and Mississippi in the Wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita* (New York: Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government, 2007).

The report highlights some of the roadblocks Louisiana and Mississippi have been grappling with as they steer these somewhat flexible funding sources to the areas in need. The author emphasizes that what is at stake is the hospital dispute on whether Louisiana should rebuild the centerpiece of what many critics contend is a failed health care system, and many proponents argue is the only way the poor can have access to adequate health care.

2008

Staff Report Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight by Committee on Science and Technology for U.S. House of Representatives. *Toxic Trailers—Toxic Lethargy: How the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Has Failed to Protect the Public Health* (Washington, DC: Committee on Science and Technology, 2008).

The report provides a detailed examination of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's (ATSDR) response to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) trailer/formaldehyde issue and the Agency's production, approval, and release of that health consultation. ATSDR failed to translate its scientific findings and facts into appropriate public health actions to properly inform and warn FEMA and the tens

of thousands of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita survivors living in FEMA-provided trailers and mobile homes of the potential health risks they faced from exposure to formaldehyde.

2009

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Pacific Southwest Region 9. *Environmental Justice Resource Guide: A Handbook for Communities and Decision-Makers* (Washington, DC: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2009).

This guide for community organizers and decision-makers includes information on agency funding sources, training opportunities, and technical and program assistance for minority and low-income communities disproportionately affected by environmental and public health impacts.

2010

National Environmental Justice Advisory Council. *Strategies to Enhance School Air Toxics Monitoring in Environmental Justice Communities* (Washington, D.C.: Environmental Protection Agency, 2010).

This report contains advice and recommendations about how the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) can most effectively promote strategies that would improve EPA's long-term school and community outreach approach in the future. The report includes nineteen recommendations and the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) indicate that EPA should seek the advice of the NEJAC (or its work group as delegated) about designing and implementing the next phase of the school air toxics monitoring project

National Environmental Justice Advisory Council. *Nationally Consistent Environmental Justice Screening Approaches* (Washington, D.C.: Environmental Protection Agency, 2010).

This report discusses screening approaches through the lens of the Agency's Environmental Justice Strategic

Enforcement Tool (EJSEAT), in particular, and how such approaches might better identify areas of concern. This report also discusses the principles that should guide the use of such screening approaches, those instances where a nationally consistent screening approach might be appropriate, and those instances where such an approach might be inappropriate or misused.

United States Commission on Civil Rights. *Civil Rights Challenges of the 21st Century: A View from the States. A Staff Report of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights* (Washington, D.C.: United States Commission on Civil Rights).

This report will enable the Commission to obtain an on-the-ground perspective in regions and states in identifying top civil rights priorities. This perspective in turn will help the Commission meet its strategic goal of shaping a national conversation on current and future civil rights issues that identifies civil rights priorities for policy makers.

2011

National Environmental Justice Advisory Council. *Recommendations for Ensuring Long-Term Engagement of Communities in Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration* (Washington, D.C.: Environmental Protection Agency, 2011).

This report contains advice and recommendations about how the Agency can best engage minority, low-income, and tribal/indigenous communities for input on decisions about Gulf Coast restoration plans, particularly with respect to the impacts of such plans on permitting (such as wetlands restoration, equitable development, revitalization, cleanups, and sustainable energy).

National Environmental Justice Advisory Council. *Enhancing Environmental Justice in EPA Permitting Programs* (Washington, D.C.: Environmental Protection Agency, 2011).

Selected Bibliography

This report contains advice and recommendations about how the Agency can most effectively enhance environmental justice throughout its permitting programs. The advice is to be considered both in terms of the environmental permits that EPA issues and those permits issued by the states and tribes under delegation of authority or federal oversight of state and tribal programs. Although EPA's charge to the Council focused on types of permits, the Council's response respectfully shifts the focus to a broader context: cumulative impacts from multiple permits and environmental conditions. Prioritizing environmental justice opportunities by traditional permit type is too narrow to properly address the charge. Thus, this report addresses a broader approach.

U.S. Government Accountability Office. *Environmental Justice: EPA Needs to Take Additional Actions to Help Ensure Effective Implementation* (Washington, D.C. Government Accountability Office, 2011).

This report responds to the request that we review EPA's environmental justice efforts. Their objectives were to examine (1) how EPA is implementing its environmental justice efforts and (2) the extent to which EPA is following leading strategic planning practices in establishing a framework for integrating environmental justice in its programs, policies, and activities.

United States Environmental Protection Agency. *Environmental Justice Federal Interagency Directory. Working Together Towards Collaborative and Innovative Solutions* (Washington, D.C.: United States Environmental Protection Agency).

The Environmental Justice Directory will serve as a resource for the public with a goal of increasing communication and collaboration among stakeholders, federal, state, and local agencies, and tribal governments to address environmental justice issues. Most importantly, this Directory will assist community stakeholders with obtaining better access to federal agencies in order to more effectively address environmental justice issues within their local communities.

Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice. *Community-Based Federal Environmental Justice Resource Guide* (Washington, D.C.: Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice, 2011).

The IWG is pleased to provide this guide as a source of information for individuals and organizations working in communities overburdened by the adverse health impacts of exposure to toxics where they live, work and play. The programs included in this guide are focused on resources that would assist communities with technical or financial assistance to reduce exposure. Through this and other efforts, federal agencies are recommitting to improving the health and sustainability of communities across America.

2012

U.S. Department of the Interior. *[Environmental Justice Implementation Progress Report](#)* (Washington, D.C.: Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance, 2012).

This document serves as the Department of the Interior (DOI)'s Implementation Progress Report under Executive Order 12898 and the Department's Environmental Justice Strategic Plan 2011-2017 (EJSP) for the year 2012. This report provides baseline data for the EJSP established performance measures, as well as highlights several of the programs, policies, activities, and collaborative efforts that DOI has actively engaged in during 2012. These programs, policies, and activities are not all inclusive of the DOI's efforts to implement environmental justice (EJ), but show their ongoing commitment and progress toward the integration of EJ into all applicable programs, policies, and activities.

U.S. Department of the Interior. *[Environmental Justice Implementation Progress Report 2009-2011](#)* (Washington, D.C.: Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance, 2012).

This document serves as the Department of the Interior's (Department) First *Implementation Progress Report* in carrying out its Environmental Justice (EJ) Strategy and Executive Order 12898 (E.O. 12898). Although the Department's initial EJ Strategy was developed in 1995, this Report highlights several of the activities and programs the Department has actively been engaged in during the period from approximately January 2009

through February 2012. These activities and programs are not all inclusive of the Department's efforts to implement EJ, but show their ongoing progress towards integration.

U.S. Department of the Interior. *[Environmental Justice Strategic Plan 2012-2017](#)* (Washington, D.C.: Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance, 2012).

The Department of Interior's 2012-2017 Environmental Justice Strategic Plan (EJSP) sets forth five major goals to guide the Department in its pursuit of environmental justice. This EJSP should not be viewed as a mechanism to provide direct solutions to EJ issues in a particular community. Instead, the Environmental Justice Strategic Plan is intended for the Department to assess different environmental scenarios, identify challenges and opportunities, explore practical application of strategies, and develop recommendations to address environmental justice issues.

U.S. Government Accountability Office. *[Environmental Protection: EPA Should Develop a Strategic Plan for Its New Compliance Initiative](#)* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Accountability Office, 2012).

GAO has previously reported that strategic planning for activities below the agency-wide level is a leading practice for successful agencies. EPA acknowledges the need for an overall plan for Next Generation Compliance. Developing a plan that incorporates selected leading practices for federal strategic planning could help EPA more effectively integrate Next Generation Compliance into its enforcement and compliance program and promote greater public transparency. Without a strategic plan incorporating these leading practices, EPA may face challenges in helping to ensure that its initiative will achieve its long-term goals of improving compliance and obtaining greater health and environmental benefits from the agency's regulations.

Selected Bibliography

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. [Plan EJ 2014: Progress Report](#). (Washington, D.C.: U.S. EPA, 2012).

This report details the accomplishments in implementing Plan EJ 2014 in areas critical to advancing environmental justice, including rulemaking, permitting, compliance and enforcement, community-based programs and their work with other federal agencies. In addition, the enhancement of the critical legal, scientific and information tools that aid the EPA in meeting the needs of communities in decision making are discussed.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. [President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children: Coordinated Federal Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Asthma Disparities](#) (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2012).

The report builds on the strengths and lessons learned from past and existing federal asthma programs, combines efforts among federal programs at the community level, and develops collaborative strategies to fill knowledge gaps within existing resources. The *Action Plan* presents a framework to maximize the use of our existing federal resources for addressing this major public health challenge during the next three to five years. The goal of the Action Plan is to reduce the burden caused by asthma, especially among children — in particular, minority children and children with family incomes below the poverty level. The plan will also promote synergy and alignment across numerous federal programs. It emphasizes priority actions that demonstrate a high positive impact on addressing preventable factors that lead to asthma disparities.

U.S. Department of Transportation – Federal Highway Administration. [Environmental Justice-2012 Implementation Report](#) (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Transportation-Federal Highway Administration, 2012).

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) updated the DOT Environmental Justice Strategy in February 2012. In implementing this strategy, DOT has focused on the goals of increasing transparency, public engagement, and intermodal harmonization within the department. In addition to ongoing work considering environmental justice as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analyses for infrastructure improvements, the department has also hosted or supported extensive training opportunities on environmental justice, and has published new and revised guidance and regulations to improve consistency across the department. The department cooperates with other federal

agencies through the Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice in order to integrate environmental justice principles into federal programs, policies, and activities.

2013

National Environmental Justice Advisory Council. *Recommendations for Fostering Environmental Justice for Tribes and Indigenous Peoples* (Washington, D.C.: Environmental Protection Agency, 2013).

This report contains advice and recommendations about how EPA can improve the incorporation of environmental justice into tribal environmental capacity-building and federal implementation programs; collaborate with federally-recognized tribal governments in addressing environmental justice concerns; collaborate with tribal community-based organizations and other indigenous peoples; and coordinate with other federal agencies on tribal and indigenous environmental justice issues.

National Environmental Justice Advisory Council. *Model Guidelines for Public Participation* (Washington, D.C.: Environmental Protection Agency, 2013).

NEJAC is pleased to transmit the following recommendations that update the NEJAC Model Plan for Public Participation, first issued in 1996. The Model Plan outlined critical elements for conducting public participation and identified core values and guiding principles for the practice of public participation.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. *EPA Provides Tools for Sustainable Communities/Smart Growth Policies Can Help Achieve Environmental Justice Goals* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. EPA, 2013).

The report describes how low-income, minority, and tribal communities can employ smart growth strategies to clean up and reinvest in existing neighborhoods; provide affordable housing and transportation; and improve access to jobs, parks and stores. The report also provides smart growth practitioners with concrete ideas on how

they can better meet the needs of low-income residents as they promote development or redevelopment in underserved communities.

Megan McConville. *Creating Equitable, Healthy, and Sustainable Communities: Strategies for Advancing Smart Growth, Environmental Justice, and Equitable Development* (Washington, D.C.: United States Environmental Protection Agency, 2013).

This report aims to build on past successes and offer other low-income, minority, tribal and overburdened communities' approaches to shape development that responds to their needs and reflects their values. It identifies strategies that bring together smart growth, environmental justice, and equitable development principles and that community-based organizations, local and regional decision-makers, developers, and others can use to build healthy, sustainable, and inclusive communities.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *2013 Environmental Justice Implementation Progress Report* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2013).

This Implementation Progress Report highlights the department's advancement of the actions outlined in the 2012 HHS EJ Strategy. This progress report also addresses HHS's efforts to uphold the strategy's three guiding principles.

Non-Government Organization Reports

1999

Robert D. Bullard, *Sprawl Atlanta: Social Equity Dimensions of Uneven Growth and Development* (Atlanta, GA: Environmental Justice Resource Center, 1999).

The report includes an analysis of factors that contribute to urban sprawl and their consequences. It also outlines policy recommendations and an action agenda. An extensive use of geographic information system analysis

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is used in mapping and graphically illustrating the environmental consequences of sprawl on low-income communities and communities of color in the region.

2000

Hillary Gross, Hannah Shafsky, and Kara Brown. *Environmental Justice: A Review of State Responses* (San Francisco: Public Law Research Institute at Hastings College of Law, 2000).

In an effort to provide guidance to the California Environmental Justice Work Group in implementing SB 115, this report provides a brief overview of the federal environmental justice framework and a more comprehensive look at state environmental justice programs. The report at the time was the most comprehensive survey of state practices, and presents a useful snapshot of this dynamic field.

2001

National Academy of Public Administration. *Environmental Justice in EPA Permitting: Reducing Pollution in High-Risk Communities Is Integral to the Agency's Mission* (Washington, DC: National Academy of Public Administration, 2001).

This report is designed to help community members and other stakeholders gain a better understanding of how they can more effectively bring environmental justice concerns to the attention of the EPA's permitting programs.

2002

WE ACT for Environmental Justice. *Human Genetics, Environment, and Communities of Color: Ethical and Social Implications* (New York: We Act for Environmental Justice, 2002).

This report and conference proceedings provide rich information on environmental justice, environmental health, and genetics, as well as recommendations from community-based environmental justice groups.

2003

National Academy of Public Administration. *Addressing Community Concerns: How Environmental Justice Relates to Land Use Planning and Zoning* (Washington, DC: National Academy of Public Administration, 2003).

This study is designed to help the public understand how land-use planning and zoning relate to environmental justice, both in terms of resolving current issues and preventing future problems. The study also highlights opportunities for engaging the public in the local planning and zoning decisions that affect their communities.

2004

Steven Bonorris. *Environmental Justice For All: A Fifty-State Survey of Legislation, Policies, and Initiatives* (San Francisco: American Bar Association and Hastings College of Law, 2004).

The report identifies the statutes, policies, and initiatives that states have undertaken to give force of law and tangible meaning to the goal of environmental justice. The report finds that from the first policy issued in 1993 to the present, more than 30 states have expressly addressed environmental justice, demonstrating increased attention to the issue at a political level. The report includes Performance Partnership Agreements (PPAs) between the EPA regional offices and states, whether the PPA expressly references environmental justice.

2005

David Pace. *More Blacks Live With Pollution: AP Analysis of U.S. Research Shows Blacks More Likely to Live With Dangerous Pollution* (Associated Press, December 13, 2005).

An Associated Press analysis of a little-known government research project shows that Blacks are 79% more likely than Whites to live in neighborhoods where industrial pollution is suspected of posing the greatest health danger. Residents in neighborhoods with the highest pollution scores also tend to be poorer, less educated, and more often unemployed than those elsewhere in the country.

2006

Manuel Pastor, Robert D. Bullard, James K. Boyce, et al. *In the Wake of the Storm: Environment, Disaster, and Race After Katrina* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006).

The report reviews the existing literature and research on the relationship between race, the environment, and large-scale disasters. It concludes by stressing that the focus of environmental justice on disparities in hazards and disamenities is but a starting point in the work.

Erica Gies. *The Health Benefits of Parks: How Parks Help Keep Americans and Their Communities Fit and Healthy* (San Francisco, CA: The Trust for Public Land, 2006).

This report will contribute to the ongoing discussion of how the structure of communities contributes to health, and offers it as a resource for government and volunteer leaders in making the case that parks and open space are essential to the health and well-being of all Americans.

2007

Robert D. Bullard, Paul Mohai, Robin Saha, and Beverly Wright. *Toxic Wastes and Race at Twenty: 1987-2007* (Cleveland, OH: United Church of Christ Justice & Witness Ministries, 2007).

The 2007 report found people of color to be more concentrated around commercial hazardous waste facilities than previously found in 1987 and 1994. People of color comprised more than 56% of the residents living within a two-mile radius of commercial hazardous facilities in 2007. They made up more than two thirds, or 69%, of residents living near two or more facilities. Generally, polluting industries still follow the path of least resistance, among other findings.

Justine Thompson, Ela Orenstein, Jim Grode, Mary Maclean Asbill. *Putting the Law to Work in Our Communities: A Citizen's Guide to Environmental Protection and Justice in Georgia* (Atlanta, GA: GreenLaw and Turner Environmental Law Clinic, Emory University School of Law, 2007).

This guide provides communities with legal and technical resources to remedy these inequities. This handbook contains an introduction to environmental justice, background on laws that were enacted to protect

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our communities, and tools to understand how citizen participation can work to clean up Georgia's neighborhoods.

UNICEF. *Climate Change and Children* (New York, NY: United Nations Children Fund, 2007).

This report gives children a voice on climate change. In 2006, child delegates to the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico City challenged leaders and policymakers, saying, "We, the children of the world, are ready to work with you. Are you ready to work with us?" The answer must be a resounding "yes" because what are good for children such as reducing pollution, safeguarding education and health, preserving environmental diversity, protecting water supplies, increasing access to proper sanitation are also good for the planet.

2008

David A. Bositis. *Joint Center National Survey Results: African Americans Respond to Global Warming* (Washington, DC: Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, 2008).

The report concludes that while most African Americans do not believe global warming is one of the most pressing national problems the United States confronts, there is widespread recognition of the problem of global warming among them, and a strong belief that the federal government should take steps to deal with it.

Houston Department of Health and Human Services.

The City of Houston Health Disparities Data Report (Houston, Texas: Houston Department of Health and Human Services, 2008).

This health disparities data report is not intended to be a definitive explanation of how social inequities such as poverty or racism lead to differences in health outcomes. However, it is meant to highlight some factors related to the health of racial/ethnic groups and identify potential underlying causes. This report is the first in a series designed to foster concrete and actionable change.

J. Andrew Hoerner and Nia Robinson. *A Climate of Change: African Americans, Global Warming, and A Just Climate Policy for the U.S.* (Oakland, CA: Environmental Justice and Climate Change Initiative, 2008).

This report shows that there is a disproportionate burden on African Americans from heat deaths; floods, fires, and other climate-related

disasters; tropical storms like Katrina and Rita; and economic disruption of various sorts. The report also describes the essential elements of a just domestic climate policy. It finds, first, that specific policies to promote racial and economic justice are essential to achieving cuts in global warming pollution that are rapid, efficient, fair, and equitable.

Serena W. Lin. [Understanding Climate Change: An Equitable Framework](#) (Oakland, CA: PolicyLink, 2008).

Climate change ultimately affects all of us, and the most vulnerable populations—nationally and globally, will bear the brunt of this crisis if action is not taken. This paper does not purport to explain climatology or provide an in-depth description of climate chemistry. This report contributes to a deeper understanding of the issues and to encourage everyone to participate in the discussion and to weigh in on proposed solutions.

Newtown Florist Club, GreenLaw, and University of Georgia Land Use Clinic. [Health, Environmental & Quality of Life Impacts](#). *Newtown Community, Gainesville, GA*. (Atlanta, GA: GreenLaw, 2008).

This report was prepared to communicate the significant health, environmental and quality of life impacts imposed upon the Newtown residential population in Gainesville, GA. The intent of the document is to provide scientific data and analysis of these impacts which will, in turn, support proposed changes to the City of Gainesville's land use and zoning ordinances. It was prepared for the benefit of the citizens of Newtown and the Newtown Florist Club.

Virginia Department of Health. [Unequal Health Access Across the Commonwealth: A Snapshot](#). (Richmond, Virginia: Virginia Department of Health Division of Health Statistics, 2008).

The report represents a one-year snapshot of vital events data taken from the birth and death certificates of Virginia's population and stratified by socioeconomic

status, race/ethnicity, and geography (rural and non-rural). The report serves as a reminder and a challenge that much more needs to be done in order to address public health issues in Virginia. Their ultimate success is to reduce health inequities and achieve more equitable access and outcomes that depend on strong, action-oriented partnerships with individuals, families, neighborhoods, organizations, cities, countries, and other important stakeholders, throughout the Commonwealth.

2009

Steven Bonorris, ed., University of California Hastings College of Law Public Law Research Institute. [Environmental Justice for All: A Fifty State Survey of Legislation, Policies and Cases, 4th ed.](#) (Chicago: American Bar Association, 2009).

This report represents the collaboration between the University of California Hastings College of the Law and the American Bar Association to maintain a comprehensive and up-to-date survey of state environmental justice laws, policies, and cases. Their goal is to present community members, environmental law practitioners, industry leaders, regulators, academics, and others with the breadth of regulatory and policy techniques that the 50 states and the District of Columbia have developed to pursue environmental justice.

Michael Ash, James K. Boyce, Grace Chang, Manuel Pastor, Justin Scoggins, and Jennifer Tran. [Justice in the Air: Tracking Toxic Pollution from America's Industries and Companies to Our States, Cities and Neighborhoods](#) (Los Angeles, CA: Program for Environmental and Regional Equity, 2009).

One unique aspect of this work is that we track the pollution not just to the smokestacks but to the companies that own them. Many firms are aware of their impacts on communities and the environment, and many have adopted strategies for becoming better corporate citizens. This report aims to contribute to these efforts by presenting a new measure of performance and whether

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companies are having a particularly high and disparate impact on disadvantaged communities.

Geraldine Terry. *Climate Change and Gender Justice* (Oxford: Oxfam 2009).

This report is an exploration of the complex relationship between gender and climate change that applies a gender lens to issues of vulnerability to climate impacts, adaptation, mitigation, and advocacy.

Global Humanitarian Forum Geneva. *Key Points on Climate Justice* (Global Humanitarian Forum Geneva 2009).

This report provides key points on climate justice that are intended to serve as principles to guide policy and action on climate change. Increasingly unpredictable weather is having a severe impact on people and communities worldwide. We now know that climate change constitutes a serious humanitarian concern and a growing threat to socio-economic development, in particular for the world's poorest communities.

National Wildlife Federation. *More Extreme Weather: Implications for Public Health and Social Justice*. (National Wildlife Federation, 2009)

This report discusses that global warming will bring more extreme heat waves. By the 2080s and 2090s, many parts of the country will have more than two months each year with 100-degree weather if global warming emissions are not curbed. Urban air pollution will be exacerbated by more extreme heat, compounding the health effects on hot days and forcing some cities to take even more aggressive steps to meet federal ozone standards.

2010

Robert D. Bullard, Glenn S. Johnson, and Angel O. Torres. *The State of Black Atlanta: Exploding the Myth of Black Mecca* (Atlanta: Environmental Justice Resource Center at Clark Atlanta University Report Series, 2010).

In 2010 Summit organizers from Clark Atlanta University-Environmental Justice Resource Center commissioned working papers from top Atlanta leaders in academic, public health, business, media, and local community based organizations with the goal of impacting public sector policies

around health, environmental justice, civil rights and human rights, transportation and land use, housing and home ownership, wealth creation and business development, equitable development, education, food security, and parks and green access in Atlanta's underserved communities. This report represents a synthesis of challenges, barriers, and opportunities facing Black Atlanta.

Manuel Pastor, Rachel Morello-Frosch, James Sadd, and Justin Scoggins. [Minding the Climate Gap: What's at Stake if California's Climate Law Isn't Done Right and Right Away](#) (College of Natural Resources-University of California, Berkeley and Program for Environmental and Regional Equity (PERE), University of Southern California, 2010).

The California Global Warming Act (AB 32) - a cutting edge policy that no one expected to pass so quickly and with so much bipartisan support - proposes to cut green house gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. The successful implementation of such a standard would mean reducing carbon emissions from major polluters around the state - cement refineries, power plants, and oil refineries top among them. This report seeks to analyze co-pollutants and co-benefits, with an eye toward thinking through policy designs that could help maximize public health and close the climate gap. However, California is at the forefront of dealing with climate change, by setting new standards, driving toward energy efficiency, encouraging renewables, and even working to rebalance the mix of land uses and transportation that have produced our well-documented sprawl.

Dawn Phillips, Robbie Clark, Tammy Lee, and Alexandra Desautels. [Rebuilding Neighborhoods, Restoring Health: A Report on the Impact of Foreclosure on Public Health](#) (Oakland, CA: Alameda County Public Health Department, 2010).

The report uses empirical data gathered from hundreds of Oakland residents living in foreclosure hotspots to illuminate in compelling detail about the profound acute

and sustained consequences of the foreclosure crisis, and the larger issue of housing instability on human health. The report convincingly elucidates the fact that these health consequences are interactive and synergistic and occur at both the individual level and the larger community level; thus wreaking havoc not only on isolated families, but also on whole neighborhoods in Oakland and Alameda County.

Alameda County Health Department. [His Health: Alameda County Male Health Status Report](#) (Oakland, CA: Alameda County Public Health Department, 2010).

This report provides a unique gendered perspective on select health and social indicators (chronic/communicable disease, crime/violence, mental health, employment/income, education, homelessness) affecting Alameda County men. The report includes profiles of men who live and work in our communities and policy recommendations.

Suzanne Reuben. [The President's Cancer Panel. Reducing Environmental Cancer Risk: What We Can Do Now](#) (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, and National Cancer Institute, 2010).

This report summarizes the panel's findings and conclusions based on the testimony received and additional information gathering. The panel's recommendations delineate concrete actions that governments, industry, research, healthcare, advocacy communities, and individuals can take to reduce cancer.

Robin Saha, Kathryn Makarowski, Russ J. Van Paepeghem, Bethany Taylor, Michelle Lanzoni, Michael Lattanzio. [Missoula Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and Analysis, 2003-2008: Toward A Blueprint for Municipal Sustainability](#) (Missoula, MT: University of Montana, 2010)

Missoula is not alone in recognizing that taking action as a community can improve fiscal well-being as well as benefitting the local economy and enhancing quality of

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life. However, to be effective, efforts require careful analysis and planning. This report seeks to assist in that regard by methodically carrying out the first of five steps for local governments to achieve emission reductions under the *U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement*: conducting a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory of municipal operations.

Center for Energy and Environmental Policy, University of Delaware. [Policies for Achieving Energy Justice in Society: Best Practices for Applying Solar Energy Technologies to Low-Income Housing](#) (Newark, DE: Center for Energy and Environmental Policy, University of Delaware, 2010).

This report examines the ways in which existing barriers may be overcome, through a review of state and federal policies that presently work to reduce the energy burden for low-income households. Examined in this regard are the history and current state of policies aimed at addressing energy poverty in the U.S., to identify the strengths, weaknesses, and relationships among existing policies, and the role of increased renewable energy consumption in achieving this goal.

Anthony Leiserowitz and Karen Akerlof. [Race, Ethnicity and Public Responses to Climate Change](#) (Yale Project on Climate Change and the George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication, 2010).

This report is a survey of public support for climate and energy policies among different racial and ethnic groups. As the United States becomes increasingly diverse over the first half of the twenty-first century, understanding the viewpoints of people of different racial and ethnic groups on climate change is becoming ever more important.

Linda Mazur, Carmen Milanés, Karen Randles, David Siegel. [Indicators of Climate Change in California: Environmental Justice Impacts](#) (Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), 2010).

This report presents four indicators that help track trends relating to the disproportionate impacts of climate change on California communities. The indicators chosen were selected based on evidence that: (1) the impacts of climate change are already occurring (rather than projected to occur based on future climate scenarios); and (2) disparities exist among socioeconomic or racial groups in either the degree of exposure to a hazard, or the capacity to take action to reduce exposures or minimize adverse outcomes.

2011

Robert D. Bullard, Glenn S. Johnson, and Angel O. Torres. [The State of Environmental Justice in the United States Since Summit II: Timeline - Milestones 2002-2011](#). (Atlanta: Environmental Justice Resource Center at Clark Atlanta University Report Series, 2011).

In preparation for the four-day Second National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit, held in Washington, DC in October 2002, the Environmental Justice Resource Center (EJRC) compiled the Environmental Justice Timeline/Milestones - 1964-2002 report, one of the first comprehensive documents to chronicle accomplishments of the EJ Movement. The milestones were later updated in the 2007 United Church of Christ Toxic Wastes and Race at Twenty - 1987-2007 report and more recently in *Environmental Health and Racial Equity in the United States: Strategies for Building Environmentally Just, Sustainable, and Livable Communities*, a book published by the American Public Health Association.

Jennifer Ito, Barbara Masters, Rhonda Ortiz and Manuel Pastor. [Beyond the Count: Leveraging the 2010 Census to Build New Capacities for Civic Engagement and Social Change](#) (Los Angeles, CA: Program for Environmental and Regional Equity (PERE) at USC, 2011).

The report looks at how California Counts - the coordinated, statewide strategy itself - built and strengthened capacities to engage disenfranchised Californians beyond the count. It is a study for what a social movement frame can achieve: make progress on immediate issues while planting seeds for longer-term, larger-scale change. While policy solutions are needed, lasting change will come when there is a deeply rooted movement that can help shape policy solutions and improve the prospects for California's most vulnerable residents.

Transportation Equity Network. [The Road to Good Jobs: Making Training Work: Boosting Construction Job Access](#)

[Through Training and Apprenticeship Programs](#) (Saint Louis, MO: Transportation Equity Network, 2011).

The primary challenge facing our country today is not only how to put Americans back to work, but how to make sure that job creation efforts don't leave behind those who have been hit hardest by the recession, and those who are still losing ground. The goal of this study is to report on which states are using On the Job Training (OJT) and apprenticeship programs to make real progress toward equity and diversity in highway construction, and which states are failing to recruit and train women and minorities. The study also describes the steps necessary to improve states progress, and provides local, state and federal policy recommendations.

Patrick Smith, Margaret Pennington, Lisa Crabtree, and Robert Illback. [Louisville Metro Health Equity Report: The Social Determinants of Health in Louisville Metro Neighborhoods](#). (Louisville, KY: Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness, 2011).

The primary goal of the Louisville Metro Health Equity Report is to promote a communitywide understanding of the root causes of health inequities in Louisville Metro. It can also serve as an impetus for discussing the neighborhood conditions that contribute to health in all of Louisville's neighborhoods. Key to fostering this understanding is thoughtful engagement with health and social determinant data and research. The research and data accumulated within this report should be of broad interest to community members, but our greater desire is that the findings portrayed within the report will be used to move discussions beyond individual choice-making toward the underlying community environmental factors that perpetuate poor health.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. [CDC Health Disparities and Inequalities Report—United States, 2011](#) (Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

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This report focuses on disparities in selected specific health determinants and outcomes by sex, race/ethnicity, education, income, disability status, and geography. However, in several problem areas described in the topic-specific analytic essays, subject-matter experts have identified promising programs and interventions that might be effective in reducing disparities. By focusing public and policymaking attention on fewer, more critical disparities that are potentially modifiable by universal and targeted interventions, this periodic report should motivate increased efforts to intervene at the state, local, tribal, and community levels where stakeholders are more familiar with the problems and control resources for their abatement. Universal interventions are available to everyone while targeted interventions are implemented among populations with special needs.

Department of Health and Human Services. 2011. [HHA Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities: A Nation Free of Disparities in Health and Health Care.](#)

Medical advances and new technologies have provided people in America with the potential for longer, healthier lives more than ever before. However, persistent and well-documented health disparities exist between different racial and ethnic populations and health equity remains elusive. Health disparities—differences in health outcomes that are closely linked with social, economic, and environmental disadvantage—are often driven by the social conditions in which individuals live, learn, work and play.

This document provides a brief overview of racial and ethnic health disparities and unveils the department's action plan to reduce racial and ethnic health disparities.

United Nations Development Program. [*Sustainability and Equity: A Better Future for All*](#) (New York: Human Development Report Office, 2011).

The 2011 Human Development Report argues that the urgent global challenges of sustainability and equity must be addressed together and identifies policies on the national and global level that could spur mutually reinforcing progress towards these interlinked goals. Bold action is needed on both fronts, the report contends, if the recent human development progress for most of the world's poor majority is to be sustained, for the benefit of future generations as well as for those living

today. Past reports have shown that living standards in most countries have been rising and converging for several decades now. This report projects a disturbing reversal of trends if environmental deterioration and social inequalities continue to intensify, with the least developed countries diverging downwards from global patterns of progress by 2050.

Hilary Moore and Joshua Kahn Russell. *Organizing Cools the Planet: Tools and Reflections to Navigate the Climate Crisis* (PM Press, 2011).

This guidebook outlines a climate justice framework and offers tools for organizations to apply when engaging those who are most impacted by climate change (i.e. low income communities, communities of color and indigenous people).

Kathy Lynn, Katharine MacKendrick and Ellen M. Donoghue. *Social Vulnerability and Climate Change: Synthesis of Literature* (United States Department of Agriculture 2011).

This synthesis of literature illustrates information about the socioeconomic, political, health, and cultural effects of climate change on socially vulnerable populations in the United States, with some additional examples in Canada.

Patty Glick, Helen Chmura, and Bruce A. Stein. *Moving The Conservation Goalposts: A Review of Climate Change Adaptation Literature* (National Wildlife Federation 2011).

This literature review consists of a broad scan of the published literature to identify major trends in the development of the field and focuses on one particular topic of interest to the resource management community: conservation goals in an era of climate change.

Sarah Lindley, John O’Neil, Joseph Kandeh, Nigel Lawson, Richard Christian and Martin O’Neil. *Climate Change, Justice and Vulnerability* (Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2011)

This report shows that many aspects of well-being that are endangered by climate change are not adequately captured by existing approaches to adaptation policy. The social dimensions of vulnerability to climate change have not been sufficiently recognized in adaptation policy; there are uneven geographical distributions in climate-related social vulnerability and climate disadvantage in the UK. The existence of distinct socially vulnerable groups helps to explain uneven geographical patterns.

Amy Gilroy and Beth Sanders. *Urban Food Zoning: Health, Environmental and Economic Considerations: A Supplement to the Urban Food Zoning Code Update’s Concept Report Public Review Report* (Oregon Public Health Institute, 2011).

The goal of this report is to provide further analysis of how future zoning regulations for the five topic areas (market gardens, community gardens, farmers markets, food membership distribution sites, as well as, animals and bees) can benefit or negatively impact our health and the environment. Also considered is how urban food production and distribution activities can help to supplement personal income as well as benefit the overall economy.

2012

Berkeley Media Studies Group. *Struggling to Breathe: How a Health Department is Working With Community Members to Reduce Air Pollution and Improve Health Equity in Oakland* (Berkeley, CA: Berkeley Media Studies Group, 2012).

The report describes how Alameda County Public Health Department and community partners are using innovative strategies to improve the health of communities in Oakland. This report is the story of one neighborhood’s struggle to tackle the underlying causes of such inequities. It is also the tale of how a public health department is taking innovative steps—such as partnering with community groups and building internal capacity—to join in that struggle to reduce and prevent inequities, and how other health departments can do the same.

Selected Bibliography

Elka Brandt, Charles Callaway, Cecil Corbin-Mark, Anhthu Hoang, Ogonnaya Dotson Newman, and Peggy Shepard. *Climate Change in Our Communities* (New York, NY: WE ACT for Environmental Justice, 2012).

This report explains how WE ACT continues to facilitate conversations that engage communities in planning to address drastic changes in the future due to climate change, create opportunities for collaboration that promotes community climate resilience, and educate stakeholders on the holistic approach that should be taken to understand how we create climate justice for all people.

Will Dominic. *Is Just Growth Smarter Growth?* (Los Angeles, CA: The Labor Community Strategy Center, 2012).

This report exposes the role that Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) plays in fueling gentrification around rail stations in Los Angeles. The report reveals that the existing blueprint for TOD in Los Angeles County frequently results in the displacement of low-income transit-using residents and replaces them with higher income residents less likely to use transit and more likely to use cars.

Ellen Kersten, Rachel Morello-Frosch, Manuel Pastor, Marlene Ramos. *Facing the Climate Gap: How Environmental Justice Communities are Leading the Way to a More Sustainable and Equitable California.* (Los Angeles, CA: Program for Environmental and Regional Equity (PERE) at USC, 2012).

This report showcases the work of environmental justice organizations tackling the climate gap by engaging the most vulnerable communities in the state. In this qualitative companion, they present 12 case studies that include the work of 18 community-engaged organizations.

Laura Perez, Fred Lurmann, John Wilson. *Near-Roadway Pollution and Childhood Asthma: Implications for Developing "Win-Win" Compact Urban Development and Clean Vehicle Strategies* (Environ Health Perspect 120:1619-1626, 2012).

The study indicates that previous estimates of childhood asthma exacerbation related to air pollution may have underestimated the true burden of exposure on society. The USC study also looked at new state of California policies intended to cut back on vehicular greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change. An important goal of these policies is to reduce vehicular emissions of greenhouse gases, both by improving

fuel efficiency and reducing vehicle miles traveled by increasing use of public transportation. The study concludes that better information is needed to develop the optimal mix of policies that reduce sprawl, encourage walking and use of mass transit to reduce vehicle miles traveled, greenhouse gases and regional air pollution, and also to reduce children's near-roadway exposure to emissions from vehicles still traveling on roadways.

PolicyLink. *California's Tomorrow: Equity is the Superior Growth Model* (Oakland, CA: PolicyLink, 2012).

This report describes California's demographic transformation which has made the state ethnically diverse. Equity is an economic issue and California has to create bold leadership to build its economy to showcase to the world how equity is the superior growth model. They have to make smart investments now in order to cash in on the dividends in the future. This will require that they tightened their belts, make changes in taxation, and make a commitment to equity.

James Boyce and Manuel Pastor. *Cooling the Planet. Clearing the Air: Climate Policy, Carbon Pricing, and Co-Benefits* (Los Angeles, CA: Program for Environmental and Regional Equity (PERE) at USC, 2012).

This report presents evidence on intersectoral and spatial variations in co-pollutant intensity and discusses options for integrating co-benefits into climate policy to advance the goals of efficiency and equity. The report emphasizes the need for policies to reduce carbon dioxide emissions can yield substantial co-benefits via reduced emissions of co-pollutants such as particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, and air toxics.

Danielle Bergstrom, Kalima Rose, Jillian Olinger and Kip Holley. *The Community Engagement Guide for Sustainable Communities*. (Oakland, CA: PolicyLink, 2012).

The goal of this guide is to develop an effective voice for equity on the regional stage—a stage traditionally dominated by suburban and exurban interests. One

way to develop this effective voice at a regional level is through a strong collaborative of community and issue-oriented organizations that focused on shared priorities that resonate in marginalized communities.

Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. *Climate Change, Environmental Challenges and Vulnerable Communities: Assessing Legacies of the Past, Building Opportunities for the Future.* (Prepared by Texas Health Institute). (Washington, D.C.: The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, 2012).

This report draws from social vulnerability models and other resources to examine the effects of extreme weather events and climate-related challenges among vulnerable populations and highlights opportunities for future focus. The intent of this research is to provide an inventory of available baseline data and prior research as well as a compendium of resources on policies and programs to inform public health practitioners, policymakers, advocates, and others. This report offer guidance to advocates, policymakers, researchers and others who must set priorities, so that they can avoid duplication, maximize the use of scarce resources and encourage the development of policies that engage diverse populations while bringing environmental justice to their communities.

Georgians for Pastured Poultry. *Out of Sight, Out of Mind: The Impacts of Chicken Meat Factory Farming in the State of Georgia* (Decatur, GA: Georgians for Pastured Poultry, 2012).

The report outlines the impacts this industry is having in Georgia on the key issues of animal welfare, human and environmental health, and worker and farmer well-being. The final part of the report outlines existing alternatives and a way forward to a fair, humane and sustainable method of raising chickens.

David Deganian and Justine Thompson. *The Patterns of Pollution: A Report on Demographics and Pollution in Metro Atlanta* (Atlanta, GA: GrennLaw, 2012).

Selected Bibliography

The report analyzes publicly available information to identify eight types of air, water, and land pollution and compares this pollution information with demographic data on people living in the 14-county region. Also, the report identifies five pollution hotspots in the metro Atlanta area. The mapping portion of the project also includes an interactive map that allows you to find pollution points near where you live in metro Atlanta.

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). [Coal Blooded: Putting Profits Before People](#) (Baltimore, MD: NAACP, 2012).

The report is a joint production of [NAACP, Little Village Environmental Justice Organization](#) (LVEJO), the [Indigenous Environmental Network](#) and lead author and researcher Adrian Wilson, and will serve as a launching point for NAACP's campaign to address the issue of the pollution from coal-fired power plants and disparate impacts on communities of color. The report analyzes sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and Nitrogen Oxide (NO_x) emissions in conjunction with demographic factors - race, income, and population density - to rank the environmental justice performance of the nation's 378 coal-fired power plants.

National Recreation and Park Association. [Parks and Recreation in Underserved Areas: A Public Health Perspective](#) (Ashburn, VA: National Recreation and Park Association, 2012).

This report takes a closer look at how park use and physical activity levels are influenced by the following factors: distribution and access to public parks and recreation, park facilities and park conditions.

Almuth Ernsting. [Sustainable Biomass: A Modern Myth](#) (Biofuel Watch, 2012).

This report starts with a brief overview of the UK's policies and industry plans in the global context, and of the main impacts of and concerns about large-scale industrial bioenergy. The main focus, however, is on the nature, effectiveness and feasibility of biomass sustainability standards—both those proposed by the Government and those which are already being developed by industry.

Carbon Trade Watch. [Nothing Neutral Here: Large-Scale Biomass Subsidies in the UK and the Role of the EU ETS](#). Brussels, Belgium: Carbon Trade Watch, 2012.

This report discusses how UK-based power companies are using the myth that biomass is carbon neutral to continue their emissions and green wash their polluting activities permitted under the EU Emissions Trading System and other EU legislation. This deceptive accounting undermines analysis that places emissions from biomass on a par with fossil fuels. This British biomass boom is set to benefit polluters and cause widespread environmental destruction through land grabs and deforestation.

Institute of Medicine (IOM). *How Far Have We Come in Reducing Health Disparities?: Progress Since 2000: Workshop Summary* (Washington, DC: The National Academies Press, 2012).

This report provides details of the findings of the IOM workshop held on April 8, 2010, that discussed progress to address health disparities and focused on the success of various federal initiatives to reduce health disparities. *How Far Have We Come in Reducing Health Disparities?* summarizes the workshop and explains the progress in the field since 2000.

Adrian Wilson. *Coal Blooded: Putting Profits Before People* (Indigenous Environmental Network, Little Village Environmental Justice Organization, and National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 2012)

This report focuses on the role that coal-fired power plants have in the inequitable health outcomes of low income communities and communities of color in the U.S. and in the contribution of greenhouse gasses that drive climate change, the consequences of which also disproportionately impact people of color and low-income communities globally.

Martina Jackson Haynes. *Coal Blooded Action Tool Kit*. (NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program, 2012).

The toolkit is a resource that is used to educate the public

and impacted stakeholders across the United States about multiple methods to address pollution from coal plants.

Environmental Justice Foundation. *No Place Like Home: Securing Recognition, Protection and Assistance for Climate Refugees* (London, Environmental Justice Foundation, 2012).

This report outlines the legal void facing environmentally-induced displaced and refugees with recommendations for action for national governments and individuals. Climate change has a range of direct and indirect implications for the effective enjoyment of human rights. In many countries, its impacts already undermine people's rights to life, health, food, water, housing and self-determination.

Seith Abeka, Saudia Anwer, Rocio Barrantes Huamaní, Vinod Bhatt, Stanley Bii, Betty Prissy Muasya, Amrita Rejina Rozario, Hugo Rojas Senisse, and Gregorio Valverde Soría. *Women Farmers Adapting to Climate Change: Four Examples from Three Continents of Women's Use of Local Knowledge in Climate Change Adaptation* (Dialogue, 2012).

The report aims at showing that the local knowledge of women is valuable and useful for the adaptation of small holder agriculture to climate change. The intention is to show that women are not only victims of climate change, but also part of the solution. This report is intended to strengthen the recognition that a gender perspective adds value and important insights to the debate on climate change.

Heather Cooley, Eli Moore, Matthew Heberger, and Lucy Allen. *Social Vulnerability to Climate Change in California* (Pacific Institute, 2012).

The authors analyzed the potential impacts of climate change by using recent downscaled climate model outputs to create a variety of statistics and visualizations that show their distribution across the state. To understand

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how the population exposed to these impacts will be affected, social vulnerability—defined as the susceptibility of a given population to be harmed from exposure to a hazard, directly affecting its ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover—must be evaluated.

2013

Jonathan Heller, Shireen Malekafzali, Lynn C. Todman, and Megan Wier. *Promoting Equity Through the Practice of Health Impact Assessment* (Oakland, CA: PolicyLink, 2013).

This report serves as a primer to demonstrate: 1) how health impact assessment (HIA) practitioners of equity advocates can ensure that the practice of HIA maintains a strong focus on promoting equity; 2) how HIA can be used as a tool to support equitable decision-making processes and outcomes. It describes the centrality of equity in HIA implementation in order to advance just and fair outcomes and presents a set of principles for guidance in HIA practice.

Erin Hagan and Victor Rubin. *Economic and Community Development Outcomes of Healthy Food Retail* (Oakland, CA: PolicyLink, 2013).

This report provides examples and evidence to illustrate the massive degree of innovation underway in at least eight broad categories of food policy. The next several years will provide an unprecedented opportunity to determine what is working and analyze the economic changes that arise from these new trends and strategies. This report seeks to encourage researchers and policymakers to consider the economic aspects of improving access to healthy food, in addition to the health impacts, which have been the traditional area of study.

Manuel Pastor, Madeline Wander and Mirabail Auer. *Advancing Environmental Justice Through Sustainability Planning* (Oakland, CA: PolicyLink, 2013).

This report explains why addressing environmental justice is a key aspect of creating sustainable regions, and presents ways in which those involved in local and regional planning can achieve environmental justice in their communities. It discusses these three specific areas that can advance environmental justice through sustainability planning 1) developing tools to measure health risks and environmental hazards that threatened local communities; 2) authentically engaging and collaborating with communities facing these problems in their daily

lives; and 3) building in concerns about environmental disparities into the next big issue facing regions—climate change.

Todd Litman. [Evaluating Transportation Equity: Guidance for Incorporating Distributional Impacts in Transportation Planning](#) (Victoria, BC, Canada: Victoria Transport Policy Institute, 2013).

Equity refers to the distribution of impacts (benefits and costs) and whether that distribution is considered fair and appropriate. Transportation equity analysis is important and unavoidable; transport planning decisions often have significant equity impacts, and equity concerns often influence planning debates. This report provides an overview of transport equity issues, defines various types of transportation equity, discusses methods of evaluating equity impacts, and describes ways to incorporate equity analysis into transportation decision-making. This report provides practical guidance for evaluating transportation equity.

Lester King. [Houston Sustainable Development Indicators: A Comprehensive Development Review for Citizens, Analysts and Decision Makers](#) (Houston, TX: The Shell Center for Sustainability, Rice University, 2013).

This report is intended to facilitate discussion and decision making for the sustainable development of the city of Houston. The city of Houston municipal boundary was used for most of the metrics in the study. Some indicators like air pollution or water resources are regionally generated and have regional impacts; however it is important to understand how the city of Houston is affected.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. [The Toxics Release Inventory in Action: Media, Government, Business, Community and Academic Uses of TRI Data](#) (Washington, DC: Toxics Release Inventory Program Division, 2013).

This report is intended to provide an overview of the

different ways in which people use TRI data, and updates the 2003 document, *How Are the Toxics Release Inventory Data Used? - Government, Business, Academic and Citizen Uses*.

Jacqui Patterson. [Just Energy Policies: Reducing Pollution and Creating Jobs](#). (Washington, DC: National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), 2013).

This report evaluates energy policy in all 50 states from a civil rights perspective while providing an analysis of each state's energy sector policies based on environmental and economic impacts.

Nicholas M. Bianco, Franz T. Litz, Kristin Igusky Meek, and Rebecca Gasper. [Can The U.S. Get There From Here? Using Existing Federal Laws and State Action to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions](#) (Washington, DC, World Resources Institute, 2013).

This report answers some key questions: 1) What are current U.S. GHG emissions? 2) Without further action to reduce emissions what are they projected to be in 2020 and 2035? 3) What legal and policy tools exist under current federal law to achieve emissions reductions? 4) What additional actions can states pursue to contribute to emissions reductions?

Edward Cameron, Tara Shine, and Wendi Bevins. [Climate Justice: Equity and Justice Informing A New Climate Agreement](#). (Washington, DC: World Resources Institute, 2013).

This report explores the links between climate change and justice. It establishes why climate change is an issue of justice, analyzes the potential role of justice in the agreement currently being negotiated for 2015, and explores climate justice narratives.

Taryn Fransen and Casey Cronin. [A Critical Decade for Climate Policy: Tools and Initiatives to Track Our Progress](#) (Washington, DC: World Resources Institute 2013).

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This report offers the following observations: The climate policy tracking community has developed a diverse portfolio of methodologies and frameworks to address a range of policy tracking needs. Nevertheless, information about climate policies remains patchy. There is little coordinated monitoring of policy implementation (in contrast to policy adoption) or of policies currently under development. Geographies are unevenly covered and quantifications and projections are often inconsistent. Many climate policy tracking efforts are conducted by international organizations and target the needs of an international audience, though some good examples exist at the country level.

ARTICLES

2003

Robert Garcia, Erica S. Flores, and Sophia Mei-ling. "[Healthy Children, Healthy Communities: Schools, Parks, Recreation and Sustainable Regional Planning.](#)" *Fordham Urban Law Journal*, 31(5): 1267-1290, (2003).

The article describes the epidemic of obesity and unfitnes in the United States and the statistics associated with inactivity, as well as, the health impacts associated with being overweight and obese and the importance of physical activity. The article closes by addressing the need to lower the barriers to physical activity, articulate a campaign for active recreation spaces, and advocates correcting structural disparity and creating healthy communities with access to open space and fair treatment of all people.

Deborah Rohm Young and Carolyn C. Voorhees. "[Personal, Social, and Environmental Correlates of Physical Activity in Urban African-American Women.](#)" *Am J Prev Med*, 25(3Si):38-44, (2003).

African-American women are at risk of chronic diseases for which regular physical activity can provide benefits. This group, however, remains predominantly sedentary. Little research has been undertaken to elucidate the multiple factors that influence their physical activity levels. This article was designed to determine associations among personal, social environmental, and physical environmental factors with physical activity level in urban African-American women.

Phil Brown, Brian Mayer, Stephen Zavestoski, Theo Luebke, Joshua Mandelbaum, Sabrina McCormick. "[The Health Politics of Asthma: Environmental Justice and Collective Illness Experience in the United States.](#)" *Soc Sci Med*, 57(3):453-64, (2003).

While public health, medical, government, and community actors agree that there is a serious asthma epidemic, there is significant disagreement over the role of outdoor environmental factors in causing or triggering asthma. The outcome of these disputes is important because it substantially influences the focus of public health prevention and government regulation. Minority communities in the United States have higher morbidity rates than white communities and, as a result, are more readily affected by debates over environmental factors and subsequent public health and government efforts. Therefore, asthma has figured prominently in community activists' agendas concerning health inequalities. We compare and contrast the efforts of two community environmental justice organizations that include asthma as part of their overall community organizing efforts. We explore obstacles and strategies common to both groups as well as key differences in their orientation vis-à-vis science. To do so, we first discuss the discovery, current research, community action, and resultant changes in the understanding of the disease, specifically within poor and minority communities.

2004

Julian Agyeman and Bob Evans. "Just Sustainability':The Emerging Discourse of Environmental Justice in Britain." *Geographical Journal*, 170(2): 155-164, (2004).

The links between sustainability and environmental justice are becoming clearer and more widely understood in the UK by NGOs and government alike, and it is the potential synergy between these two discourses which is the focus of this paper. This paper argues that the concept of 'just sustainability' provides a discourse for policy-makers and activists, which brings together the key dimensions of both environmental justice and sustainable development.

Gary W. Evans and Lyscha A. Marcynyszyn. "Environmental Justice, Cumulative Environmental Risk, and Health Among

Low- and Middle-Income Children in Upstate New York." *Am J Public Health*, 94(11): 1942-1944, (2004).

Inequitable, cumulative environmental risk exposure and health between predominantly White low-income and middle-income children residing in rural areas in upstate New York are documented in this paper. Cross-sectional data analysis was performed for third- through fifth-grade children and included overnight urinary neuroendocrine levels, noise levels, residential crowding (people/room), and housing quality.

2005

Amy J. Schulz, Srimathi Kannan, J. Timothy Dvonch, Barbara A. Israel, Alex Allen III, Sherman A. James, James S. House, and James Lepkowski. "Social and Physical Environments and Disparities in Risk for Cardiovascular Disease: The Healthy Environments Partnership Conceptual Model." *Environ Health Perspect*, 113(12):1817-1825, (2005).

This paper describes the Healthy Environments Partnership (HEP), which is a community-based participatory research effort investigating variations in cardiovascular disease risk, and the contributions of social and physical environments to those variations, among non-Hispanic black, non-Hispanic white, and Hispanic residents in three areas of Detroit, Michigan.

Benjamin J. Apelberg, Timothy J. Buckley, and Ronald H. White. "Socioeconomic and Racial Disparities in Cancer Risk from Air Toxics in Maryland." *Environ Health Perspect*, 113(6): 693-699, (2005).

The authors discuss linked risk estimates from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) to racial and socioeconomic characteristics of census tracts in Maryland (2000 Census) to evaluate disparities in estimated cancer risk from exposure to air toxics by emission source category.

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2006

Robert J. Brulle and David N. Pellow. "[Environmental Justice: Human Health and Environmental Inequalities](#)". *Ann Rev Public Health*, 27:103-124, (2006).

The authors provide an overview of the dimensions of unequal exposures to environmental pollution (environmental inequality), followed by a discussion of the theoretical literature that seeks to explain the origins of this phenomenon. They consider the impact of the environmental justice movement in the United States and the role that federal and state governments have developed to address environmental inequalities. They conclude that more research is needed that links environmental inequalities with public health outcomes.

Rachel Morello-Frosch and Bill M. Jesdale. "[Separate and Unequal: Residential Segregation and Estimated Cancer Risks Associated with Ambient Air Toxics in U.S. Metropolitan Areas](#)." *Environ Health Perspect*, 114(3):386-93, (2006).

This study examines links between racial residential segregation and estimated ambient air toxics exposures and their associated cancer risks using modeled concentration estimates from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Air Toxics Assessment. Results suggest that disparities associated with ambient air toxics are affected by segregation and that these exposures may have health significance for populations across racial lines.

Sharon L. Harlan, Anthony J. Brazel, Lela Prashad, William L. Stefanov, and Larissa Larsen. "Neighborhood microclimates and vulnerability to heat stress." *Social Science & Medicine*, 63:2847-2863, (2006).

This study examined heat-related health inequalities within one city in order to understand the relationships between the microclimates of urban neighborhoods, population characteristics, thermal environments that regulate microclimates, and the resources people possess to cope with climatic conditions. The study findings suggest that people in warmer neighborhoods were more vulnerable to heat exposure because they had fewer social and material resources to cope with extreme heat. Urban heat island reduction policies should specifically target vulnerable residential areas and take into account equitable distribution and preservation of environmental resources.

2007

Wendell C. Taylor, Myron F. Floyd, Melicia C. Whitt-Glover, and Joseph (Jody) Brooks. "[Environmental Justice: A Framework for Collaboration Between the Public Health and Parks and Recreation Fields to Study Disparities in Physical Activity.](#)" *Journal of Physical Activity & Health*, 4(Supp.1):S50-S63, (2007).

Despite the importance of physical activity (PA) for good health, not all populations have equal access to PA facilities and resources. This disparity is an environmental justice (EJ) issue because of the negative impact on the health of low-income and racial/ethnic minorities. The authors review the first wave of the EJ movement, present the second wave of the EJ movement, discuss the implications of adopting principles from the EJ movement to focus on research in parks and recreation services (PRS), and recommend future research directions. Studies on EJ have documented the disproportionate burden of environmental challenges experienced by low-income and racial/ethnic minorities. With regard to PA, these communities face inadequate access to, quality of, financing for, and public involvement in recreation opportunities.

Steven Cummins, Sarah Curtis, Ana V. Diez-Roux, and Sally Macintyre. "[Understanding and Representing 'Place' in Health Research: A Relational Approach.](#)" *Social Science & Medicine*, 65(9):1825-1838, (2007).

In this paper, the authors argue the case for extensive (quantitative) and intensive (qualitative) empirical, as well as theoretical, research on health variation that incorporates 'relational' views of space and place. Specifically, they debate whether research in place and health should avoid the false dualism of context and composition by recognizing that there is a mutually reinforcing and reciprocal relationship between people and place. The discussion of how these theoretical perspectives are beginning to influence empirical research is explored. Lastly, approaches to understanding

how place relates to health in order to deliver effective, 'contextually sensitive' policy interventions are discussed.

2008

Robert D. Bullard. "[Differential Vulnerabilities: Environmental and Economic Inequality and Government Response to Unnatural Disasters.](#)" *Social Research*, 75(3): 753-784, (2008).

This paper uses the events that unfolded in New Orleans, the Gulf coast region, and the southern United States as the sociohistorical backdrop for examining social vulnerability and government response to unnatural disasters.

Robert D. Bullard. "[Growing Smarter to Achieve Liveable Communities and Regional Equity.](#)" *Race, Poverty & Environment Journal*, Fifteenth Anniversary Special Issue on Race and Regionalism, (2008).

This article discusses regional equity based on three premises and they are: 1) regional health depends on the health of all sectors of the region; 2) central cities and declining suburbs cannot confront the problems of racialized concentrated poverty independently and without a regional focus; and 3) a regional approach will support rather than undermine the political power, social cohesion, and sense of place of all residents of the region, but particularly of those communities that have long been denied an effective voice.

Meredith Minkler, Victoria Breckwich Vásquez, Mansoureh Tajik and Dana Petersen. "[Promoting Environmental Justice Through Community-Based Participatory Research: The Role of Community and Partnership Capacity.](#)" *Health Educ Behav* 35(1):119-137, (2008).

This article presents the results of a cross-site case study of four CBPR partnerships in the United States that researched environmental health problems and worked to educate legislators and promote relevant public policy. The authors focus on community and

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partnership capacity within and across sites, using as a theoretical framework Goodman and his colleagues' dimensions of community capacity, as these were tailored to environmental health by Freudenberg, and as further modified to include partnership capacity within a systems perspective.

Stephen H. Linder, Dritana Marko, and Ken Sexton. "[Cumulative Cancer Risk from Air Pollution in Houston: Disparities in Risk Burden and Social Disadvantage.](#)" *Environ Sci Techno*, 42(12):4312-4322, (2008).

The authors employ exposure estimates from NATA-1999 and census data to assess whether the cumulative cancer risks from air toxics in Houston (and Harris County) fall disproportionately on certain ethnicities and on the socially and economically disadvantaged. Results provide evidence of risk disparities from hazardous air pollution based on ethnicity and social disadvantage.

2009

Julian Agyeman, Patrick Devine-Wright and Julia Prange. "[Close to the Edge, Down by the River? Joining up Managed Retreat and Place Attachment in a Climate Changed World.](#)" *Environment and Planning A*, 41:509-513, (2009).

The authors' argue that, if future policies and plans for managed retreat are to be implemented successfully, a great deal of further work is required since focusing on the ecological, technical, and economic, that is, the physical aspects of relocation, they have neglected important psychological, symbolic, and particularly emotional aspects of healthy human habitat so described by environmental psychologists as place attachment. Failure to address this crucial qualitative aspect of relocation may fundamentally undermine wider policy and planning initiatives on adaptation to climate change.

Julia Green Brody, Rachel Morello-Frosch, Ami Zota, Phil Brown, Carla Pérez, Ruthann A. Rudel. "[Linking Exposure Assessment Science with Policy Objectives for Environmental Justice and Breast Cancer Advocacy: The Northern California Household Exposure Study.](#)" *Am J Public Health*, 99:S600-S609, (2009).

The authors' compared an urban fence-line community (neighboring an oil refinery) and a nonindustrial community in an exposure study focusing on pollutants with respect to breast cancer and environmental justice. Indoor and outdoor air from 40 homes in industrial Richmond,

California, and ten homes in rural Bolinas, California, were analyzed for 153 compounds, including particulates and endocrine disruptors. Indoor air quality is an important indicator of the cumulative impact of outdoor emissions in fence-line communities. Policies based on outdoor monitoring alone add to environmental injustice concerns in communities that host polluters. Community-based participatory exposure research can contribute to science and stimulate and inform action on the part of community residents and policymakers.

Rachel Morello-Frosch, Julia Green Brody, Phil Brown, Rebecca Gasior Altman, Ruthann A. Rudel, Carla Pérez. ["Toxic ignorance and right-to-know in biomonitoring results communication: a survey of scientists and study participants."](#) *Environ Health*, Feb 28, 8:6, (2009).

Exposure assessment has shifted from pollutant monitoring in air, soil, and water toward personal exposure measurements and biomonitoring. This trend along with the paucity of health effect data for many of the pollutants studied raise ethical and scientific challenges for reporting results to study participants. The authors conclude in this article that public deliberation about communication in personal exposure assessment research suggests that new forms of community-based research ethics and participatory scientific practice are emerging.

Paul Mohai, David N. Pellow, and J. Timmons Roberts. ["Environmental Justice."](#) *Annual Review of Environment and Resources*, 34:405-430, (2009).

The authors review two decades of scholars' claims that exposures to pollution and other environmental risks are unequally distributed by race and class, examine case studies of environmental justice social movements and the history and politics of environmental justice policy making in the United States, and describe the emerging issue of global climate justice. The authors engage the contentious literature on how to quantitatively measure and document environmental injustice, especially the

complex problems of having data of very different types and areas (such as zip codes, census tracts, or concentric circles) around polluting facilities or exposed populations.

Nicole I. Larson, Mary T. Story, and Melissa C. Nelson. ["Neighborhood Environments: Disparities in Access to Healthy Foods in the U.S."](#) *Am J Prev Med*. 36(1):74-81, (2009).

This article reviews research relating to the presence, nature, and implications of neighborhood differences in access to food. The findings show that neighborhood disparities in access to food are of great concern because of their potential to influence dietary intake and obesity. Additional research is needed to address various limitations of current studies, identify effective policy actions, and evaluate intervention strategies designed to promote more equitable access to healthy foods.

2010

Jesse McEntee and Julian Agyeman. ["Towards the development of a GIS method for identifying rural food deserts: Geographic access in Vermont, USA."](#) *Applied Geography*, 30(1):165-176, (2010).

The purpose of this article is to contribute towards the development of a method for rural food desert identification strategies using the location of food retailers and residential units. A methodologically innovative Geographic Information System (GIS) approach was applied to the primarily rural state of Vermont, USA. Areas of inadequate geographic food access are identified and some are found to overlap with high poverty locations.

Philip J. Landrigan, Virginia A. Rauh, Maida P. Galvez. ["Environmental Justice and the Health of Children."](#) *Mt Sinai J Med*, 77(2):178-187, (2010).

Environmental injustice is the inequitable and disproportionately heavy exposure of poor, minority, and disenfranchised populations to toxic chemicals and

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other environmental hazards. Environmental injustice contributes to disparities in health status across populations of differing ethnicity, race, and socioeconomic status. Infants and children, because of their unique biological vulnerabilities and age-related patterns of exposure, are especially vulnerable to the health impacts of environmental injustice. These impacts are illustrated by sharp disparities across children of different racial and ethnic backgrounds in the prevalence of three common diseases caused in part by environmental factors: asthma, lead poisoning, and obesity. Documentation of linkages between health disparities and environmental injustice is an important step toward achieving environmental justice.

Keith K. Miyake, Andrew R. Maroko, Kristen L. Grady, Juliana A. Maantay, Peter S. Arno. ["Not Just a Walk in the Park: Methodological Improvements for Determining Environmental Justice Implications of Park Access in New York City for the Promotion of Physical Activity."](#) *Cities Environ*, 3(1):1-17, (2010).

The purpose of this study is to test the hypothesis that access to parks in New York City is not equitable across racial and ethnic categories. It builds on previous research that has linked access to parks and open space with increased physical activity, which in turn may reduce the risk for adverse health outcomes related to obesity.

Renee E. Walker, Christopher R. Keane, and Jessica G. Burke. ["Disparities and Access to Healthy Food in the United States: A Review of Food Deserts Literature."](#) *Health Place*, 16(5):876-884, (2010).

The authors conducted a systematic review of studies that focused on food access and food desert research in the United States. The 31 studies identified utilized nine measures to assess food access.

Sacoby M. Wilson, Roland Richard, Lesley Joseph, and Edith M. Williams. ["Climate Change, Environmental Justice, and Vulnerability: An Exploratory Spatial Analysis."](#) *Environmental Justice*, 3(1):13-19, (2010).

The authors explore the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to assess areas that may be vulnerable to climate change across the United States. Past research has shown that due to climate change, vulnerable populations may experience worse health outcomes and environmental health disparities.

2011

Lisa Clarke and Julian Agyeman. ["Is There More to Environmental Participation Than Meets the Eye? Understanding Agency, Empowerment and Disempowerment Among Black and Minority Ethnic Communities."](#) *Area*, 43(1):88-95, (2011).

The authors centered their research gaze on the cultural and ethnic interpretations of environmental disengagement among black and minority ethnic groups, which has been under-explored in the UK literature on public participation. They conducted focus groups with black and minority ethnic communities and in-depth interviews with community representatives and key actors facilitating sustainability policy. They identified from their analysis the sub-themes of a 'different mindset' and 'self-empowering spaces' that demonstrated the contextual, diverse and contested perceptions and experiences of agency, empowerment and disempowerment in environmental behaviors and initiatives. Their conclusions draw on the implications of their findings for the environmental and sustainability policy and planning community.

Nicholas Freudenberg, Manuel Pastor, and Barbara Israel. ["Strengthening Community Capacity to Participate in Making Decisions to Reduce Disproportionate Environmental Exposures."](#) *Am J Public Health*, 101(Suppl1):S123-S130, (2011).

In this article, the authors seek to describe and analyze the characteristics of communities that contribute to their capacity to participate in making environmental decisions and of environmental policy decision making processes that invite or discourage such. The goal is to identify broad steps that U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) can take to design programs and policies that achieve more meaningful participation.

Paul Mohai, Byoung-Suk Kweon, Sangyn Lee and Kerry Ard. ["Air Pollution Around Schools Is Linked To Poorer Student Health And Academic Performance."](#) *Health Aff*, 30(5): 852-862, (2011).

Exposing children to environmental pollutants during important times of physiological development can lead to long-lasting health problems, dysfunction, and disease. The location of children's schools can increase their exposure. The authors examined the extent of air pollution from industrial sources around public schools in Michigan to find out whether air pollution jeopardizes children's health and academic success. They found that schools located in areas with the highest air pollution levels had the lowest attendance rates—a potential indicator of poor health—and the highest proportions of students who failed to meet state educational testing standards. Michigan and many other states currently do not require officials considering a site for a new school to analyze its environmental quality. Their results show that such requirements are needed. For schools already in existence, they recommend that their environmental quality should be investigated and improved if necessary.

James L. Sadd, Manuel Pastor, Rachel Morello-Frosch, Justin Scoggins and Bill Jesdale. ["Playing It Safe: Assessing Cumulative Impact and Social Vulnerability through an Environmental Justice Screening Method in the South Coast Air Basin, California."](#) *Int J Environ Res Public Health*, 8(5):1441-1459, (2011).

Regulatory agencies, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and state authorities like the California Air Resources Board, have sought to address the concerns of environmental justice advocates who argue that chemical-by-chemical and source-specific assessments of potential health risks of environmental hazards do not reflect the multiple environmental and social stressors faced by vulnerable communities. The authors propose an Environmental Justice Screening Method as a relatively simple, flexible and transparent way to examine the relative rank of cumulative impacts and social vulnerability within metropolitan regions and determine environmental justice areas based on more than simply the demographics of income and race.

Selected Bibliography

Dorceta E. Taylor. ["The Evolution of Environmental Justice Activism, Research, and Scholarship."](#) *Environmental Practice*, 13(4): 280-301, (2011).

The author argues that there is a long history of environmental racism in American society. The first part of the article briefly discusses some of the environmental practices that discriminated against and negatively impacted people of color. It also discusses the responses of people of color to these inequities. The second part of the article examines the rise of the contemporary environmental justice movement. This portion of the essay also looks at the evolution of environmental justice scholarship. It argues that despite controversy over the assertion that race and class are related to the siting patterns of hazardous facilities, most studies support the claim.

Arlene Rosenbaum, Seth Hartley, and Chris Holder. [Analysis of Diesel Particulate Matter Health Risk Disparities in Selected US Harbor Areas.](#) *Am J Public Health*, 101(S1):S217-S223, (2011).

People near major transportation emissions sources experience higher exposure to hazardous pollutants. Population size and demographic composition estimates for exposure to diesel particulate matter (DPM) exhaust from U.S. harbor activities are presented. Study examined 43 U.S. marine harbor areas to determine outdoor, ambient concentrations from port-related DPM emissions and then determined intake fractions of those emissions in each harbor area. It estimated the distribution of health risk by combining ambient concentrations with exposure and carcinogenic risk factors. Researchers assessed demographic differences by stratifying the health risks by race/ethnicity and income. Most exposures occur in a small number of marine harbor areas. Low-income households and both Hispanics and non-Hispanic Blacks are overrepresented in the affected populations.

Mary Kreger, Katherine Sargent, Abigail Arons, Marion Standish, and Claire D. Brindis. [Creating an Environmental Justice Framework For Policy Change in Childhood Asthma: A Grassroots To Treetops Approach.](#) *Am J Public Health*. 101(Suppl 1):S208-S216, (2011).

This article describes how coalitions, working with community residents and technical assistance experts, successfully advocated for policies to reduce children's exposures to environmental triggers, particularly in low-income communities and communities of color.

Maxine Burkett. [Climate Justice and the Elusive Climate Tort.](#) *The Yale Law Journal Online*, 121:115-119, (2011).

The essay argues that the common law nuisance claims rejected by the Court in *American Electric Power Co. v. Connecticut* provide an important mechanism for the climate vulnerable to achieve corrective justice. Corrective justice is one of the most important goals of tort law because of its focus on the relationship between the tortfeasor and victim.

G. Darrel Jenerette, Sharon L. Harlan, William L. Stafanov, and Chris A. Martin. ["Ecosystem Services And Urban Heat Riskscape Moderation: Water, Green Spaces, And Social Inequality In Phoenix, USA"](#). *Ecol Appl*, 21(7):2637-2651, (2011).

The article examines patterns of urban vegetated cooling, the potential water requirements to supply these services, and differential access to these services between residential neighborhoods in the Phoenix, Arizona metropolitan region. Three decades (1970-2000) of land surface characteristics and residential segregation by income were evaluated.

Joan Flocks, Francisco Escobedo, Jeff Wade, Sebastian Varela, and Claudia Wald. ["Environmental Justice Implications of Urban Tree Cover in Miami-Dade County, Florida."](#) *Environ Justice*, 4(2):125-134, (June 2011).

Using field and U.S. Census data, computer modeling, and online resources, this study analyzed variables such as urban forest cover, diversity of trees, and tree condition among White, African-American, and Hispanic areas in Miami-Dade County. The results are then used to quantify two key ecosystem services from urban trees and discuss how their provision can be inequitable.

2012

Beverly Wright and Earthea Nance. ["Toward Equity: Prioritizing Vulnerable Communities in Climate Change."](#) *Duke Forum for Law & Social Change*, 4:1-21, (2012).

The purpose of this article is that it reflects on the local and global dimensions of inequitable development in light of environmental and economic shifts that threaten to place further burdens on the most vulnerable communities. This article focuses on New Orleans as a case study because it represents inequitable development and environmental vulnerability, and because New Orleans is likely experiencing the impacts of both climate change (e.g. Hurricane Katrina) and late stage fossil fuel development (i.e. the Deep Water Horizon oil spill).

Robert R.M. Verchick. ["Disaster Justice: The Geography of Human Capability."](#) *Duke Environmental Law & Policy Forum*, 23:1-71, (2012).

This article is about setting the foundation for more detailed discussions of disaster in the legal setting. Those in the legal community need to know more about social science data underlying a community disaster risk. The need to understand the political and moral implications of a society that allows a disaster underclass to grow unnoticed in a nation committed to freedom and democracy is discussed.

Sangyun Lee and Paul Mohai. ["Environmental Justice Implications on Brownfield Redevelopment in the United States."](#) *Society & Natural Resources*, 25(6):602-609, (2012).

This article discusses environmental justice implications of brownfield development. Although many argue that brownfield development can be an excellent alternative to the Superfund Act for a new toxic waste policy in the United States, providing environmental as well as economic improvements, such views are based on anticipated rather than proven or actual benefits. Questions pertaining to the environmental justice consequences of brownfield development discussed in this article include who lives near brownfield sites and which sites are cleaned up first, whether lowering cleanup standards for brownfield development is safe for human health, whether brownfield development

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can provide economic benefits without any adverse consequences of development to local residents, and how public participation should be included in the process of brownfield development

Laura Perez, Fred Lurmann, John Wilson, Manuel Pastor, Sylvia J. Brandt, Nino Künzli, and Rob McConnell.

[“Near-Roadway Pollution and Childhood Asthma: Implications for Developing “Win-Win” Compact Urban Development And Clean Vehicle Strategies.”](#) *Environ Health Perspect*, 120(11):1619-1626, (2012).

The emerging consensus that exposure to near-roadway traffic-related pollution causes asthma has implications for compact urban development policies designed to reduce driving and greenhouse gases. The current burden of childhood asthma-related disease attributable to near-roadway and regional air pollution in Los Angeles County (LAC) is estimated and the potential health impact of regional pollution reduction associated with changes in population along major traffic corridors. The authors' findings suggest that there are large and previously unappreciated public health consequences of air pollution in LAC and probably in other metropolitan areas with dense traffic corridors. To maximize health benefits, compact urban development strategies should be coupled with policies to reduce near-roadway pollution exposure.

Divya Chandrasekhar. [“Digging Deeper: Participation and Non-Participation in Post-Disaster Community Recovery.”](#) *Community Development*, 43(5):614-629, (2012).

Stakeholder participation is widely acknowledged as being critical to post-disaster recovery, but little is known about the dynamics and decision processes that lead to this participation or to non-participation. More in-depth knowledge of these dynamics can lead to more targeted and timely intervention by development practitioners managing the process. This article presents key conclusions of a study which analyzed stakeholder participation using qualitative data inquiry methods in the recovery of three coastal villages of Nagapattinam (India) after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. The first key conclusion is that participation and non-participation are a complex function of stakeholder presence and stakeholder impact. Secondly, stakeholder power, legitimacy, trust, and urgency for action affect the forms and continuation of participation and non-participation. And lastly, time constraints and rapidly changing recovery conditions change stakeholder legitimacy, power, trust, and

urgency over time, thus reaffirming some imbalances while also creating new opportunities to redress others.

Billy Hamilton and Christina L. Erickson. "[Urban Heat Islands and Social Work: Opportunities for Intervention.](#)" *Advances in Social Work*, 13(2):420-430, (2012).

Children, elders and low-income persons are disproportionately burdened by the urban heat island (UHI). These populations often lack the necessary biological, economic and social resources to cope with or prevent heat stress. Because UHIs are expected to increase with climate change, more social workers will be expected to serve the populations most affected by UHI. This article addresses how the social work profession can play a role in efforts to address the effects of UHIs on vulnerable populations.

Karel Martenx, Aaron Golub, and Glenn Robinson. "[A Justice-Theoretic Approach to the Distribution of Transportation Benefits: Implications for Transportation Planning Practice in the United States.](#)" *Transportation Research Part A: Policy and Practice*, 46(4):684-695, (2012).

This paper makes a moral argument for what would be a fair distribution of transportation improvements (private and public transport). The argument follows Walzer's "Spheres of Justice" approach to define the benefits of transportation access, as a sphere deserving a separate, non-market driven, distribution. That distribution is one where the maximum gap between the lowest and highest accessibility, both by mode and in space, should be limited, while attempting to maximize average access. The authors also review transportation planning practice for a priori distributional goals and find little explicit guidance in conventional and even justice-oriented transportation planning and analyses and end with a discussion of the implications for practice.

2013

Wael K. Al-Delaimy. "[The JPC-SE Position Statement on Asbestos: A Long-Overdue Appeal by Epidemiologists to Ban](#)

[Asbestos Worldwide and End Related Global Environmental Injustice.](#)" *Environ Health Perspect*, 121:A144-A145, (2013).

Recently, the Joint Policy Committee of the Societies of Epidemiology, a consortium of national and international epidemiologic societies and organizations, released a statement calling for the global ban of asbestos use. Public health advocacy by environmental epidemiologists and other epidemiologists, as well as scientists and public health professionals in general, is needed to bring legitimacy and accuracy to campaigns on major public health issues such as asbestos. Public health professionals need to focus on the interests of the public over any other interest. It is, therefore, not enough for epidemiologists to publish papers in scientific journals; they must also make the effort to make policy content and information of public interest both accessible and usable by the general public.

Julia R. Barrett. "[Pathways for Processing Noise: Heart Health and the Sounds of Everyday Life.](#)" *Environ Health Perspect*, 121(5):A167, (2013).

Epidemiological studies suggest that noise exposure affects cardiovascular system function. However, most studies have focused on links between specific types of chronic loud noises associated with jobsites or roadways and adverse cardiovascular effects including high blood pressure and heart disease. But the biological underpinnings of these relationships have been little explored, particularly with regard to noise encountered during everyday life. A new study finds that lower-intensity everyday noises also can affect the cardiovascular system, although the effects are likely mediated via different pathways than those associated with effects of louder noise. The study concluded that the findings suggest that low-intensity noise activates biological pathways separate from the "fight-or-flight" response triggered by louder noises; the potential health consequences should be explored.

Selected Bibliography

Lindsey Konkel. "[Reverse Influence Modeling: Estimating Source-by-Source Health Benefits of Reduced Emissions.](#)" *Environ Health Perspect*, 121(5):A166, (2013).

Traditional model-based studies that evaluate air quality control measures predict how the health benefits of a prescribed reduction in emissions will be distributed across different locations. The researcher integrated U.S. and Canadian epidemiological data with the adjoint, or reverse, of an air quality model based on a grid of cells measuring 36 square kilometers. The author found that the reductions in nitrogen dioxide and ozone exposure—and the consequent health benefits—associated with reducing nitrogen oxide emissions varied substantially across North America.

Ute Kraus, Alexandra Schneider, Susanne Breitner, Reginal Hampel, Regina Rückerl, Mike Pitz, Uta Geruschkat, Petra Belcredi, Katja Radon, and Annette Peters. "[Individual Daytime Noise Exposure During Routine Activities and Heart Rate Variability in Adults: A Repeated Measures Study.](#)" *Environ Health Perspect*, 121(5):607-612, (2013).

Epidemiological studies have demonstrated associations between noise exposure and cardiovascular events. However, there have been few studies of possible underlying mechanisms. The authors examined the association between individual daytime noise exposure and heart rate variability.

Amy Lowman, Mary Anne McDonald, Steve Wing, and Naeema Muhammad. "[Land Application of Treated Sewage Sludge: Community Health and Environmental Justice.](#)" *Environ Health Perspect*, 121:537-542, (2013).

In the United States, most of the treated sewage sludge (biosolids) is applied to farmland as a soil amendment. Critics suggest that rules regulating sewage sludge treatment and land application may be insufficient to protect public health and the environment. Neighbors of land application sites report illness following land application events. The authors conclude that community members are key witnesses of land application events and their potential impacts on health, quality of life, and the environment. Meaningful involvement of community members in decision making about land application of sewage sludge will strengthen environmental health protections.

Michele La Merrill, Piera M. Cirillo, Mary Beth Terry, Nickilow Y. Krigbaum, Julie D. Flom, and Barbara A. Cohn. [“Prenatal Exposure to the Pesticide DDT and Hypertension Diagnosed in Women before Age 50: A Longitudinal Birth Cohort Study.”](#) *Environ Health Perspect*, 121:594-599, (2013).

Elevated levels of the pesticide dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane (DDT) have been positively associated with blood pressure and hypertension in studies among adults. Accumulating epidemiologic and toxicological evidence suggests that hypertension during adulthood may also be affected by earlier life and possibly the prenatal environment. We assessed whether prenatal exposure to the pesticide DDT increases risk of adult hypertension. These findings suggest that the association between DDT exposure and hypertension may have its origins early in development.

John Manuel. [“The Long Road to Recovery: Environmental Health Impacts of Hurricane Sandy.”](#) *Environ Health Perspect*, 121:A152-A159, (2013).

The author discusses the long recovery of residents after Hurricane Sandy. However, in terms of immediate impact, the greatest health threat came from the storm surge that swept into densely populated communities along the New Jersey shore, Long Island, and Lower Manhattan. The storm’s arrival coincided with a high tide to push onshore a destructive surge of water 12.5 feet high at its peak. Of the 97 deaths recorded in the New York metropolitan area—which includes northern New Jersey and parts of Connecticut—most were from drowning.

Qingyu Meng, Jennifer Richmond-Bryant, Shou-En Lu, Barbara Buckley, William J. Walsh, Eric A. Whitsel, Adel Hanna, Karin B. Yeatts, Joshua Warren, Amy H. Herring, and Aijun Xiu. [“Cardiovascular Outcomes and the Physical and Chemical Properties of Metal Ions Found in Particulate Matter Air Pollution: A QICAR Study.”](#) *Environ Health Perspect*, 121:558-564, (2013).

The authors present an application of quantitative ion

character-activity relationships (QICAR) to estimate associations of human cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) with a set of metal ion properties commonly observed in ambient air pollutants. QICAR has previously been used to predict ecotoxicity of inorganic metal ions based on ion properties. They conclude that QICAR has the potential to complement existing epidemiologic methods for estimating associations between CVDs and air pollutant exposures by providing clues about the underlying mechanisms that may explain these associations.

Amanda Joy Pappin and Amir Hakami. [“Source Attribution of Health Benefits from Air Pollution Abatement in Canada and the United States: An Adjoint Sensitivity Analysis.”](#) *Environ Health Perspect*, 121:572-579, (2013).

Decision making regarding air pollution can be better informed if air quality impacts are traced back to individual emission sources. Adjoint or backward sensitivity analysis is a modeling tool that can achieve this goal by allowing for quantification of how emissions from sources in different locations influence human health metrics. The authors attributed short-term mortality (valuated as an overall “health benefit”) in Canada and the United States to anthropogenic nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions across North America. Source specificity of the adjoint approach provides valuable information for guiding air quality decision making. Adjoint results suggest that the health benefits of reducing NO_x and VOC emissions are substantial and highly variable across North America.

Nate Seltenrich. [“Environmental Exposures in the Context of Child Care.”](#) *Environ Health Perspect*, 121(5):A160-A165, (2013).

The author stresses that research has proven that infants and toddlers, who spend more time on the floor and experience the world with their hands and mouths, are not merely in closer contact with many indoor pollutants but also more sensitive to them. Yet environmental health standards in child care settings nationwide—

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which can include not just centers but also private homes, workplaces, universities, and places of worship—still lag behind those of schools, where children are older, larger, and somewhat less susceptible to environmental exposures.

Mike Ewall. [“Legal Tools for Environmental Equity vs. Environmental Justice.”](#) *Sustainable Development Law & Policy Journal*, Volume XIII, Issue 1, (2012-2013).

The author provides a historical context for legal tools explored and needed to obtain environmental equity and environmental justice for vulnerable or affected communities.

Lori A. Hoepner, Robin M. Whyatt, Allan C. Just, Antonia M. Calafat, Frederica P. Perera, and Andrew G. Rundle. [“Urinary Concentrations of Bisphenol A in an Urban Minority Birth Cohort in New York City, Prenatal Through Age 7 Years.”](#) *Environ Res*, 122: 38–44, (2013).

This paper analyzed spot urines for total bisphenol A (BPA) collected during pregnancy and children ages 3, 5, and 7 years from African Americans and Dominicans ($n=568$) enrolled in the Columbia Center for Children’s Environmental Health birth cohort and residing in Northern Manhattan and the South Bronx.

Giuseppe Feola and Richard Nunes. [“Success and Failure of Grassroots Innovations for Addressing Climate Change: The Case of the Transition Movement.”](#) *Global Environmental Change*, 24:232-250, (2013).

The authors take the Transition Movement as a case study of a rapidly spreading transnational grassroots network, and include both active and non-active local transition initiatives. The replication of grassroots innovations in different contexts is investigated along with the aim to uncover general patterns of success and failure, and identify questions for future research.

2014

Yiheyis Taddele Maru, Mark Stafford Smith, Ashley Sparrow, Patricia F. Pinho, and Opha Pauline Dube. [“A Linked Vulnerability and Resilience Framework for Adaptation Pathways in Remote Disadvantaged Communities.”](#) *Global Environmental Change*, (2014).

The authors developed a systems framework for exploring adaptation pathways to climate change among people in remote and marginalized regions. The framework builds on two common and seemingly paradoxical

narratives about people in remote regions. The first is recognition that people in remote regions demonstrate significant resilience to climate and resource variability, and may therefore be among the best equipped to adapt to climate change. The second narrative is that many people in remote regions are chronically disadvantaged and therefore are among the most vulnerable to climate change impacts.

Xiaoyun Ye, Lee-Yang Wong, Xiaoliu Zhou, and Antonia M. Calafat. "[Urinary Concentrations of 2,4-Dichlorophenol and 2,5-Dichlorophenol in the U.S. Population \(National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 2003–2010\): Trends and Predictors](#)". *Environ Health Perspectives*, DOI:10.1289/ehp.1306816, (2014).

The authors sought to identify predictors and evaluate trends in concentrations of dichlorophenol (DCP) according to race/ethnicity, age, sex, family income, and housing type. Adjusted geometric mean DCP concentrations among non-Hispanic whites were lower than among non-Hispanic blacks and Mexican Americans, although differences according to race/ethnicity were less pronounced among participants in high-income households. Exposure to DCPs and their precursors was prevalent in the general U.S. population in 2003–2010, and age and race/ethnicity, family income, and housing type were found to be predictors of exposure to these compounds.

Carrie Arnold. "[Once Upon a Mine: The Legacy of Uranium on the Navajo Nation](#)." *Environ Health Perspect*, 122(2):A45-A49, (2014).

The author chronicles the struggle of the Navajo Nation and uranium contamination. After many years of living next to uranium contamination and a litany of health problems, they believe it caused, local Navajo Nation families will have to vacate their homes for a third round of cleanup efforts by the U.S. EPA.

BOOKS

1999

David Schlosberg, [Environmental Justice and the New Pluralism: The Challenge of Difference for Environmentalism](#). (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999).

The author argues that the environmental justice movement and new pluralist theories now represent a considerable challenge to both conventional pluralist thought and the practices of the major groups in the U.S. environmental movement. This book demonstrates the development of a new form of critical pluralism, in both theory and practice.

Institute of Medicine, [Toward Environmental Justice: Research, Education, and Health Policy Needs](#). (Washington, DC: National Academies Press, 1999).

Driven by community-based organizations and supported by a growing body of literature, the environmental justice movement contends that poor and minority populations are burdened with more than their share of toxic waste, pesticide runoff, and other hazardous by-products of our modern economic life. Is environmental degradation worse in poor and minority communities? Do these communities suffer more adverse health effects as a result? The report addresses these questions and explores how current fragmentation in health policy could be replaced with greater coordination among federal, state, and local parties. The book is highlighted with case studies from five locations where the committee traveled to hear citizen and researcher testimony.

2000

Robert D. Bullard, [Dumping in Dixie: Race, Class and Environmental Quality, 3rd ed.](#) (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2000).

This book has seven chapters that explore the barriers to environmental and social justice experienced by African

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Americans and lays the foundation for understanding the factors that contribute to environmental conflicts, distributive impacts, and growing militancy among African American communities. The author chronicles the efforts of five African-American communities empowered by the civil rights movement and their work to link environmentalism with issues of social justice.

Luke W. Cole and Sheila R. Foster, *From the Ground Up: Environmental Racism and the Rise of the Environmental Justice Movement*. (New York: New York University Press, 2000).

This book is about both the phenomenon of environmental racism and the movement that propelled environmental racism into national consciousness and forced action at the highest levels of government. The movement continues to shape environmental policy while creating increased opportunities for marginalized communities to talk about their own disenfranchisement and the social and economic policies that subject them to daily environmental hazards. The authors trace the movement's roots while illustrating the historical and contemporary causes of environmental racism.

Manual Pastor Jr., Peter Dreier, J. Eugene Grigsby III, and Marta López-Garza. *Regions That Work: How Cities and Suburbs Can Grow Together*. (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2000).

The book provides a history and critique of community-development corporations, a statistical analysis of the poverty-growth relationship in 74 metropolitan areas, a detailed study of three regions that have produced superior equity outcomes, and a provocative call for new policies. The authors make a case for emphasizing equity, arguing that metropolitan areas must reduce poverty in order to grow, and that low-income individuals must make regional connections in order to escape poverty.

2001

Al Gedicks, *Resource Rebels: Native Challenges to Mining and Oil Corporations*. (Boston, MA: South End Press, 2001).

The author describes how native peoples in general are facing extinction due to the greed of mining and oil companies. In Mexico, the Philippines, Colombia, Ecuador, Nigeria, West Papua, Canada, and the United States, indigenous peoples are working with

environmentalists and antiracists to stop corporate and state takeovers of their traditional lands and waters. He argues that building a multiracial, transnational movement to drastically limit resource extraction and create a new environmental ethic is badly needed. The author documents how a growing transnational environmental and human rights network has come to the assistance of native communities under siege by mining and oil companies.

J. Timmons Roberts and Melissa M. Toffolon-Weiss, *Chronicles From the Environmental Justice Frontline*. (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2001).

The authors place environmental justice struggles in the historical context of inequality and race relations in the U.S. South and apply social science theory to reveal how situations of environmental injustice are created, how they are resolved, and what accounts for their success or failure. The book describes how and why conflicts over environmental injustice are created and eventually resolved. The authors describe four cases in Louisiana in which residents were locked in struggles with industry and government representatives over issues of environmental injustice. They explain how, at the end of the twentieth century, situations of environmental injustice were created and eventually resolved.

2002

John Byrne, Leigh Glover, and Cecilia Martinez, *Environmental Justice: International Discourses in Political Economy, Energy and Environmental Policy*. (Edison, NJ: Transaction Publishers, 2002).

Global forces of technology and the development of global markets are transforming social life and the natural order. The authors consider the links between expanded patterns of environmental injustice and the structures and forces underlying and shaping the political international economy. In this book, the authors discuss how environmental injustice is examined across a variety of cultures in the developed and developing world. The

use of case studies of climate colonialism, revolutionary ecology, and environmental commodification as well as the global and local dimensions of these problems, are presented to the reader.

David Schlosberg, *Environmental Justice and the New Pluralism: The Challenge of Difference for Environmentalism*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2002).

The author demonstrates the development of a new form of “critical” pluralism in both theory and practice. The environmental justice movement, with its base in diversity, its networked structure, and its communicative practices and demands, exemplifies the attempt to design political practices beyond those one would expect from a standard interest group in the conventional pluralist model. The author presents a challenge to both conventional pluralist thought and the practices of the major groups in the U.S. environmental movement.

2003

Julian Agyeman, Robert D. Bullard, and Bob Evans, *Just Sustainabilities: Development in an Unequal World*. (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2003).

The book is organized into four sections: (1) Theories and Concepts, in which the authors lay theoretical and conceptual ground for the foundation of the book; (2) Challenges by the authors to Andrew Dobson’s theory that social justice and environmental sustainability are politically incompatible; (3) Cities, Communities, and Social and Environmental Justice, in which communities from the village to the U.S. state level are considered; and (4) Selected Regional Perspectives on Sustainability and Environmental Justice, in which the authors reflect on practical issues in a wide range of regional, national, and subnational contexts. The book addresses many aspects of the links between environmental quality and human equality and between sustainability and environmental justice, more generally.

Selected Bibliography

Thomas H. Fletcher, *From Love Canal to Environmental Justice: The Politics of Hazardous Waste on the Canada-U.S. Border*. (Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press, 2003).

The author deals with two major issues: (1) links between hazardous waste issues, primarily but not exclusively hazardous waste facility siting, and the larger issue of environmental justice; and (2) a comparison of the evolution of hazardous waste regulation in the United States and Canada. The book is a detailed analysis of ten case studies of siting disputes along the Canada-United States border. The comprehensiveness of the case studies is enhanced by the utilization of hearing transcripts, evidence submitted to governments, government agency decisions, and interviews with stakeholders and public officials.

2004

David Naguib Pellow, *Garbage Wars: The Struggle for Environmental Justice in Chicago*. (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2004).

The book explores the life cycle of waste production, collection, processing, and disposal in Chicago over some 120 years. The author examines how poor neighborhoods come to be burdened with a disproportionate amount of pollution and garbage. His research shows how “environmentally friendly” technologies like recycling plants and waste-to-energy incinerators actually end up adding to the pollution in poor neighborhoods. The author integrates social, environmental, and business studies, and raises questions concerning American consumption patterns, past and present.

Rachel Stein, *New Perspectives on Environmental Justice: Gender, Sexuality, and Activism*. (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2004).

This book is the first collection of essays to pay tribute to the enormous contributions women have made in grassroots movements. The author offers varied examples of environmental justice issues such as children’s environmental health campaigns, cancer research, HIV/AIDS activism, the Environmental Genome Project, and popular culture. Each example focuses on gender and sexuality as crucial factors in women’s or gay men’s activism and applies environmental justice principles to related struggles for sexual justice. Feminist/womanist impulses shape and sustain environmental justice movements around the world, making an understanding of gender roles and differences crucial for the success of these efforts. The author discusses issues of

gender equality and sexuality that have been embedded within the environmental justice literature to increase the visibility of the environmental justice movement.

2005

Julian Agyeman, *Sustainable Communities and the Challenge of Environmental Justice*. (New York: New York University Press, 2005).

The author argues that environmental justice and the sustainable communities' movement are compatible in practical ways. He explores the ideological differences between these two groups and shows how they can work together to create healthy and sustainable communities. The author provides concrete examples of potential model organizations that employ the types of strategies he advocates. The author addresses many aspects of the links between environmental quality and human equality and between sustainability and environmental justice.

Robert D. Bullard, *The Quest for Environmental Justice: Human Rights and the Politics of Pollution*. (San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, 2005).

In two decades, the grassroots environmental movement has spread across the globe. This book is divided into four parts. Part I presents an overview of the early environmental justice movement and highlights key leadership roles assumed by women activists. Part II examines the lives of people living in "sacrifice zones"—toxic corridors (such as Louisiana's infamous "Cancer Alley") where high concentrations of polluting industries are found. Part III explores land use, land rights, resource extraction, and sustainable development conflicts, including Chicano struggles in America's Southwest. Finally, Part IV examines human rights and global justice issues, including an analysis of South Africa's legacy of environmental racism and the corruption and continuing violence plaguing the oil-rich Niger Delta. The world is not a just place and it is becoming more unequal, inspiring an increased interest by many in the environmental justice movement.

David Naguib Pellow and Robert J. Brulle, *Power, Justice, and the Environment: A Critical Appraisal of the Environmental Justice Movement*. (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2005).

This book provides a critical appraisal of the environmental justice movement while examining the environmental justice movement's tactics, strategies, rhetoric, organizational structure, and resource base. The book also examines the progress, failures, and successes of the environmental justice movement; it looks at the development of new strategies and cultural perspectives that shape the mobilization and organizational structure of the movement. Lastly, the book examines how the environmental justice movement can address transnational environmental injustices.

2006

Susan L. Cutter, *Hazards, Vulnerability and Environmental Justice*. (London: Earthscan Publications, 2006).

The author examines the following events: the South Asian tsunami, human-induced atrocities, terrorist attacks, and climate change. The book includes 26 reprints of Susan Cutter's research on human-environment interaction during the period 1982–2003. She reveals a great deal about her interests and background on disaster management, her early influences, and her academic career path. She also discusses humanity's attempt to dominate rather than coexist with nature. The entire book is framed around social inequality and vulnerability.

Steve Lerner, *Diamond: A Struggle for Environmental Justice in Louisiana's Chemical Corridor*. (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2006).

This book chronicles how the people of Diamond, an African-American subdivision sandwiched between a Shell chemical plant and a Motiva oil refinery in the town of Norco, Louisiana, lobbied Shell to pay for their relocation after decades of exposure to the plants' toxic emissions. Diamond residents argued that the Shell plants'

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pollution caused many problems, including kidney and nervous-system damage and lung cancer, while their White neighbors, who lived further from the plants' shadow, tended to dismiss such claims. The residents received support from Greenpeace and the Sierra Club to help them relocate from the toxic community.

J. Timmons Roberts and Bradley C. Parks, *A Climate of Injustice: Global Inequality, North-South Politics, and Climate Policy*. (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2006).

In this book, the authors develop new measures of climate-related inequality, analyzing fatality and homelessness rates from hydrometeorological disasters, patterns of emissions inequality, and participation in international environmental governments. The authors argue that global inequality hurts global climate change efforts by reinforcing structuralist worldviews and causal beliefs common in many poor nations, eroding conditions of generalized trust, and promoting particularistic notions of fair solutions. As a result, poor nations fear limits on their efforts to grow economically and meet the needs of their own people, and powerful industrial nations will not reduce their own excesses unless developing countries make similar sacrifices.

Julie Sze, *Noxious New York: The Racial Politics of Urban Health and Environmental Justice*. (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2006).

The author analyzes the culture, politics, and history of environmental justice activism in New York City. She describes the emergence of local campaigns organized around issues of asthma, garbage collection, and energy systems, and how, in each neighborhood, activists framed their arguments in the environmental justice framework. She analyzes the influence of race, family, and gender politics on asthma activism while examining the community activists' responses to garbage privatization and energy deregulation. The author looks at how activist groups have begun to shift from fighting particular siting and land-use decisions to engaging in a larger process of community planning and community-based research projects within the larger context of privatization, deregulation, and globalization.

2007

James K. Boyce, Sunita Narain, and Elizabeth A. Stanton, *Reclaiming Nature: Environmental Justice and Ecological Restoration*. (New York: Anthem Press, 2007).

The book explores the relationship between human activities and the natural world, which include community-based fisheries, forestry management, and strategies to fight global warming. The author makes a case for us to reclaim our relationship with nature and the struggle for social justice. Humans positively and negatively affect the environment. All humans have an inalienable right to clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment. Low-income communities can provide adequate solutions for ecological restoration. People in cities around the world are creating a new form of environmentalism that is grounded in defending their livelihoods and communities.

Robert D. Bullard, *Growing Smarter: Achieving Livable Communities, Environmental Justice, and Regional Equity*. (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2007).

This book examines the impact of the built environment on access to economic opportunity and quality of life. It also explores the costs and consequences of uneven urban and regional growth patterns; suburban sprawl; transportation investments and economic development; and enduring inequalities of place, space, and race. The book answers a specific set of questions: What changes and new paradigms can be offered that will improve quality of life and create healthy and livable metropolitan regions for everyone? How does the built environment impact health? How do current trends in racial and income segregation in metropolitan areas affect the process of urban redevelopment?

David Naguib Pellow, *Resisting Global Toxics: Transnational Movements for Environmental Justice*. (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2007).

The author examines widespread ecosystem damage resulting from toxic waste and the emergence of transnational environmental justice movements to challenge and reduce toxic waste. He argues that waste dumping across national boundaries from rich to poor communities is a form of transnational environmental

inequality. The book examines the transnational waste trade from the 1980s to the present.

2008

David V. Carruthers, *Environmental Justice Latin American: Problems, Promise, and Practice*. (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2008).

The book examines environmental justice in Latin America and its emergence as a unique environmental justice movement. The chapters explore ecotourism, inequitable land distribution in Brazil, the ongoing struggle for justice and accountability over the former U.S. Navy bombing range in Vieques, Puerto Rico, and water policy in Chile, Bolivia, and Mexico. The chapters also focus on industrial development, concentrated industrial waste hazards, and power and politics in land development. Environmental justice provides a way for disenfranchised groups to deal with environmental inequities in their country.

Daniel Faber, *Capitalizing on Environmental Injustice: The Polluter-Industrial Complex in the Age of Globalization*. (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2008).

The author examines the successes and challenges of the environmental justice movement. There are discussions on innovative methods of addressing environmental problems and shaping environmental policy.

Manuel Pastor, Jr., Chris Benner, and Martha Matsuoka, *This Could Be the Start of Something Big: How Social Movements for Regional Equity Are Reshaping Metropolitan America*. (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2008).

In the United States, urban coalitions, including labor, faith groups, and community-based organizations, have come together to support living wage laws and fight for transit policies that can move the needle on issues of working poverty. In places as diverse as Chicago, Atlanta, and San Jose, the usual business resistance to pro-equity policies has changed, particularly when it comes to issues like affordable housing and more

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efficient transportation systems. The authors offer their analysis on what has and has not worked in various campaigns to achieve regional equity. They conclude that social movement regionalism is needed to revitalize the United States.

Vandana Shiva, *Soil Not Oil: Environmental Justice in an Age of Climate Crisis*. (Boston, MA: South End Press, 2008).

The author discusses the relationship between industrial agriculture and climate change. She emphasizes throughout the book that what we need most is sustainable, biologically diverse farms that are more resistant to disease, drought, and flood. She makes a strong case that the solution to climate change and poverty are the same: our world must move toward being less dependent on fossil fuels and globalization. Her analysis in this book focuses on creating a healthy environmental and “just” world based on sustainability and a world community that is beneficial for all of us.

2009

Julian Agyeman, Peter Cole, Randolph Haluza-Delay, and Pat O’Riley, *Speaking for Ourselves: Environmental Justice in Canada*. (Vancouver, BC: University of British Columbia, 2009).

Speaking for Ourselves brings together Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal scholars and activists who propel equity issues to the forefront by considering environmental justice from multiple perspectives, specifically in Canadian contexts.

Robert D. Bullard and Beverly Wright, *Race, Place, and Environmental Justice After Hurricane Katrina: Struggles to Reclaim, Rebuild, and Revitalize New Orleans and the Gulf Coast*. (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2009).

The authors provide a comprehensive analysis of how race and place impact the rebuilding and revitalization of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast states. Poor people and people of color tend to suffer more from natural disasters. The authors raise very important questions: What went wrong? Can it happen again? Is our government equipped to plan for, mitigate, respond to, and recover from natural and man-made disasters? Can the public trust government response to be fair? Does race matter? Racial disparities exist in disaster response, cleanup, rebuilding, reconstruction, and recovery. Displaced residents have a right to return,

a right to rebuild, a right to work, a right to vote, and a right to recover from Katrina.

Michael B. Gerrard and Shelia R. Foster, *The Law of Environmental Justice: Theories and Procedures to Address Disproportionate Risks*, 2nd ed. (American Bar Association, 2009).

The author comprehensively examines the sources of environmental justice law and how evolving regulations and important court decisions impact projects around the country. There are 21 chapters written by leading practitioners and scholars in the field. The chapters are divided into three categories including legal theories, procedures, and objectives.

M. Paloma Pavel and Carl Anthony, *Breakthrough Communities: Sustainability and Justice in the Next American Metropolis*. (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2009).

This book describes current efforts to create sustainable communities with attention to the “triple bottom line”—economy, environment, and equity—and argues that these three interests are mutually reinforcing. The book reflects a new way to think about cities and discusses the importance of people organizing to improve their quality of life and make their neighborhoods more livable. It includes the voices of people of color, labor activists, and community organizers, and case studies of communities not often included in the debate about sustainability.

United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Services. *Climate Justice for a Changing Planet: A Primer for Policy Makers and NGOs*. (New York, United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Services, 2009).

The book shines a light on the important intersection of equity and justice in the context of the current climate change debate. The book explores climate justice as an emerging concept and as a key to understanding the global debate. The book demonstrates that climate justice is not only an ethical imperative, but also an economic and social one.

2010

Steve Lerner, *Sacrifice Zones: The Front Lines of Toxic Exposure in the United States*. (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2010).

This book tells the stories of 12 communities, from Brooklyn to Pensacola that rose up to fight the industries and military bases causing disproportionately high levels of chemical pollution. The author calls these low-income neighborhoods “sacrifice zones,” repurposing a Cold War term coined by U.S. government officials to designate areas contaminated with radioactive pollutants during the manufacture of nuclear weapons. And he argues that residents of a new generation of sacrifice zones, tainted with chemical pollutants, need additional regulatory protections.

2011

Robert D. Bullard, Glenn S. Johnson, and Angel O. Torres, *Environmental Health and Racial Equity in the United States: Building Environmental Just, Sustainable and Livable Communities*. (Washington, D.C.: American Public Health Association, 2011).

The authors examine the relationship between a community’s physical environment and health burdens. The book captures the current state of the environmental justice movement and its work around health and racial equity over the past 25 years. While mounting grassroots mobilization efforts over the past three decades has resulted in protective new laws and regulations, minority neighborhoods continue to serve as “dumping grounds” for polluting facilities, according to the book.

Bunyan Bryant & Elaine Hockman, *Michigan: A State of Environmental Justice?* (New York: Morgan James Publishing, 2011).

The author focuses attention on the byproducts of growth and development in the state of Michigan and describes who wins and who loses. While growth and development have been good for some, it has been devastating for others. The byproducts of growth

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and development have threatened the lives of people who breathe polluted air, who are exposed to contaminated water, and whose children play on polluted soil. People affected by toxins must organize to protect themselves, their families, and their communities from environmental harm.

JoAnn Carmin and Julian Agyeman. *Environmental Inequalities Beyond Borders: Local Perspectives on Global Injustices*. (Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 2011).

Multinational corporations often exploit natural resources or locate factories in poor countries far from the demand for the products and profits that result. Developed countries also routinely dump hazardous materials and produce greenhouse gas emissions that have a disproportionate impact on developing countries. This book investigates how these and other globalized practices exact high social and environmental costs as poor, local communities are forced to cope with depleted resources, pollution, health problems, and social and cultural disruption. Case studies drawn from Africa, Asia, the Pacific Rim, and Latin America critically assess how diverse types of global inequalities play out on local terrains.

Jill Lindsey Harrison, *Pesticide Drift and the Pursuit of Environmental Justice*. (Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 2011).

The widespread but virtually invisible problem of pesticide drift—the airborne movement of agricultural pesticides into residential areas—has fueled grassroots activism from Maine to Hawaii. Pesticide drift accidents have terrified and sickened many living in the country's most marginalized and vulnerable communities. In this book, Jill Lindsey Harrison considers political conflicts over pesticide drift in California, using them to illuminate the broader problem and its potential solutions. The fact that pesticide pollution and illnesses associated with it disproportionately affect the poor and the powerless raises questions of environmental justice (and political injustice).

Geneviève Massard-Guilbaud and Richard Rodger. *Environmental and Social Justice in the City: Historical Perspectives*. (Center Conway: NH White Horse Press, 2011).

The world is full of environmental injustices and inequalities, yet few European historians have tackled these subjects head on; nor have they

explored their relationships with social inequalities. In this innovative collection of historical essays the contributors consider a range of past environmental injustices, spanning seven northern and western European countries and with several chapters adding a North American perspective.

Gwen Ottinger, Benjamin R. Cohen and Kim Fortun. *Technoscience and Environmental Justice: Expert Cultures in a Grassroots Movement*. (Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 2011).

Technoscience and Environmental Justice first examines the scientific practices and identities of technical experts who work with environmental justice organizations, whether by becoming activists themselves or by sharing scientific information with communities. It then explores scientists' and engineers' activities in such mainstream scientific institutions as regulatory agencies and universities, where environmental justice concerns have been (partially) institutionalized as a response to environmental justice activism.

Bindi V. Shah, *Laotian Daughters: Working Toward Community, Belonging and Environmental Justice*. (Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press, 2011).

The authors focus on second-generation environmental justice activists in Richmond, California. Bindi Shah's path-breaking book charts these young women's efforts to improve the degraded conditions in their community and explores the ways their activism and political practices resist the negative stereotypes of race, class, and gender associated with their ethnic group. Using ethnographic observations, interviews, focus groups, and archival data on their participation in Asian Youth Advocates—a youth leadership development project—Shah analyzes the teenagers' mobilization for social rights, cross-race relations, and negotiations of gender and inter-generational relations.

Lisa Sun-Hee Park and David Naguib Pellow, *The Slums of Aspen: Immigrants vs. The Environment in America's Eden*. (New York: New York University Press, 2011).

The authors track the lives of immigrant laborers through several years of exhaustive fieldwork and archival digging, *The Slums of Aspen* tells a story that brings together some of the most pressing social problems of the day: environmental crises, immigration, and social inequality. Park and Pellow demonstrate how these issues are intertwined in the everyday experiences of people who work and live in this wealthy tourist community. Developing the idea of “environmental privilege”—the economic, political, and cultural power that some groups enjoy—enables them exclusive access to coveted environmental amenities such as forests, parks, mountains, rivers, coastal property, open lands, and elite neighborhoods. They argue that this odd marriage of environmental and nativist groups occurs because of population fears—both want less people, especially if they are the brown sort.

2012

Francis O. Adeola, *Industrial Disasters, Toxic Waste, and Community Impact: Health Effects and Environmental Justice Struggles Around the Globe*. (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2012).

The author explains the emergence of a sociological study of risk and of natural, technological, and hybrid disasters, along with a review of the accumulated body of knowledge in the field. He focuses on hazardous and toxic wastes releases, industrial toxic disasters, contamination of communities and the environment, and the subsequent adverse health effects among exposed populations.

H. Spencer Banzhaf. *The Political Economy of Environmental Justice*. (Stanford Economics and Finance, 2012).

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Despite the importance of environmental justice, the topic has received little attention from economists. In this book the author discusses how economists have much to contribute, as several explanations for the correlation between pollution and marginalized citizens rely on market mechanisms. Understanding the role of these mechanisms is crucial to designing policy remedies, for each lends itself to a different interpretation to the locus of injustices. Moreover, the different mechanisms have varied implications for the efficacy of policy responses—and who gains and losses from them.

Robert D. Bullard and Beverly Wright, *The Wrong Complexion for Protection: How the Government Response to Disaster Endangers African American Communities.* (New York: New York University Press, 2012).

The authors place the government response to natural and human-induced disasters in historical context over the past eight decades. They compare and contrast how the government responded to emergencies, including environmental and public health emergencies, toxic contamination, industrial accidents, bioterrorism threats and show that African-Americans are disproportionately affected.

Lena Dominelli, *Green Social Work: From Environmental Crises to Environmental Justice.* (Malden, MA: Polity Publishers, 2012).

This book confronts this topic head-on, examining environmental issues from a social work perspective. It draws attention to the important voice of practitioners working on the ground in the aftermath of environmental disasters, whether these are caused by climate change, industrial accidents or human conflict. The author explores the concept of 'green social work' and its role in using environmental crises to address poverty and other forms of structural inequalities, to obtain more equitable allocations of limited natural resources and to tackle global socio-political forces that have a damaging impact upon the quality of life of poor and marginalized populations at local levels. The resolution of these matters is linked to community initiatives that social workers can engage in to ensure that the quality of life of poor people can be enhanced without costing the Earth.

Robert H. Friis. *Essentials of Environmental Health. 2nd ed.* (Sudbury, MA: Jones & Bartlett Learning, 2012).

This book is a clear and comprehensive study of the major topics of environmental health, including: background of the field and tools of

the trade (environmental epidemiology, environmental toxicology, and environmental policy and regulation); environmental diseases (microbial agents, ionizing and non-ionizing radiation); and applications and domains of environmental health (water and air quality, food safety, waste disposal, and occupational health).

Barry E. Hill, *Environmental Justice: Legal Theory and Practice, 2nd ed.* (Washington, DC: Environmental Law Institute, 2012).

Environmental Justice addresses the legal and social aspects of this important field as well as its relation to sustainable development. From the perspectives of both environmental and civil rights law, the book explores how environmental justice issues are framed, addressed, and resolved in the United States through acts of civil disobedience; federal, state, and local government initiatives; litigation and alternative dispute resolution; and mediation.

James Tsabora, *Land Reform Law and Environmental Justice in South Africa: A Critique of South Africa's Land Reform Law.* (Lambert Academic Publishing, 2012).

South Africa's transition to democracy was followed by an extensive program of land reform whose major objectives were, inter alia, to promote a more equitable distribution of land ownership; to reduce poverty and to promote economic growth through land reform; to provide security of tenure for all and to establish a system of land management that will support sustainable land-use patterns. While all of these goals are important, one of the purposes of this thesis is to suggest that an effective program of land reform, in general, and an effective program of land redistribution, in particular, could also go a long way towards achieving another equally important goal, namely environmental justice.

Gordon Walker. *Environmental Justice: Concepts, Evidence and Politics.* (Florence, Kentucky: Routledge, 2012).

Environmental justice has increasingly become part of the language of environmental activism, political

debate, academic research and policy making around the world. It raises questions about how the environment impacts different people's lives. Does pollution follow the poor? Are some communities far more vulnerable to the impacts of flooding or climate change than others? Are the benefits of access to green space for all, or only for some? Do powerful voices dominate environmental decisions to the exclusion of others? This book focuses on such questions and the complexities involved in answering them. It explores the diversity of ways in which environment and social difference are intertwined and how the justice of their interrelationship matters. It has a distinctive international perspective, tracing how the discourse of environmental justice has moved around the world and across scales to include global concerns, and examining research, activism and policy development in the U.S., the UK, South Africa and other countries.

Steven H. Emerman, Marcia Bjørnerud, and Jill S. Schneiderman, *Liberation Science: Putting Science to Work for Social and Environmental Justice.* (Lulu Press, 2012).

This book is the practice of using the knowledge and methods of science to solve the social and environmental problems faced by the poor. *Liberation Science* can address these problems because it has been freed from the flawed scientific paradigms that are linked to the flawed social paradigms of nationalism and capitalism.

Joyce M. Barry, *Standing Our Ground: Women, Environmental Justice, and the Fight to End Mountaintop Removal.* (Ohio University Press, 2012).

The author examines women's efforts to end mountaintop removal coal mining in West Virginia. Mountaintop removal coal mining, which involves demolishing the tops of hills and mountains to provide access to coal seams, is one of the most significant environmental threats in Appalachia, where it is most commonly practiced.

Christopher G. Boone and Michail Fragkias, *Urbanization and Sustainability: Linking Urban Ecology, Environmental Justice and Global Environmental Change.* (Springer, 2012).

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In this book, the authors focus on three themes that, when combined, contribute to sustainability scholarship and practice. The first is global environmental change, the second theme is urbanization and the third theme of the book is justice.

2013

Dennie C. Cory, Tauhidur Rahman, Satheesh Aradhyula, Melissa Anne Burns, and Miles H. Kiger, *Environmental Justice and Federalism*. (Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2012).

The authors discuss two case studies in their investigation of the complex interactions between environmental justice and government. These analyses offer a comprehensive view of both the siting and regulation of polluting activities, as well as a discussion of the effects on major natural resources such as clean air and drinking water. In each case, the authors both describe current government responses to the problem and offer specific recommendations regarding what actions should be taken in the future.

Gwen Ottinger, *Refining Expertise: How Responsible Engineers Subvert Environmental Justice Challenges*. (New York: New York University Press, 2013).

Residents of a small Louisiana town were sure that the oil refinery next door was making them sick. As part of a campaign demanding relocation away from the refinery, they collected scientific data to prove it. Their campaign ended with a settlement agreement that addressed many of their grievances, but not concerns about their health. Yet, instead of continuing to collect data, residents began to let refinery scientists' assertions that their operations did not harm them stand without challenge. What makes a community move so suddenly from actively challenging to apparently accepting experts' authority?

Laura Westra, *Environmental Justice and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: International and Domestic Legal Perspectives*. (Earthscan Publisher, 2013).

More than 300 million people in over 70 countries make up the world's indigenous populations. Yet despite ever-growing pressures on their lands, environment and way of life through outside factors such as climate change and globalization, their rights in these and other respects are still not fully recognized in international law. In this book the author reveals

the lethal effects that damage to ecological integrity can have on communities.

The authors identify the reasons behind this crucial paradox and outline a way forward.

Jame Schaefer, Tobias Winright, Mary Ashley, and Michael Baur. *Environmental Justice and Climate Change: Assessing Pope Benedict XVI's Ecological Vision for the Catholic Church in the United States*. (Lexington Books, 2013).

During his papacy, Pope Benedict XVI was called 'the green pope' because of his ecological commitments in his writings, statements, and practical initiatives. Containing twelve essays by lay, ordained, and religious Catholic theologians and scholars, along with a presentation and a homily by bishops, the authors explore four key areas in connection with Benedict XVI's teachings: human and natural ecology/human life and dignity; solidarity, justice, poverty and the common good; sacramentality of creation; and our Catholic faith in action.

Robert Gottlieb and Anupama Joshi, *Food Justice*. (Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 2013).

A food justice framework ensures that the benefits and risks of how food is grown and processed, transported, distributed, and consumed are shared equitably. The authors recount the history of food injustices and describe current efforts to change the system, including community gardens and farmer training in Holyoke, Massachusetts, youth empowerment through the Rethinkers in New Orleans, farm-to-school programs across the country, and the Los Angeles school system's elimination of sugary soft drinks from its cafeterias.

2014

Joerg Chet Tremmel and Katherine Robinson, *Climate Ethics: Environmental Justice and Climate Change*. (London: I. B. Tauris Publishers, 2014).

Climate change is perhaps the most important issue of our time and yet the international measures necessary to mitigate it have not been implemented. Given the urgency of the problem, why has so little been done?



**BARBARA JORDAN-MICKEY LELAND SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
3100 CLEBURNE AVENUE, PAB SUITE 415
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77004
(713) 313-6849 (PH)
(713) 313-7153 (FX)**

E-MAIL: BJMLSPA@TSU.EDU

WEBSITE: [HTTP://WWW.TSU.EDU/ACADEMICS/COLLEGES_SCHOOLS/PUBLICAFFAIRS/DEFAULT.PHP](http://www.tsu.edu/academics/colleges_schools/publicaffairs/default.php)

FACEBOOK: TSU BARBARA JORDAN - MICKEY LELAND SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

TWITTER: @BJMLSPA