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The Environmental Justice Scorecard has been updated. Phase Two of the Environmental Justice Scorecard was released on July 24, 2024.

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Environmental Protection Agency

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22 office(s), 12+ location(s), 15,567 employees, and 1,883 new hire(s) in Fiscal Year 2023

grants, and technical assistance 

The mission of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is to protect human health and the environment.

The EPA has prioritized environmental justice throughout the agency by creating a cross-cutting agency-wide strategic planning goal and establishing the Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights. Through these and other actions, the EPA sees the advancement of environmental justice as a whole-of-agency approach embedded in the mission of the EPA.

To learn more about environmental justice at EPA, please visit EPA's [environmental justice website](#).

Some examples of well-known EPA offices, bureaus, or agencies are:

- Office of Air and Radiation
- Office of Land and Emergency Management
- Office of Water

Progress on Advancing Environmental Justice

This section demonstrates key progress on advancing environmental justice at the Environmental Protection Agency in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

Key Highlights ([show less ^](#))

Advancing Meaningful Engagement

In FY 2023, the EPA updated the 2003 Public Involvement Policy and released a draft policy for public comment, Achieving Health and Environmental Protection through the EPA's Meaningful Engagement Policy, in November 2023.

Learn more 



Protecting Drinking Water in Jackson, Mississippi

Photo credit:
Mississippi
State
Department of
Health

The EPA's
Region 4
and the
Department
of Justice
lodged two
Stipulated
Orders
placing
operation
of the
Jackson,

Developed the Environmental Justice Clearinghouse

Per [Executive Order 14096](#), the EPA developed the Environmental Justice Clearinghouse – a whole-of-government, online database composed of culturally and linguistically appropriate and accessible materials, developed in FY 2023 and [published](#) in April 2024.

Learn more 

Mississippi water and wastewater systems under temporary control of an Interim Third-Party Manager, putting this community with environmental justice concerns on a path to access to clean water. The EPA provided Safe Drinking Water Act funding under an emergency authority for the first time to support work needed under the

Operationalized a National Network of Environmental Justice Thriving Community Technical Assistance Centers

The Environmental Justice Thriving Community Technical Assistance Centers (TCTACs) are a network of three national and 13 regional centers that provide foundational access to technical assistance to disadvantaged communities and other communities with environmental justice concerns over the next five years, free of charge.

[Learn more](#) 

Stipulated Orders.

[Learn more](#) 

Proposed Rules to Reduce Cancer-Risks and Emissions

The EPA released and received public comment on proposed rules to significantly reduce hazardous and highly toxic air pollutants from [chemical plants](#), and to address [vehicle emissions](#). The EPA has since finalized these new rules, that will dramatically improve the health of communities near chemical plants and roadways.

Surpassed the Goal to Increase the Percentage of On-Site Inspections in Communities with Environmental Justice Concerns

The EPA committed to increasing the percentage of on-site inspections in communities with environmental justice concerns from 30% to 55% by 2026. The EPA surpassed that goal during FY 2023, three years ahead of schedule, when 61% of onsite inspections were in overburdened communities.

[Learn more](#) 

Justice40 Initiative

This section demonstrates progress on the implementation of the Justice40 Initiative at the Environmental Protection Agency in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

Overview

The EPA is committed to meeting and

What is the Justice40 Initiative?

The Justice40 Initiative set the goal that 40 percent of the overall

exceeding President Biden's Justice40 Initiative goal that 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution. The EPA will strive to exceed this commitment and advance environmental justice and equity considerations in all aspects of its work to help protect human health and the environment for all communities.

The EPA works to exceed the Justice40 Initiative goal, including through policy priorities for critical Justice40 covered programs such as Water Infrastructure and Superfund. For example, to improve access to water infrastructure for disadvantaged communities, the EPA's

[Bipartisan Infrastructure Law State Revolving Fund Memorandum](#)

outlined a strategy for collaborative implementation with state, local, and Tribal partners of \$43 billion in water infrastructure funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The Superfund Remedial Program's [memorandum](#) on "Incorporating Community Input, Including Environmental Justice Considerations, Throughout CERCLA Investigations and Response Selection" improves the ability for communities to participate in the development of projects.

For more information on EPA's Justice40

benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution.

[Learn more](#) 

covered programs, please contact

EPAJ40@epa.gov 

Justice40 Covered Programs ([show less ^](#))

The Environmental Protection Agency has:

- **79** Justice40 covered program(s), including **34** Justice40 covered program(s) that is/are funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Inflation Reduction Act, or both

Progress on the Justice40 Initiative

Through President Biden's [Investing in America](#) agenda and other sources, **EPA** has:

approximately

\$83.4 billion

in funds available to obligate (i.e., to spend) in Fiscal Years (FY) 2022 - 2027 through its Justice40 covered programs.¹

Through President Biden's [Justice40 Initiative](#), **EPA** is working to deliver benefits to disadvantaged communities. Each program that is

part of the Justice40 Initiative delivers benefits in at least one of [seven investment categories](#), and many programs are delivering benefits to communities across multiple categories of investment. The **79** covered program(s) at **EPA** working to deliver benefits for communities include:

- **34** program(s) protecting communities from the impacts of climate change
- **11** program(s) advancing clean and affordable energy for communities
- **14** program(s) delivering and advancing clean transportation options for communities
- **7** program(s) advancing affordable and sustainable housing
- **27** program(s) delivering training and workforce development benefits
- **35** program(s) addressing the remediation and reduction of legacy pollution
- **25** program(s) delivering critical clean water and wastewater infrastructure benefits

Overall, agencies are making concrete, tangible improvements to

benefit disadvantaged communities across America through the Justice40 Initiative. These investments are resulting in cleaner air and water, more affordable clean energy, good-paying jobs, and other results that people are seeing and feeling today and into the future.

¹In the Phase Two Scorecard, the Justice40 Initiative section contains information about federal investments that Congress has funded through both discretionary and mandatory appropriations, as well as supplemental appropriations, such as those that Congress made in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Pub. L. 117-58) and the Inflation Reduction Act (Pub. L. 117-169). The Phase Two Scorecard includes information on each agency's budget authority (that is, the total amount of funds that Congress has appropriated to the agency to spend on Justice40 covered programs) and the period of availability (that is, the period of time over which Congress has authorized the agency to spend the funds).

In some cases, agencies may not yet have the authority to spend the full amount indicated, such as when Congress has appropriated funds that will only become available in future Fiscal Years. Agencies provided the data presented here in spring 2024, and therefore the data does not reflect the annual appropriations for Fiscal Year 2024 that Congress made in March 2024.

Thus, the information that the Phase Two Scorecard presents in this section includes what the agency has available to spend in its Justice40 covered programs (i.e., its budget authority). These figures represent the total funding amount for all Justice40 covered programs, not only the portion that benefits disadvantaged communities.

Justice40 Covered Program Highlights ([show less ^](#))

The Environmental Protection Agency is delivering benefits, or is projected to deliver benefits, for disadvantaged communities through grants or awards made through its Justice40 covered programs, such as:

Brownfields Program Invests in Communities in Need

84% of selected applicants for the Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund and Cleanup Grants and Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Supplemental Funding went to disadvantaged communities.

[Learn more](#)



The EPA Invests More than \$100 Million in Recycling Infrastructure Projects Across the Nation

The EPA dedicated \$105 million to improve recycling in communities, including \$32 million awarded to states, territories, and the District of Columbia. This was funded through the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling grants. Approximately 59.5% of funds benefited disadvantaged communities.

[Learn more](#) 

Children's Healthy Learning Environments in Low-Income and/or Minority Communities Competition

The EPA awarded ten grants of \$200,000 each to provide capacity building activities that address disproportionate children's environmental health harms and risks in school and/or childcare settings. All awardees are in schools and/or childcare centers that are in communities with environmental justice concerns and/or primarily serve disadvantaged student populations. Implementation of projects is ongoing in FY 2023.

[Learn more](#) 

Funding Announcements [\(show less ^\)](#)

The Environmental Protection Agency has:

- **60** funding announcement(s) covered under the Justice40 Initiative
- **\$18 billion** available through Justice40 covered program(s) funding announcements²

Launched the Historic \$27 Billion Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Grant Competition

In July 2023, the EPA launched the historic \$27 billion [Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund](#), created by the President's Inflation Reduction Act, with at least two-thirds of the financial and technical assistance funding dedicated to low-income and disadvantaged communities. The first-of-its-kind, national-scale program will mobilize private capital into clean technology projects to create jobs and lower energy costs while cutting pollution, tackling the climate crisis, and supporting solar adoption. Together, the Fund's [National Clean Investment Fund](#),

Clean Communities
Investment Accelerator
, and Solar for All
programs will advance
President Biden's
Justice40 Initiative while
expanding good-paying
job opportunities in
domestic industries.

Learn more 

Nearly \$9 Billion in Funding Announced for Clear Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Programs

Through the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs, the EPA announced nearly \$9 billion in funding for states, Tribes, and territories for essential wastewater and drinking water infrastructure upgrades across the nation in FY 2023. This includes over \$6.5 billion announced in April 2023 for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, and over \$2.4 billion announced in February 2023 for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

\$400 Million Announced for Clean School Bus Program

The [Clean School Bus Program](#) has improved air quality in and around schools and communities, saved schools money, created jobs, and reduced greenhouse gas pollution. More information on the funding results for FY 2023 can be found in the [Clean School Bus Reports to Congress](#).

Learn more 

²Further, this section also includes funding that was made available through an agency's Justice40 covered programs in FY 2023. The funding was made available through various mechanisms, like grants, loans, agreements, contracts, notices of funding opportunity, and other funding announcements. These funding announcements were from Justice40 covered programs that were funded through discretionary and mandatory appropriations, as well as supplemental appropriations, such as those enacted under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Pub. L. 117-58) and the Inflation Reduction Act (Pub. L. 117-169).

Covered Program Design or Modification ([show less ^](#))

The Environmental Protection Agency made program or design modifications to maximize benefits and/or remove barriers or constraints for disadvantaged communities, such as:

Launched the Pilot Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (GAP) Hub

In FY 2023, the EPA [launched](#) the pilot Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (GAP) Hub, an internal performance management application to establish a consistent national GAP performance reporting mechanism. This hub is through the Tribal General Assistance Program.

[Learn more](#) 

Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) Project Selection Process

A new rolling project selection process offered increased flexibility and technical assistance to borrowers. During the FY 2023 (Round 6) rolling project selection process, which occurred throughout FY 2023, the WIFIA program selected 42 projects, including 17 in small and disadvantaged communities, to apply for \$7 billion in

[WIFIA financing](#).

Learn more 

Justice40 In Action ([show less ^](#))

The Environmental Protection Agency is delivering benefits, or is projected to deliver benefits, for disadvantaged communities through the Justice40 Initiative, including:



Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$177

Over \$500 Million of FY 2023 Superfund Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Funding Goes to 66 Sites in Disadvantaged Communities

The EPA's Superfund program obligated approximately \$507.3 million (49%) of its BIL funding in FY 2023 at 66 sites in disadvantaged communities, advancing the Justice40 Initiative. BIL funding is being used to expedite cleanup of ongoing remedial projects and address the legacy pollution that harms the public health of communities and neighborhoods.

[Learn more](#) 

Million for 16 New Technical Assistance Centers Across the Nation to Help Communities Access Historic Investments to Advance Environmental Justice

In April 2023, the EPA and the Department of Energy [announced](#) the selection of 16 [Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers](#) (TCTACs) that will receive \$177 million over a five-year project

Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) Loan to New Jersey State Revolving Loan Program

The WIFIA program closed a \$500 million loan to the New Jersey Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs. This loan will support 140 drinking water and wastewater projects across the state and benefit 36 small and rural communities and 39 disadvantaged communities.

[Learn more](#) 

period to provide access to technical assistance for disadvantaged communities and other communities with environmental justice concerns. The TCTACs help eligible participants build capacity, enable partnerships, as well as identify, apply, and effectively manage energy and environmental grant opportunities.

[Learn more](#) 

Conflict Prevention and Resolution Center's New Work Supports the Justice40 Initiative

The EPA's Conflict Prevention and Resolution Center supports EPA's regulatory, enforcement, and voluntary programs by providing alternative dispute resolution services to the entire agency. 71% of the Conflict Prevention and Resolution Center's new work has been collaboration and conflict resolution support to benefit disadvantaged communities. For additional information, please reference EPA's [FY 2023 Annual Report for the Environmental Collaboration and Conflict Resolution](#).

Learn more 

Environmental and Civil Rights Protection

Federal agencies are advancing environmental justice by carrying out their responsibilities under the law to identify and address disproportionate and adverse public health and environmental, climate-related, and cumulative impacts on communities with environmental justice concerns. Agencies are working to ensure that all communities experience the protection of our country's bedrock environmental laws. The following information reflects some of the environmental and civil rights work at the Environmental Protection Agency has done in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Environmental Justice ([show less ^](#))

This section demonstrates progress on environmental protections, such as the National Environmental Policy Act, at the Environmental Protection Agency in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

Under Clean Air Act Section 309, the EPA is required to review the Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) prepared by other federal agencies and to comment on the adequacy and acceptability of the

What is NEPA?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to consider and disclose

environmental impacts of the proposed action, including as related to environmental justice. In FY 2023, the EPA reviewed and published comments on 140 EISs and, where appropriate, provided recommendations for identifying and meaningfully engaging communities with environmental justice concerns. The EPA's [website](#) includes key information about the NEPA process, public participation, and the NEPAssist mapping and screening tool linked to EJScreen.

the environmental health and community impacts of certain decisions or actions before taking them.

[Learn more](#) 

Training

- **2** agency training(s) on how to consider environmental justice considerations during NEPA reviews
- **102** employees trained on how to consider environmental justice during NEPA reviews

For example, in August 2023, the EPA's Office of Federal Activities NEPA Compliance Division offered the Introduction to NEPA training course for NEPA/Clean Air Act (CAA) Section 309 reviewers. The course includes information on considering environmental justice when reviewing other agency NEPA documents. In September 2023, the NEPA Compliance Division hosted the EPA's National Community of Practice Workshop, which occurs every two years. Over 80 EPA NEPA/CAA Section 309

reviewers and subject matter experts from across the nation attended this hybrid training; more than 50 EPA staff attended in-person. Multiple sessions highlighted environmental justice-related topics, including a session educating staff on recent court decisions related to NEPA and environmental justice. The hybrid training also included several case studies on the EPA's review and comment on NEPA documents with complex environmental justice issues.

Environmental or Health Protection ([show less ^](#))

This section demonstrates progress by the Environmental Protection Agency on environmental or health protection that also advances environmental justice in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

The EPA advanced rulemakings to protect workers and communities from harm to their health from toxic chemical exposure, air pollution, water contamination, and other health and safety threats that the agency has since finalized, and amended program guidance to include environmental justice and civil rights. The EPA prioritized informing the public, including via [AirNow](#). The EPA [strengthened enforcement](#) of environmental violations in overburdened

communities, which resulted in, for example, increasing oil spill prevention inspections in communities with environmental justice concerns from 40% in FY 2022 to 69% in FY 2023.

Newly Proposed and Listed Superfund Sites Advance Environmental Protection

The EPA added six sites and proposed eight sites to the Superfund National Priorities List. This is a list of sites where historic releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants pose significant threats to human health and the environment. All 14 sites were determined to have potential environmental justice concerns.

2023 Financial Capability Assessment Guidance

The EPA finalized guidance asking municipalities seeking revised compliance schedules or Water Quality Standards (WQS) revisions to affirmatively demonstrate actions to protect low-income customers from rate hikes before decisions are made on extensions, or WQS changes to protect communities that often carry more of the financial and environmental burden associated with discharges in their communities.

Revising the Federal Water Quality Standards Regulation to Protect Tribal Reserved Rights

The EPA proposed a rule to amend the federal Water Quality Standards (WQS) regulation to clarify and prescribe how WQS must protect Tribal reserved rights to resources in waters where states establish WQS. The revisions would create a regulatory framework to help ensure protection of resources reserved to Tribes, such as fish and wild rice.

Civil Rights and Environmental Justice ([show less ^](#))

This section demonstrates progress on civil rights related to environmental justice, for example, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or relevant laws other than Title VI of the Civil Rights Act at the Environmental Protection Agency in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

On April 28, 2023, the EPA closed its monitoring of an informal resolution agreement with the Minnesota Department of

Americans with Disabilities Act / Rehabilitation Act / Title VI of the Civil Rights Act

Agriculture (MDA) (entered into on August 19, 2019). MDA has finalized a language access plan, a public participation plan, and disability policy, among other things. The EPA's letter resolving the complaint, as well as its monitoring closure letter, can be found on the [External Civil Rights Docket 2014-Present](#).

The EPA launched an internal limited English proficiency resources intranet page in FY 2023. On December 8, 2022, the EPA posted an updated [Disability Plan Sample](#), which is for the purpose of providing technical assistance to assist EPA financial assistance recipients in complying with federal civil rights laws and the EPA's nondiscrimination regulation. Also, the EPA has focused on website transparency, notably in the external civil rights program, where an online docket of cases is [publicly available](#) from 2014 forward.

Title VI and Environmental Justice ([show less ^](#))

This section demonstrates progress on civil rights related to environmental justice, such as under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, at the Environmental Protection Agency in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

The EPA is committed to vigorously upholding and enforcing all applicable civil rights laws, including Title VI, to

What is Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964?

Title VI of the Civil

Rights Act of 1964 requires

address environmental injustice. The EPA also is committed to working actively with state, territorial, and local governments as well as all EPA financial assistance recipients to ensure compliance with these important laws and to centering its mission on the integration of justice, equity, and civil rights for communities across the country. In FY 2023, the EPA resolved cases impacting communities in West Virginia; Owasa, North Carolina; and Minnesota. In FY 2023, the EPA had 10 open investigations; 18 in informal resolution process; 1 open compliance review; and 23 complaints in jurisdictional review.

UPDATE: Pursuant to a permanent injunction issued by the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana on August 22, 2024, EPA will not impose or enforce any disparate-impact or cumulative-impact-analysis requirements under Title VI against any entity in the State of Louisiana. Please see [here](#) for additional and updated information.

- **29** open Title VI investigation(s) or compliance review(s) related to environmental justice
- **26** closed Title VI investigation(s) or resolution agreement(s) related to environmental justice

that no person be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance on account of race, color, or national origin.

[Main Page](#)

Training

- **52** agency training(s) on Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and environmental justice
- **2,213** employee(s) trained on Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and environmental justice

Centering Environmental Justice in Decision-Making

This section demonstrates progress on community engagement (e.g., partnerships with non-federal organizations, technical assistance, and public processes) and partnership and consultation with Tribal Nations at the Environmental Protection Agency in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

The EPA engages with partners and communities to inform agency decisions. For example, the EPA sought advice from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on the potential for electric arc furnace slag use to cause disproportionate adverse effects on lower socioeconomic communities. Also, the EPA's Region 8 supported an air quality assessment report through funding and direct community engagement that analyzed future inland port development and highway expansion impacts on air quality, and qualitatively considered cumulative impacts. Ultimately, local

authorities revised their planning process and led to successful grant funding for solutions.

The EPA is advancing language access by proactively providing interpretation and translation for Spanish-speakers and supporting requests for other languages, including monthly community check-ins hosted by Region 9 and solid waste webinars. The EPA also is improving web content to help communities better understand risks and take action, including via: [Clean Air Tracking Tool](#), [PFAS Analytic Tools](#), [Benzene Fenceline Monitoring Dashboard](#), [Equitable Resilience Builder](#), and [Participatory Science Tools](#).

Technical Assistance ([show less ^](#))

- **484** technical assistance outreach event(s) to improve access and information about federal programs related to environmental justice

For more information on the Environmental Protection Agency's technical assistance events, please visit Thriving Communities –

[Technical Assistance Centers](#),
[Community Change Grants Technical Assistance](#)

,
[Recreation Economy for Rural Communities Program](#),
[Community Air Monitoring](#),

Clean School Bus Program,
Superfund Technical Assistance for Communities,
Research Technical Support Centers,
Brownfields Technical Assistance, and
Water Infrastructure Technical Assistance.

Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights: Environmental and Climate Justice Program Design

The Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR) provided a series of informational webinars on the Environmental and Climate Justice program design tailored to different audiences. Through this outreach, OEJECR sought input and feedback from disadvantaged communities and other key stakeholders to inform development of the Community Change Grant Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) that was issued in November 2023. As a result, this NOFO reflected community needs and helped facilitate the submission of applications under the NOFO to address environmental and climate justice issues.

[Learn more](#) 

Environmental Justice Academy

The EPA's Region 4 and OEJECR provided nine months of technical assistance and capacity building for 42 representatives of eight Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), host communities, and extension agents from Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Florida, North Carolina, and Kentucky. As part of the Environmental Justice Academy, or EJ Academy, participants cultivate skills on environmental challenges and carry out environmental improvement goals in their communities, helping communities have a voice in addressing local environmental concerns.

Screening for Lead in Soil Region 5 Lead Prevention Initiatives

The EPA's Region 5 provided community members with [over 250 free soil lead screenings](#), to help people learn if their soil is contaminated and how to reduce exposures in seven communities in Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio. The EPA's Region 5 also visited 29 childcare providers in Cleveland and Bedford, Ohio with outreach on healthy learning environments. The team met with providers and parents about reducing exposure to lead and getting children tested for lead.

Public Processes ([show less ^](#))

- **665** public process(es) related to environmental justice, e.g., requests for information or listening sessions, including:

Coal Combustion Residuals – June 2023 Environmental Justice Listening Session in Waukegan, Illinois

The EPA hosted a listening session for communities near the Waukegan Generating Station and received insight on the Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR) Rule impacts on communities and ways to increase public participation in future rules.

[Learn more](#) 

Lead and Copper Rule Revision Outreach

The EPA's Region 7 partnered with states and Tribes to center blood lead levels and environmental justice concerns in the prioritization of material inventory evaluations. Four states adopted these criteria, and the Region 7 Direct Implementation Program completed Lead Service Line inventories at two EPA Region 7 Tribal Public Water Supply Systems. When found, the EPA recommends replacing lead service lines (LSL) and galvanized service lines that are or ever were downstream of an LSL or are currently downstream of an unknown service line. Prioritizing investigations in areas with high blood lead levels and environmental justice concerns helps water systems reduce the number of service lines with unknown materials. These actions expedite LSL replacement efforts and improve public health.

Environmental Justice Community Engagement Calls and Webinars

The Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights fosters community engagement through:

Monthly

[National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Calls](#)

, typically 300 to 400 attendees each, to inform the public about EPA's environmental justice work and to enhance opportunities to maintain an open dialogue with environmental justice advocates and

[Environmental Justice Webinars for Houses of Worship and Communities](#)

to help faith-based organizations and faith leaders address environmental and public health issues in their facilities, on their lands, and in the communities within which they serve.

For up-to-date information about Environmental Justice funding opportunities, events, and webinars, subscribe to EPA's Environmental Justice listserv by sending a blank email to join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov.

Partnership and Consultation with Tribal Nations ([show less ^](#))

This section demonstrates progress on Tribal partnerships and consultations at the Environmental Protection Agency, including steps that agencies take to respect Tribal sovereignty and ensure government-to-government consultation on federal policies in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

During FY 2023, the EPA consulted with Tribal Nations on an update to the 2011 Consultation Framework. Following that, the EPA issued an updated Tribal Consultation Policy, “

[EPA Policy on Consultation with Indian Tribes](#)

,” on December 7, 2023. The EPA has had a longstanding policy on advancing environmental justice for Tribes and Indigenous Peoples, issued in June 2014. In addition, in 2016, the EPA adopted the [Guidance for Discussing Tribal Treaty Rights](#), which complements the consultation policy by providing affirmative steps for the agency to take during tribal consultations when an EPA action may affect a treaty right.

- **4** Tribal listening sessions and other engagements related to environmental justice

For example, the EPA conducts an “

Environmental Justice Webinar Series for Tribes and Indigenous Peoples

” to enhance environmental justice integration, build capacity, raise awareness of EPA and other federal programs and resources, and provide technical assistance to Tribes and Indigenous Peoples on priority environmental, public health, and other environmental justice concerns. Four webinars were held, which covered the following topics: Effectively Applying for Federal Jobs; Food Sovereignty – Healthy Foods & Cultural Practices; Environmental Justice Funding and Technical Resources; and Food Sovereignty – Food Forests and Sustainable Foods.

Training

- **5** agency training(s) on Tribal Consultation or working with Tribes and Indigenous Peoples to advance environmental justice
- **192** employees trained on Tribal Consultation or working with Tribes and Indigenous Peoples to advance environmental justice

For example, EPA employees were trained on the agency’s guidance on consultation with Tribal Nations and approaches to support Treaty Rights in agency decision-making.

Institutionalizing Environmental Justice

This section demonstrates progress to institutionalize environmental justice at the Environmental Protection Agency including to implement

[Executive Order 14008](#) and

[Executive Order 14096](#), in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

Overview

The EPA has long elevated three fundamental principles: follow the science, follow the law, and be transparent. In 2022, the EPA added a fourth foundational principle: advance justice and equity. By doing so, the EPA solidified the consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals into all EPA policies, practices, and programs. These principles guide its operations and decision-making – whether with respect to the public and communities, or the EPA's workforce. The agency further institutionalized environmental justice by establishing the national [Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights](#), establishing a separate goal for environmental justice and civil rights in its

Environmental Justice in Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

The EPA's enforcement and compliance programs incorporated environmental justice considerations into all six

[FY 2022-2026 EPA Strategic Plan](#), and beginning work on an Environmental Justice Strategic Plan.

- **422** staff who work on environmental justice, either in a full- or part-time capacity
- **15** new or strengthened office(s) or program(s) on environmental justice

Training

- **117** agency training(s) for staff on environmental justice
- **Over 8,000** employee(s) trained on environmental justice

For example, broad environmental justice trainings in the EPA's regions improved staff capacity for community engagement, managing grants, implementing Executive Orders, and evaluating environmental justice in permit decisions. The EPA also provided regional support through technical trainings: EJScreen training for the EPA regional underground storage tank (UST) and leaking UST (LUST) programs provided information on its applicability within federal and state programs. This resulted in additional support and training for state UST and LUST programs from the EPA regions and headquarters staff.

of the agency's FY 2024-2027 National Enforcement and Compliance Initiatives, which focus enforcement and compliance resources on the most serious environmental problems.

[Learn more](#) 

Advancing Environmental Justice Policy ([show less ^](#))

- **Has** issued or updated policy, guidance, or directives related to environmental justice (internal or external)

2023 Equity Action Plan

In the 2023 Equity Action Plan, the EPA addressed barriers to access to information and resources affecting rural communities, protecting children from exposure to environmental contaminants, removing barriers to access and addressing disparities affecting people with disabilities, and building capacity to assess equity and remove barriers faced by communities with environmental justice concerns.

[Learn more](#)



Cumulative Impacts Workgroup

The Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR) is coordinating with all programs and regions who are engaged in the work of addressing cumulative and multiple impacts. The goal of this work is ultimately to improve environmental public health of overburdened communities by systemically operationalizing and integrating cumulative impacts across the EPA.

Meaningful Engagement Booklet

The EPA Office of Air and Radiation launched a tool for local and state governments to build their capacity to conduct meaningful engagement. This tool guides local and state governments in increasing a community's impact on the decision-making process, creating channels for empowered decision-making while maintaining engagement, and a roadmap to building trust within the community.

Learn more 

- **Has** assessed barriers and obstacles related to regulations, policies, or practices, including historical inequities
- For more information on how the Environmental Protection Agency has removed barriers for communities with environmental justice concerns, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/equity-action-plan>
- Over the past four years **is working** to create an Environmental Justice

Strategic Plan pursuant to
[Executive Order 14096](#)

**Advancing Environmental
Justice Tools or Resources**
[\(show less ^\)](#)

- **Over 103** tool(s) or resources that advance environmental justice, including access to health, environmental or other impacts, such as:

America's Children and Environment

America's Children and Environment (ACE) is a collection of key data indicators on children's environmental health in the United States. ACE brings together information from a variety of vetted sources to provide national-level indicators and related information on the environment and children's health across a number of racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic factors. These indicators include contaminants found in different media (e.g., water, air, food), biomonitoring (e.g., levels of a contaminant found in blood or urine of sensitive populations), and health outcomes associated with exposure to certain environmental pollutants.

Learn more 

National Farmworker Training Program: Cooperative Agreement between the EPA and the Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs

The EPA has prioritized development of training materials and training farmworker communities on pesticide safety and the Worker Protection Standard. Materials are available online in Spanish, English, and Haitian Creole, and were used to train 36,938 farmworkers in FY 2023.

[Learn more](#) 

Advancing Environmental Justice Near Contaminated Lands

The EPA defined a six-step process to incorporate environmental justice related concerns into the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) investigations and created fact sheets to help communities consider anti-displacement strategies when planning for brownfields reuse.

[Learn more](#) 

Advancing Institutional Partnerships or Federal Advisory Committees [\(show less ^\)](#)

- **58** new or strengthened internal agency working group(s), committee(s), or partnership(s) to advance environmental justice, or new federal advisory committee(s) on environmental justice
- **6** new or existing federal advisory committee(s) related to environmental justice

National Environmental Justice Advisory Council

The National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) provides independent advice, consultation, and recommendations to the Administrator of the EPA on matters related to environmental justice. In FY 2023, the NEJAC held three [public meetings](#) and released five sets of recommendations. For additional information, including reports to Congress from EPA on the NEJAC's recommendations, please visit the EPA's [NEJAC website](#).

Learn more 

American Rescue Plan Funding to Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units

The EPA provided American Rescue Plan funding to the Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units, a national network of experts in the prevention, diagnosis, management, and treatment of health issues that arise from environmental exposures, to add programming on children's health in communities with environmental justice concerns.

Board of Scientific Counselors – Social and Community Science Subcommittee

The Board of Scientific Counselors' new Social and Community Science subcommittee is dedicated to supporting the agency's commitment to improve research to support communities and community science.

Intergovernmental Collaboration

Interagency Collaboration [\(show less ^\)](#)

The EPA participates in the [White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council](#)

(IAC), which President Biden established in 2021 and expanded in 2023 through executive orders on tackling the climate crisis and environmental justice.

The EPA also participates in the National Science and Technology Council's Environmental Justice Subcommittee, launched in 2023 as provided by President Biden's executive order on environmental justice. The purpose of the Environmental Justice Subcommittee is to address the need for a coordinated federal strategy to identify and address gaps in science, data, and research related to environmental justice.

The EPA coordinates across federal agencies on environmental justice, including:

The [Thriving Communities Network](#), co-chaired by the EPA and the Department of Transportation, convened eight agencies to coordinate place-based technical assistance and capacity-building resources for urban, rural, and Tribal communities to counteract economic

distress and systemic disinvestment.

The EPA participated in an interagency committee on Title VI working group led by the Department of Justice, a forum for sharing best practices and ensuring coordination.

The EPA initiated the Colonias and other Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities effort along the US-Mexico Border, an interagency collaboration with 22 federal agencies to examine gaps and barriers and create opportunities for collaboration.

Through the Green Infrastructure Federal Collaborative Steering Committee, 10 agencies engaged to prioritize federal actions to accelerate green infrastructure in partnership with CEQ to help implement recommendations in a recent report, “Opportunities to Accelerate Nature-Based Solutions: The Roadmap for Climate Progress, Thriving Nature, Equity, and Prosperity.”

The Environmental Protection Agency worked side-by-side with other federal agencies to advance a whole of government approach to environmental justice, including:

Thriving Communities Network

The EPA established the Thriving Communities Network (TCN), a federal interagency effort to coordinate place-based technical assistance and capacity-building resources for urban, rural, and Tribal communities experiencing a history of economic distress and systemic disinvestment. In September 2023, the White House hosted the TCN kick-off convening for federally-funded TCN capacity builders, selected philanthropic organizations, and federal partners. Senior White House leaders provided resources on climate, transportation, economic, and environmental justice. Participants had the opportunity to learn about the breadth of [capacity-building](#) resources now available to communities and the historic investments being deployed.

[Learn more](#) 

Collaborating with the Federal Asthma Disparities Subcommittee, under the President's Task Force for Environmental and Safety Risks to Children

Since 2012, the EPA has led an interagency collaboration to incorporate environmental controls into the standards of asthma care supporting delivery of in-home environmental asthma interventions. This improves health and well-being, reduces health care costs and increases savings, for children with hard-to-control asthma, children of color who face a higher asthma burden, and families suffering from poverty. In FY 2023, the Asthma Disparities subcommittee focused on three priorities: sustainable Medicaid reimbursement, research gaps, and equitable expectations.

Region 7's Superfund Program Partnership with HUD for Housing Analyses

The EPA's Region 7 currently has 12 Superfund sites that include Department of Housing and Urban

Development (HUD) multifamily or public housing buildings within the site boundary. The EPA coordinated with HUD to ensure information on the Superfund site was effectively communicated to property owners and tenants. The EPA and HUD share the goals of ensuring that residents of HUD-assisted properties located on Superfund sites are protected from exposure to contamination. HUD's relationship with HUD public housing authorities and multifamily property owners/agents places HUD in a unique position to help the EPA, when needed, to: (1) obtain access to HUD properties to sample and cleanup sites, and (2) reach HUD residents with EPA information about the site. The EPA can in turn assist HUD by providing risk communication and site-specific information on Superfund sites where HUD-assisted properties reside.

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