Environmental Justice (EJ) Toolkit
PRELIMINARY DRAFT DETAILED OUTLINE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- ACPAC Member List
- List of Participating Committees, Government Agencies, and Organizations

FORWARD

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ABOUT THE TOOLKIT

- Background/Purpose/Intended Audience
  - Government agency staff capacity building on social equity, communication and engagement methods, and cultural sensitivity to make the case for and prepare for the inclusion of air quality, energy and climate equity concerns in local planning and policy decisions.
- Terms and Definitions
- Overview of Sections

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- Principles/Key Concepts
  Core principles will be listed that set the direction for inclusion of air quality, energy and climate equity concerns in local planning and policy decisions. They include principles such as all communities should participate as equal partners in decision-making and that residents of underserved communities should have a say in decisions that affect their lives; decisions should honor the cultural integrity of communities; strict enforcement should help ensure that underserved communities should not have to shoulder disproportionate negative effects; and precautionary measures should be taken to minimize potential harm in the face of uncertainty.
  - Resources:
    - Seventeen Principles of Environmental Justice, First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Council, 1991
    - Principles of Working Together, First National People of Color, 1991
    - 10 Principles for Just Climate Change Policies in the US

- Making the Case (Benefits)
  - Healthy, sustainable, equitable communities
  - Improving quality of life and public health
  - Ensuring an inclusive and transparent environmental policies
  - Collaborative process can foster community buy-in and support of policies

APPROACHES TO CAPACITY BUILDING AND TOOLS

- Identifying Underserved Communities
  This approach would address avenues to understand community characteristics and map underserved communities.
    - Case Studies: New York State County Maps of Potential Environmental Justice Areas
    - Tools and Resources: EJ Screen Tool

- Providing Meaningful Engagement Opportunities
  Government agencies can work to enhance engagement and democratic decision making with underserved communities. For example, a government staff community liaison could provide engagement opportunities (citizen committees, forums, etc.) with meaningful two-way dialogue and peer-to-peer learning to identify, understand, and discuss community concerns. Government agencies must be prepared to be flexible to the community's needs (i.e., not have just one specific set agenda) and to insure every voice counts. The goal of this engagement is to foster collaborative, innovative, and integrated community solutions.
    - Case Studies: SC Department of Health and Environmental Control, NY Department of Environmental Conservation, Prince George's County Green Team Collaborative
    - Tools and Resources:

- Assessing Community Impacts
  It is important to understand cumulative impacts on communities and to mitigate multi-point pollutants. There are various tools for community impacts assessments that may focus on health, social, or other community needs. There needs to be a strong understanding of the community's history and practices that the assessment can build upon. To build on existing leadership and experience in the community, primary research should include surveys, focus groups, etc. The process used to engage communities can shape a community impact assessment in a way that's meaningful to addressing the community's concerns.
    - Case Studies: Baltimore?
    - Tools and Resources: Guidelines and Principles of Social Impact Assessment, EPA Conducting a Human Health Risks Assessments, CDC Environmental Health Tracking Network, Health Opportunity Index, Community impact report card, Good Guide EJ Scorecard

- Data, Information, and Resources for Communities
  Providing communities increased access to data, information, and resources that can help empower them to make informed decisions to benefit community members. Online resources establish a solid baseline, but information needs to be provided through a variety of approaches so as to reach low income, minority, and limited English proficiency communities. Information hubs can be housed in public buildings and libraries in communities; forming partnerships with faith-based and cultural organizations in the communities, and community canvassing are examples of ways to inform communities.
    - Case Studies: Breathe DC, Baltimore Energy Ambassadors, Arlington County
    - Tools and Resources: Community-Focused Exposure and Risk Screening Tool (C-FERST)

- Using Citizen Science
  Support community environmental monitoring programs to increase community participation in gathering and accessing community data. Citizen Science programs can empower communities with data to inform their engagement with government processes and programs.
     - Case Studies: [Wearable Devices That Monitor Air Quality, Crowdsource Pollution Maps]([TZOA] and [AirBeam])
     - Tools and Resources: [Crowdsourcing and Citizen Science Toolkit, Air Sensor Toolbox for Citizen Scientists, Citizen Science Funding Resource Guide]

- Mainstreaming EJ into Government Planning and Programs
  Government should address EJ communities' needs in all air quality, energy and climate decision-making processes for policies, plans, and programs. Communities should be involved in the planning process early to identify issues and concerns. Consideration should be given to identifying potential disproportionately high adverse impacts to communities as well as how these initiatives could be structured in a manner to provide benefits to underserved communities. Previously isolated communities should be brought into the larger social network, and participant demographics should represent community-wide demographics. These efforts will help enable equitable distribution of green benefits to minority, low income and low English proficiency communities.
     - Case Studies: [Takoma Park Sustainable Energy Action Plan], [Sustainable DC, Baltimore Metropolitan Council Non-Discrimination Programs]
     - Tools and Resources:

- Metrics
  Environmental justice efforts should include methods to measure the effectiveness of social justice actions on communities. This could include measures of public health, energy costs, environmental disruptions (flooding, air quality action days, local jobs, and other.

     - Tools and Resources: Maryland Mitigation Working Group Enhanced Economic Analysis and Social Equity Issues

- Community Leadership Development
  Communities need to take leadership and be strong advocates for the health of their community. Support and educational opportunities can be made available to empower community leaders to understand and influence governmental decision-making processes, a communities' rights under environmental law, and how to access data, technical assistance, and resources. Broad partnerships can be built to provide increased access to community information and resources.
     - Case Studies: [NeighborWorks Community Leadership Institute], COG Transportation Planning Board [Community Leadership Institute], Arlington County Energy Master's Program
     - Tools and Resources:

- Supporting Economic/Workforce Development
  Equitable advancement of the green economy can include developing an environmental science pipeline for youth, supporting green job training programs, attracting clean industries to the community, and investing in EJ communities in a way that provides economic benefit to the entire community.

- Case Studies: [DC's Green Zone Program/Mayors Conservation Corp](#), Prince George's County Net Zero Initiatives, DCSEU, GRID Alternatives
- Tools and Resources:

CONCLUSIONS

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Resource Directories

- Resources for All
  - [EPA's Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving Model](#)
  - [Subscribe to EPA EJ List Serve](#)
  - [EPA EJ In Action Blog](#)
  - [Georgetown Climate Center Adaptation Clearinghouse](#)
  - [National Equity Atlas](#)

- Resources for States
  - [EJ for States Guide (2006 Report)](#)
  - [EJ for All: A fifty state of legislation, policy and cases](#)
  - [Environmental Justice State Guidance: How to Incorporate Equity and Justice Into Your State Clean Power Planning Approach](#)
  - [Environmental Justice Guidance Under the National Environmental Policy Act](#)
  - [Clean Power Plan Toolkit](#)
  - [ACEEE Report – Building Better Energy Efficiency Programs for Low-Income Households](#)
  - [NASEO Warehouse for Energy Efficiency Loans (WHEEL)](#)
  - [Planning for Climate and Energy Equity in Maryland](#)

- Resources for Local Governments
  - [EJ Best Practices for Local Governments](#)
  - [Low Income Solar Policy Toolkit by GRID Alternatives, Vote Solar, and Center for Social Inclusion](#)
  - [EPA Emerging Tools for Local Problem Solving](#)
  - [STAR Communities Rating System sections on Empowerment and Equity and Measuring Environmental Justice](#)

- Resources for Communities

  Community Data
  - [Citizen Science Funding Resource Guide](#)

  Air Quality/Health Impacts
  - [DC Environmental Health Collaborative](#)
  - [Virginia Asthma Coalition](#)
  - [Asthma and Allergy Foundation Maryland Chapter](#)
  - [IMPACT DC](#)
  - [DC CAN - DC Control Asthma Now](#)
  - [Childhood Asthma Leadership Council](#)

Climate/Energy
- o [Resilient DC Initiative](#)
- o [Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)](#)
- o [LIHEAP Clearinghouse](#)
- o [Weatherization Assistance Programs](#)
- o [DC Sustainable Energy Utility](#)
- o [GRID Alternatives Low-Income Solar Pilot](#)
- o [MD SUN Low Income Solar - Solar Coop Pilot](#)
- o [Hyattsville Green Homes Program](#)
- o [ACE Energy Master's Program](#)

- Metropolitan Washington EJ Community-Based Organizations Resource Directory
  - o [Children's Environmental Health Network](#)
  - o [Earth Justice](#)
  - o [Energy Action Coalition](#)
  - o [Energy Justice Network](#)
  - o [Environmental Integrity Project](#)
  - o [Environmental Justice Leadership Forum](#)
  - o [Green For All](#)
  - o [Green Muslims](#)
  - o [NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program](#)
  - o [National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program](#)
  - o Sierra Club DC Chapter Environmental Justice Supporters Group
  - o [University of Maryland Community Engagement Environmental Justice and Health (CEEJH)](#)
  - o [VOCES VERDE](#)
  - o [Young, Black and Green](#)

Appendix B: Resources on the History and Context of the Environmental Justice Movement

- 1982 [Warren County Landfill, NC](#)
- 1987 Commission for Racial Justice of the United Church of Christ Study, [Toxic Wastes and Race](#)
- 1991 [Seventeen Principles of Environmental Justice, First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Council](#)
- 1991 [Principles of Working Together, First National People of Color](#)
- [10 Principles for Just Climate Change Policies in the US](#)
- 1987 - 2007 Commission for Racial Justice of the United Church of Christ Study [Toxic Wastes and Race at Twenty](#)
- 2010 [Climate Change is a Civil Rights Issue](#)
- 2011 [The Environmental Justice Dimensions of Climate Change](#)
- 2014 [Toward Climate Justice: Perspectives on the Climate Crisis and Social Change](#)
- 2014 [Air Pollution: It's Complicated, But It's Still About Environmental Justice](#)
- 2016 [Why We Still Need to Focus on Environmental Justice](#)
- 2016 NRDC on [The Environmental Justice Movement](#)
- NAACP on [Environmental Justice and Climate Change](#)

Appendix C: Enabling Legislation and Government Activities

- Federal
  - 1964 Title VI of the Civil Rights Act
    - EPA on Title VI and Environmental Justice
  - 1968 Indian Civil Rights Act
  - 1969 National Environmental Protection Act
  - 1970 Uniform Act (standards for real estate acquisition and displacement)
  - 1973 Rehabilitation Act
  - 1975 Age Discrimination Act
  - 1976 Resources Conservation and Recovery Act
  - 1980 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)
  - 1983 General Accounting Office Report, Siting of Hazardous Waste Landfills and Their Correlation with Racial and Economic Status of Surrounding Communities
  - 1986 Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act
  - 1994 Executive Order 12898 Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations
  - 1993 Establishment of Environmental Justice Office and Advisory Council
  - 1994 US Department of Commerce and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Guidelines and Principles for Social Impact Assessments
  - 1996 Memorandum on Integrating Environmental Justice Into EPA Permitting Authority
  - 1997 CEQ Environmental Justice Guidance Under NEPA
  - 2000 Executive Order 13166 Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency
  - 2011 Government Accountability Office Report, Environmental Justice, EPA Needs to Take Additional Actions to Help to Insure Effective Implementation
  - 2013 Federal Environmental Justice Resources Compendium (links to federal agency regulations, orders/directives, guidance, and plans)
  - 2014 EPA Environmental Justice Plan: Incorporating Environmental Justice into Rulemaking
  - Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (includes links to all federal agency Environmental Justice Plans)
- States
  District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE)
  - DOEE Office of Enforcement and Environmental Justice (OEEJ) ensures that all DC citizens receive equal protection under environmental laws and are provided meaningful opportunities to participate in environmental decision-making.
    - Code of the District of Columbia: Title 8, Chapter 1, Subchapter V - Environmental Impact Statements are the main authority for protection of EJ Communities.

  Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
  - Environmental Justice Resources for communities, businesses, governments, and citizens
  - Maryland State Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities

- o Cumulative Impact Workgroup: An MDE staff Environmental Justice Workgroup to review how to address cumulative community impacts. This internal work group coordinates with the CEJSC.
- o [History of Environmental Justice in Maryland](#)
- o [Environmental Benefits Districts](#)

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
- o DEQ's environmental justice work is facilitated through a [National Environmental Performance Partnership Agreement](#) (NEPPS) with the EPA.
  - Risk Based Inspection Strategy (RBIS) includes a qualifier called Environmental Sensitivity which is used to determine where and how often permitted facilities, industrial sectors, etc are targeted for annual compliance evaluations.

- Local - DC, MD, VA?