

ACPAC PROPOSAL TO UPDATE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (EJ) TOOLKIT

Era Pandya
ACPAC Chair

Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee Meeting
March 22, 2023



Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

2017 EJ Toolkit Background

- Audience: policy and decision makers
- Objectives:
 - Expand existing efforts to increase knowledge of EJ and cultural awareness
 - Actively engage communities
 - Guidance to policymakers on incorporating social, cultural sensitivity, and community health considerations into air quality, climate, and energy planning
- Nine approaches intended to build capacity

Toolkit Update: New Scope and Objective

- Objective: improve utility and relevance of the document
- Scope
 - In-practice examples, recommendations, best practices
 - Incorporate latest developments in research and tools
- Process
 - Include external review from grassroots organizations
- Additional elements: updated definitions
 - Distributional Equity
 - Climate Justice
 - Funding opportunities and mechanisms

Proposed Timeline

- Next Steps and Proposed Schedule
 - February 2023–March 2023: Obtain approval from CEEPC and MWAQC
 - Spring 2023–Fall 2024 - Develop toolkit update and educational material through a multi-step process
 - Conduct a review of new EJ resources, materials, and best practices
 - Identify topics relevant to CEEPC and MWAQC
 - Invite subject matter experts to meetings
 - Identify how EJ is currently being addressed in decision making

Era Pandya

ACPAC Chair

erapandya@hotmail.com

mwcog.org

777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300

Washington, DC 20002