

## **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW**

Prepared for the Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC)

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### **[Children's Environmental Health Network](#)**

The Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN) is a national multi-disciplinary organization whose mission is to protect the developing child from environmental health hazards and promote a healthier environment. Through promotion of sound public health and child-focused national policy, stimulated prevention-oriented research, education of health professionals, policy makers and community members in preventative strategies and elevating public awareness of environmental hazards to children they provide a voice for children in the nation's capital. Their [Healthy Environments for Child Care and Preschools \(HECCP\)](#) program expanded to DC in the fall of 2007 and provided opportunities to conduct environmental health site assessments and tailored recommendations for each enrolled child care center through personalized Action Plans. Their [DC Environmental Health Collaborative](#) is another effort in the capitol, prioritizing environmental health risks and quality of life through a loose coalition of organizations.

### **[DC Department of Health, DC Control Asthma Now Program](#)**

The District of Columbia Asthma Control Program supports the DC Control Asthma Now (DC CAN) public/private partnership that aims to reduce the burden of asthma in DC. The DC CAN develops interventions and conducts data surveillance and is guided by the goals, objectives and strategies outlined in the Strategic Plan for Addressing Asthma in the District of Columbia. The Strategic Plan is a blueprint for implementing best practices for comprehensive asthma management. Other initiatives by the DC Department of Health address diabetes, cancer, obesity, tobacco laws and more through partnerships aimed at policy change, sustainable community programming, and health system quality improvements.

### **[U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\)](#)**

HUD actions help communities and regions build diverse, prosperous, resilient economies by enhancing quality of place. Addressing access to safe and healthy housing for all; mitigating risks to communities in disaster-prone areas; providing access to affordable, quality housing free of hazards to resident's health, HUD works to achieve inclusive sustainable communities free from discrimination.

HUD addresses disproportionately adverse health and environmental impacts faced by minority, low-income, and tribal populations. HUD collaborates with more than 87 multifamily building owners, through the Better Buildings Challenge will reduce portfolio-wide residential building energy use for many low-income households by 20% within 10 years. HUD has also committed to install 160 Megawatts (MW) of renewable energy on single family and multifamily buildings. HUD's National Disaster Resilience Competition investing \$1 billion into communities impacted by natural disasters and their remarkable

achievements in lead mitigation and retrofits of tens of thousands of housing units for health and energy efficiency improvements.

### **[Earth Justice](#)**

Earth Justice uses the power of law and the strength of partnership to protect people's health; to preserve wildlife; to advance clean energy; and to combat climate change. Their work at the federal level in Washington DC is to strengthen air quality standards across the nation. More protective standards will also force adoption of the more stringent pollution controls in the national capital region, to the benefit of its millions of residents. [Earth justice's DC's offices](#) legal work has been critical to reversing decades of neglect of the Anacostia River, securing stronger efforts to curb storm water pollution, addressing toxic pollution in the Anacostia riverbed, defending the gains we have made against combined sewer overflows, securing a stronger cap on trash pollution in the Anacostia River, and more. The Baltimore-Washington, D.C. metropolitan area also received a grade of "F" for ozone pollution (smog) levels and earth justice is working to improve air quality in the mid-Atlantic region.

### **[Energy Action Coalition](#)**

Energy Action Coalition was founded in 2005 by youth activist leaders from across the country to build a powerful youth movement focused on solving the climate crisis and addressing environmental justice. Since then the coalition has hosted national Power Shift summits and coordinated on collaborative campaigns like the Campus Climate Change, Power Vote, and the campaign to stop Keystone XL. Working with hundreds of campus and youth groups, dozens of youth networks, and hundreds of thousands of young people, Energy Action Coalition and its partners have united a burgeoning movement behind winning local victories and coordinating on state, regional, and national levels in the United States and Canada.

### **[Energy Justice](#)**

Energy Justice is the grassroots energy agenda, supporting communities threatened by polluting energy and waste technologies. Taking direction from our grassroots base and the Principles of Environmental Justice, we advocate a clean energy, zero-emission, zero-waste future for all. They provide a variety of [energy justice network resources](#).

### **[Environmental Justice Leadership Forum](#)**

Environmental Justice Leadership Forum on Climate Change is a national coalition of 41 environmental justice organizations (coordinated by West Harlem Environmental Action (WE ACT) for Environmental Justice). These groups are working together to advance climate justice and impact policy to ensure the protection and promotion of communities of color and low-income communities throughout the U.S. Formed in 2008, WE ACT, Inc. first educated and mobilized more than 630,000 residents of Northern Manhattan on environmental issues. Their climate justice works to create cooperative systems that prepare communities for climate change, while building strength and economic power. Their Clean air avenues aim to eliminate community level ambient air pollutants emitted from transportation housing and other facilities.

### [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Environmental Justice](#)

The Environmental Justice showcase community in Washington D.C's Wards 7 & 8 provided \$100,000 and worked in association with District Department of Environment; the District Department of Health; and, local recipients of Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving and Environmental Justice Small Grant awards. Successes include:

- Facilitated and funded a green infrastructure job training project in southeast DC.
- Created a community consensus statement on contaminated properties.
- Convened three major workgroups with stakeholder groups around the District to address community needs.
- Supported three consensus building meetings held by the Children's Environmental Health Workgroup (CEHW).
- Leveraged EPA funding for the CEHW Healthy Homes Project.

Under [Plan EJ 2020](#), EPA prioritizes implementing environmental justice in enforcement – considering environmental justice in all their cases, including consideration of impacts on communities in developing injunctive relief, mitigation and Supplemental Environmental Project options in enforcement settlements. By supporting transformative efforts and fostering tools such as EJ Screen and E-Enterprise, communities are met where they are and aim to achieve health, sustainability, economic opportunity, revitalization and resilience. Use of Environmental Justice Small Grants, Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving, Cooperative Agreement programs and implementing equitable development as well as EPA's Smart Growth, Brownfields and climate adaption will be key in strengthening collaboration and achieving meaningful outcomes.

### [Green For All](#)

Green For All works to build an inclusive green economy strong enough to lift people out of poverty. Their goal is to make sure people of color have a place and a voice in the climate movement. That neighborhoods are strong, resilient, and healthy. That as the clean energy economy grows, it brings jobs and opportunity to these communities.

### [Green Muslims](#)

Green Muslims is a source in the Muslim community for spiritually-inspired environmental education, reflection, and action. They offer one-on-one consulting to community leaders, imams, mosque executive boards, Muslim Student Associations, youth, and others to come up with ways to make green ideas permeate the communities these leaders serve. They have an active [blog](#) and have worked with local mosques in the DC, Maryland and Virginia area to improve recycling practices and hold low-waste iftars as well as with universities nationally to help students with green programming through their Muslim Student Associations. They have spoken nationally and put on workshops at conferences including: ISNA, Interfaith Youth Core, USAID, Inner City Muslim Action Network, Zaytuna College, MIST, Interfaith Power and Light as well as local groups through DC, Maryland and Virginia.

### **[The Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice's](#)**

The Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice's (IWG EJ) & new subcommittee on climate change impacts Educate, Motivate and Innovate (EMI) Climate Justice is a focused and concerted effort through federal agencies, IWG EJ directly address the environmental, social, economic and public health burdens in communities. This initiative focuses on the next generation of climate-justice leaders and will expand collaborations with Minority-Serving Institutions, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions.

The newly released EJSCREEN tool uses data and mapping capabilities to access overburdened areas through environmental and demographic information at high geographic resolution. It's analysis of environmental factors (air, dust/lead paint, waste proximity, water discharge) and demographics (low income, minorities, education, linguistic isolation, age) allow for informed action and will begin stakeholder engagement around potential uses and further development of science tools. Further efforts include marking equitable development an integral part of EPA's Smart Growth, Brownfields and climate adaption and resilience efforts.

The inaugural EMI Climate Justice Leadership Training Workshop will be held in March 2016, focusing on the effects of climate change on communities, including those with minority, low-income, and/or tribal populations, and on understanding the relationships among climate change, human health, economic development, and environmental justice.

### **[NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program](#)**

The NAACP Climate Justice Initiative has been working to address climate change and help people understand how climate change will impact minorities and low-income communities. Their program goals include advancing an advocacy agenda which promotes policies on issues such as clean energy, transportation equity, food justice, equity in urban/rural development, economic empowerment, disaster planning and more. rights based responses can ensure that human and civil rights are upheld through the transition. Their Report [Coal Blooded: Putting Profits Before People](#) is a new report analyzing sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and Nitrogen Oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) 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

### **[The National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program](#)**

This event will be held March 9-12 at the Marriott Marquis in Washington, D.C. This three day event will feature needs and challenges of communities, governments, municipalities, tribes, faith-based organizations, and others with an interest in health disparities and environmental justice. It will highlight programs and collaborations that work, as well as initiatives that will not prove successful. Program speakers will feature representatives from Federal and state agencies, local governments, tribes, community groups, business and industry, public interest groups, academia, and other entities.

### **University of Maryland Community Engagement Environmental Justice and Health (CEEJH)**

The Community Engagement, Environmental Justice, and Health CEEJH Laboratory mission is to educate impacted communities about environmental justice and health issues. Through technical assistance and collaboration, communities are empowered to address environmental injustice and environmental health disparities. Founded by Dr. Sacoby Wilson in fall 2011, CEEJH work includes the development and partnerships with community-based organizations, environmental advocacy groups, health practitioners and policy makers (federal, state and local government) to reduce local contamination, improve environmental quality and enhance community health and sustainability. Some specific national capital region projects include pollution in the Chesapeake Bay, exposure disparities for fishermen and residents in the Anacostia Watershed ([Project CAESARR](#), Project RECREATE) air pollution issues in South Baltimore, and environmental health disparities in DC.

### **VOCES VERDE**

Voces Verde is a non-partisan network of Latino business, public health, academic, community leaders and organizational partners who advocate for sound environmental policy to combat climate change and support clean, renewable energy. Through mobilization of their voices they recognize the importance of building a comprehensive clean energy economy that achieves efficient, cost-effective measure to reduce greenhouse gas emission. Putting in place green infrastructure and moving away from fossil fuels will create opportunities whilst mitigating climate change. By withholding superior standards on air, Voices Verdes is working to protect children and families from air pollution dangers.

### **Young, Black and Green**

This nationwide initiative aims to educate and engage the African American community around the issue of climate change and its disproportionate impacts on the Black community. They seeks to empower young leaders and community members to tackle this important issue to ensure a better future for generations to come. Past events have been held in Arlington VA, Kansas City, Cleveland, Washington D.C, LA, NOLA and more. Their 37 minute [documentary](#) speaks for need to #ActonClimate and climate solution with those most affected.