

EJ TOOLKIT UPDATE

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ACPAC Meeting
November 18, 2024

EJ Toolkit Review

- Purpose - strengthen the institutional capacity in environmental, climate, and energy justice to better inform the education, outreach, and policy work of COG and its member governments
- Target audience:
 - COG – climate, energy, and air committees
 - COG 24 member governments
 - COG Stakeholders

Current Status

- End of Summer – September 2024: EJ Community Engagement RFQ Issued
 - 3 Responses
- September 2024: Received Vendor Questions on RFQ
- October - November 12, 2024: COG Issued Responses to Vendor Questions
- November 12, 2024: Deadline for Vendor Response to RFQ
- COG Reviews Responses

Project Schedule

- March-May 2025: consultant/vendor data collection (see (2) below for details)
- March 2025: Community listening session at ACPAC meeting
- May 2025: Consultant presents information received listening sessions
- June 2025: Consultant provides report, references, etc. to COG
- November - December 2025: Draft Toolkit Review and Comment Period
 - COG committee and select community review
- January 2026: COG reviews and incorporates comments
- February 2026: Final Toolkit

Consultant SOW/Tasks

- Consultant Statement of Work (SOW)
 - Meet with COG to plan for community engagement, including helping to develop a list of community members and organizations for engaging as well as formulating discussion questions.
 - Conduct a combination of in-person and virtual engagement sessions with the identified community participants.
 - Provide one to two one-hour presentations of findings for COG work groups/committees, and a written summary of findings from the engagement sessions to COG staff.

COG Tasks

- Finalize compiled list of EJ contacts within COG members
- Survey COG members for EJ engagement best practices
- Interview EJ leaders from community-based organizations and summarize their best practices.
- Research national case studies of successful community engagement to highlight in the Toolkit.

Next Steps

- Review responses from RFQ
- Secure consultant
- Consultant begins community outreach
- March 2025: Community listening session at ACPAC meeting
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What are we requesting of ACPAC?

1. Input on overall approach
2. Recommendations on community-based events in your area (for consultant).
3. Input on community engagement questions (suggested 5 max) to be developed with consultant
 - What are the best ways to engage the community on EJ issues (examples: text, email, social media, mainstream media, zines, in-person events (ex. community town halls and teach-ins))
 - Should EJ engagement be paired with other community issues? If so, what issues (examples: land and water protector rights, health)
 - Are you interested in staying connected with COG on EJ issues in the region? If so, provide contact information (ex. social media, email, phone number)
4. Host March listening session, receive consultant's presentation of findings, and review toolkit draft

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