

ACPAC PROPOSAL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TOOLKIT UPDATE

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Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

2017 EJ Toolkit Background

- ACPAC provided input on the development of the Equity Emphasis Areas
 - Planning concept to elevate equity and inform future growth and investment decisions
 - Represents 350 of 1,200+ census tracts with high concentrations of low-income individuals and/or racial and ethnic minorities
- Toolkit is guidance to policymakers on incorporating social, cultural sensitivity, and community health considerations into air quality, climate, and energy planning
 - Includes 9 approaches – intended to build EJ capacity

2017 Toolkit Approaches

- Approach #1: Identifying Potentially Vulnerable Populations
- Approach #2: Providing Meaningful Engagement Opportunities
- Approach #3: Assessing Community Impacts and Needs
- Approach #4: Developing Metrics
- Approach #5: Providing Data, Information, and Resources for Communities
- Approach #6: Using Citizen Science
- Approach #7: Developing Community Leadership
- Approach #8: Supporting Economic and Workforce Development
- Approach #9: Mainstreaming Environmental Justice into Public Planning and Programs

Updated Scope and Objective

- Incorporate latest developments in research and tools
- Improve utility and relevance of the document through
 - Best practices
 - In-practice modeling and recommendations
- Include external review from grassroots organizations
- Additional elements
 - Update 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



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