

EQUITY IN AIR QUALITY PLANNING

Update

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Department of Environmental Programs (DEP)

MWAQC

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Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

MWAQC's Mission

- Formulate, adopt, and submit, to DC, MD, and VA, a proposed regional air quality plan for incorporation into applicable State Implementation Plans (SIPs).
- Develop air quality maintenance plans which include measures and implementation commitments for consideration and incorporation into SIPs and implementation by the local governments, the states, and the US EPA.
- Fulfill any other functions and obligations necessary for promulgation and maintenance of regional air quality policies, plans, or programs as may be assigned by federal and state statute.
- At the request of state or local jurisdictions, perform other functions to improve regional air quality.

Background

- In May 2023, the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) adopted its FY24 work program and included the following.
 - An objective to advance environmental justice, community engagement, and equitable regional policies.
 - A goal to develop Action Plan to address environmental justice in air quality planning.
- In September 2023, MWAQC established an Environmental Justice Subcommittee to support the EJ work and plan development.
- Discussions with the Budget and Executive Committees. (Oct/Nov)

The Approach

- Develop an action plan to assist members on how to consider equity when implementing air quality policies, projects, and programs.
- The EJ subcommittee will lead the plan development and seek input from MWAQC, ACPAC, and external stakeholders.
- Local and state members can voluntarily choose to implement/enforce that which is within their own jurisdictions.

Project Activities

- EJ Subcommittee formation/support.
- Survey and/or hold focus group/roundtable discussions with MWAQC and ACPAC members and other experts to identify resource and assistance needs.
- Develop Action Plan.

Budget

Costs	COG Staff	Consultant Support	Total Costs*
Total Costs	\$88,612	\$135,000	\$223,612

* Assumes 12-month project. The committee will be re-evaluated after the end of 1 year to determine if it should be a standing committee. If so, additional funds will be requested.

MWAQC Funding	
Total Unexpended Funds:	\$260,411
FY 2024 State/Local Contributions*	\$27,952
EJ Plan/Subcommittee (year 1)	\$223,612
Remaining Unexpended Funds	\$8,847

*Approved in the FY2024 Work Program

EJ Subcommittee Role

- The Environmental Justice Subcommittee has been established to support MWAQC's commitment to incorporating environmental justice and equity in its work program.
- The subcommittee's mission is to develop regional policies and initiatives to support its members environmental justice/equity programs.
- The subcommittee will work collaboratively with stakeholders to develop an Action Plan to provide implementation strategies to integrate equity into policies, programs, and projects related to air quality.
- Sunset Date - one year (12-months) from kickoff meeting and delivering final Action Plan.

Proposed Membership Structure

Member	Jurisdiction
Local Jurisdictions - 5	
1	DC
2	MD
2	VA
State Agencies - 3	
1	DC
1	MD
1	VA
Public (ACPAC) - 2	
1 as appointed by ACPAC	
1 as appointed by ACPAC	

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