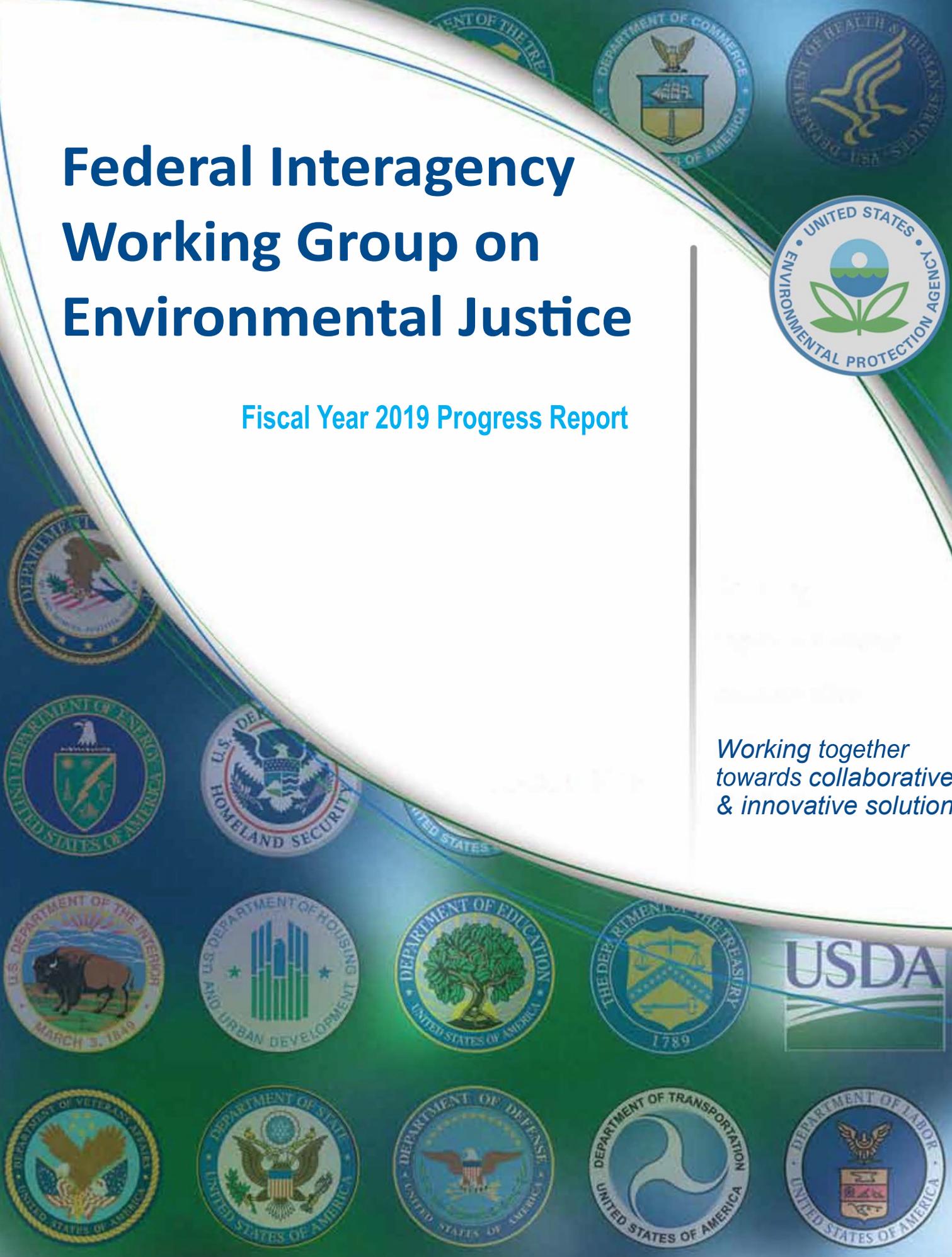


Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice

Fiscal Year 2019 Progress Report



*Working together
towards collaborative
& innovative solutions.*





FY19 Federal Interagency Working Group Progress Report

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Introduction

The [Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice](#) (EJ IWG), chaired by the EPA Administrator, is comprised of 17 federal agencies and White House offices to carry out responsibilities outlined by the [Executive Order 12898 - Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations](#) (EO 12898). The EJ IWG facilitates the active involvement of federal agencies to implement the EO, which directs that federal agencies covered by the EO must identify and address, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations.

Established through the EO, the EJ IWG provides a forum for federal agencies to collectively advance EJ principles and increase local community capacity to promote and implement innovative and comprehensive solutions to EJ issues. The three guiding principles for the EJ IWG are:

- **Accessibility** - easily reached by communities, advocates, and other stakeholders regarding EJ concerns;
- **Awareness** - knowledgeable of the EJ concerns and issues facing communities in order to facilitate collaboration and coordination; and
- **Accountability** - capable of explaining the actions and decisions related to the implementation of the EO.

Over the past two years, EJ IWG member agencies have been engaged with the Government Accountability Office (GAO) on their review of the EJ IWG and the Executive Branch's fulfillment of the purpose of the EO. The GAO's effort focused on EPA's role as the EJ IWG chair, and on the activities of member agencies to integrate EJ into programs and activities. In October 2019, the GAO issued its final report and recommendations to the EJ IWG, [Environmental Justice: Federal Efforts Need Better Planning, Coordination, and Methods to Assess Progress](#).

The report noted that most agencies that signed the 2011 Memorandum of Understanding took various actions to identify and address EJ issues related to their programs, policies and activities. Examples of actions included improving research and data collection by creating data tools such as EPA's EJ Screening and Mapping Tool (e.g., EJSCREEN); considering EJ issues when implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and enforcing environmental laws; and revising processes to ensure greater public participation.¹ EPA appreciates the constructive feedback and will continue to engage with GAO as we implement the recommendations. Overall, the EJ IWG is positive about the work accomplished in FY19 and looks forward to continued progress in the year ahead.

The FY 2019 Accomplishments Report shows how the EJ IWG committees and subcommittees² apply these principles to create important connections designed to help EJ stakeholders and vulnerable communities address EJ concerns. This report demonstrates how the EJ IWG is:

- Connecting Federal Agencies to Communities with EJ Concerns
- Connecting EJ Stakeholders with Federal EJ Tools and Resources
- Connecting EJ Stakeholders to Resources for Natural Disaster Preparedness, Response and Recovery
- Connecting with EJ Leaders of the Future

¹ <https://www.gao.gov/assets/710/701401.pdf#page=32>

² A description of the EJ IWG Committees and Subcommittees is included in the Appendix.

EJ IWG AGENCIES

White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)
Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Department of Commerce (DOC)
Department of Defense (DOD)
Department of Education (ED)
Department of Energy (DOE)
Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
Department of the Interior (DOI)
Department of Justice (DOJ)
Department of Labor (DOL)
Department of Transportation (DOT)
Department of Veteran Affairs (VA)
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
General Services Administration (GSA)
Small Business Administration (SBA)



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Connecting Federal Agencies to Communities with EJ Concerns

The EJ IWG recognizes the need to help connect federal agencies to overburdened communities. Frequently these efforts are performed collaboratively with other partners through trainings and workshops designed specifically for community members in response to their environmental justice concerns. The goal is to help empower vulnerable communities to address their environmental and public health issues. Below are three examples of these efforts in FY 2019.

EJ IWG Forms Subcommittee to Further Place-Based Efforts

When federal agencies coordinate and collaborate together to leverage resources, underserved and overburdened communities reap the benefits. In FY 2019, the EJ IWG formed a subcommittee on Place-Based Efforts to examine ways for better connecting government resources with communities experiencing EJ challenges and for addressing their environmental, health and economic needs. This subcommittee identifies and implements strategies that foster healthy, equitable, sustainable and resilient communities.

In FY 2019, the subcommittee coordinated with other E J IWG committees (e.g., Rural Communities and Goods Movement Committees) and federal agencies to accomplish the following. Many of the activities included below are ongoing efforts:

- **Southeast United States:** In September 2018, Hurricane Florence³ caused extensive wind damage along the North Carolina coast, widespread power outages and record breaking storm surge and devastating rainfall, which produced catastrophic and life-threatening flooding. In October 2018, Hurricane Michael⁴ caused catastrophic damage from wind and storm surge. The widespread damage spread inland as Hurricane Michael remained at hurricane strength into southwest Georgia. In response, the EJ IWG partnered with government agencies (e.g., EPA, USDA, HHS and DHS) and health associations (e.g. American Diabetes Association, Diabetes Disaster Response Coalition, American Optometric Association and Insulin for Life) to help impacted vulnerable communities obtain insulin and disease management supplies for free, along with important information on diabetes preparedness, pharmacies and shelter prescriptions, and health care providers.

Partners involved in EJ IWG place based efforts in Southeast U.S. include:

US EPA (Office of Environmental Justice, Region 4), USDA (Forest Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service), HHS (Health Resource Services Administration, Office of the Assistant Secretary, National Diabetes Education Program), Department of Homeland Security, American Diabetes Association, Diabetes Disaster Response Coalition, American Optometric Association and Insulin for Life, among others.

³ <https://www.weather.gov/ilm/HurricaneFlorence> and <https://www.weather.gov/mhx/Florence2018>

⁴ <https://www.weather.gov/tae/HurricaneMichael2018>



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This effort addressed the urgent need for diabetes care during a natural disaster, especially for vulnerable populations, and included the following efforts:

- ◆ The EJ IWG developed and activated a network of community and environmental justice leaders, health care providers and others living in the storm affected areas to receive and share information on diabetes care during and after natural disasters.
 - ◆ The EJ IWG connected organizations providing insulin and disease management supplies free of charge to those with diabetes through emergency response personnel in storm areas (e.g. Panama City, FL Department of Health).
 - ◆ Partner organizations distributed information developed by federal agencies, non-profit organizations and medical providers on diabetes preparedness, pharmacies and shelter prescriptions, health care providers, switching and storing insulin, and discarding sharps.
- **Houston, Texas:** Provided education, training, convening and consulting to help low-income and minority communities affected by Hurricane Harvey on the Texas gulf coast. This effort included federal agencies (e.g., EPA, USDA and GSA), community organizations (e.g. Lone Start Legal Aid), businesses (e.g., Community Lattice), local government (e.g. city of Houston), health care (e.g. Cities Changing Diabetes), and other stakeholders. The goal of this effort is to apply Brownfields to Healthfields⁵ (B2H) for addressing the ongoing environmental challenges exacerbated by natural disasters and help communities revitalize contaminated sites affected by the hurricane and subsequent flooding.
 - **Appalachia and Coastal Georgia:** Due to the success of B2H in Grundy County, Tennessee⁶, the EJ IWG launched “Breaking Bread⁷ for B2H” – an effort to bring the B2H approach to help low-income and minority communities throughout Southern Appalachia and along coastal Georgia (from Brunswick to Savannah). This effort included educational B2H presentations at state, regional and national brownfields conferences. It also involved convening stakeholders to work together, including federal government partners (e.g. USDA, EPA, DHS Federal Emergency Management Agency), environmental justice leaders (e.g., Harambee House), and local government (e.g., city of Savannah and city of Brunswick). The goal is to help these communities achieve their EJ priorities through contaminated site remediation and redevelopment.

⁵B2H is an approach to help local organizations access government (e.g. state and federal), academic, philanthropic and private sector resources to transform brownfields and blighted properties into community spaces that improve the environment, public health and economic potential of vulnerable, overburdened and underserved communities.

⁶Please refer to page 13 of [EPA FY19 EJ Annual Progress Report](#).

⁷“Breaking Bread” is a convening approach to foster shared learning and replication of successful place-based efforts. It brings multiple parties, resources, and information together to manage the B2H process.



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EJ IWG Partners with EPA Region 4 to Help Build Community Resilience in North Charleston

In FY 2019, the EJ IWG Goods Movement Committee⁸ partnered with EPA Region 4 and the Lowcountry Alliance for Model Communities⁹ (LAMC) to host a working session and community resource fair to help the North Charleston community develop an actionable implementation plan. The goal of the plan was to improve community resilience and share key tools and resources with community members. Federal and state agencies shared resources related to the community's environment, health, housing, transportation, and economic opportunities. The EJ IWG NEPA Committee discussed the [EJ IWG's Community Guide to Environmental Justice and NEPA Methods](#) as well as the [EJ IWG Promising Practices for EJ Methodologies in NEPA Reviews](#). The following tools were also shared: U.S. DOE's [Weatherization Assistance Program](#); U.S. DOE's [Clean Energy for Low Income Communities Accelerator](#); U.S. DOT's Safe Routes to Schools Activities; and U.S. EPA's [College/Underserved Community Partnership Program](#).



Figure 1: A home in Union Height (neighborhood in North Charleston) using a blanket as insulation.

Raising awareness of these resources and fostering federal, state and academic connections are vital to uplifting the North Charleston community. This community is in Charleston County, South Carolina, and comprised of seven neighborhoods that are served by LAMC. Community members are predominantly minority, low-income and elderly. The community is located near several major transportation facilities, including an interstate highway and several industrial rail and port facilities. North Charleston is environmentally overburdened due to both legacy pollution and continuing heavy industrial activity. Residents have articulated concerns about air quality, flooding, safe and affordable housing, access to healthy food and public transportation, economic opportunities, among others.

As a result of this collaborative effort with the EJ IWG, other partners, and the community, EPA Region 4 created a feasible action plan and a resource compendium specifically for North Charleston. Over the course of this work, the community enhanced relationships and partnerships with participating or newly identified organizations, including: Charleston Waterkeeper; city of North Charleston; Clemson University Emergency Management Center; Federal Highway Administration's South Carolina Division; South Carolina DOT; U.S. DOE; and U.S. EPA Brownfields Program.

⁸Impacts from commercial transportation and supporting infrastructure ("Goods Movement") was identified to be an area of focus in the [2011 Memorandum of Understanding on Environmental Justice and Executive Order 12898](#).

⁹LAMC is a nonprofit organization that advocates for environmental justice and promotes community development, education, employment, quality housing, and community involvement.



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EJ IWG Partners with EPA Region 10 to Provide Training for Seattle-area Communities

The EJ IWG convened a two-part training (webinar and workshop) on NEPA and EJ for Seattle-area communities. The Goods Movement Committee led, and the NEPA Committee supported, the development, planning and implementation of this effort. The trainings were created for several Seattle-area low-income and minority communities concerned about impacts from commercial transportation activity (e.g., air quality and noise impacts from trucks, ships and airplanes). The Goods Movement Committee became aware of the community's interest in how to meaningfully engage in the NEPA process when the committee was supporting [EPA-funded EJ collaborative problem-solving efforts](#) and the [EPA Ports Initiative](#) in Seattle's Georgetown, South Park, and Beacon Hill communities.

In FY 2019, EPA Region 10 assisted with developing, planning, and participating in the two training events with input from several Seattle community leaders. The first part was a 90-minute presentation, Primer on the National Environmental Policy Act and Environmental Justice. It introduced community members to NEPA, environmental justice and the EJ IWG. The second part was a 3-hour Workshop on Promising Practices for EJ Methodologies in NEPA Reviews. The training included an interactive hypothetical transportation infrastructure project to help participants explore how these two EJ IWG resources - [Promising Practices for EJ Methodologies in NEPA Reviews](#) and [Community Guide to Environmental Justice and NEPA Methods](#) - can support the consideration of EJ during various stages of the NEPA process. Development and planning efforts occurred throughout FY 2019 while the trainings took place in early FY 2020.



Figure 2: Photo of Seattle.



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Connecting EJ Stakeholders to EJ Tools and Resources



Tools and resources can help stakeholders meaningfully engage in their environmental justice efforts. With that in mind, the EJ IWG continues to provide tools and resources to partners and vulnerable communities. The topics for these tools range from the intersection of EJ and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and how to find federal funding opportunities and assistance. Below are highlights of these EJ IWG FY 2019 efforts.

Figure 3: Photo of federal agency resource table at National Environmental Justice Conference.

NEPA Committee Advances Awareness for Consideration of EJ in NEPA Review Process

The EJ IWG [National Environmental Policy Act](#) Committee¹⁰ promotes EJ principles in the NEPA process by sharing promising practices and lessons learned developed by federal departments and agencies. Highlights of the NEPA Committee's work in FY 2019 include:

- **Community Guide:** The IWG released the [Community Guide to Environmental Justice and NEPA Methods](#), which provides information for community members who want to assure that their EJ issues are adequately considered when there is a federal agency action that may involve environmental impacts on minority populations, low-income populations, and/or Indian tribes and indigenous communities. It lays out a framework for how federal agencies generally consider EJ in the NEPA process, and summarizes opportunities that communities may use to work with these agencies to advance EJ.
- **Workshop on EJ and NEPA Methods at the National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program:** The purpose of the workshop was to increase understanding of opportunities to advance consideration of EJ in the NEPA review process. The specific focus was the community's understanding of the interconnection between EJ and NEPA by utilizing two tools of the EJ IWG NEPA Committee: The "[Promising Practices for EJ Methodologies in NEPA Reviews](#)" (Promising Practices Report) and the "[Community Guide to Environmental Justice and NEPA Methods](#)" (Community Guide), a companion document to the Promising Practices Report. The workshop consisted of a panel presentation by federal NEPA practitioners and an interactive exercise on how to apply NEPA to an infrastructure project. Ultimately, the workshop provided participants with better knowledge of what practices federal agencies use to evaluate environmental impacts to minority, low-income, tribal and indigenous populations, and how they can be a more effective advocate for their communities with these agencies as they make decisions.

¹⁰ NEPA was identified to be an area of focus in the [2011 Memorandum of Understanding on Environmental Justice and Executive Order 12898](#).



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- **DOE Department Memorandum Advancing Use of Promising Practices:** On September 30, 2019, DOE issued a memorandum, Environmental Justice Evaluation Tools for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Reviews to encourage all NEPA practitioners throughout the Department to utilize both the [Promising Practices Report](#) and the [Community Guide](#). This was developed by the NEPA Committee Co-chairs and DOE's EJ Program Manager. As a next step, the NEPA Committee will leverage DOE's action to encourage other federal departments to do the same.
- **Performance Measures and Evaluation:** In FY 2019, the NEPA Committee continued its efforts to evaluate how federal practitioners use the [Promising Practices Report](#) to improve consideration of EJ through the NEPA review process. Based on a Performance Measures Survey conducted the prior year, preliminary recommendations were crafted to implement in FY 2019 and beyond. The goal is to create greater awareness and promote the use of the [Promising Practices Report](#) among federal NEPA practitioners.

Title VI Committee Training at the National Environmental Justice Conference

The EJ IWG Title VI Committee¹¹ conducted a Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 Training at the 2019 National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program. This session provided participants with an overview of Title VI, its application to environmental justice scenarios, and information on how to file a complaint with a federal agency and how such complaints are processed.

EJ IWG Creates Resource Guide to Help Communities Find Federal Assistance and Resources

In FY 2019, the EJ IWG released the [EJ IWG Guide to Finding Federal Assistance and Resources for Environmental Justice Efforts](#) (Resource Guide). The federal government provides assistance for several environmental, educational, health care, research, infrastructure, economic development and other programs and projects through grants, loans, scholarships, insurance and other types of financial assistance. The EJ IWG created this guide to help EJ stakeholders know where to start. It leverages the information available through government websites, offers general guidance and tips on how to search for federal resources, and compiles recorded webinar trainings related to federal grants, along with links to different environmental justice tools, all in one place. The goal is to increase awareness of these resources so that vulnerable communities can access them to help address their environmental and public health needs.

¹¹Title VI was identified to be an area of focus in the [2011 Memorandum of Understanding on Environmental Justice and Executive Order 12898](#).



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Connecting EJ Stakeholders to Resources For Natural Disaster Preparedness, Response and Recovery



Building on prior EJ IWG efforts and lessons learned from connecting EJ stakeholders to resources that aid in natural disaster recovery, the EJ IWG worked to address the growing need to support minority and low-income populations that are disproportionately vulnerable in the event of a natural disaster. Below are two examples of the EJ IWG's FY 2019 efforts.

Figures 4: Insulin-related durable goods delivered to Puerto Rico. Photos courtesy of Colegio de Optometras de PR.

EJ IWG Helps Vulnerable Communities in Puerto Rico Prepare for Natural Disasters

The EJ IWG expanded its place-based disaster preparedness and response model to help vulnerable communities after Hurricanes Florence and Michael (discussed above) to include Puerto Rico in FY 2019. The EJ IWG's Rural Communities Committee (RCC) piloted a project to help communities in Puerto Rico manage chronic diabetes after the occurrence of a natural disaster. In the last several years, Puerto Rico has experienced several major hurricanes that have devastated the environment and left people with chronic diabetes especially vulnerable.¹² Diabetes is a contributor of morbidity and mortality during natural disasters, especially for vulnerable populations.¹³ Knowing that medical supplies were needed for those with chronic diabetes, the RCC launched an effort to find out how to connect vulnerable populations with diabetes to the medical supplies that they needed.



Figure 5: Insulin-related durable goods delivered to Puerto Rico. Photos courtesy of Colegio de Optometras de PR.

¹²Diabetes can contribute to early death and lead to health problems, such as nerve damage, blindness and amputation. See <https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/basics/diabetes.html> and <https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/ndep/people-with-diabetes/avoiding-complications.html>

¹³See <https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/ndep/people-with-diabetes/emergency.html>; <https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/managing/preparedness.html>; <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/31748930> ("Diabetes and Disasters: Recent Studies and Resources for Preparedness" Nov. 20, 2019); and <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4964212/> ("Acute post-disaster medical needs of patients with diabetes: emergency department use in New York City by diabetic adults after Hurricane Sandy" July 26, 2016).



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To accomplish this, the EJ IWG worked with several partners, including EPA, USDA, FWS, Insulin for Life, Pediatrics Foundation of Puerto Rico, Medical Center of San Juan, Vieques House of Representatives, and medical practitioners in the United States and Puerto Rico. As a result of this public and private sector collaboration, the EJ IWG secured and transported insulin-related durable goods from Florida to Puerto Rico. Eleven distribution points were in overburdened and vulnerable communities across the island, including three pediatric foundations, and supplies were divided among doctors to help distribute the medical supplies for free, as needed. These efforts in Puerto Rico are ongoing, and the EJ IWG plans to expand the network of partners to leverage more resources to help vulnerable communities affected by natural disasters address their health concerns.



Figure 6: Insulin-related durable goods delivered to Puerto Rico. Photos courtesy of Colegio de Optometras de PR.

EJ IWG Forms New Subcommittee on EJ and Natural Disasters

The EJ IWG formed a new subcommittee to help it focus on EJ and natural disasters. The EJ and Natural Disasters Subcommittee brings federal officials together to assess major EJ issues and identify timely solutions to address natural disaster preparedness, response, and recovery in vulnerable, overburdened, and underserved communities. The subcommittee will focus on a variety of natural disasters, e.g., major floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, and wildfires, and how to minimize the impact of these disasters on vulnerable populations.

This subcommittee is chaired by a representative at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Members include representatives from EPA, Department of Justice, Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Transportation, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of the Interior, Department of Agriculture, and HHS.

In FY 2019, the Subcommittee developed a charge, workplan, and schedule of deliverables for its goal of issuing a final report to the EJ IWG in September 2020. This report will document best approaches to address EJ concerns in vulnerable, overburdened, and underserved communities related to natural disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. Informed by EJ stakeholder input, the report will include findings and recommendations for the EJ IWG for future improvements in addressing EJ concerns and needs.



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Connecting with EJ Leaders of the Future



The EJ IWG strives to engage and elevate the next generation of EJ leaders. This is accomplished by providing an opportunity for youth to present their work and share their insights with other EJ stakeholders.

Figure 7: EMI student presenters at the 2019 NEJC, listed from left to right: Joey Danielle Batts, Aaliyah Shannon and Sadie Shofidiya. Photo courtesy of NEJC.

Educate, Motivate, Innovate Initiative

The EJ IWG recognizes the importance of connecting with leaders of the future. This effort is accomplished through the EJ IWG's [Educate Motivate Innovate \(EMI\) Climate Justice Initiative](#), a national effort comprised of representatives from different federal agencies. The goal of EMI is to engage the next generation of EJ leaders and expand partnerships with Minority Serving Institutions.

EMI offers an opportunity for undergraduate and graduate student EJ leaders to share their work at a panel presentation during the National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program (NEJC). The NEJC includes interactive sessions that feature the needs and challenges of communities, governments, municipalities, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, faith-based organizations, and others with interests in environmental justice and health disparities and how addressing them together can build healthy communities.¹⁴

EMI's panel presentations during NEJC provide a forum where students present their projects that address the impacts of our changing climate on minority, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, and vulnerable and underserved communities. This initiative results in two major accomplishments. EMI uplifts the next generation of environmental justice leaders and provides them opportunities to engage with elders and activists, as well as influential members of academia, government and non-governmental organizations. In turn, EMI's student EJ leaders share their knowledge, innovation and inspiration with participants of the NEJC and leaders in the EJ field.

¹⁴https://thenejc.org/?page_id=2



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As part of the IWG's Educate, Motivate, Innovate Initiative, three students presented their work at the 2019 National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program:

- Aaliyah Shannon (Tennessee State University) discussed the [“Modified Health Impact Assessments \(HIA\) for Two Environmental Justice Communities in Pensacola, Florida and Houston, Texas.”](#) A goal of this project was to conduct research on the impacts of environmental contaminants and share the information with stakeholders in the Wedgewood and Pleasantville communities to help address the issues they are facing.
- Sadie Shofidiya (Savannah State University) spoke about her project [“Foster Beelief’s Education Outreach Program”](#) to build awareness about honeybees, providing education on their plight, and organizing action for their future. Another goal of this project was to increase interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) among young African American students and introduce them to the EJ movement.
- Joey Danielle Batts (Tennessee State University) provided insight into the [“Two-Community Health Impact Assessment \(HIA\): Lower 9th Ward Community, New Orleans, Louisiana, and Africatown Community, Mobile, Alabama.”](#) The goal of the HIA was to identify the specific issues impacting communities from Hurricane Katrina, provide information on these issues to the communities, and identify possible resolutions.

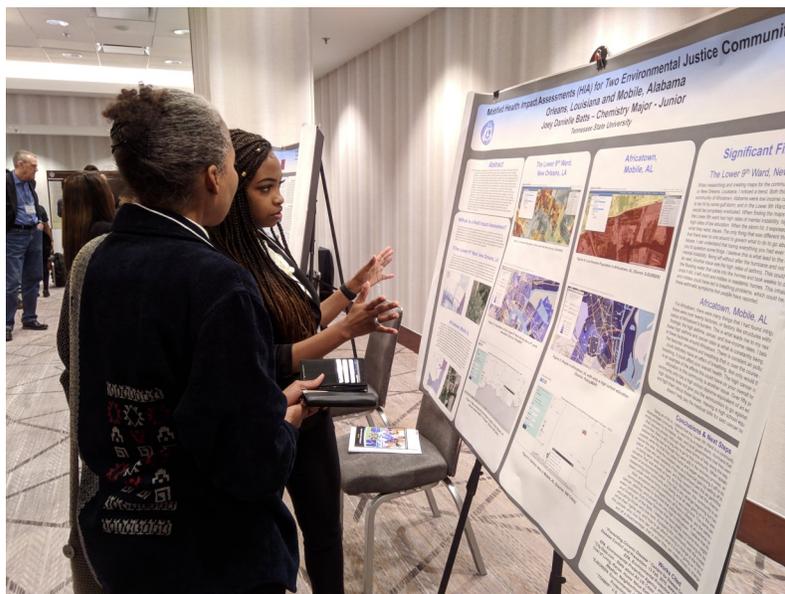


Figure 8: EMI student sharing work at Student Poster Abstracts at NEJC 2019.



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Looking Forward

The EJ IWG looks forward to continuing its efforts to strengthen the connections between federal agencies, resources and opportunities with EJ stakeholders, vulnerable communities, and future leaders that are all working to improve the environment and health of overburdened communities.

These connections are critical to ensuring that environmental justice is integrated into federal programs and activities to strengthen environmental and public health protections for low-income, minority, indigenous, and disadvantaged communities that are more likely to live near contaminated lands or be disproportionately impacted by environmental hazards.

For a list of EJ IWG Committees (as of March 2020), please see Appendix A. For a list of agency contacts for the EJ IWG, please visit the [Agency Contacts webpage](#).

STAY CONNECTED!

Find more environmental justice resources and information on the EJ IWG website:
<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/federal-interagency-working-group-environmental-justice-ej-iwg>

To receive updates of EJ tools and resources from across the federal government,
sign up for EPA's EJ Listserv:

https://lists.epa.gov/read/all_forums/subscribe?name=epa-ej

To contact the EJ IWG, call the EJ Hotline 800 962 6215 (toll free) or email
ejstrategy@epa.gov



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APPENDIX A: EJ IWG Committees – March 2020

COMMITTEE	CO-CHAIRPERSONS (BOLD); PARTICIPATING AGENCIES	PURPOSE
Strategy and Implementation Progress Report Committee	EPA, DOJ, DOI, USDA	Serves as a resource for federal agencies as they review, update, or develop their environmental justice strategy, and the annual implementation progress reports. Works with agencies to help coordinate programs, policies, and activities. Coordinates EJ IWG Sr. Leadership Meetings. Manages implementation of EJ IWG Framework for Collaboration and standard operating procedures.
Regional IWG	EPA, HUD, HHS, USDA, DOJ, DOI	Provides targeted and coordinated technical assistance, develops relationships between federal field and regional staff, and develops best practices for prioritizing EJ concerns. Develops community resource materials and strengthens education, training, and/or engagement on EJ among local and state agencies. Implement Educate, Motivate, Initiate student project and the Access & Awareness Webinar Series.
Native Americans/Indigenous Peoples	DOJ, USDA Forest Service, EPA, DOC, DOI, GSA, USDA, DOJ, DHS, DOE, DOD/US Army Corps of Engineers, HHS/Indian Health Services (IHS), Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)	Facilitates effective coordination and collaboration of federal agencies in identifying and addressing issues of environmental justice that are concern to federally recognized tribes, indigenous peoples, and others living in Indian Country.
Rural Communities	USDA, DOI/Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), HHS, DOJ, EPA, GSA, DHS, DOL, DOJ, NOAA, HUD	Supports efforts to ensure collaboration between federal agencies and rural environmental justice communities; develop economic opportunities so rural overburdened communities are self-sustaining and economically thriving; and coordinate federal agency investments to further holistic community-based solutions that reduce environmental justice issues.
Impacts from Commercial Transportation “Goods Movement”	DOT/Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), EPA, DOT/Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT/Maritime Administration (MARAD), DHS, GSA	Serves as a resource to coordinate with other federal agencies on reducing environmental and health effects of commercial transportation and supporting infrastructure (“goods movement”) that impact low-income, minority and tribal populations (overburdened communities). Ensures that overburdened communities have greater opportunities to access benefits from federal efforts related to goods movement.



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COMMITTEE	CO-CHAIRPERSONS (BOLD); PARTICIPATING AGENCIES	PURPOSE
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)	DOE, EPA , CEQ, DHS, DOI, DOJ, DOE, DOT, EPA Regions, EPA HQ, FERC, GSA, HHS, HUD, State, USDA	Improves effective, efficient and consistent consideration of environmental justice principles in the NEPA process by sharing promising practices and lessons learned developed by federal departments and agencies. Fosters collaboration between federal departments and impacted populations to advance informed decision-making.
Title VI of the Civil Rights Act	DOJ , DHS, DOT, USDA, EPA, HUD, GSA, DOI, DOE, HHS, NPS	Serves as a resource to help agencies connect their civil rights enforcement responsibilities with their other efforts to achieve environmental justice.
Public Participation	DOJ, EPA , GSA, DHS, DOI/FWS	Increases transparency, language accessible outreach and addresses technological barriers; develops listening sessions and opportunities for public input; facilitates collaboration and public participation with federal agencies and external stakeholders; utilizes traditional means of communication and social media to build participation; and helps coordinate responses to public input.
EJ and Natural Disasters Subcommittee	HHS/National Institute of Environmental Health Science (NIEHS) , DOJ, DHS, FEMA, DOT, HUD, DOI, USDA, HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), EPA Region 4.	Brings federal officials together to assess the major EJ issues and identify time sensitive solutions to address natural disaster preparedness, response, and recovery in vulnerable, overburdened, and underserved communities. Will focus on a variety of natural disasters, e.g., major floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, and wildfires, and how to minimize the impact of these disasters on vulnerable populations.
Subcommittee on Place-based Efforts	EPA , DOJ, USDA, DOT	Examines ways to better connect government resources to communities with environmental justice concerns to address their environmental, health and economic needs. Identifies and implements strategies that foster healthy, equitable, sustainable and resilient communities.



EPA—230R20001