

Environmental Justice Progress Report





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Preface

In 2016, EPA continued to actively pursue advancing environmental justice and building on the progress towards achieving better environmental outcomes and reducing disparities in the nation's most overburdened communities. EPA's Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Annual Environmental Justice (EJ) Progress Report highlights our efforts to address environmental and public health issues and challenges confronting the nation's minority, low-income, tribal and indigenous populations.

EPA has made great strides towards upholding the principles of environmental justice. This work has reached new levels as environmental justice is now recognized as a shared responsibility throughout the Agency. EPA has dedicated staff committed to helping make our vulnerable, environmentally burdened, and economically distressed communities healthier, cleaner and more sustainable places in which to live, work, play and learn.

This Progress Report contains information about EPA's work in the following three areas:

- Providing Direct Support;
- Increasing EJ Integration; and
- Building Engagement and Partnerships.

The activities outlined in this Progress Report reflects EPA's decades of building the infrastructure for achieving better environmental and health outcomes. Additionally, these activities illustrate how the Agency continues to collaborate with state, local and federal partners to focus on meaningful engagement with our most vulnerable populations, which we believe is a critical component of catalyzing the revitalization of overburdened communities.



Direct Support

The EPA provides direct support, through financial and technical assistance, to low-income, minority and tribal communities for the implementation of projects that safeguard the environment and public health in direct relation to EPA's statutory authorities. Resources are allocated to improving the quality of the air, land and water so that communities may live, work and play in healthier, more sustainable environments.

EPA's Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement

EPA's Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving (EJ CPS) Cooperative Agreement program provides funding for non-profit and tribal organizations to partner with stakeholders from across industry, government, and academia to develop and implement solutions that significantly address local environmental and/or public health issues in America's low income and minority communities. The EJ CPS Program assists recipients in building collaborative partnerships by using the EPA's Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Model as a required part of their projects.

In 2016, EJ CPS program funding totaled \$1.2 million and was awarded to 10 community-based organizations supporting 2-year projects. The projects are positioned

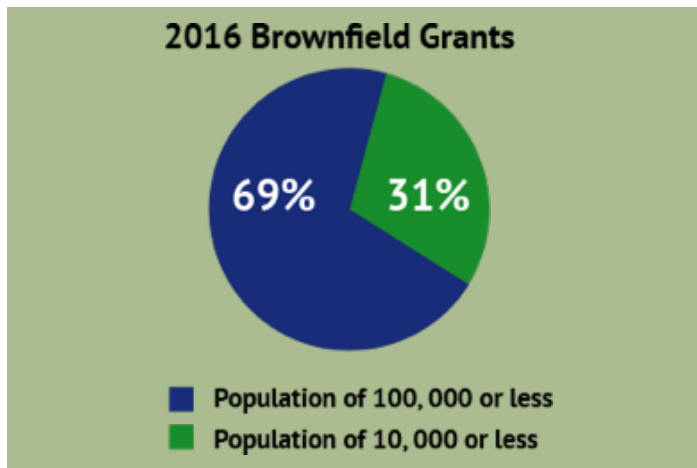
to address a variety of environmental justice issues through innovative project activities in areas such as: green infrastructure, stormwater management, solid waste removal, indoor air pollution, and subsistence fishing.



In one EJ CPS grant, El Centro de la Raza, a community group based in Seattle, Washington, will receive up to \$120,000 over two years to support the "Beacon Hill Environmental Health Collaboration" project to reduce air and noise pollution through educational outreach, engagement, and capacity building. Read more about that project here. Another grantee, The Mary Queen of Viet Nam Community Development Corporation, is utilizing the EJ CPS program to implement stormwater management and pollution reduction in the Bayou Michoud area. Specifically, the group will create, design and implement a demonstration riparian buffer, which can replicate pollution reduction in the Gulf. Read more about that project here.

Brownfields Grant Programs

Many communities are struggling to address blighted and contaminated property. The Brownfields grant program is one avenue to address urban and rural development challenges in underserved communities. EPA's Brownfields Program provides grants and technical assistance to communities, states, tribes, and others to assess, safely clean up and sustainably reuse properties that may have hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants present. Cleaning up and reinvesting in brownfields protects human health and the environment, reduces blight, and takes development pressures off greenspaces and working lands.



In 2016, EPA awarded 218 Brownfields grants to 132 communities, which totaled \$55.8 million. These funds assisted communities and businesses in returning economic stability to underserved and economically distressed neighborhoods through the assessment and cleanup of abandoned industrial and commercial properties. EPA's grant awards supported both urban and rural communities in their efforts to address their brownfields concerns. More than sixty-nine percent of the communities selected to receive an award were cities and towns with populations of 100,000 or less. Thirty-one percent of these recipients were very small rural communities with populations of 10,000 or less.



2016 Brownfield Grants

218 Grants
+
132 Communities
=
\$55.8 Million

EPA's environmental job training program has enabled the City of Tacoma to provide training for environmental jobs. Participants learn how to develop, maintain and comply with stormwater management plans, and they earn an erosion and sediment control lead certification, which is often necessary to inspect stormwater permits at construction sites. The program hosts a regular forum where employers can speak with graduates about their line of business and sometimes recruit graduates on the spot for jobs as environmental technicians, environmental laborers, hazardous material technicians, asbestos inspectors and green construction laborers. They have trained 557 graduates since 2000 and 447 graduates have obtained employment with an average starting hourly wage of \$14.54

Urban Waters Grant Program

EPA's Urban Waters Program makes environmental justice a priority. The Urban Waters Program co-leads the 14-member Urban Waters Federal Partnership, reconnects communities, particularly those that are overburdened or economically distressed, with their waterways by improving coordination among federal agencies and collaborating with community-led revitalization efforts. In 2016, the Partnership held a public National Training Workshop with an entire track dedicated to training on environmental justice and authentic community engagement.

In 2016, EPA's Urban Waters Program awarded \$1.3 million in Urban Waters Small Grants to 22 organizations nationwide to help protect and restore waters, improve water quality, and support community and economic development in underserved communities. The Urban Waters Program also supports the Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program, a public-private partnership managed by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). The Urban Waters Federal Partnership co-leads this grant program and gives priority to projects that advance water quality goals in environmental justice communities. This emphasis on EJ led NFWF to conduct its own study in 2016 to assess this

grant program's reach and impact on EJ communities. As a result, the NFWF has refined its outreach techniques and committed to awarding at least 50% of grants to communities with EJ concerns. In 2016, approximately 70% of all Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grants were awarded to projects planned in underserved communities.

The cases here show how the Urban Waters Program's grant-making has driven capacity building and inclusion in underserved, overburdened communities.

Atlanta, Georgia: Emerald Corridor Foundation is partnering with residents to build a rain garden project in Proctor Creek, a community with EJ concerns suffering high unemployment and a decline in public health. The rain garden partnership is in the initial planning phase where organizers are building engagement strategies, conducting outreach with neighbors in the watershed, and starting conversations about data and site selection. The rain garden will use native vegetation and drainage techniques to restore habitat, support natural hydrology, and reduce stormwater runoff flows. Local people will learn ways to be land and water stewards while creating public amenities. EPA's Urban Waters Program and Southern Company support this project through a Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration grant, a public private partnership that leverages federal funding a one-dollar public to two dollars private ratio.

The NFWF pledges at least
50%
of grants to EJ Communities.

In 2016 EJ Communities received
70%
of Five Star & Urban Water grants.

Rapid City, South Dakota: Working with nearby tribes and in partnership with the Rural American Initiatives Agency, the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology has received an Urban Waters Small Grant to provide training on stormwater management practices and low-impact development design practices. These trainings will culminate in a community design charrette aimed at creating a vision for development through Rural America Initiatives. The green infrastructure, low-impact

2016 Urban Waters Small Grants **\$1.3 Million**

Restore Waters ● Improve Water Quality ●
Support Community & Economic Development

development, and stormwater management practices they share will promote ways to protect urban water resources in Rapid City, South Dakota.

Support to current and past grantees is made available through the Urban Waters Learning Network. Funded by EPA, in 2016 the Network launched a new online resource portal with 24 stories, webinars, and guides available to the public on environmental justice. The Network is a community of grantees and practitioners that share on-the-ground experiences to improve waterways and the neighborhoods around them with the public. For example, the Network's new site offers a webinar on "Engaging Minority Audiences" and a guidebook on "Diversity and Inclusiveness."

Office of Air and Radiation Initiatives

In FY 2016, OAR used a variety of approaches to help increase meaningful participation in air-related EPA activities by communities disproportionately impacted by environmental harms and risks, and to assist other stakeholders in understanding disproportionately affected communities. Typically, these activities were undertaken in partnership with EPA regional offices, other federal, state and local air agencies, industry, and/or community groups.

For example, the Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards held conference calls and webinars for communities and tribes to explain proposed regulations such as the Refinery Rule, which includes requirements for fence-line monitoring, and the Clean Power Plan. OAQPS also hosted in-person training workshops in Camden, NJ and Newport News, VA to equip those communities with a basic understanding of air quality issues and the permitting process under the Clean Air Act, better enabling community members to participate meaningfully in public comment periods on proposed permits and rules. OAR's Office of Transportation and Air Quality awarded \$20 million Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Grants in FY 16 for seaport and goods movement projects for near-port communities. Coupled with the funding, outreach was provided to the seaport industry through the publishing of "The Draft Environmental Justice Primer for Ports: The Good Neighbor Guide to Building Partnerships and Social Equity with Communities." And the Office of Atmospheric

Programs developed fact sheets summarizing points from the “Climate and Health Assessment” released by the U.S. Global Change and Research Program for eight different populations shown to be disproportionately affected by climate change impacts, including communities with environmental justice concerns, indigenous populations, and children.

Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC)

EPA’s national Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) program provides independent assistance through an EPA contract to help communities better understand the science, regulations and policies of environmental issues and EPA actions. Under the TASC contract, a contractor provides scientists, engineers and other professionals to review and explain information to communities. The services are determined on a project-specific basis and provided at no cost to communities. This assistance supports community efforts to get more involved and work productively with EPA to address environmental issues. TASC services can include information assistance and expertise, community education, information assistance needs evaluation and plan development, and assistance to help community members work together to participate effectively in environmental decision-making. The TASC program benefits communities by explaining technical findings and answering community questions, helping them understand

complex environmental issues, and supporting their active roles in protecting healthy communities and advancing environmental protection. The TASC program can also provide opportunities for environmental education, bring diverse groups together and help them get more involved.

In FY 2016, the EJ Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) program provided technical assistance to approximately 10 communities. The program provided the communities with the technical expertise and information to address a variety of issues and develop a variety of tools and solutions to their environmental justice issues such as: Community-Based Environmental Monitoring System in California; R5 Asthma Summit; Capacity building for Near Port communities - Ports 101 Primer in Seattle, Training Citizen Scientist in Vermont, Communicating Climate Change in Brooklyn New York; Helping Tribal Communities in Minnesota; and Encouraging Recycling in Massachusetts. The technical assistance also provided the technical expertise and facilitation support to create collaborations and networks between state and community stakeholders through the R6 Multi-state EJ Summit and EJ Community Leadership Academy.

These examples illustrate the range of approaches – conference calls, training, publications, grants, etc. – OAR used in FY 2016 to help communities disproportionately impacted by environmental harms and risks and to help other stakeholders to understand impacted communities.



EJ Integration

The EPA actively seeks to incorporate the principles of environmental justice at all levels of the Agency. In addition to developing a strategic plan and directly supporting the integration of environmental justice considerations with other EPA and federal officials, the Agency has released numerous tools and products to assist Agency staff, partners in federal, state, local and tribal agencies, as well as other stakeholders such as communities, business and industry, academia, etc. to assist in the consideration and incorporation of environmental justice into their practices and processes.

EJ 2020 Action Agenda

In 2016, EPA released the EJ 2020 Action Agenda (EJ 2020), the Agency’s strategic plan for environmental justice for the years 2016 to 2020.

It is a roadmap for how EPA can integrate environmental justice into everything we do, cultivate strong partnerships to improve on-the-ground results, and chart a path forward for achieving better environmental outcomes and reduce disparities in the nation’s most overburdened communities.

This strategic plan is intended to be a “living document” that promotes government accountability

8 Priority Areas in EJ 2020

- ★ Rule Making
- ★ State & Local Governments
- ★ Permitting
- ★ Federal Agencies
- ★ Compliance & Enforcement
- ★ Community-based Work
- ★ Science
- ★ Tribes & Indigenous People

This strategic plan is intended to be a “living document” that promotes government transparency, accountability, and creates opportunities to strengthen stakeholder engagement, enhance collaborations with partners, and demonstrate meaningful progress. EJ 2020 builds on the foundation established by EPA’s previous strategic plan, Plan EJ 2014, as well as decades of significant environmental justice practice by the Agency, communities, and other environmental justice stakeholders.

EJ 2020 Stakeholder Engagement Highlights:

- With input from every EPA program, region and a variety of stakeholders, EJ 2020 contains eight priority areas with strategies and actions on rulemaking, permitting, compliance and enforcement, science, states and local governments, federal agencies, community-based work, and tribes and indigenous peoples. It also includes efforts

and measures to demonstrate progress on four significant national EJ challenges: lead disparities, small and tribal drinking water systems, fine particle air pollution, and exposure to hazardous waste sites.

- EPA conducted two public comment periods on EJ 2020, receiving robust comments concerning a wide range of issues. These comments helped refine the Action Agenda and will continue to serve as a source of stakeholder input as we implement EJ 2020.
- Agency staff conducted over one hundred meetings across the country, held four national webinars, and conducted national tribal coordination and consultation, along with outreach efforts with indigenous peoples, so that stakeholders could have additional opportunities to provide input and ask questions on EJ 2020.

EJ 2020 engagement included dialogue with a broad range of diverse stakeholders including federal, state, tribal and city governments, local municipalities, business and industry, regional planning groups, community organizations, scientists and academic leaders. Many prominent governmental partners and stakeholders provided testimonial feedback on EJ 2020 to reflect on our progress, identify challenges and explore future opportunities to advance environmental justice to the next level in The Promise of EJ 2020 video and “What people are saying about EJ 2020.”

Connecting Communities to EPA Rulemaking & EJ Tech Guidance trainings

The Technical Guidance for Assessing Environmental Justice in Regulatory Analysis (EJ Technical Guidance) was released June 2016, to help EPA analysts evaluate potential environmental justice (EJ) concerns associated with EPA regulatory actions. While the EJ Action Development Process Guide issued in May 2015 (Guidance on Considering Environmental Justice During the Development of an Action) provides direction on when EJ should be considered during rulemaking, this latest guidance provides direction on how to do so in an analytical fashion. It directs analysts to assess whether EJ concerns exist prior to the rulemaking and whether such concerns are exacerbated or mitigated for in each regulatory option under consideration. The EJ Technical Guidance considers EPA's past experience in integrating EJ into the rulemaking process, and underscores EPA's ongoing commitment to ensuring the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

As part of the release, EPA offered two trainings on the technical guidance in the form of public webinars. Internally, EPA's national programs will conduct trainings on the technical guidance as well. The Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) is the first program to conduct a training on the new technical guidance. As part of EJ2020, EPA is committed to ensuring the guidance is widely available and is developing training and tracking to ensure analysts have the tools needed to conduct EJ analyses for rules.

Addressing Environmental Challenges Through Collaborative Projects

Environmental justice has been pursued by vulnerable communities, indigenous peoples and the international community for many years, including in the context of human rights and the environment. At various times, the EPA has been asked to share our work, policies and activities on environmental justice (EJ) with representatives from various countries, as well as with representatives of community-based non-governmental organizations (NGOs) who are working to create EJ programs in their countries. The U.S. State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor leads U.S. efforts to promote democracy, to advance labor rights globally and to promote human rights. As the lead for domestic environmental programs, the Agency is asked to help coordinate the U.S. Government's response to the environmental and public health concerns raised within the context of international human rights treaty obligations.

Over the course of 2016, EPA:

- Developed guidance for considering tribal treaty rights during EPA tribal consultation in February which led to a signed Memorandum of Understanding on federal interagency coordination and collaboration on tribal treaty rights in September.
- Coordinated and participated in the “Environmental Justice and Indigenous Peoples” side event at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, held at the U.S. Mission in New York in May, so as to share best practices and gain insight into other countries' experiences.
- Assisted with the coordination of, and participated in, the U.S. Government's Universal Periodic Review (on human rights) civil society consultation on economic, cultural, social, indigenous and environment issues, held in August, hosted by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The consultation focused on access to safe drinking

water, indigenous issues, and work of the federal interagency working group on environmental justice.

- Created an EPA webpage on EPA's Role in Promoting International Human Rights, Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and Environmental Justice, in August, to help inform the public of EPA's work in these important areas.
- At the request of the Korean Government and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), reviewed and provided input on the Environmental Performance Review (EPR) for Korea in July – a review which included, for the first time, a country's environmental justice (EJ) program. Presented on EJ and engaged in dialogue with the member countries and the Korean delegation during an EPR meeting on the U.S. EJ program and U.S. EJ experiences in November.
- Coordinated and facilitated a training workshop on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and federal interagency coordination on the Declaration in December.

Sharing Data, Mapping, and Research Tools

EPA has released updates to several mapping and data tools and roadmaps to help advance the integration of science to better understand cumulative exposure, risk, and impact for all stakeholders working on environmental justice issues. The following tools provide information, strategies, models, databases, and analytical methods to the public that will enhance analysis in support of communities around the country.

EPA is focused on sharing EJSCREEN

With Governmental Partners

To provide consistent tools and approaches

Affected Communities

To find a starting point for discussions

& The General Public

To educate about EJ Communities

EJSCREEN

In Spring 2016, EPA released the full public version of EJSCREEN. This release represented a significant step forward for EPA's efforts to integrate EJ considerations into federal agency policies, programs, and initiatives. EJSCREEN is a web-based mapping tool that provides an easy way to look at a variety of environmental/demographic data; and provides EPA with a nationally consistent dataset and methodology to highlight places that may be candidates for further review, analysis, or outreach as the agency develops programs, policies, and other activities to help overburdened communities. Prior to this release, in Summer 2015, EPA publicly released the 'interim version' of EJSCREEN to educate, engage, and collect feedback from stakeholders on the tool.

Since the public release, EJSCREEN has quickly grown to have thousands of regular users from many different sectors including community-based organizations, academia, business/industry, and all levels of government. During that time, EPA has worked with several local governments, states, and other federal agencies to employ the use of EJSCREEN to identify communities where they can focus efforts to deliver support to communities that need it most. EJSCREEN also plays an important role in the implementation of the EJ 2020 Action Agenda as well as other Agency work. Under the EJ 2020 Action Agenda, EPA is specifically focused on sharing information and training on EJSCREEN with:

- Governmental partners, in order to provide federal, state, tribal, and local governments with consistent tools and approaches for considering environmental justice in their work;
- Affected communities, in order to provide screening level information as a starting point for further analysis and/or dialogue on potential issues surrounding them; and the
- General public, in order to further a basic understanding of environmental justice through an easy-to-use way to visualize environmental and demographic data.
- EPA has worked with partners and communities to develop collaborative uses of the tool in order to be more transparent about how we consider environmental justice in our work, assist our stakeholders in making informed decisions, and create a common starting point for dialogue.

EJ Research Roadmap

EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) has committed to developing an Environmental Justice Research Roadmap to describe and better understand the interface between environmental justice and science, and outlines opportunities that exist in the link between environmental equity and technology. ORD research related to environmental justice will strengthen the scientific foundation for actions at the Agency, Tribal, State, local, and community levels to address environmental and health inequalities in overburdened populations and communities across our country. The Research Roadmap was reviewed by the ORD Board of Scientific Counselors Executive Council. Their comments were incorporated into a revised version of the EJ Research Roadmap that was made public earlier this year and is available here. In addition, ORD produced an EJ Research Roadmap Annual Report, which is available online here.

Integrating EJ Policy Guidance into the National Drinking Water Action Plan

As part of its efforts to draft the National Drinking Water Action Plan, the Office of Water convened a series of community roundtables to engage overburdened communities and gather community perspectives about how EPA can improve its implementation of the SDWA that will ultimately benefit communities across the country. In addition to a virtual meeting with national advocates, roundtables were convened in environmental justice communities in Visalia, California; Kansas City, Missouri; Atlanta, Georgia; and Reading, Pennsylvania.

OEJ worked collaboratively to incorporate statutory based considerations within the Agency's National Drinking Water Action Plan, which is the Agency's national call to action, urging all levels of government, utilities and other key stakeholders to work together to address the challenges the nation faces regarding aging infrastructure and limited

funding and management capacity. Also in a collaborative effort between OEJ and the Office of Water, the Agency presented a charge to the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council to request advice and recommendations on Environmental Justice and Water Infrastructure Finance and Management.

OEJ's effort places emphasis on small, economically distressed and environmentally overburdened communities, degradation of sources of drinking water within vulnerable communities, and subpopulations that may be at greater risk from regulated or unregulated contaminants than the general population.

National Environmental Justice Advisory Council

The National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC), a federal advisory committee, was established September 30, 1993. The council provides advice and recommendations on broad, cross-cutting issues related to environmental justice from multiple or diverse group of stakeholders involved in the environmental justice dialogue. The NEJAC's efforts include evaluation of a broad range of strategic, scientific, technological, regulatory, community engagement, and economic issues related to environmental justice. Some notable council accomplishments in 2016 include:

- Held two public meetings (Gulfport, MS and Arlington, VA) and four public teleconference meetings that resulted in furthering the production of advice and recommendations on several important policy issues.
- Created two workgroups in response to EPA requesting recommendations on communication of monitoring data to communities and best practices on to addressing climate change concerns from a youth perspective.



Engagement and Partnerships

The EPA recognizes the necessity of meaningfully engaging stakeholders, such as through public participation, in an effort to sustain partnerships that best serve the interests of our most vulnerable communities. The Agency continues to encourage this engagement as a critical component of community revitalization.

Collaborating Across the Federal Family

The Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (EJ IWG) is comprised of 17 federal agencies and White House offices working together to: advance environmental justice principles across the federal government; engage and support local communities in addressing environmental and human health impacts; and promote and implement comprehensive solutions for environmental justice concerns.

During the first year of implementation of the EJ IWG's FY 16-18 Framework for Collaboration, the EJ IWG engaged and supported local groups working to create healthy and sustainable communities by bringing together key stakeholders from communities, educational institutions, and federal, state, local and tribal governments to address critical environmental justice issues. The following activities also increased the benefits available to overburdened, underserved communities:

- The EJ IWG developed important tools such as the 2016 Promising Practices for EJ Methodologies in

NEPA Reviews report. Developed with the support of over 100 federal agency staff, this report is a compilation of methodologies gleaned from current agency best practices that provides clear flexible approaches for agencies as they consider environmental justice in National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reviews. The NEPA committee has briefed and trained nearly 1,000 environmental justice and NEPA federal government staff through sponsored events at the Departments of Transportation, Interior, and Energy, with more trainings planned for other federal departments and state agencies.

EPA IWG Guiding Principles

Accessible
Easily reached by communities, advocates & other stakeholders

Aware
Knowledgeable of the EJ concerns & issues facing communities in order to facilitate collaboration & coordination

Accountable
Capable of explaining the actions and decisions related to the implementation of EO 12898

IWG FY 16-18 Highlights

- ★ 2016 Promising Practices for EJ Methodologies in NEPA reviews report
- ★ Educate, Motivate, Innovate (EMI) Climate Justice Leadership Training Workshop
- ★ College/Underserved Community Partnership Program (CUPP)
- ★ Brownfields to Healthfields ("B2H")
- ★ EJ advancements with NEPA

- College students presented at the inaugural Educate, Motivate, Innovate (EMI) Climate Justice Leadership training workshop held at the 2016 National Environmental Justice Training Conference held in Washington, DC. The EMI Initiative focuses on the next generation of climate-justice leaders through engagement and collaboration with Minority-Serving Institutions to expand opportunities to address the impacts of climate change on communities facing environmental justice concerns.
- The EJ IWG’s College/Underserved Community Partnership Program (CUPP) promoted interagency collaboration and community engagement with local colleges and universities. CUPP provided opportunities for government agencies to partner with local colleges and universities to address environmental justice concerns and provide free technical assistance to communities. For instance, Savannah State University is working with the Coastal Commission of Georgia to assist students in small cities, such as Riceboro and Midway, to develop designs for sustainable buildings and improvements to water infrastructure systems.

We identified 50 overburdened, economically distressed communities where there was an opportunity to provide targeted technical assistance and resources to help meet communities at their needs. EPA programs working together with regional colleagues on the ground, partnered directly with communities to identify their environmental concerns and their priorities for community revitalization. We then worked collaboratively with our partners, to develop projects providing support not only to define the problems but helping to find and fund solutions.

Snapshot

10 National Program Managers
Invested over 15 Million inflexible resources

150+ EPA Staff
Working on the teams to support community based projects

173 Projects
Initiated because of MVD, Leveraging more than 2\$ of other resources with every 1\$ of EPA resources

Under the MVD approach, EPA staff had more frequent interactions with health and educational institutions, state and federal agencies, as well as with NGOs and private sector partners. Overall, EPA connected with over 116 new partners over the course of the MVD initiative.

EPA brought in more and new partners to help communities address their environmental and public health challenges. This speaks to our role as a convener, but also recognizes the limit in our ability to solve all of a community’s problems on our own. It also highlights our role in bringing in other federal agencies to provide additional funds and support to communities. By taking this approach, where EPA staff develop strong relationships within the community, we can help build other relationships that will have a lasting impact on the community’s ability to improve their environment and economy.

Click here for additional information about the EJ IWG annual progress.

Making a Visible Difference in Communities

EPA is meeting communities at their needs, to help them address some of today’s most intractable challenges from environmental degradation to persistent poverty, to economic decline and chronic disinvestment. The Agency chose to focus our efforts in some of our most overburdened

communities with environmental justice concerns, where we could come together with our local, state, and federal partners to make a visible difference.

MVD Initiative:

116 New Partners

Goods Movement

The commercial transportation of goods (goods movement) is a critical component of our nation’s economic growth and prosperity. However, projected future increases in goods movement activity can also represent a growing source of pollution. The adverse environmental and health impacts may fall disproportionately on overburdened communities located near these activities. EPA is working to reduce the adverse impact of goods movement on communities by developing and implementing assessment and engagement tools and programs that promote emissions reductions, better planning and sustainable development practices, and enhance the health, safety, quality of life, and meaningful engagement of affected communities. In 2016:

Goods Movement
 Promote Emissions Reduction • Better Planning & Sustainable Development Practices • Enhance the Health, Safety, Quality of Life & Meaningful Engagement of Affected Communities •

- EPA issued three draft reports as a part of the rollout for the Capacity Building Toolkit, with the aim of improving environmental performance at ports and

equipping industry and community stakeholders with information, skills, and guidance to develop and implement collaborative solutions that reduce air pollutants and other environmental impacts. The project also incorporated community-led pilots to test and refine the draft capacity building tools and associated processes.

- EPA partnered with Newark’s Ironbound Community to design, develop, and pilot a Citizen Science Toolbox providing resources that are assisting communities in conducting their own environmental data collections for environmental awareness purposes.
- The Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) grants program has prioritized ports, goods movement, and freight projects for the last several years. Twelve DERA FY 2016 grants have been, or will be, awarded for seaport projects, totaling \$11.5 million of the \$26.5 million available. In addition, \$6.7 million was awarded for goods movement projects outside of seaports.

DERA FY 2016 Grants
 \$26.5 Million Available
 \$11.5 Million to Seaport Projects
 \$6.7 Million to Goods Movement



Equitable Development

Equitable development is a place-based approach for encouraging environmental justice. OEJ's equitable development portfolio continues to: focus on improvements in public involvement; support collaborative problem solving; and make a visible difference in communities that are underserved, under-resourced, and overburdened.

In FY 2016, EPA partnered with several non-governmental organizations whose interest in environmental justice is expanding:

- The U.S. Green Building Council solicited OEJ's assistance with the Communities and Affordable Homes Summit (CAH). OEJ organized two sessions for the one-day event which was held November 2015.
- OEJ organized eight hours of programmatic content for the Local Government Commission at the New Partners for Smart Growth Conference, including: a workshop; a session; a training; and a plenary. OEJ published a popular blog on "Environmental Justice through Planning" for the American Planning Association.
- Also, OEJ collaborated with two APA Divisions for conducting a mobile tour on environmental justice at the National Planning Conference in Phoenix.

**EPA's Equitable Development
Webinar Series Grew to
1,391
Participants in 2016**

- Finally, OEJ participated in several discussions with the representatives from FreddieMac after it was brought to OEJ's attention that they had an interest in learning more about 'equitable development and smart growth'. FreddieMac was invited to be a discussant at the Spring NEJAC meeting in Gulfport, MS.

OEJ's ability to reach audiences nationally with messaging about equitable development improved in FY 2016. A new page on equitable development and environmental justice was added to OEJ's website in March 2016. The new page helps the public to understand the intersections between environmental justice and planning. OEJ staff were interviewed by Infinite Earth Radio for a podcast on the topic of "Environmental Justice and Planning". Over the span of seven weeks, the interview was one of the

more popular downloads in the podcast series. Finally, EPA's equitable development webinar series remains a popular forum for the public. In 2016, the series reached 1,391 participants. The Sustainable City Network published two articles on the webinars.

Launching Brownfields to Healthfields for Appalachia at the Central Appalachia Brownfields Summit

The Office of Environmental Justice, in collaboration with the EJIWG, helped launch a Brownfields to Healthfields (b2h) effort for Central Appalachia. This launching represented the next generation of b2H implementation, whereby the Rural Committee of the EJIWG has included b2H as part of its FY 16 and FY17 action plan. After coalescing representatives from state government, brownfields redevelopment, health care, community and economic development and academia, a framework was

developed that resulted in the 2016 Central Appalachia Brownfields Summit as part of the annual West Virginia Brownfields Conference. The Summit was used as a platform for building partnerships through a Collaborative Community Convening and a conference session on Revitalizing Central Appalachia through Brownfields to Healthfields.

Following the summit, B2H work is underway on two fronts. First, advancing health care and health as an economic driver in Appalachia. Second, advancing renewable energy with a focus on biomass and solar. On-going and emerging collaborations are being established between Appalachian community-based organizations, University of Pikeville, Kentucky Brownfield Redevelopment Program, and Commercial Aviation Alternative Fuel Initiative, among others. Federal Departments and agencies continue to advance this effort, including OEJ, EJIWG, General Services Administration, and USDA, among others.



Moving Forward

The EPA has continued to engage with overburdened and underserved communities to expand the environmental justice conversation in meaningful ways. This has occurred by providing direct support, integrating the principles of environmental justice across the Agency and federal government, and by strengthening partnerships and engagements with stakeholders.

While the EPA has made significant progress on propelling the environmental justice movement forward, there is still much to do. We look forward to a continued dialogue with the public to ensure that the EPA's environmental justice work results in meaningful and measurable improvements in communities across the country.

