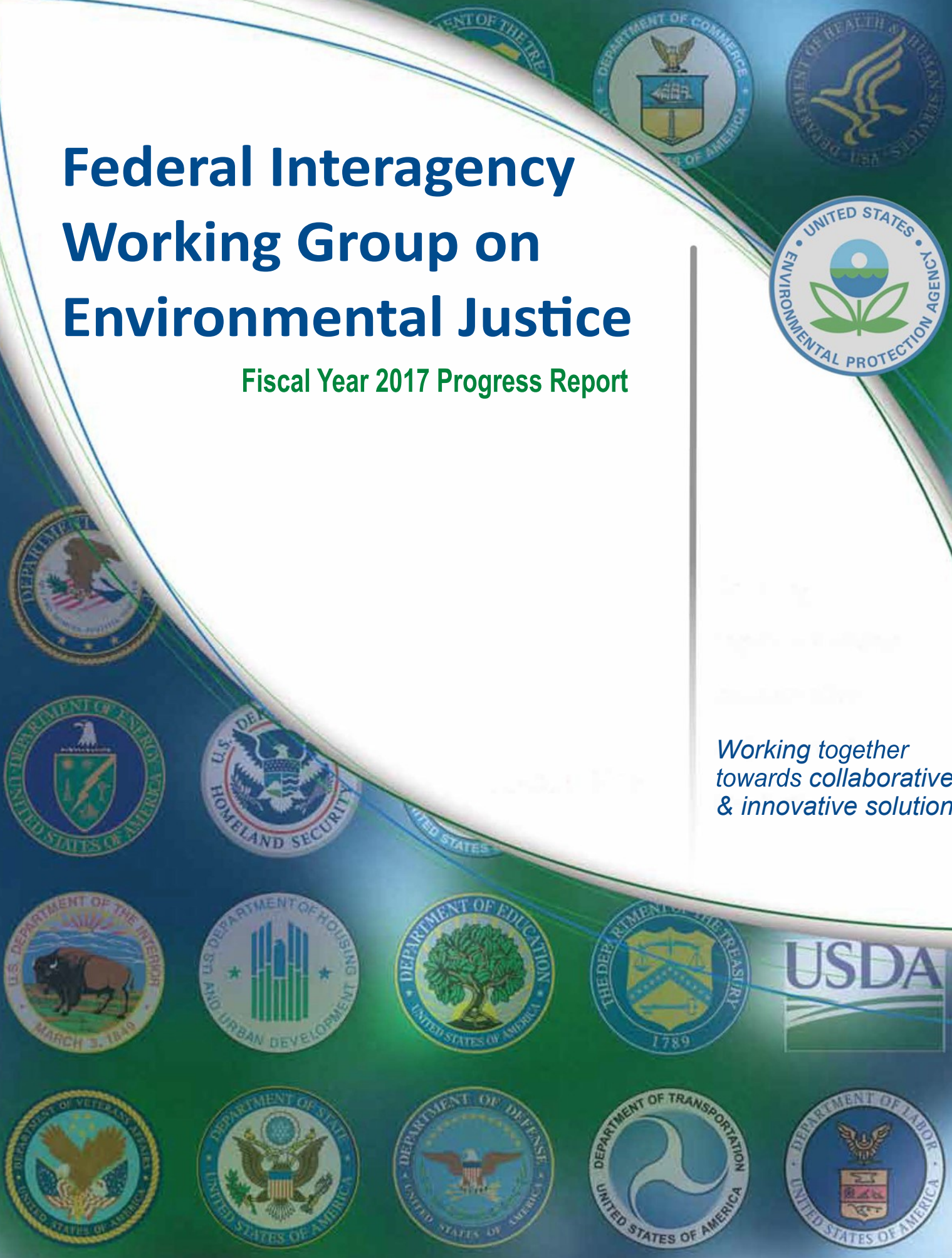


# Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice

Fiscal Year 2017 Progress Report



*Working together  
towards collaborative  
& innovative solutions.*





# FY17 Federal Interagency Working Group Progress Report

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## FY17 Federal Interagency Working Group Progress Report

### EJ IWG Snapshot

The Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (EJ IWG), chaired by the Administrator of EPA, comprises 16 federal agencies and the White House Council on Environmental Quality. The EJ IWG assists federal agencies in “identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of [their] programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations” (E.O. 12898, 1994). As the federal agencies implement E.O. 12898, the EJ IWG’s three guiding principles are to help the federal government remain:

- **Accessible**— easily reached by communities, advocates, and other stakeholders regarding environmental justice concerns;
- **Aware**— knowledgeable of the environmental justice concerns and issues facing communities in order to facilitate collaboration and coordination; and
- **Accountable**— capable of explaining the actions and decisions related to the implementation of E.O. 12898.

These principles recognize that knowledge empowers action and helps foster a common understanding of environmental justice challenges.

The EJ IWG provides leadership, guidance, and support to federal agencies by:

- Coordinating a focused and collaborative effort across the federal government to address the environmental, social, economic, and public health burdens in minority, low-income, indigenous and tribal communities;
- Identifying and supporting policies that have measurable impacts on environmental justice;
- Focusing federal agency resources and technical assistance to address the challenges facing overburdened communities namely, disproportionately high and adverse health or environmental effects; and
- Developing partnerships with organizations outside of the federal government to facilitate support for, and improvement in, overburdened communities.

**The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines Environmental Justice as:**

*The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people-regardless of race, color, national origin, or income -with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.*

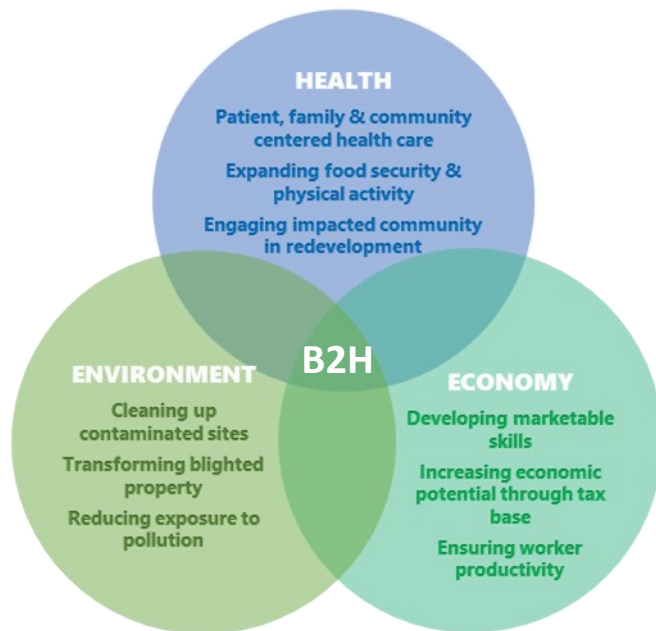
The EJ IWG brings partners together to address complex, place-based environmental justice challenges and has been a champion of effective interagency collaboration. EJ IWG committees focus on issues such as Title VI, Rural Communities, Goods Movement, Native American/Indigenous Peoples, Regional Coordination, and the National Environmental Protection Act among others. Here are two examples that highlight the EJ IWG’s placed-based project efforts:



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### Revitalizing Rural Communities

**Project:** Brownfields to Healthfields (B2H) for Vision Care in Pikeville, Kentucky



**Partners:** EPA, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Treasury, U.S. Economic Development Administration, State of Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection, Appalachia Regional Commission, University of Pikeville, American Optometric Association, and the Eula Hall Federally Qualified Health Center.

**Summary:** The B2H approach helps local organizations access state and federal resources to transform brownfields and blighted property into community spaces that improve public health, economic potential and overall well-being.

With this approach, multi-stakeholder collaborations are working together to improve the environment, public health and economic vitality in Pikeville, Kentucky. Formerly coal country and

largely rural, the community is in need of adaptive solutions to revitalize the health, environment and local economy. Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) in eastern Kentucky did not offer vision care services causing hundreds of thousands of residents in the Appalachia Region to go without vision care annually. In response to this community’s needs, the Rural Communities Committee of the EJ IWG educated stakeholders about the application of the B2H ( <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/brownfields-healthfields-florida-healthfields-successes> ) approach to help identify additional resources to enable expansion of a FQHC to include vision care on a former brownfields site.

As part of the B2H approach in Pikeville, Kentucky, a wide array of stakeholders partnered together and collaborated to bring this project to fruition. Each partner played a significant role as noted in the EJ IWG webinar entitled, Brownfields to Healthfields: Championing the Triple Bottom Line (Health, Environment and Economy) for Community Infrastructure

The Brownfields to Healthfields (B2H) Approach facilitates the engagement of underserved and vulnerable populations to determine new uses for brownfields properties that improve access to healthcare, food security, recreation, physical infrastructure and renewable energy. The B2H approach is not driven by law or regulation – it originated and continues to be driven by grassroots efforts. It is a collaborative and inclusive process that brings together a variety of stakeholders including: federal, state and local governments; business and private sector; academia; nonprofits and community-based organizations. For additional information on how to implement the B2H approach, please visit USDA’s Rural Environmental Justice Resource Collection: <https://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/rural-environmental-justice-resource-collection>



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(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-5G5yaU-D6k>). The EPA and the state of Kentucky funded contaminated site assessment and cleanup of the brownfields site in order to expand the Eula Hall Health Center to include vision care. For the first time, vision care was offered at the clinic in 2017 and preparation for onsite expansion is ongoing. Alongside these B2H efforts to transform a brownfields site into a vision clinic, the University of Pikeville (UPike) also saw the need to help address the lack of vision care. Academic year 2016-2017 saw the launch of the inaugural class of UPike's College of Optometry, with financial support from the U.S. Economic Development Administration, Appalachian Regional Commission, as well as low-interest direct loans from USDA Rural Development. The Kentucky College of Optometry fosters a new generation of eye care professionals to serve Appalachia, and the vision clinic will serve as a place for optometry students to gain experiential learning opportunities. As a result of this synergy, this vision clinic and optometry school are closely linked. The benefits of this collaboration include multiple positive public health and economic outcomes, such as:

- Expected regional economic impact of \$26.8 million over four years.
- Up to 30% of graduates are expected to practice in medically underserved areas of Appalachia.
- An estimated 18,000 patients will be served annually by operating rural clinics.
- Hundreds of eye exams have already been performed by faculty.

"Vision and eye health care are tremendously important to the vitality of a small community. Besides providing vision care for a community, we bring professionals to the community. We bring staff to the community. We bring business to a community." - William T. Reynolds, O.D., member of American Optometry Association Board of Trustees

"With an inaugural class of 65 students for the 2016-2017 academic year, the newest college at UPike is one of 22 optometry schools in the nation, and the only one in several surrounding states. . . . It will primarily serve Eastern Kentucky, southern West Virginia and southwestern Virginia." (The Lane Report, 2017) <https://www.lanereport.com/73544/2017/02/new-kentucky-college-of-optometry-in-pikeville-will-help-fill-healthcare-gap-in-appalachia/>

## Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge

**Project:** Develop the first Environmental & Economic Justice Strategic Plan for Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge (The completed plan is available at [www.FriendsOfValleDeOro.org](http://www.FriendsOfValleDeOro.org).)



Visit to Valle de Oro by members of EJ IWG and Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI)

**Partners:** Los Jardines Institute, Friends of Valle de Oro, Navajo Tribal Nations, EJ IWG, U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)/ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

**Summary:** Valle de Oro (VDO) National Wildlife Refuge, established in the Mountain View neighborhood of Albuquerque, NM, is located in a low-income area where industrial facilities are interspersed among homes, an elementary school, and a community center.



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Valle de Oro (VDO) was established to protect and preserve the land and associated water rights for wildlife and for future generations. The 570-acre refuge, VDO National Wildlife Refuge is located on the former Price's Dairy Farm site, and is the first new urban refuge created under the USFWS Urban Wildlife Conservation Program. VDO serves as the model for the incorporation of the Urban Refuge Standards of Excellence (<https://www.fws.gov/urban/soe.php>) and the future development of new urban refuges across the nation.

VDO refuge has already accomplished much in a short time thanks to the passion and strong support of the neighboring community, partner organizations, and agencies. In April 2017, the 2017-2020 Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge Environmental & Economic Justice Strategic Plan (EEJSP) was released with the help of funding from an EPA EJ Small Grant. This is the first strategic plan targeted specifically for a public lands site created in collaboration between a government agency (DOI/USFWS) and the local community. The VDO EEJSP and DOI's Environmental Justice Strategic Plan are working towards the same goals of ensuring activities have a positive impact on the local community through meaningful inclusion of communities of color, low-income and Native American populations.

The VDO EEJSP Plan Summary was released to the EJ IWG; federal, state, local, and city governments; and community organizations for distribution. At the June 2017 EJ IWG meeting, the Mountain View Community was featured during a "Community Spotlight" presentation. In September 2017, a delegation of the EJ IWG visited the Refuge and Los Jardines Institute to learn more about the programs and activities offered. Through the College/Underserved Community Partnership Program (CUPP), the EJ IWG has partnered with Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute to create a documentary that will tell the story of how VDO NWR was established. In 2018, the Refuge and its partners will develop an implementation report to document the successes and any challenges. This process has the potential to serve as a national model on how to work collaboratively with an invested community working to protect public lands and to build opportunities for the local community.

## EJ IWG Framework for Collaboration

The EJ IWG developed its FY 16-18 Framework for Collaboration ("Framework") to foster effective interagency collaboration that brings stakeholders together to address multifaceted, place-based environmental justice issues. The Framework, published in March 2016, outlines four major goals of the working group for FY 16-18 which will advance greater federal agency collaboration. The Framework also includes information on the formation and governance structure of the EJ IWG.

The Framework builds on decades of environmental justice work and community engagement to strategically enhance the collective efforts of the federal agencies. Successful community engagement meets communities "where they are" by employing approaches that provide cross-agency tools and resources which enable the public to address environmental injustice in their local communities. In addition to providing tools and resources, the Framework includes activities that work to increase opportunities for public input and engagement with the EJ IWG. The following is a summary of accomplishments achieved under the Framework's four key goals:



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## Goal 1: Enhance Communication and Coordination

*Enhance communication and coordination to improve health, quality-of-life, and economic opportunities in overburdened communities.*

### Increasing Outreach

The EJ IWG is committed to being Accessible, Aware and Accountable to its stakeholders through digital and in-person outreach. In the digital space, the EJ IWG developed online tools, resources and live webinars to help the public address environmental justice concerns in their local communities. Members of the EJ IWG also carried out in-person outreach in a variety of ways including presentations at conferences and workshops, meetings with partners, and environmental justice training with stakeholders. A complete list of in-person outreach activities carried out in FY17 can be found in Appendix A.

#### Webinar Feedback

*By hearing about these projects and their challenges and approaches, we gain better insight into the challenges of our own project... Your office's use of the webinar approach is efficient, inexpensive and convenient... Thank you for making these webinars possible.*  
-Attendee of "Whole Community Disaster Planning" Webinar

### Access and Awareness Webinar Series

In FY17, EPA and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) continued the Access and Awareness Webinar Series by producing seven public webinars that covered a range of environmental justice topics. The Access and Awareness Webinars brought together partners from across the United States helping to deepen connections and strengthen relationships through meaningful discussions. The discussions showcased the collaborative work of 20 partner organizations from a wide array of sectors and perspectives. More than 3,000 people registered for Access and Awareness webinars in FY 17, and 1,650 — representing organizations from federal, state, and local governments; non-profits; community groups and private businesses — attended the live broadcasts, as well as a few individuals tuning in from abroad.

Webinar recordings are housed on the EJ IWG webpage (<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/federal-interagency-working-group-environmental-justice-ej-iwg>) so that stakeholders can view them at any time and share with others.



**The EJ IWG helps ensure the federal government is:**

#### Accessible

Easily reached by communities, advocates, and other stakeholders regarding environmental justice concerns

#### Aware

Knowledgeable of the environmental justice concerns and issues facing communities in order to facilitate collaboration and coordination

#### Accountable

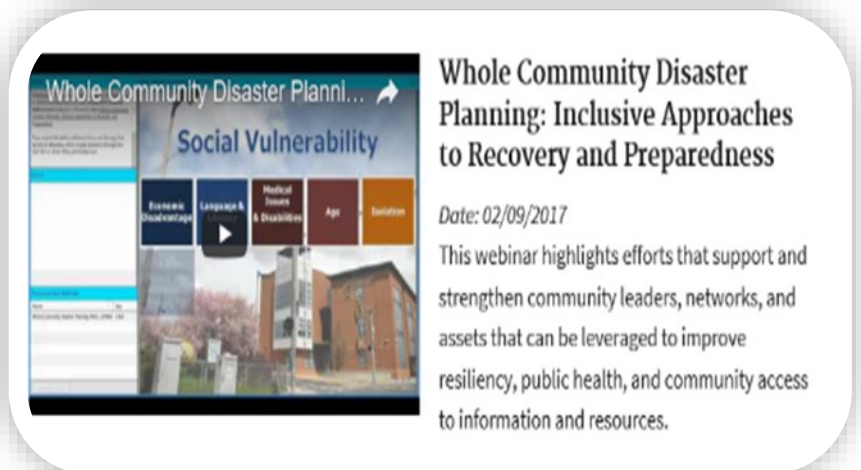
Capable of explaining the actions and decisions related to the implementation of Executive Order 12898



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The webinars highlight effective strategies for place-based interagency collaboration and interagency strategies in partnership with various federal agencies including the Department of Justice, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, Agriculture, Interior and Health and Human Services, Homeland Security and the General Services Administration. Some of the webinars covered the following topics:

- “Brownfields to Healthfields: Championing the Triple Bottom Line (Health, Environment and Economy) for Community Infrastructure,” focused on rural communities and showcased a success story in Central Appalachia that leveraged resources from multiple federal and state partners to establish a vision care center on a former brownfields site.
- “Working Together: Lessons Learned from Collaboration for Community Revitalization” featured representatives from the city of Birmingham, Alabama and the Community Coalition of North Birmingham discussing how interagency efforts supported revitalization with the establishment of the North Birmingham Community Coalition revitalization plan, a brownfields task force, a Brownfields community training, and an EPA Brownfields assessment grant.
- “Discrimination Protections and Promising Practices in Federally Assisted Emergency Management” highlighted interagency activities at the federal level. The webinar discussed guidance provided to states and local governments on civil rights protections in post-disaster emergency management.
- “Whole Community Disaster Planning: Inclusive Approaches to Recovery and Preparedness” demonstrated how the federal government is working collaboratively to strengthen individual and community resilience for disaster preparedness, response and recovery through inclusive approaches to community engagement.



These monthly events created the space for not only the federal government but also state, local and non-governmental partners to exchange knowledge and best practices, share information on federal resources and technical assistance, and have constructive dialogues with local practitioners about strategies to work together and meet the needs of overburdened communities. A complete list of webinars produced in FY 17 can be found in Appendix B.





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### **New Online Resources**

#### **Rural Environmental Justice Online Resources**

The Rural Communities Committee published the Rural Environmental Justice Resource Collection, which comprises articles, e-journals, trade publications and reports, and newspapers from throughout the United States via DigiTop, USDA's Digital Library. Available to environmental justice communities, stakeholders, federal employees, and other members of the public, the site has an Environmental Justice Alert service to notify participants of new information as it becomes available. In addition, USDA hosted a webinar to provide guidance on how to access and use the online resources. The EJ Resource Collection can be found here: <https://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/rural-environmental-justice-resource-collection>.

#### **Goods Movement Federal Resources Compendium**

The Goods Movement Committee published a Goods Movement Federal Resource Compendium, which was developed to provide clarity on the many federal agencies that play a role in the movement of goods and services throughout the country and what resources and support the various agencies offer to the public. This comprehensive document organizes publicly available information and tools relevant to communities that are impacted by goods movement, including agency strategies, guidance documents, reports, funding mechanisms, data and assessment tools. The compendium is available on the EJ IWG webpage's Federal Resources tab and can also be found here: [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-09/documents/iwg\\_goods\\_movement\\_federal\\_resources\\_compendium.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-09/documents/iwg_goods_movement_federal_resources_compendium.pdf).

The online resources outlined above and the Access and Awareness Webinar Series recordings can be found on the EJ IWG's webpage: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/federal-interagency-working-group-environmental-justice-ej-iwg>.



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### Goal 2: Enhance Multi-Agency Support

*Enhance multi-agency support of holistic community-based solutions to provide assistance as needed to address environmental justice issues.*

In FY17, the EJ IWG promoted awareness and increased collaboration to leverage resources for capacity building and economic investments in minority, low-income, indigenous and tribal communities.

#### Building Capacity in Communities Impacted by Goods Movement

##### Near Port Community Capacity Building Tools

Under EPA's Near-Port Community Capacity Building Pilot Projects, five federal partners (EPA, HUD, Department of Homeland Security, General Services Administration, Department of Transportation) are working collaboratively to connect near-port communities with appropriate federal, state and local programs, tools and staff to help facilitate dialogue related to impacts from commercial freight transportation. EPA's Office of Transportation and Air Quality is currently conducting the Capacity Building Pilot Projects in New Orleans, Louisiana; Savannah, Georgia; and Seattle, Washington. The EJ IWG Goods Movement Committee has identified federal regional points of contact and potentially relevant federal projects occurring in these pilot locations and will continue to provide assistance, as appropriate. More information on the Pilot Projects can be found here: <https://www.epa.gov/ports-initiative/pilot-projects-port-and-near-port-community-collaboration>.

#### Building Capacity by Strengthening Regional Interagency Community Collaboration

##### Lessons Learned From Regional Interagency Collaboration

Recognizing that knowledge empowers action, the EJ IWG's Regional Engagement Committee has made it a priority to gather information in order to develop best practices for place-based interagency collaboration. The committee is looking for innovative ways to share best practices through tools and resources for those engaged in multi-stakeholder collaborations across the country. This effort included a compilation of lessons learned from collaboration efforts from around the country, showcasing different approaches for sustaining long-term, place-based interagency collaboration to address environmental justice needs in communities. Strategies include how communities can drive collaborative problem-solving (bottom-up approach), as well as how federal staff working in communities can initiate place-based collaborations (top-down approach). All of these efforts reinforce the EJ IWG's collaborative framework which is based on the premise that working together with federal, state and local partners in a more concerted and coordinated way will result in tangible benefits for overburdened communities.

##### Webinars Highlighting Place-Based Interagency Collaboration

- "Working Together: Lessons Learned from Collaboration for Community Revitalization" featured a collaborative project to revitalize Birmingham, Alabama
- "Community Collaboration to Address Community-Based Environmental Justice Problems in Portland, Oregon" featured a set of collaborative projects to address the needs of residents in Portland, Oregon

Webinar recordings can be found here:

<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/federal-interagency-working-group-environmental-justice-ej-iwg>



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### Goal 3: Advance Interagency Strategies

*Advance interagency strategies to identify and address environmental justice concerns in agency programs, policies and activities.*

In FY17, the EJ IWG identified opportunities to highlight interagency community solutions to help advance implementation of federal environmental justice policies and guidance. Highlights include:

#### Strategy and Policy Integration

##### Facilitating Collaboration on Concerns of Native American/Indigenous Peoples

In the beginning of FY17, the U.S. Department of Interior, the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of the Army undertook a series of government-to-government consultations in an effort to improve federal decision-making on infrastructure development and related projects. One result of this consultation process was a report entitled “*Improving Tribal Consultation and Tribal Involvement in Federal Infrastructure Decisions.*” In response to recommendations from this consultation process and subsequent report, the Native American/Indigenous Peoples (NA/IP) Committee of the EJ IWG has reviewed existing guidance and is working to identify best practices for meaningful engagement of federally recognized tribes and indigenous peoples in infrastructure development decisions.

The NA/IP Committee also held interagency meetings on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) to discuss the status of federal efforts to support the UNDRIP. The United States stated support for the UNDRIP in 2010. While not legally binding or a statement of current international law—the UNDRIP does express the aspirations of indigenous peoples around the world and the aspirations of those countries, such as the United States, seeking to improve their relations with indigenous peoples.

##### Enhancing Consideration of Environmental Justice in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

#### INCORPORATING EJ INTO THE NEPA PROCESS An Integrative Approach



The NEPA Committee prepared a training tool (National Training Product) entitled “*Incorporating EJ into the NEPA Process, An Integrative Approach*”. The training covers best practices for integrating environmental justice into the NEPA process and is designed to be adaptive to meet the training needs of individual agencies. The National Training Product complements the *Promising Practices for EJ Methodologies in NEPA Reviews* ([https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-08/documents/nepa\\_promising\\_practices\\_document\\_2016.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-08/documents/nepa_promising_practices_document_2016.pdf)).



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The NEPA Committee has conducted several departmental briefings, trainings, webinars, and workshops at various federal agencies and conferences in Washington, DC and Phoenix, AZ, including: U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Community of Practice Innovation Exchange and the National Environmental Justice Conference. As a result, the NEPA Committee has been able to promote the use of the *Promising Practices Report* and the consistent consideration of EJ in the NEPA review process to several hundred NEPA practitioners (federal and contractor) and the public. The NEPA Committee is supporting the development of useful performance measures for the processes recommended in the *Promising Practices Report*. The NEPA Committee prepared a draft outline and is setting up a system for collecting and evaluating data to improve the resources, tools and documents provided by the EJ IWG.

The committee has also supported efforts to finalize and distribute a *Community Guide to the Promising Practices for Environmental Justice in Assessing Environmental Impacts*. This guide is intended to assist communities in informing agencies of their concerns regarding proposed activities and decisions by federal government agencies that may result in impacts to minority and low-income populations as well as to tribal and indigenous communities.



Denise Freeman (left) co-chair NEPA Committee, DOE, (center) Suzi Ruhl, Immediate past co-chair, NEPA Committee, and Juliet Bochicchio, NEPA Committee member, conducted a DOE Pilot EJ & NEPA Training & Workshop: A Focus on the *Promising Practices for EJ Methodologies in NEPA Reviews* at the Western Area Power Administration in Phoenix, Arizona for DOE federal, DOE contractor, and BLM federal staff.



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### Goal 4: Develop Partnerships with Academic Institutions

*Develop partnerships with academic institutions to assist in providing long-term technical assistance to overburdened communities*

#### Expand the College/Underserved Community Partnership Program (CUPP)

The CUPP program was initiated in 2011 to connect underserved communities with the vast college resources available in their areas and to leverage federal resources in assisting those communities. CUPP helps establish partnerships with colleges and universities to develop projects that address environmental justice, environmental quality, economic opportunities, and public health in local underserved and overburdened communities. In FY17 the program grew to 61 schools.

One example of FY17 CUPP efforts involved, the National Park Service, the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Georgia Institute of Technology and the city of Selma, Alabama. Together these stakeholders partnered with CUPP to provide opportunities for students to contribute to historic preservation efforts. The students conducted a feasibility study of the Alabama River which provided a comprehensive analysis of erosion, its contribution factors, current and future impacts, and recommendations to address erosion.

The study looked at options to address erosion of the Alabama River along the shore line of the city of Selma, Alabama, and the potential impact along the Historic Edmund Pettus Bridge. The study was valued at approximately \$120,000 and contributed to Selma's 20% cost-share responsibility to the Alabama River preservation project that is being implemented in partnership with USACE. Preserving the shoreline and ensuring the safety of the bridge maintains the historical significance of the bridge and contributes to the economic impact on over 18,000 local citizens, and over 20,000 annual tourists to the city.



Students from Georgia Tech looking at the geology of the Alabama River

#### Expand Educate, Motivate, and Innovate (EMI) Initiative

In 2015, the White House launched the EJ IWG's Educate, Motivate, and Innovate Climate Justice Initiative. The initiative focuses on the next generation of climate justice leaders and expands collaboration with minority-serving institutions. The EMI Initiative is open to undergraduate and graduate students attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions, among others.



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The EMI initiative is guided by the following principles:

- **Educate:** Provide a two-way learning experience, access to information, platform to expand and share knowledge and ideas, and bridge the communication and capacity building gap.
- **Motivate:** Ignite interest, nurture growth and commitment to addressing the complex issues around climate change and environmental justice in vulnerable communities.
- **Innovate:** Embrace the opportunity for creative thought and action.

In 2017, EMI held workshops during the National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program, the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Student Conference and the American Indian Higher Education Student Conference. Student presentations included:

Event	Presentation Topics
March 10, 2017  <i>EMI Workshop &amp; EJSCREEN Training</i>  National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program (NEJC) in Washington, DC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>“Climate Change: Effect on the Location of Food Market, Community Gardens and Food Deserts in Virginia”</b> by Latia Jackson, Virginia State University</li> <li>• <b>“Community Food Security in Underused Spaces in Urban Public Housing in Puerto Rico”</b> by Carol Ramos Gerena, University of Puerto Rico</li> <li>• <b>“Photovoice Project: Climate Change Effects on Future Water Supply and Colonias Without Water”</b> by Rebeka Isaac, University of Texas at El Paso</li> </ul>
March 17, 2017  <i>EMI Workshop &amp; EJSCREEN Training</i>  Historically Black Colleges and Universities Student’s Conference (HBCU) in New Orleans, LA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>“Challenges and Opportunities for Climate Change in Times of Different Perspectives”</b> by Kassandra Rice, Humboldt State University</li> <li>• <b>“Potential Climate Change Impacts on Hilo Bay, Hawaii: Studies on Anthropogenic Impact on Water Quality in Hilo Bay”</b> by Latia Jackson, Virginia State University</li> </ul>

More information can be found here: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/federal-interagency-working-group-environmental-justice-ej-iwg>.

Additional information is also available in this video highlighting EMI: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=liHpESIFOqE>.



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### Conclusion — Looking Forward

During FY18, the EJ IWG will continue its commitment to help overburdened communities that are addressing critical environmental challenges by providing:

- Access to environmental decision makers in the federal government,
- More awareness of available training and resources, and
- More accountability about the implementation of E.O. 12898.

Moving forward, the EJ IWG will strengthen and increase its efforts in the following areas:

- Communication and coordination through webinars, social media platforms and targeted community outreach;
- Multi-agency support to build capacity and leverage resources in rural and near port communities;
- Interagency strategies to develop community-based solutions to advance environmental justice; and
- Building partnerships and sharing best practices/lessons learned to assist in providing long-term technical assistance to overburdened communities.

The examples in this report illustrate some of the ways in which the EJ IWG will continue to support communities. Through the four Framework goals, the EJ IWG will continue to collaborate to demonstrate tangible results in minority, low-income, tribal and indigenous communities.

### Stay Connected

Find more resources and information on the EJ IWG Website: [https://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program\\_offices/economic\\_resilience/Environmental Justice Strategy](https://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/economic_resilience/Environmental_Justice_Strategy).

To receive updates on 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](https://lists.epa.gov/read/all_forums/subscribe?name=epa-ej).



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### Appendix A: FY 17 EJ IWG In-Person Outreach

Event	Topics	Location
<b>Presentations</b>		
October 11, 2016 Environmental Justice Panel at NEPA Compliance Officer Meeting, Department of Energy	This panel was part of the October 2016 NEPA Compliance Officer's Meeting that was conducted for DOE NEPA Headquarters and field staff. This panel provided an overview of DOE's EJ program, a deeper dive into the <i>Promising Practices Report</i> , and DOE's implementation of the <i>Promising Practices Report</i> , which included legal, policy and guidance perspectives.	Washington, DC
March 19-21, 2017 American Indian Higher Education Consortium Students Conference (USDA)	Program Manager for the Educate, Motivate, Innovate Initiative presented and staffed a table at the conference to raise awareness and increase participation of Native American students in the EMI Initiative which provides opportunities for students to share their environmental research, share knowledge and network with experts in the field of environmental justice.	Rapid City, South Dakota
August 7-8, 2017 Florida Brownfields Association Environmental Justice Workshop (EPA)	An EPA representative spoke about EJ IWG tools and resources available to the public. The workshop brought together stakeholders including federal, state and local government, non-profit, community leaders and academia from all over Florida to discuss resources, innovative programs, strategies and opportunities for new connections in support of communities dealing with environmental justice concerns throughout the state.	Cocoa, Florida
<b>Meetings</b>		
October 12, 2016, and November 19, 2016 EJ IWG Native American / Indigenous Peoples Committee, UN DRIP Subcommittee Meetings (at least 10 federal agencies represented)	Training on Federal Efforts to Support the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was conducted for federal agencies.	Washington, DC





## FY17 Federal Interagency Working Group Progress Report

Event	Topics	Location
<p>August 7-10, 2017 Community Leaders Meeting, Upper Fruitland Chapter House of the Northern Navajo (USDA, DOI Fish and Wildlife Service, DOE, EPA, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC))</p>	<p>A Community Leaders Meeting brought together leaders from the USDA, EPA, DOE, USFWS, USDOJ, and the CDC. After the Chapter meeting, the agencies met with presidents of four tribal colleges: San Juan College, Navajo Technical University, and Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute in New Mexico; and Diné College in Arizona. Each meeting consisted of a discussion regarding opportunities to participate in the CUPP program, and how the colleges might support the Chapters. The last day of the meeting included a visit to the Valle De Oro National Wildlife Refuge, a community-driven conservation project in the surrounding communities of Albuquerque, New Mexico.</p>	<p>Shiprock, New Mexico</p>
<p>October 12-13, 2016 and April 25 – 27, 2017 Public Comment Sessions at EPA’s National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) Meeting</p>	<p>EJ IWG members attended the NEJAC meetings and public comment sessions to hear stakeholder feedback. The NEJAC, a federal advisory committee to EPA, provides advice and recommendations about broad, cross-cutting issues related to environmental justice, from all stakeholders involved in the environmental justice dialogue. In addition, the NEJAC provides a valuable forum for discussions about integrating environmental justice with other EPA priorities and initiatives. It also provides independent advice and recommendations to the EPA Administrator. The Council’s efforts include the evaluation of a broad range of strategic, scientific, technological, regulatory, community engagement, and economic issues related to environmental justice.</p>	<p>Arlington, Virginia and Minneapolis, Minnesota</p>
<h3>Trainings</h3>		
<p>November 1, 2016 Environmental Justice and NEPA Training at Department of Energy</p>	<p>This training was conducted for DOE NEPA HQ staff, field and contractors to promote the use of the Promises Practices Report in their respective roles as either preparer or reviewer of DOE NEPA documents. Topics covered included: Basics of the Promising Practices Report, Implementation, and Special Topics, Department of Justice Views: Emerging Issues-NEPA &amp; Environmental Justice, and DOE Case Studies, NEPA/EJ Resources for Implementation</p>	<p>Washington, DC</p>



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December 19, 2016 EJ IWG Native American / Indigenous Peoples Committee, UN DRIP Subcommittee Training (12 federal agencies represented)	Training on Federal Efforts to Support the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was conducted for federal agencies.	Washington, DC
January 10, 2017 DOE Pilot Environmental Justice & NEPA Training and Workshop: A Focus on Promising Practices for EJ Methodologies in NEPA Reviews, Western Area Power Administration	The session shared learning experience with DOE/Western Area Power Administration NEPA staff, contractors, and Bureau of Land Management to help increase the integration of EJ in the NEPA process by sharing a new tool, the <i>Promising Practices Report</i> , and included breakout sessions with a case study exercise.	Phoenix, AZ
February 1, 2017 Environmental Justice Training-Addressing Disproportionate Impacts to Communities, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service	USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) students used a cooperative learning model to share knowledge of the <i>Promising Practices Report</i> subject areas, explore how they are exemplified in the National Training Product examples, and discuss current APHIS environmental justice projects.	Riverdale, MD
March 8-10, 2017 2017 National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program (DOJ, USDA, DOT, EPA, DOE)	Three of the EJ IWG’s committees presented at NEJC sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training on “Understanding Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964” – This session, facilitated by staff from the EJ IWG Title VI Committee, including the Federal Coordination &amp; Compliance Section of the Civil Rights Division at DOJ, provided participants with (1) an overview of Title VI; (2) its application to EJ scenarios; and (3) information on how to file a complaint with a Federal agency and how such complaints are processed. In addition to the training, the session included a panel discussion with staff from USDA, Department of Transportation, and EPA regarding their Title VI compliance activities.</li> <li>• Training on “NEPA &amp; EJ: Leveraging Federal Resources to Advance Community Environmental, Economic and Health Vitality. A Focus on Promising Practices for EJ Methodologies in NEPA Reviews” – Presenters included members of the EJ IWG’s NEPA Committee from EPA, DOE, and DOJ</li> </ul>	Washington, DC



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	<p>The focus of the training/workshop was to increase awareness of, “Promising Practices for EJ Methodologies in NEPA Reviews.” The workshop was designed to foster collaboration among the federal family and the public. The intended audience was NEPA practitioners (federal and contractor), along with the general public, and others parties who may be interested in how environmental justice fits into NEPA compliance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A panel discussion on “Environmental Justice, the Federal Family, and Indigenous Communities - Federal Perspectives” Moderated by DOJ, panelists from USDA/Forest Service and EPA covered topics such as: Visualizing Tribal EJ – The FS Tribal Connections Lands Viewer; Providing EJ for Tribes and Indigenous Peoples – EPA’s Approach and any needs for additional tools or techniques to respond to EJ concerns in Indian Country.</li> </ul>	
<p>July 11, 2017 OMB Community of Practice Innovation Exchange (DOJ, DOE, EPA)</p>	<p>“Promising Practices for EJ Methodologies in NEPA Reviews” session highlighted collaborative efforts to promote the consistent, effective and efficient consideration of EJ in the NEPA review process. The Innovation Exchange is a forum that provides federal staff with the opportunity to engage across geographies, agencies, and missions to share success stories and refine new approaches to help communities achieve robust outcomes.</p>	<p>Washington DC</p>
<p>July 12, 2017 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (DOJ, DOE, EPA and BLM)</p>	<p>Environmental Justice and FERC Projects: Using EJ IWG’s Promising Practices &amp; Other EJ Tools in NEPA Documents – the speakers provided an overview of the <i>Promising Practices Report</i> for FERC project and program managers. The following hot topics were covered: meaningful engagement with affected communities; identifying low-income and/or minority communities; affected environment; and impacts per E.O. 12898. In addition, the following EJ tools were discussed: EPA’s EJSCREEN and BLM’s Economic Profile System.</p>	<p>Washington, DC</p>



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### Appendix B: FY 17 Access and Awareness Webinars

<u>Date</u>	<u>Webinar Title</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Partners</u>	<u>Attendees</u>
10/13/16	<b>From Home to School and Back Again: Creating Safe and Healthy Environments for Children</b>	Highlighting initiatives from across the federal government that work to provide technical assistance and resources to improve children's environmental health in vulnerable communities.	EPA, HHS, DOT	175
11/10/2016	<b>Working Together: Lessons Learned from Collaboration for Community Revitalization</b>	Discussion of interagency collaboration with stakeholders from community-based organizations, federal, state and local government to carry out brownfields assessment and cleanup in North Birmingham, AL.	EPA, City of Birmingham, AL and Community Coalition of North Birmingham	175
12/8/2016	<b>Brownfields to Healthfields: Championing the Triple Bottom Line (Health, Environment and Economy) for Community Infrastructure</b>	Sharing an inventive strategy that advances health, economic and environmental revitalization in overburdened and underserved communities, with a special focus on rural communities.	EPA, USDA, HHS, GSA, University of Pikeville; Pikeville, KY	175
1/12/2017	<b>Discrimination Protections and Promising Practices in Federally Assisted Emergency Management</b>	Discussion of federal agency resources to prevent discrimination in federally assisted emergency management activities.	DOJ, DOT, DHS, and the Fair Share Housing Center	200
2/9/2017	<b>Whole Community Disaster Planning: Inclusive Approaches to Recovery and Preparedness</b>	Discussion on how the federal government is working to heighten individual and community resilience through inclusive public engagement to improve disaster planning, response and recovery.	HUD, FEMA, City of Boston, King County, Washington	475
3/22/2017	<b>Women's History Month: Women's Role in the Fight for Environmental Justice</b>	Focus on the leadership role women have played in the EJ movement along with strategies for how EJ practitioners can better target low-income women in their work.	EPA, Agnes Scott College, Green 2.0, Grid Alternatives	242
4/13/2017	<b>Partnerships in Progress: Supporting Underserved Communities in Portland, Oregon</b>	Representatives from the Portland Community Steering Committee discuss initiatives to leverage resources for green infrastructure, equitable development, youth employment and capacity building with the local community.	EPA, DOI, Willamette Partnership, Neighbors for Clean Air, The Blueprint Foundation	208



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