

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY CHARTER

WHITE HOUSE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL (WHEJAC)

1. **Committee's Official Designation (Title):**

White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC)

2. **Authority:**

The WHEJAC was established, by Executive Order (EO) 14008, titled *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad* (issued on January 27, 2021) and continued under the authority of EO 14048, *Continuance or Reestablishment of Certain Federal Advisory Committees and Amendments to Other Executive Orders* (issued on September 30, 2021). As such, this is a non-discretionary committee and operates under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. § 1001 et seq.

3. **Objectives and Scope of Activities:**

The WHEJAC will provide independent advice and recommendations to the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and to the White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council (IAC) on how to increase the Federal Government's efforts to address current and historic environmental injustice. The WHEJAC will provide advice and recommendations about broad cross-cutting issues related, but not limited, to issues of environmental justice and pollution reduction, energy, climate change mitigation and resiliency, environmental health, and racial inequity. The WHEJAC's efforts will include a broad range of strategic, scientific, technological, regulatory, community engagement, and economic issues related to environmental justice.

4. **Description of Duties:**

The duties of the WHEJAC are to provide advice and recommendations to the IAC and the Chair of CEQ on a whole-of-government approach to environmental justice, including, but not limited, to environmental justice in the following areas:

- a. Climate change mitigation, resilience, and disaster management
- b. Toxics, pesticides, and pollution reduction in overburdened communities
- c. Equitable conservation and public lands use
- d. Tribal and Indigenous issues
- e. Clean energy transition
- f. Sustainable infrastructure, including clean water, transportation, and the built environment
- g. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), enforcement, and civil rights
- h. Management and use of water resources
- i. Environmental and public health
- j. Cumulative impacts
- k. Increasing the Federal Government's efforts to address current and historic environmental injustice

5. Agency or Official to Whom the Committee Reports:

The WHEJAC will submit advice and recommendations and report to the Chair of CEQ and the IAC.

6. Support:

EPA will be responsible for financial and administrative support. Within EPA, this support will be provided by the Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights.

7. Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Work Years:

The estimated annual operating cost of the WHEJAC is \$709,703.95 which includes 2.65 full-time equivalent support.

8. Designated Federal Officer:

A full-time or permanent part-time employee of EPA will be appointed as the Designated Federal Officer (DFO). The DFO or an alternate DFO will be present at all meetings of the WHEJAC, its subcommittees, and workgroups. Each meeting will be conducted in accordance with an agenda approved in advance by the DFO. The DFO is authorized to adjourn any meeting when he or she determines it is in the public interest to do so and will chair meetings when directed to do so by the Administrator of EPA.

9. Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings:

The WHEJAC expects to meet four times per year. The WHEJAC's subgroups (i.e., subcommittees and/or working groups as needed and directed) will meet on an as-needed basis. WHEJAC meetings may occur approximately once per quarter or more frequently as needed and approved by the DFO.

As required by FACA, the WHEJAC will hold open meetings unless the Administrator of EPA determines that a meeting or a portion of a meeting may be closed to the public in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c). Interested persons may attend meetings, appear before the committee, or file comments with the WHEJAC.

10. Duration:

The duration of the WHEJAC is continuing, subject to the Termination section below.

11. Termination:

Unless extended by the President, the WHEJAC will terminate on September 30, 2023.

12. Membership and Designation:

The WHEJAC will be composed of approximately 40 members appointed by the President. The President will appoint two Co-Chairpersons and two Vice-Chairpersons. Members shall be drawn from across the political spectrum and will be persons who have demonstrated high levels of competence, knowledge, and expertise in environmental justice, climate change, disaster preparedness, and racial inequity. Members will serve as Representatives for a 2-year term. Members are selected to represent points of view from among, but not limited to, communities with environmental justice concerns, environmental justice non-governmental organizations, environmental justice community-based organizations (including faith-based, youth-led and youth-focused, and workforce development organizations), environmental justice research and academic communities, the public health community, Tribal governments and Indigenous communities and organizations, state and local governments, and business and industry.

In accordance with Executive Order 14035 (June 25, 2021), EPA values and welcomes opportunities to increase diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility on its federal advisory committees. EPA's federal advisory committees have a workforce that reflects the diversity of the American people.

13. Subcommittees:

The Chair of CEQ, with the Administrator's/DFO's approval, may form subcommittees or workgroups for any purpose consistent with this charter. Such subcommittees or workgroups may not work independently of the chartered committee and must report their recommendations and advice to the chartered WHEJAC for full deliberation and discussion. Subcommittees or workgroups have no authority to make decisions on behalf of the chartered committee, nor can they report directly to a Federal officer or agency.

14. Recordkeeping:

The records of the committee, formally and informally established subcommittees, or other subgroups of the committee, will be handled in accordance with NARA General Records Schedule 6.2 and EPA Records Schedule 1024 or other approved agency records disposition schedule. Subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, these records will be available for public inspection and copying, in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

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Agency Approval Date

February 14, 2023

GSA Consultation Completion Date

March 9, 2023

Filing Date