

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC)
Virtual Public Meeting**

FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2023		11:00 AM – 2:00 PM ET
11:00 – 11:10 AM	Welcome and Meeting Goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird, LGAC Chair</i> • <i>Tim Delmonico, EPA Associate Administrator of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations</i> 	
11:10 AM – 12:00 PM	LGAC Member Introductions , facilitated by <i>Mayor Lucy Vinis, LGAC Vice-Chair</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each member will have 1-2 minutes to introduce themselves 	
12:00 – 12:30 PM	Environmental Justice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report Out on Recommendations, <i>Marianne Engelman-Lado, EPA Deputy General Counsel</i> • Discussion on Future Work, facilitated by <i>Mayor Deana Holiday Ingraham and Marianne Engelman-Lado</i> Goals: Provide feedback on future charge, solicit workgroup members	
12:30 – 12:40 PM	BREAK	
12:40 – 1:10 PM	PFAS Risk Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of Draft Charge, <i>Grant Cope, EPA Senior Counselor</i> • Discussion on Charge, facilitated by <i>Secretary Jeff Witte</i> Goals: Provide feedback on draft charge, solicit workgroup members	
1:10 – 1:40 PM	Climate Mitigation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program Updates, <i>Jennifer Macedonia, Associate Deputy Assistant Administrator</i> • Discussion on Charge, facilitated by <i>Mayor Satya-Rhodes Conway and Matthew Dalbey, EPA Senior Advisor</i> Goals: Provide feedback on draft charge, solicit workgroup members	
1:40 – 1:50 PM	Small Community Advisory Subcommittee (SCAS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of SCAS plans, <i>Commissioner Christine Lowery and Supervisor Ann Mallek, SCAS Co-Chairs</i> 	
1:50 – 1:55 PM	Public Comment Period , facilitated by <i>Mayor Lucy Vinis, LGAC Vice-Chair</i>	
1:55 – 2:00 PM	Wrap-Up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Steps, <i>Paige Lieberman, Designated Federal Officer</i> • Closing Remarks, <i>Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird, LGAC Chair</i> 	
2:00 PM	Meeting Closed	

Local Government Advisory Committee Members



Chair: The Honorable Leirion Gaylor Baird, Mayor, Lincoln, NE

Vice-Chair: The Honorable Lucy Vinis, Mayor, Eugene, OR

The Honorable Ras Baraka, Mayor, Newark, NJ

The Honorable Luke Bronin, Mayor, Hartford, CT

The Honorable Sharon Broome, Mayor, Baton Rouge, LA

Mr. Gary Brown, Director of Water and Sewerage Department, Detroit, MI

The Honorable José Carlos Aponte Dalmau, Mayor, Carolina, PR

The Honorable Kimberly du Buclet, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, Commissioner, Cook County, IL

Ms. Miki Esposito, Associate Director of Public Works, Los Angeles County

The Honorable Sarah Fox, Councilmember, Vancouver, WA

The Honorable Jacob Frey, Mayor, Minneapolis, MN

The Honorable Katherine Gilmore-Richardson, Councilmember, Philadelphia, PA

The Honorable Nick Gradisar, Mayor, Pueblo, CO

The Honorable Jonathan Grieder, Councilmember, City of Waterloo, IA

The Honorable Evan Hansen, House Delegate, State of West Virginia

The Honorable Brenda Howerton, County Commissioner, Durham County, NC

The Honorable Deana Holiday Ingraham, Mayor, East Point, GA

The Honorable Ella Jones, Mayor, Ferguson, MO

The Honorable Heather Kimball, Councilmember, Hawai'i County

The Honorable Christine Lowery, Commissioner, Cibola County, NM

The Honorable Ann Mallek, Supervisor, Albemarle County, VA

The Honorable Rachel May, State Senator, Syracuse, NY

The Honorable Christian Menefee, County Attorney, Harris County, TX

The Honorable Douglas Nicholls, Mayor, Yuma, AZ

The Honorable Ron Nirenberg, Mayor, San Antonio, TX

The Honorable Neil O'Leary, Mayor, Waterbury, CT

The Honorable David Painter, County Commissioner, Clermont County, OH

The Honorable Mary Lou Pauly, Mayor, Issaquah, WA

Mr. Whitford Remer, Sustainability and Resilience Officer, Tampa, FL

The Honorable Satya Rhodes-Conway, Mayor, Madison, WI

Mr. Michael Scuse, Secretary of Agriculture, Delaware Department of Agriculture, Dover, DE

Mr. Jeff Witte, Secretary, New Mexico Department of Agriculture, NM

Ms. Lisa Wong, Town Manager, Winchester, MA

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Member Biographies

March 2023



Leirion Gaylor Baird, Chair

Mayor, Lincoln, NE

Leirion Gaylor Baird was elected Mayor of Lincoln, Nebraska in 2019, after serving two terms on the City Council. The mayor's vision of leading Lincoln toward a more successful, secure, and shared future drives her administration's agenda. Upon taking office, she launched the Resilient Lincoln initiative and commissioned the development of a Climate Action Plan – a first of its kind in the state of Nebraska. She currently serves on the Advisory Board of the U.S.

Conference of Mayors and as Chair of their Mayors and Metro Universities Task Force. Mayor Gaylor Baird has been Chair of the LGAC since 2021.



Lucy Vinis, Vice Chair

Mayor, Eugene, OR

Lucy Vinis has served as Mayor of Eugene, Oregon for 5 years. She has worked across the government and non-profit sectors to address equity, land use, natural resources, agriculture, housing, and homelessness. She previously worked as a consultant in Washington, DC, and co-authored studies on sustainable farming, land use, and development impacts on ground and surface water in the

Chesapeake Bay. Vinis is a member of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and a Climate Mayor, bringing Eugene's leadership and experience into the national discussion about the role of cities in responding to climate change. Vinis is the Vice Chair of the LGAC.



Ras Baraka

Mayor, Newark, NJ

Ras J. Baraka is currently serving his third term as Mayor of Newark, New Jersey. A Newark native, he has received accolades from grassroots organizations to the White House, for his ability to reduce crime to its lowest levels in five decades, address affordability while maintaining growth, lower unemployment, and nearly complete the replacement of all 23,000-plus lead service lines in the city. As the

President and Chair of the New Jersey Urban Mayors Association, and through his involvement in the New Jersey DEP Environmental Justice Advisory Council, he is addressing climate change and environmental justice inequities.

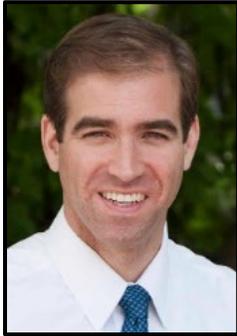


Sharon Broome

Mayor-President, Baton Rouge, LA

Sharon Broome was sworn in as the Mayor-President of Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 2017, but has a long history of public service and leadership. She is the first female to hold her position and was also the first female to hold the leadership positions of Speaker Pro Tempore in the Louisiana State House and President Pro Tempore

in the State Senate. Broome is focused on uniting her city around the common goals of equality in education, economic development, justice, housing, and other quality ways of life.



Luke Bronin
Mayor, Hartford, CT

Mayor Bronin has worked to establish Hartford, Connecticut as a leader in environmental stewardship, while also maintaining fiscal responsibility. He is an advocate for cleaning up PFAS and other hazardous chemicals, as well as carbon-friendly mass transit. Prior to his role as Mayor, he served as general counsel for the Connecticut Governor's office, and two senior posts at the U.S. Department of Treasury. While serving in the U.S. Navy in Afghanistan he was a member of the anti-corruption task force.



Gary Brown
Water and Sewerage Department Director, Detroit, MI

Gary Brown is Director of the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD), which is the largest water and sewerage system in the United States. Service has been a constant in Brown's life, starting with the U.S. Marines, and including 26 years in the Detroit Police Department as a patrol officer, precinct commander and deputy chief. Since taking the helm of DWSD in 2016, Brown has transformed its operation by focusing on compassionate customer care and addressing the evolving needs of the community.



José Aponte Dalmau
Mayor, Carolina, Puerto Rico

José Aponte Dalmau has served as Mayor of Carolina, Puerto Rico, since 2007. He successfully navigated his community through the recovery of Hurricane Maria in 2017 and has developed innovative solid waste management solutions for his community. Prior to serving as Mayor, he had a successful career as an engineer. He has served on the LGAC and SCAS since 2015.



Kimberly du Buclet
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago Commissioner, Cook County, IL

Commissioner Kimberly Du Buclet was inspired to run for her current position on the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District after repeated flooding in her childhood home on Chicago's south side was met with inaction from the local government. Prior to this position she was a state-elected legislator and Chicago Park District Director of Legislative and Community Affairs. She has experience working on green infrastructure, water supply, water quality, and flood damage protection, as well as turning vacant space into green spaces.



Miki Esposito

Los Angeles County Public Works Department Assistant Director, Los Angeles County, CA

Miki Esposito is the Assistant Director of the Los Angeles County Public Works Department, which serves nearly 10 million people. Esposito began her career as an attorney for the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, specializing in Environmental and Natural Resources Law. She also worked in the Lincoln City Attorney's Office on civil litigation, contract negotiation and legislation, and as Senior Policy Advisor to the Mayor of Lincoln, where she supported a range of

policy issues.



Jacob Frey

Mayor, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Jacob Frey was elected Mayor of Minneapolis, Minnesota in 2017 and has championed an agenda during his tenure centered on increasing access to affordable housing throughout the city, strengthening community-police relations, and fueling economic growth through inclusive policies. He has successfully secured record-setting investments for the city's affordable housing work, boosting efforts to expand and preserve affordable housing. Prior to his role as Mayor, he served on Minneapolis City Council Member from 2014 to 2018. As an employment and civil rights attorney, Frey became an active community

organizer, including fighting for gay rights and supporting those experiencing homelessness.



Sarah Fox

*Council Member, Vancouver Washington
Washington State Department of Commerce Climate Program Manager*

Sarah Fox was elected to Vancouver, Washington's City Council in 2019. She is also a Climate Program Manager for the Washington State Department of Commerce, where she guides local governments in planning for climate change impacts. She has more than 18 years of experience in long-range and current planning, including advocating for urban development and affordable housing, land use, transportation, fossil fuel regulations, and climate action policies.



Katherine Gilmore Richardson

Councilmember At-Large, Philadelphia, PA

Katherine Gilmore Richardson is serving her first term as Councilmember At-Large for the City of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. A lifelong Philadelphian, Gilmore Richardson is the youngest woman ever elected Citywide and the youngest African-American woman ever elected to Philadelphia City Council. She is focused on upskilling and reskilling the local workforce, supporting local, small, and

minority-owned businesses, and addressing climate change and environmental justice. Gilmore

Richardson previously served for 11 years as a staff member for Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown in roles ranging from Constituent Services to Chief of Staff.



Nick Gradisar
Mayor, Pueblo, CO

Nick Gradisar was elected as Mayor of Pueblo, Colorado in 2019. For 65 years the town of 110,000 had no head of government, but Gradisar fought for years to change the system, accomplished it in a referendum, and then ran for the newly created position. Gradisar has been engaged in public service for many years and spent 40 years in the private practice of law. As mayor he is working to address housing, transportation, economic development, education, and neighborhood revitalization within Pueblo.



Jonathan Grieder
Councilmember, Waterloo, IA

As a Councilmember for Waterloo, Iowa, Jonathan Grieder is focused on addressing the affordability and accessibility of childcare, raising wages to a livable level, investing in Waterloo's infrastructure, ensuring quality city services, addressing the spike in gun violence, and fighting to ensure equitable economic development that lifts all his constituents. Grieder has also made tangible progress on addressing climate change in his city and bringing other communities along. Outside of elected office Grieder is a high school social studies teacher.



Evan Hansen
West Virginia House of Delegates Member, WV

Evan Hansen is serving his third term in the West Virginia House of Delegates, representing Monongalia County. Hansen owns an environmental and economic development consulting firm that strengthens economies, sustains healthy environments, and builds resilient communities. Before his election, Evan worked with legislators to respond to the Freedom Industries chemical leak and provided testimony regarding attempts to increase the amount of cancer-causing chemicals in the state's rivers. Hansen's work has also included consulting on water and energy issues across Sub-Saharan Africa, and in China and Egypt.



Brenda Howerton
Durham County Commissioner, NC

Commissioner Howerton is the first African American commissioner in Durham County. She has focused her four terms on the initiative "100 Counties Helping Our Children Thrive." She has a history of demonstrated advocacy for disadvantaged communities and public health, including addressing juvenile crime prevention, workforce development, and public health issues. Outside of elected office she owns a consulting firm that specializes in organizational development and executive coaching for public and private industries.



Deana Holiday Ingraham

Mayor, East Point, GA

During her first term as mayor of East Point, Georgia, Deana Holiday Ingraham has championed implementation of livable wages for City employees, financial literacy for youth, developing public arts and agricultural master plans, and using Brownfields grant funding to develop unused land. Prior to her role as mayor, she had a successful legal career, including serving as a trial court law clerk, managing member of her own law firm, and an advocate for senior citizens. Ingraham serves on several organizations, including as a board member for the National League of Cities (NLC) and Georgia Municipal Association.



Ella Jones

Mayor, Ferguson, MO

Ella Jones was elected as Ferguson, Missouri's first African-American and female mayor in 2020, having served on the City Council for one term. During her tenure she has championed public safety, neighborhood stabilization (including funding for first-time homeownership), and engaging Ferguson's youth with more job opportunities. Prior to public service, Jones was a trained chemist, working for the Washington University School of Medicine and KV Pharmaceutical before becoming a Sales Director with Mary Kay for 30 years.



Heather Kimball

Hawai'i County Commissioner, HI

Heather Kimball is in her second term as Commissioner, representing the rural and economically disadvantaged district of Hawai'i County. During her tenure she has supported legislative projects on affordable housing, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and climate change targets. Outside of elected office Kimball manages a consulting firm focused on environmentally sensitive land management planning and creating public communication materials and policy support tools. She has technical expertise in the zero-waste movement, Extended Producer Responsibility, and has written for several relevant academic publications.



Christine Lowery

Cibola County Commissioner, NM

Christine Lowery, a second term Commissioner in Cibola County, New Mexico, views her role on the Committee as spiritual, personal, and purposeful for the people she serves. She is a member of the Pueblo of Laguna and post-retirement, has lived on her ancestral land at the Pueblo of Laguna for over 20 years. Her village of Paguete is also home to the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine, once the world's largest open-pit mine, and now, a Superfund site. Lowery had a successful career as a social worker and finally, an associate professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Helen Bader School of Social Work. Lowery is co-chair of the Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee.



Ann Mallek

Albemarle County Board of Supervisors Member, VA

Ann Mallek was first elected to the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors in November 2008. She has over 40 years of experience in public service, including Committees on tourism, agriculture, forestry and historic preservation. She is also an active member of the Virginia Association of Counties (VACO) Board of Directors and the National Association of Counties (NACo) Environment and Land Use Committee. In 13 of her 14 years on the Board of Supervisors, she has held 6 town halls annually to meet with constituents, going online with Covid. Mallek is co-chair of the Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee.



Rachel May

New York State Senator, NY

Fresh off a career in sustainability education at Syracuse University, Senator May brought a whole systems approach to New York state government when she was elected in 2018. She helped negotiate the nation's strongest climate law in 2019, making sure that upstate forests and farms were considered in crafting solutions. In her approach to the state budget, she has sought holistic decision-making, promoting measures like soil health policies to prevent flooding downstream, or home care investments to help seniors and the state avoid the high costs of nursing home care.



Christian Menefee

Harris County Attorney, TX

Christian Menefee was reared in an environmental justice community, living near the largest petrochemical company in the world. In 2020 he was elected as Harris County Attorney, as the youngest person and first African American to hold the position. During his tenure he has engaged in legal action against the Texas highway agency for infrastructure projects with detrimental impacts on underserved neighborhoods, as well as with Texas environmental regulators failing to follow permit laws, and a company responsible for creosote contamination in a predominantly Black neighborhood that resulted in cancer clusters.



Douglas Nicholls

Mayor, Yuma, Arizona

Currently in his third term as Mayor of Yuma, Arizona, Nicholls believes that quality communities provide opportunities for success to all residents through jobs, superior education, and a robust quality of life. His vision to make higher education more accessible culminates in plans for the Yuma Multiversity Campus (YMC), a brownfields redevelopment project that will utilize the academic programs and specialties offered by state universities and local community colleges. Nicholls has also spearheaded efforts to enhance and grow the Yuma community, including founding 4FrontED, an economic development-focused governing board of mayors from binational locations near the U.S.-Mexico border.



Ron Nirenberg

Mayor, San Antonio, TX

Ron Nirenberg is currently serving his third term as the Mayor of San Antonio, Texas, which has the 7th largest population in the United States and is one of the nation's fastest growing cities. Nirenberg is the first San Antonio Mayor of Asian Pacific Islander descent. Through his personal experiences, Nirenberg developed a core commitment to civic participation and the universal values of liberty, justice, and equal opportunity for every person. Under his leadership as mayor, the city has adopted an equity framework in budgeting to reduce poverty, improve public health, and overcome historical socioeconomic inequality.



Neil O'Leary

Mayor, Waterbury, CT

Mayor Neil M. O'Leary has dedicated over 40 years to the people of Waterbury, Connecticut. He joined the Waterbury Police Department in 1980 and rose through the ranks to Chief. As Mayor, O'Leary revitalized the city's former brass manufacturing industry in a way that not only kept the metal industry, but also used Brownfield programs and other funding sources to remediate contaminated properties and create new opportunities. He believes that a team-centric approach predicated on input from the community is critically important to successful government and has used this approach to lead multiple regional government coalitions.



David Painter

Clermont County Board of Commissioners, OH

David Painter is currently serving his second term on the Clermont County Board of Commissioners and is a strong advocate for market competition and government efficiency. Painter is committed to reducing the impacts resulting from the Ohio opiate crisis. He represents the people of Ohio on several regional and national organizations, including the National Association of County's (NACo) Energy, Environmental and Land Use Steering Committee and NACo Board of Directors.



Mary Lou Pauly

Mayor, Issaquah, WA

Mary Lou Pauly has served as Mayor of Issaquah, Washington since 2017, following 19 years on the City's Development Commission and four years on City Council. During her time as a public servant, she has implemented a City Climate Action Plan, provided electrification incentives, and worked with regional partners to evaluate PFAS contamination and remediation. She is an active member on several national organizations, including the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the Mayors Water Council, and the National League of Cities. Prior to elected office she worked in environmental consulting and civil engineering.



Whitford Remer

Sustainability and Resilience Officer, Tampa, FL

As the first Sustainability and Resilience Officer for the City of Tampa, Whitford Remer is guided by three core principles: Go Green, Be Fair, and Keep Safe. Remer is responsible for developing the Resilient Tampa Roadmap and secured major financial commitment in his first few months on the job to develop the city's first Climate Action and Equity Plan to reach 100% renewable energy. His drive towards equity and inclusion comes from living in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.



Satya Rhodes-Conway

Mayor, Madison, WI

Elected in 2019, Satya Rhodes-Conway is the second female and first out LGBTQ person to serve as mayor of Madison, Wisconsin. She has extensive experience in local policy and practice, having served three terms on the Madison Common Council, and worked with mayors and organizations across the country to implement innovative policy that promote environmental economic sustainability and build democratically accountable communities. As co-chair of the Climate Mayors, Rhodes-Conway recognizes the need for whole-of-government approach to climate change, including public budgets, capital investments, and a focus on equity.



Michael Scuse

Delaware Secretary of Agriculture, DE

Michael T. Scuse is in his second term as Delaware's Secretary of Agriculture, having previously held several leadership positions with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), where he oversaw USDA's Farm Service Agency, Risk Management Agency, and Foreign Agricultural Services. He led initiatives to improve the competitiveness of American products in the global marketplace, created new markets to increase rural economic opportunity, and delivered assistance that helped to keep America's farmers and ranchers in business. He has experience working on a range of water issues and is a lifelong farmer of corn, soybean, and wheat



Jeff Witte

New Mexico Secretary of Agriculture, NM

Jeff Witte has served with New Mexico's Department of Agriculture since 1994, and as Secretary since 2011. He has been a member of both the LGAC and SCAS since 2015, including serving as Vice Chair from 2018 to 2020. During his tenure he created the New Mexico Agricultural Leadership Program, represented New Mexico ranchers and farmers on state legislation, and started the Southwest Border Food Safety and Defense Center at New Mexico State University, which brings together law enforcement and the agricultural industry to develop plans that will protect New Mexico agriculture as part of a homeland security strategy.



Lisa Wong

Town Manager, South Hadley, MA

Lisa Wong is the Town Manager of South Hadley, Massachusetts. Prior to this position she served four terms as Mayor of Fitchburg, Massachusetts, where she was elected as the youngest female and the first Asian American mayor in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. As Mayor, Wong restored fiscal stability to Fitchburg, notably by increasing the stabilization fund, increasing the bond rating several times, reorganizing city departments, reducing health care costs, and instituting energy efficiency projects throughout the city. Wong was a member of the LGAC under Administrator Lisa Jackson, during which she chaired the Environmental Justice workgroup.



Hon. Leirion Gaylor Baird, Chair

Lincoln, NE

Ms. Lisa Wong, Vice-Chair

South Hadley, MA

Hon. Ras Baraka Newark, NJ

Hon. Jim Brainard Carmel, IN

Mr. Gary Brown Detroit, MI

Hon. Deborah Cherry Genesee County, MI

Hon. Melissa Cribbins Coos County, OR

Hon. Jose C. Aponte Dalmau Carolina, PR

Hon. Megan Dunn Snohomish County, WA

Hon. Mark Fox Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation

Mr. Brian Fulton Jackson County, MS

Hon. Katherine Gilmore Richardson

Philadelphia, PA

Hon. Nick Gradisar Pueblo, CO

Hon. Evan Hansen Morgantown, WV

Mr. Chad Harsha Cherokee Nation

Mr. Zane Hedgecock Raleigh, NC

Hon. Deana Holiday Ingraham East Point, GA

Hon. Ella Jones Ferguson, Missouri

Hon. Kelly King Maui County, HI

Hon. Christine Lowery Cibola County, NM

Hon. Rachel May Syracuse, NY

Hon. Melissa McKinlay Palm Beach County, FL

Hon. Julian McTizic Bolivar, TN

Hon. Alex Morse Provincetown, MA

Hon. Douglas Nicholls Yuma, AZ

Hon. Ron Nirenberg San Antonio, TX

Hon. Neil O'Leary Waterbury, CT

Hon. Satya Rhodes-Conway Madison, WI

Hon. Deborah Robertson Rialto, CA

Mr. Michael Scuse State of Delaware

Ms. Valinda Shirley Navajo Nation

Hon. Sylvester Turner Houston, TX

Hon. Lucy Vinis Eugene, OR

Mr. Jeff Witte State of New Mexico

Mr. Rodney Bartlett* Peterborough, NH

Mr. Tom Carroll* Silverton, OH

Hon. Vincent DeSantis* Gloversville, NY

Hon. Kwasi Fraser* Purcellville, VA

Mr. Dave Glatt* State of North Dakota

Hon. Daniel Guzman* Oneida Nation, WI

Hon. Ann Mallek* Albemarle County, VA

Hon. Hattie Portis-Jones* Fairburn, GA

Hon. Christina Sablan* Mariana Islands

Hon. Jeremy Stutsman* Goshen, IN

*Indicates member of Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee only

Paige Lieberman

Designated Federal Officer, EPA

July 6, 2022

Michael S. Regan, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Regan:

The Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) applauds the EPA in its elevation of environmental justice and equity issues, and how it has encouraged a whole-of-government approach to combatting historic practices of environmental injustices. Likewise, its development of resources like EJ Screen and the Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool will provide a meaningful, data-driven way to support local governments working in their communities.

However, these steps are just the beginning. There is still much work to be done to bridge the gap between community-level environmental justice priorities and federal regulatory policies. The LGAC has identified five recommendations to address, which are further detailed below.

The LGAC recommends:

1. EPA should advise local governments working to implement initial zoning and land use policies that address environmental injustice by providing draft language that aids future enforcement. Where collaboration is needed to implement or revise such policies, EPA should play the role of the convener, to encourage collaboration among federal, state, and local authorities in housing, environmental and planning departments.
2. EPA should strongly encourage state governments to include environmental justice and equity principles in its permitting decisions, including meaningfully engaging with any parties impacted by a permit and considering cumulative impacts in any relevant calculations.
3. The LGAC recommends that EPA provide funding and technical assistance to build capacity to address environmental justice in communities across the country. This should include making technical experts readily available to work with communities, providing guidance on how to

prioritize projects using a tool like EJSCREEN, and developing a toolbox of environmentally just zoning codes, remapping policies, and permitting ordinances.

4. Where environmental injustice persists, EPA should provide funding and best practices to mitigate harmful effects to local water supply, airsheds, and other sensitive habitats. These practices should include options at various price points and levels of capacity within a local government.
5. The EPA should explore ways to expand programs like the Superfund Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) to other environmental programs, which integrate community groups into the decision-making process by funding an independent technical advisor to provide relevant analysis.

Zoning and Permitting

For decades, environmental hazards like fossil fuel storage and transportation sites, hazardous waste facilities, and other chemical factories were disproportionately sited in low-income communities and communities of color. The LGAC is supportive of industry overall, but this support is predicated on the agreement that industry is located a safe distance from residential areas, compliant with all regulations, and ensures adequate prevention of cumulative impacts.

One example is the Greater Houston area in Texas. As of 2019, 21 industrial and toxic waste facilities are located within three miles of the Harrisburg/Manchester neighborhood, which is 90 percent Hispanic. This includes waste treatment and disposal facilities and other large-quantity generators of hazardous waste.¹ Using satellite data, the Houston Health Department found in 2020 that levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂)—linked to higher rates of childhood asthma, increased hospitalizations, and the development of cardiovascular diseases—were 32% higher for Latino residents, 19% higher for Black residents, and between 15% to 28% higher for residents living below the poverty line.²

Another example is East Point, Georgia, a predominantly African American suburb of Atlanta. Within one-half mile of industrial factories are two schools, a recreation center, and dozens of homes. Residents have repeatedly complained of discolored water in the surrounding watersheds and respiratory irritation, caused by the fumes emitting from surrounding industrial operations.

While the local governments have tried to advocate for their resident in both instances, state regulators note that the companies are within their rights under relevant permits and laws. An important step in creating justice for these communities is revising the policies that allowed them to happen, which will require action from federal, state, and local authorities in housing, environmental, and planning departments. Ultimately zoning and land use decisions are made at the local level, but changes will occur more effectively and efficiently if there is strong intergovernmental collaboration. Local governments sometimes lack the leverage to convene state and federal partners, and the LGAC recommends that EPA step in to play this role where needed.

¹ Tessum, C. W., Apte, J. S., Goodkind, A. L., Muller, N. Z., Mullins, K. A., Paoella, D. A., ... & Hill, J. D. (2019). Inequity in consumption of goods and services adds to racial-ethnic disparities in air pollution exposure. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 116(13), 6001-6006.

² Demetillo, Mary Angelique G. et al. *Observing Nitrogen Dioxide Air Pollution Inequality Using High-Spatial-Resolution Remote Sensing Measurements in Houston, Texas*. August 5, 2020. <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.est.0c01864>

When working with its federal, state, and local partners, the LGAC encourages EPA to focus on local zoning and land use policies/ordinances in a way that aids enforcement. While some local governments need support drafting language for initial zoning and land use policies/ordinances, throughout the country, local governments need a consistent, proactive enforcement of existing federal and state regulations. Within this challenge is an opportunity to explore ways that local zoning policies can be leveraged in a way that aids enforcement. The LGAC understands that EPA is working with the Environmental Council of States to address some of these issues and offers its expertise at the local government level to bolster this work.

Cumulative Impacts

Another underlying driver of environmental injustice is cumulative impacts. The LGAC supports the EPA's working definition of cumulative impacts referring to, "the total burden from chemical and non-chemical stressors and their interactions that affect the health, well-being, and quality of life of an individual, community, or population at a given point in time or over a period of time."

LGAC members have seen the issue of cumulative impacts arise in a range of permitting decisions. Typically, a permit includes a maximum level of allowable air and/or water pollution by an individual entity. However, there is no mechanism in place to track the cumulative pollution being deposited in a community from the various approved permits. Again, an example can be found in Texas. The Houston area has had tremendous growth in recent years, leading to a steady stream of permits for concrete batch plants, and a significant, resulting air pollution of silica dust. Persistent inhalation of silica dust is shown to cause respiratory damage including lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, kidney disease, autoimmune disease, and silicosis. Many community members have organized to address this problem, but since each individual permit is within the allowable threshold, they are told that nothing can be done.

The LGAC recommends that EPA work with state governments to alter how permits are reviewed. Most important is to implement maximum pollution allowances for a given area. This calculation should include the fact that many overburdened communities have historical pollution already in their environment. Other options include requiring the use of health assessments to determine the impact on minority and low-income populations and requiring meaningful engagement with impacted communities before an environmental permit is issued. This kind of action is not without precedent. The State of New Jersey [enacted such a policy](#) in 2020, which requires the Department of Environmental Protection to assess the public health and environmental risks created for overburdened communities when making any permitting decisions. In April 2022, the State of New York passed a similar law. While the LGAC understands the limitations of guidance, we recommend that EPA work with states to strongly encourage the inclusion of environmental justice and equity principles in its permitting decisions in any way possible. As EPA builds out programs under the BIL, there is an opportunity to integrate these measures from the start.

While the laws in New Jersey and New York are considered a success for environmentalists, they are not without risk. Some communities in New Jersey are concerned about being sued for denying a permit

under Title 5 of the Civil Rights Act. The LGAC recommends that EPA engage with these communities, along with its federal partners, to support them as they strive to protect overburdened communities.

Technical Assistance and Funding

For both issues detailed above, EPA can support local governments by providing targeted technical assistance and funding. Much of the work will fall on local governments, and there are significant funding and knowledge gaps to address. The LGAC recommends that EPA provide funding and technical assistance to build this capacity in communities across the country, with an emphasis on overburdened communities. The work of the Justice 40 initiative and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) to target at least 40 percent of funding to such communities is a step in the right direction. However, EPA needs to ensure that these goals are closely tracked and met.

The LGAC also recommends that EPA make technical experts on environmental justice readily available to work with communities on complex issues. Where this isn't feasible, the LGAC recommends that EPA develop a toolbox of environmentally just zoning codes, remapping policies, permitting ordinances, and examples on when a community may want to pursue each. For example, EPA could offer guidance to help municipalities prioritize projects using a zoning and remapping process or a tool like EJSCREEN. Support with communications is also needed, especially helping both local government staff and the public to connect the role of zoning and land use decisions in promoting environmental justice. The EPA should understand that the information available for this work is complex and decentralized, and it can be hard for a community to navigate – especially if they are a small, disadvantaged community. Providing support would help interested communities overcome the administrative hurdle of making these changes.

At the same time, communities need support remediating the impacts of environmental injustice. The LGAC recommends that EPA provide best practices to mitigate harmful effects to local water supply, airsheds, and other sensitive habitats. These practices should include options at various price points and levels of capacity within a local government. Additionally, EPA should provide funding for buffer zones and other remediation and mitigation strategies to protect residents.

While technical assistance from the federal government is often provided to local governments, with environmental justice there is also a need to support community groups. The Superfund program provides a model for supporting this type of involvement. Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) help communities participate in Superfund cleanup decision-making by funding community groups, who then contract their own technical advisor to interpret and explain technical reports, site conditions, and EPA's proposed actions. The LGAC recommends exploring ways to extend this kind of support on other environmental programs.

Conclusion

The LGAC appreciates the opportunity to work with EPA on this important work, and to develop policies and programs that support meaningful and long-term change. It is critical to the well-being of a community that local, state, and federal government work collaboratively with industry to dismantle systemic environmental injustices and prioritize safety in communities overburdened by pollution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leirion Gaylor Baird".

Leirion Gaylor Baird, LGAC Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deana".

Deana Holiday Ingraham, LGAC Environmental
Justice Workgroup Chair



Client Office: Office of the Administrator and Office of Water

As PFAS is a cross-cutting issue, the LGAC will interface with several experts across the agency to develop recommendations, specifically the Office of the Administrator, Office of Public Affairs and Office of Water.

Background

PFAS are a group of manufactured chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products since the 1940s because of their useful properties. There are thousands of different PFAS, some of which have been more widely used and studied than others. PFAS can be present in our water, soil, air, and food as well as in materials found in our homes or workplaces. As the science has continued to develop, we know more now than ever about how PFAS build up in our bodies over long periods of time, and how they can cause adverse health effects that can devastate families.

The LGAC has a history of working with EPA on this issue. In May 2020 the LGAC provided [recommendations](#) to EPA on risk communications at large. Drawing on members' experience and the expertise of several intergovernmental organizations, the Committee's findings helped inform the Agency's work on risk communications over the past several years.

In 2021, EPA announced a [PFAS Strategic Roadmap](#) – laying out a whole-of-agency approach to addressing PFAS. This includes robust research to learn more about the risks posed. Another essential component of PFAS management – particularly at the local government level – is communicating this risk to affected communities.

In 2022, the LGAC examined the needs of local governments when assessing and managing the presence of PFAS chemicals. The Committee held a series of workgroup meetings with subject matter experts designed to inform members of the breadth and depth of PFAS management, as well as EPA's regulatory authority.

As EPA continues its work on PFAS, the LGAC is now being asked to pull from this institutional knowledge and inform how EPA can support local and state governments, specifically on the risk communications needed when PFAS is detected in a community.

Charge

What happens at the local government level when PFAS is detected? How can EPA support this work – specifically with risk communications – to position a community for successful community engagement and initial management of the contamination?

- Are there specific tools that EPA should develop?
- Do local communities have tools, best practices, or lessons learned that the Agency should consider adopting?
- How can EPA support effective partnership of local, state and federal governments on this issue?



Details of LGAC Workgroup Action

The LGAC will develop a new workgroup to address this charge and develop recommendations. The Workgroup will be comprised of LGAC members, not to exceed a quorum, and will meet monthly via videoconference, starting in March.

The Workgroup will report out on its interim progress at a public meeting in May; a public meeting will be scheduled for the Workgroup to present its final recommendations once they are developed. The LGAC's Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee will also be given an opportunity to weigh in on the recommendations before they are finalized.

The content of Workgroup meetings will include dialogue with EPA staff and other experts. External guests may be consulted as desired by the Workgroup members.

Deliverables

The Workgroup will summarize its discussions on the above topics, highlighting any recommendations, in a written document. Additional deliverables may be developed as the workgroup progresses.

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Client Office: Office of the Administrator

The LGAC will interface with several teams within the Office of the Administrator, including the Office of Policy, Office of Community Revitalization, and other subject matter experts. The Office of Air and Radiation's State and Local Branch will also be consulted, as needed.

Background

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act provided significant funding to support communities seeking to lower greenhouse gas emissions.

In January 2023 the LGAC submitted recommendations on implementing the Inflation Reduction Act's (IRA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grants and Green House Gas Reduction Fund to EPA. One issue raised was the interplay of land use and GHG emissions, the need for more housing stock across the country, and the opportunity to use these programs to break down barriers and support growth and development in a way that reduces GHG emissions.

Similarly, research from a range of organizations has underscored these points. As the Brookings Institution reported in 2021:

Simply put, the United States cannot reach its GHG reduction targets if our urban areas continue to grow as they have in the past. After decades of sprawl, the U.S. has the dubious honor of being a world leader in both building-related energy consumption and vehicle miles traveled per capita. Making matters worse, lower-density development also pollutes our water and requires higher relative emissions during the initial construction. (See [Brookings](#), 2021)

The EPA is seeking more detail on the LGAC's recommendations for this issue.

Charge

- 1) Are there financial barriers (e.g. financing, assembling capital, etc.) specific to projects that support economic development in a way that reduces GHG emissions? If these barriers were overcome, could communities effectively reduce GHG emissions through land development patterns over time?
- 2) Are land use policies, codes, ordinances, and other rules and guidelines barriers to economic development that reduce GHG emissions? Are there specific tools or data that would be useful in making the case that current land use policies could be reformed to support GHG reduction?
- 3) Are there specific metrics for measuring GHG emission reductions that EPA should be using or creating? How can these inform your planning and funding decisions?
- 4) Given that the IRA contains many programs designed to finance GHG emission reductions, what else do communities need to help them develop in ways that support GHG reduction through economic growth?

March 2023



Details of LGAC Workgroup Action

The LGAC will convene a new Workgroup on Climate and the Built Environment to research this charge and develop recommendations. The Workgroup will be comprised of LGAC members, not to exceed a quorum, and will meet monthly via videoconference, starting in March.

The Workgroup will report out on its interim progress at a public meeting in May; a public meeting will be scheduled for the Workgroup to present its final recommendations once they are developed. The LGAC's Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee will also be given an opportunity to weigh in on the recommendations before they are finalized.

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