

# UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY CHARTER

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## NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL (NEYAC)

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### 1. Committee's Official Designation (Title)

National Environmental Youth Advisory Council (NEYAC)

### 2. Authority

The National Environmental Youth Advisory Council will be established by the Office of the Administrator at the Environmental Protection Agency. As such, this is a discretionary committee and will operate under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. 10.

### 3. Objectives and Scope of Activities

The NEYAC will provide independent advice and recommendations to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on how to increase EPA's efforts to address a range of environmental issues as they relate to youth communities, with an emphasis on communities with ages below 29 years of age. The NEYAC will provide a critical perspective on how the impacts of climate change and other environmental harms affects youth communities.

### 4. Description of Duties

The duties of the NEYAC are to provide advice and recommendations to the Administrator of EPA on a governmental approach to environmental issues as they relate to youth including but not limited to:

- Projects to help local government address environmental issues in disadvantaged communities
- Develop performance measures on the impact of climate change and other environmental harms that affects youth communities.
- Research, write reports, and make recommendations with a focus on environmental justice, climate change mitigation and resiliency, and pollution reduction. Members will represent the points of view from among but not limited to disadvantaged communities.

### 5. Agency or Official to Whom the Committee Reports

The Council will submit advice and recommendations and report to the Administrator of EPA.

### 6. Support

EPA will be responsible for financial and administrative support. Within EPA, this support will be provided by the Office of Public Engagement and Environmental Education in the Office of the Administrator.

## **7. Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Work Years**

The estimated annual operating cost of the NEYAC is \$200,000 which includes 1.0 full-time equivalent support and additional costs for travel, remote support, meetings, and more.

## **8. Designated Federal Officer**

A full-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 National Environmental Youth Advisory Council and any subcommittees. 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 the DFO 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 NEYAC expects to meet annually. The NEYAC subcommittee will meet on an as-needed basis. NEYAC meetings may occur more frequently as needed and approved by the DFO.

As required by FACA, the NEYAC and its subcommittees 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 NEYAC.

## **10. Duration**

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

## **11. Termination**

The NEYAC will be examined annually and will exist until the EPA determines the committee is no longer needed. This charter will be in effect for two years from the date it is filed with Congress. After this period, the Charter will be renewed as authorized in accordance with Section 14 of FACA.

## **12. Membership and Designation**

The NEYAC will be composed of approximately (16) members who serve as Representative members of non-federal interests appointed by the Administrator of EPA. If needed, members may be appointed to serve as Special Government Employees (SGEs), but this would be solely on a case-by-case basis. The Administrator will appoint two Co-Chairpersons and two Vice-Chairpersons. Members will be drawn from across the country and EPA regions and would be people who have demonstrated high levels of knowledge and expertise in environmental issues. Members may be reappointed but must meet the specific age requirements as noted in this section.

Members will be between the ages of 16 and 29 but may surpass 29 years of age if the length of their term overlaps with a corresponding birthday; however, they would not be able to be reappointed if their age exceeds 29 years of age. The upper age limit for membership (29) was chosen on the basis that it fits the mission or objective of the committee to include only youth and those early on in their life and career – but

allows for a range of perspectives. Youth communities and younger generations maintain critical perspectives that the EPA must engage with to understand what a future of environmental work might be most directed by – which is to say that it is precisely these communities that may help bolster a kind of environmental understanding that will seek to guide and shape the focus of EPA work.

In selecting members, EPA will consider candidates from business and industry, academic institutions, State, local and tribal governments, public interest groups, environmental organizations, service groups, and more. In determining a fair spread across categories, no more than 60% of the advisory committee can come from a single categorical entity (ex. government, academic institution, etc.).

Members will be selected to represent the points of view from among but not limited to disadvantaged communities. Disadvantaged communities as defined by the Justice40 Initiative and the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) include communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution. The CEJST is a mapping tool that helps identify disadvantaged communities. Should the initiative and screening tool no longer be in existence or have been dissolved, a new definition for environmental justice and disadvantaged communities should be created as facilitated by the Designated Federal Officer (DFO), Chairs of NEYAC and memberships, and relevant government agencies and entities. EPA’s EJ SCREEN tool, in the absence of CEJST, should be used to aid these efforts. At least 50% of the overall membership of the NEYAC should either come from, reside primarily in, and/or do the majority of their work in disadvantaged communities.

In accordance with Executive Order 14035 (June 25, 2021) and consistent with law, EPA values and welcomes opportunities to increase diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility on its federal advisory committees. EPA’s federal advisory committees should reflect the diversity of the American people.

### **13. Subcommittees**

The Administrator, with the 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 NEYAC 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.

### **15. Filing Date:**

**MAY 11 2023**

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Agency Approval Date

May 11, 2023

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GSA Consultation Date

June 5, 2023

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Date Filed with Congress