

Environmental Justice at the Federal level



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Definition of Environmental Justice

Environmental Justice is 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.



Lisa Jackson's Top Priorities

Expanding the Conversation on Environmentalism and Working for Environmental Justice

**Building strong working
relationships.**

Innovation and bold thinking.

**Protection of vulnerable
populations.**





Interagency Working Group

- 17 Federal Agencies
- MOU
- 16 listening sessions across the country
- Release of Environmental Justice Strategies

- Strategies with a strong asthma component
 - HHS
 - HUD
 - EPA
- Many address health disparities in some form or other, especially in strategy statement

<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/ej/interagency/>

Background on Plan EJ 2014

- **Plan EJ 2014 is a roadmap that will help EPA integrate environmental justice into EPA's programs, policies, and activities.**
- **February 2014 marks the 20th anniversary of the issuance of Executive Order 12898 on environmental justice.**
- **Plan EJ 2014 involves all EPA programs and regions, receives continuous stakeholder input, and has annual reporting requirements.**

PLAN EJ 2014 GOALS

- **Protect health in communities that have been overburdened by pollution.**
- **Empower communities to take action to improve their health and environment.**
- **Establish partnerships with local, state, tribal and federal organizations to achieve healthy and sustainable communities.**



Cross-Agency Focus Areas

1. Rulemaking

2. Permitting

Draft FR notice (draft public participation guidance for business, EPA roles) expected in June



3. Compliance and Enforcement

4. Fostering Administration-Wide Action

5. Community based Actions



SUPPORTING COMMUNITY-BASED ACTIONS

- **Advance EJ through partnership agreements with the States**
- **Identify scalable/replicable EJ successes**
 - **Pilot best practices in a community**
- **Promote equitable development**
- **Help local decision-makers minimize adverse impacts from land use decisions**

Tools Development Areas

- **Science:** Apply integrated and community-based participatory research to address multi-media, cumulative impacts and equity in environmental health.
- **Law:** Legal Assistance / EJ Legal Tools
 - Review of key legal authorities related to permitting, rulemaking, etc. (does not include enforcement)
- **Information:** Develop nationally consistent EJ screen and common geospatial platform.
- **Resources:** Improve transparency and efficiency in delivery of grants and technical assistance.

A vertical photograph of a white wind turbine tower and nacelle against a clear sky, positioned on the left side of the slide.

RESOURCES

- Environmental Justice
Federal Interagency Directory
 - Community-Based Federal
Environmental Justice Guide
 - EJ Small Grants
 - EJ ListServ
- www.epa.gov/environmental justice