

Restorative Justice and Environmental Justice

What does Successful
diversity, equity, and
inclusion in Community
involvement look like?

Knowledge & Understanding Super Hero
for Environmental Justice

Air, Water and Land



A LAW REVIEW SYMPOSIUM ON RESTORATIVE
JUSTICE: EXAMINING COMMUNITY, CRIMINAL AND
ENVIRONMENTAL THEMES

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Cultural Organizer and Advocate

Topic: “Involving minority and low-income community members in environmental programs, policies and activities.”

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=430039233007421&set=a.170104539000893>

The Ohio River Basin Alliance (ORBA) is collaborating with National Wildlife Federation, Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, and other local, state, and regional partners throughout the Ohio River Basin to craft a bold plan to restore and protect the waters of the Ohio River region, which includes Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia. ORBA's restoration plan seeks to address health-threatening pollution, reverse environmental injustices, and promote strong local economies.

Environmental justice is important because it:

- Ensures everyone has clean air and water.
- Allows people to live healthier lives.
- Protects individuals from harmful exposure to toxins and pollution.
- Helps congress establish legislation improving sanitation conditions and access to resources.
- Ensures that nobody gets left behind when addressing the climate crisis.
- Protects people from being made victims of the plans and ambitions of others.

Knowledge



Understanding

In order to enhance the quality of life and overcome the historical environmental and health-related challenges faced by low-income and underserved communities primarily consisting of African Americans and people of color, it is imperative that individuals possess knowledge and understanding. These challenges, which have been perpetuated by generations of family poverty and difficult choices surrounding employment, housing, food, and transportation, have contributed to social justice issues that must be addressed. The ability to surmount these challenges is crucial for success both on a national scale and within local communities.

According to the EPA

<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice>

"Meaningful involvement" means that the public should have opportunities to participate in decisions that could affect their environment and their health, their contributions should be taken into account by regulatory agencies, and decision-makers should seek and facilitate the engagement of those potentially affected by their decisions.

<https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen/purposes-and-uses-ejscreen/>

Let's explore examples
[ejscreen - EPA](#)

Sites reporting to EPA within defined area:

Superfund	0
.....	
Hazardous Waste, Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities	0
.....	
Water Dischargers	0
.....	
Air Pollution	0
.....	
Brownfields	0
.....	
Toxic Release Inventory	0
.....	

Other community features within defined area:

Schools	0
.....	
Hospitals	0
.....	
Places of Worship	0
.....	

Other environmental data:

Air Non-attainment	Yes
.....	
Impaired Waters	Yes
.....	

Selected location contains American Indian Reservation Lands*	No
.....	
Selected location contains a "Justice40 (CEJST)" disadvantaged community .	Yes
.....	
Selected location contains an EPA IRA disadvantaged community	Yes
.....	

Sites reporting to EPA within defined area:

Superfund	0
Hazardous Waste, Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities	0
Water Dischargers	1
Air Pollution	0
Brownfields	1
Toxic Release Inventory	0

Other community features within defined area:

Schools	1
Hospitals	0
Places of Worship	6

Other environmental data:

Air Non-attainment	Yes
Impaired Waters	Yes

Selected location contains American Indian Reservation Lands*	No
Selected location contains a "Justice40 (CEJST)" disadvantaged community	Yes
Selected location contains an EPA IRA disadvantaged community	Yes

Smart Growth and Equitable Development

[Smart growth](#) approaches support:

- Cleaning up and reinvesting in existing neighborhoods.
- Providing housing choices for people of all income levels, household sizes, and stages of life.
- Offering transportation options that are affordable, reduce air pollution and associated health impacts, and give residents who do not drive more mobility.
- Improving access to jobs and services by creating development that is walkable and transit-accessible.

Low-income, minority, tribal, and overburdened communities across the country are using these strategies, along with environmental justice and equitable development approaches, to design and build healthy, sustainable, and inclusive neighborhoods.

Intense HUMAN INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIRS needed!

[Fact Sheet | Nature as Resilient Infrastructure – An Overview of Nature-Based Solutions](#)
[| White Papers | EESI](#)

“Although infrastructure is often thought of as manmade structures and buildings, it can also include natural systems, such as wetlands, and systems that emulate nature, such as green roofs. As policymakers fund improvements to the nation’s infrastructure, natural systems and solutions, referred to as nature-based solutions, should also be considered critical infrastructure.”

S.872 - Environmental Justice For All Act 117th Congress
(2021-2022)

S.872 - Environmental Justice For All Act
117th Congress (2021-2022)

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Thank You

AI design by Pamela Mullins