Building An Equitable and Just Environment

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- Chair, Land Use, Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Association
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

The fair and equal treatment of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability or income level in the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, policies and programs.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE JUSTICE PROGRAM

The NAACP ECJ Program was created to provide resources and support community leadership in addressing this human and civil rights issue by advocating for these three objectives:

1. Reduce Harmful Emissions, Particularly Greenhouse Gases
2. Advance Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy
3. Strengthen Community Resilience and Livability
Just Energy: Reducing Pollution, Creating Jobs - How to phase out toxic energy like coal, nuclear, and oil facilities and bring in clean energy like wind and solar – includes a model policy guideline and energy profiles for each state – VA is currently being updated.

Lights Out In The Cold: Reframing Utility Shut-Off Policies as if Human Rights Matter - Calls for concrete action toward establishing policies that protect the well-being of all utility customers and the eventual elimination of utility disconnections.

Coal Blooded: Putting Profits Before People - How to take action to address toxins from coal fired power plants that are polluting low-income communities and communities of color.

In the Eye of the Storm: A People’s Guide to Transforming Crisis and Advancing Equity in the Disaster Continuum Toolkit – Prepares frontline communities during disasters to be first responders, monitors for equity, and ways to ensure equitable disaster policies.

CENTERING EQUITY IN THE SUSTAINABLE BUILDING SECTOR

• Launched in August 2018
• Seeks to shift narratives, mobilize resources, empower champions, and catalyze new norms in the building industry.

Equity is just and fair inclusion into a society in which all can participate, prosper, and reach their full potential.
The air in many African American communities violates air quality standards for ozone smog. Rates of asthma are relatively high in African American communities. And, as a result of ozone increases due to natural gas emissions during the summer ozone season, African American children are burdened by 138,000 asthma attacks and 101,000 lost school days each year.

1. Democracy and Governance
2. Economic Justice
3. Energy Systems
4. Emergency Management
5. Food Systems
6. Gender and LGBTQ
7. Housing
8. Land Use Planning and Management
9. Restorative Justice
10. Sea Level Rise and Coastal Resilience
11. Transportation Systems
12. Waste Management

URGENT NEED FOR TRANSFORMATIVE ACTION
The environmental justice movement has long been interested in finding more just and equitable ways to manage waste. In fact, the environmental justice movement first emerged in the 1970s when a majority African American community in Warren County North Carolina protested the construction of a hazardous waste landfill.

Race is the leading contributing factor for siting hazardous and toxic facilities.
EQUITY LENS: PLANNING

Governance / Procedural Equity

• Who is at the table providing input?
• Who is making decisions

EQUITY LENS: OUTCOMES

What are the Equitable Outcomes?

• Who is impacted
• Who is resilient
• Who survives
• Who thrives
• Who is affected by collateral damage
• Who proposed the project and why
• Who is legally liable
**EQUITY LENS: RESOURCE ALLOCATION**

How are resources/investments allocated?
- Exclusionary
- NIMBY
- Food Desserts
- Failing infrastructure
- Underfunded Schools
- Economically Disadvantaged
- Proximity to Toxic Uses

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*Arnstein’s Ladder of Citizen Engagement*
EQUITY LENS: SOLUTIONS

Intentional and Transformative Areas for Change?
- Zero Waste Community
- Reuse and repair
- Recycling and composting
- Ban waste incineration
- Resilient to climate change

Virginia State Conference NAACP 2020 Program

• Community Emergency Response
• Youth Scientists Project
• Solar Equity Initiative
• Clean Air Ordinances
• Rural Electric Co-Op Democratization
• Sustainable and Equitable Waste Management Initiative
• Sea Level Rise Training and Strategy Development
• Transportation and Climate Initiative
• Black Faith Leadership Initiative on Environmental and Climate Justice
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