



# Community Resiliency: Environmental Justice Communities Have Visions Too!

2015 EPA Community Involvement Training  
Conference

August 5, 2015

# EPA Administrator, Gina McCarthy

"...At the core of EPA's mission is the unwavering pursuit of environmental justice—striving for clean air, water, and healthy land for every American. It's ensuring access to the decision-making process, providing new opportunities, and revitalizing our often forgotten places."



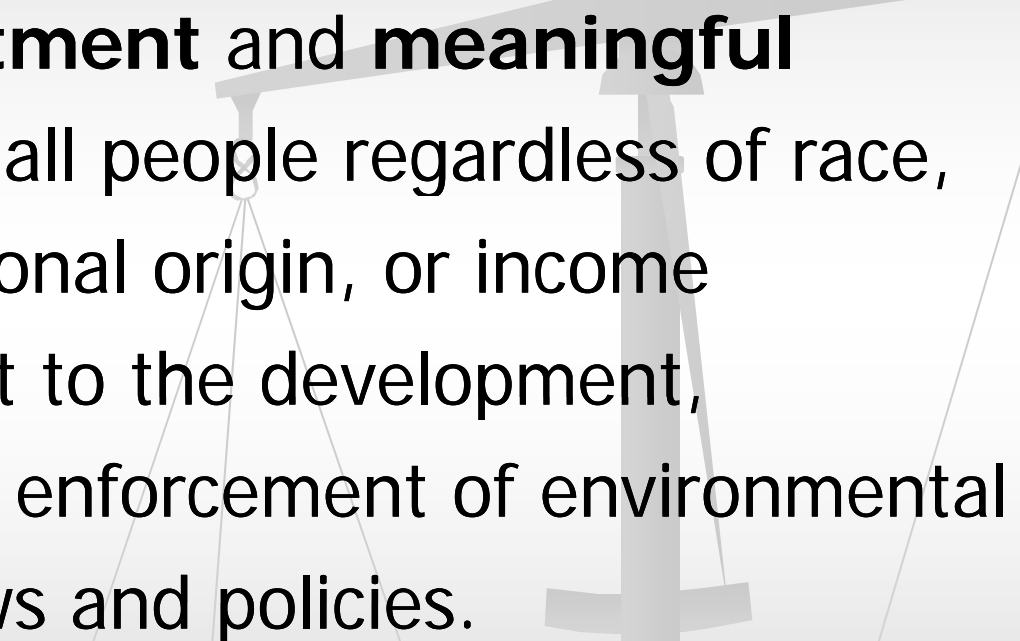
# EPA Theme #1 of 7

Making a Visible Difference  
in Communities  
across the Country



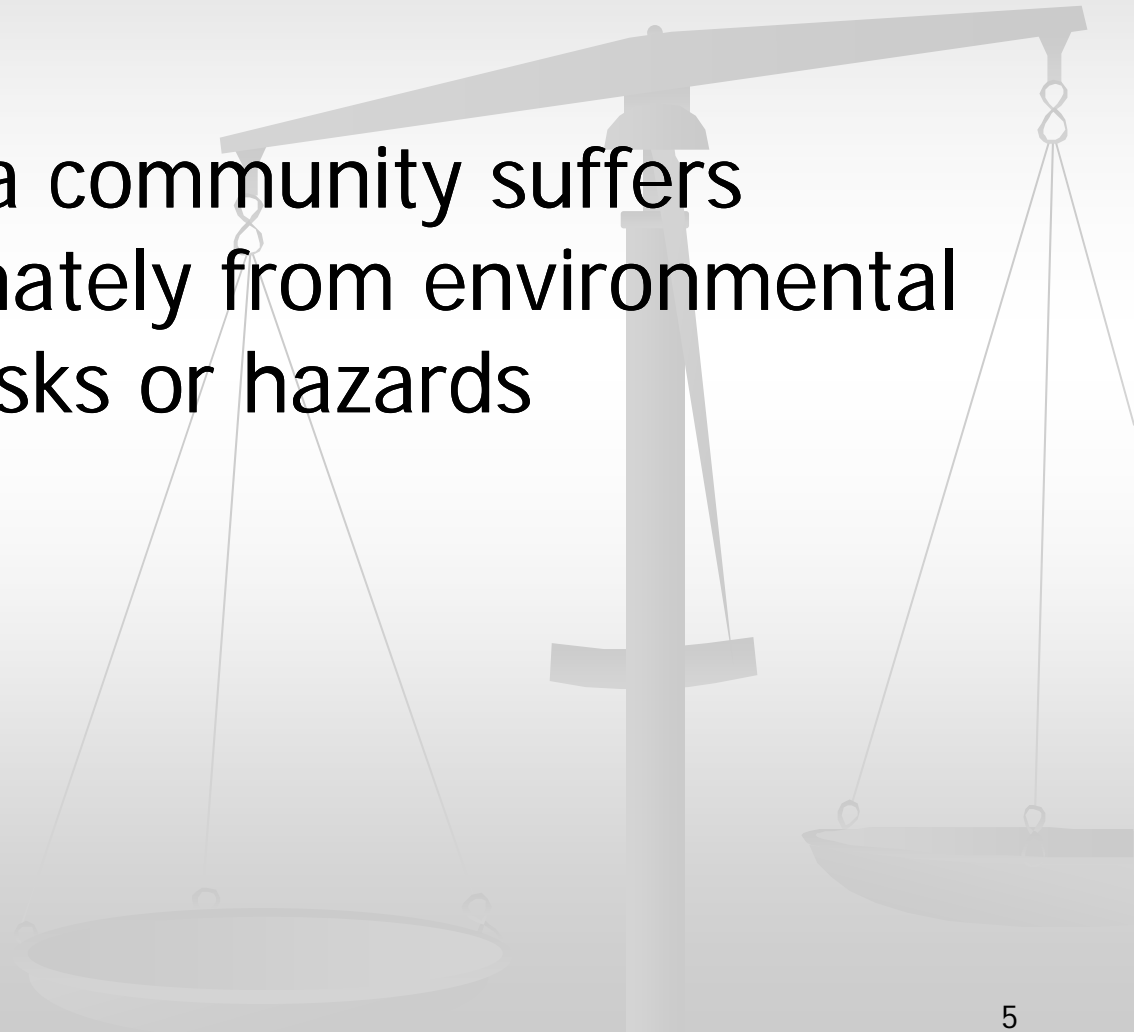
# What is Environmental Justice?

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 and policies.



# Environmental injustice is...

When a community suffers  
disproportionately from environmental  
risks or hazards



# Why is EJ Important?

- Research shows that certain communities have been historically disproportionately burdened
- Equal protection for all people under the national environmental laws
- Creates environment where communities can effectively coexist
- Allows for public participation in government decisionmaking

# Why is EJ Important? (Cont.)

- EJ communities typically lack access to health care, supermarkets, and recreational facilities



# Key Challenges for EJ Communities

- Health
- Education
- Housing
- Transportation
- Crime
- Joblessness
- Economics
- **Environmental**



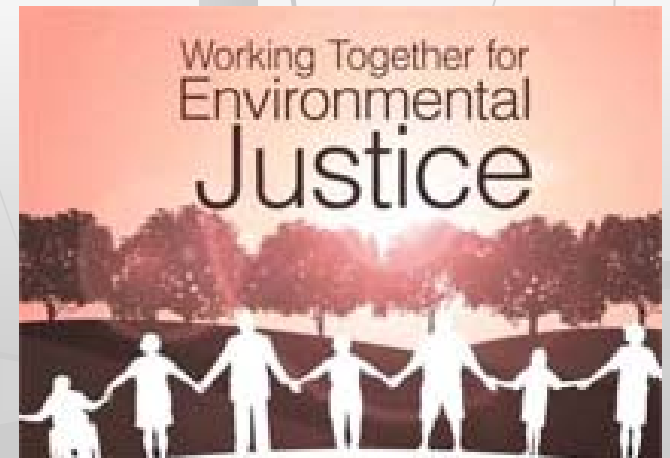


# What is EPA Doing?

- Actively engaging EJ communities
- Building long-term capacity in communities
- Partnering with other federal agencies to leverage their resources
- Using science as the backbone of regulatory decisions

# What is EPA Doing?

- Working collaboratively with State Environmental Agencies
  - SCDHEC
    - State EJ Cooperative Agreement (Leaders in Environmental Action Pilots)
    - Environmental Leadership Forum
    - EJ Taskforce
    - EJ Listening Sessions
    - Conference presentations



# What is EPA Doing?

- Promoting the collaborative-problem solving model to all stakeholders



# What is EPA Doing?

- Promoting the collaborative-problem solving model to all stakeholders



# How Do We Use CPS?

- Facilitate relationships through the Federal and SE Interagency Working Group for EJ
- Provide facilitation and alternative dispute resolution assistance
- Conduct trainings and classes
- Host and present at conferences and workshops

# How Do We Use CPS?

- Developing the EJ Leaders Academy



# Heather McTeer Toney on EJ Communities



“The bottom line is that making EJ an intrinsic part of this Agency’s daily activities both nationally, and especially in the Southeast, reaffirms our belief that regardless of who you are or where you live, we all have the right to breathe clean air, to drink safe water and to live on healthy land.”

# We all have a role!



Sheryl Good

[Good.Sheryl@epa.gov](mailto:Good.Sheryl@epa.gov)

404-562-9559