Environmental Justice

Spring RTOC Ruben Mojica Hernandez



Session Objectives

At the end of the session participants...

- ...will have a clear idea of what the Environmental Justice Movement is and what its goals and objectives are.
- ...will have a clear vision of how the EPA understands environmental justice and its approach to doing work in EJ.
- ...will share the tribal EJ experience and through dialogue and identify key tribal EJ priorities and the tribal EJ perspective.



Discussion Flow

- Introduction
- Environmental Justice Overview
- EPA EJ Perspective and Work
- Tribal EJ Discussion



K. W. L. Activity



EJ Movement: Historical EJ Events



Sit-in Against Warren County, NC PCB Landfill

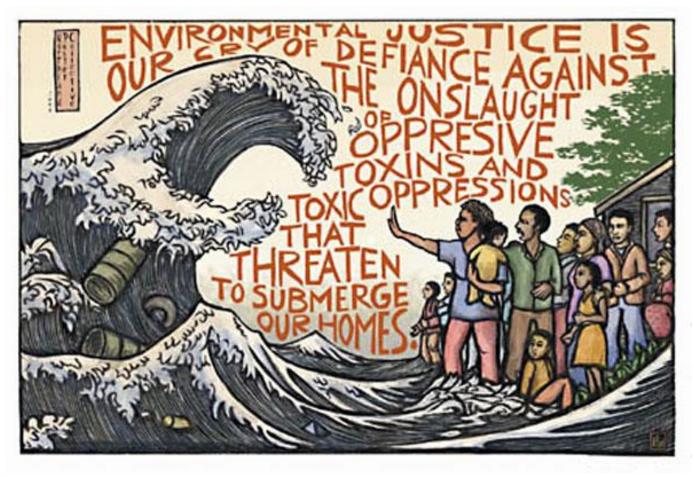




Executive Order 12898



1991 Peoples Summit





Defining EJ...

"Environmental Justice is the idea that everyone has the right to a decent 1991 Peoples Summit environment and a fair share of the Earth's resources" "Environmental justice is the equal protection and meaningful involvement of all people with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies and equitable distribution of Friends of the Earth Scotland environmental benefits." "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... it will be achieved when everyone enjoys the same **Environmental Protection Agency** degree of protection from environmental and health hazards and equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work" We, the People of Color, gathered together at this multinational People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit, to begin to build a national and international movement of all peoples of color to fight the destruction and taking of out lands and communities, do hereby re-establish out spiritual Common Wealth of Massachusetts interdependence to the sacredness of our Mother Earth...do affirm and adopt the following Principles of Environmental Justice:..."



EPA EJ Perspective and Work



National Environmental Justice Advisory Council

- Integrate environmental justice considerations into Agency programs, policies and activities.
- Improve the environment or public health in communities disproportionately burdened by environmental harms and risks.
- Address environmental justice by ensuring meaningful involvement in EPA decision-making, building capacity in disproportionately burdened communities, and promoting collaborative problem-solving for issues involving environmental justice.
- Strengthen its partnerships with other governmental agencies, such as other Federal agencies and State, Tribal, or local governments, regarding environmental justice issues.
- Enhance research and assessment approaches related to environmental justice.



Tribal EJ Policy

Issued: July 24, 2014

Purpose: To clarify and integrate environmental justice principles in a consistent manner in the Agency's work with federally recognized tribes and indigenous peoples.

Scope: Federally recognized tribes, state recognized tribes, tribal members, indigenous community organizations, Native Hawaiians, individual Native Americans, and others living in Indian country.



EJ 2020 Action Plan

Collaborating with tribes to EJ build capacity as requested by tribes based on needs identified by tribes.

- **EJ 2020** is EPA's strategic plan for **environmental justice** for the years 2016-2020
- EJ 2020 builds on the foundation of EJ 2014 and thirty years of work by EPA, communities and partners
- EJ 2020 seeks greater environmental justice integration and results



Other EPA EJ Resources...

- Grants
 - EJ Grants
 - GAP
- EJ Screen
- R9 RTOC and Tribal Conference
- EJ & Consultation



Timeline Activity & Tribal EJ Ideas



Tribal EJ Perspective

- Possible Discussion Questions
 - What does EJ mean to you?
 - What tribal EJ work exists already?
 - What tribal EJ resources are out there?
 - What are your thoughts on EPAs EJ tribal work?



Thank you!

We hope to see you and more at the Tribal-EPA Conference!



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