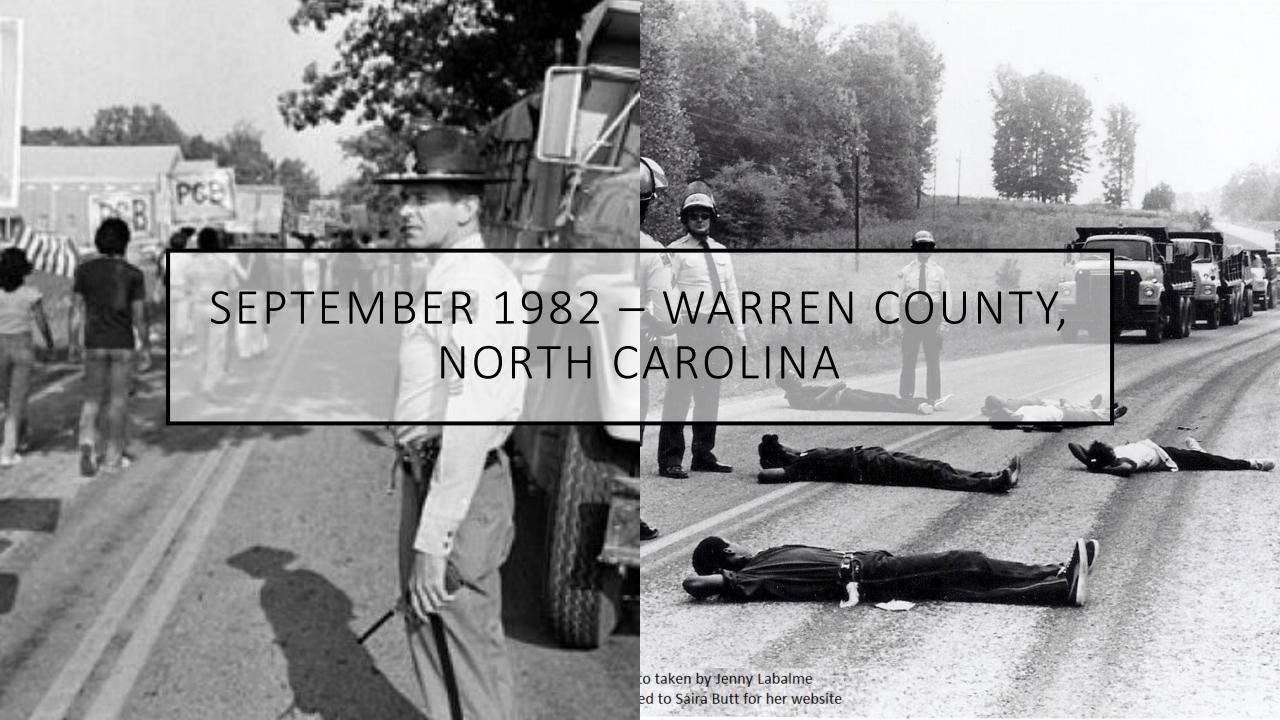
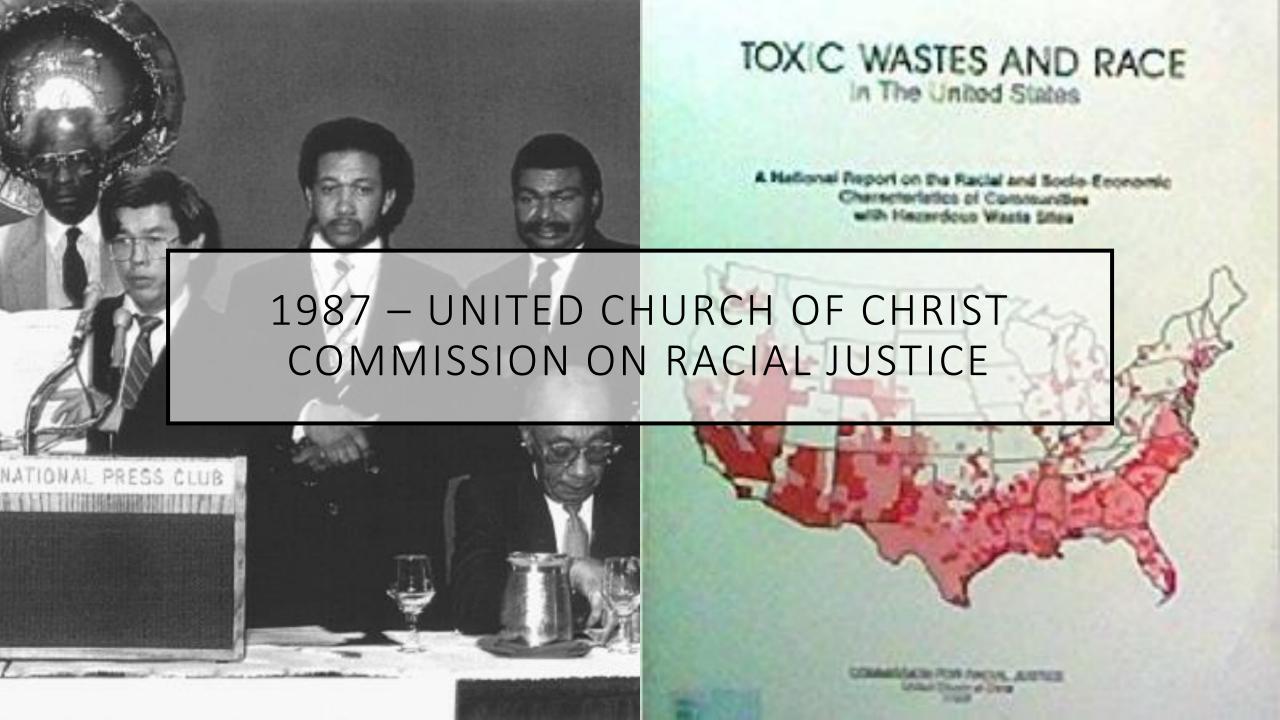




U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Environmental Justice







1988 – WEST HARLEM ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION (WE ACT)

1990 - INDIGENOUS ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK AND SOUTHWEST NETWORK FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC **JUSTICE**







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 our lands and communities, do hereby re-establish our spiritual interdependence to the sacredness of our Mother Earth; to respect and celebrate each of our cultures, languages and beliefs about the natural world and our roles in healing ourselves; to ensure environmental justice; to promote economic alternatives which would contribute to the development of environmentally safe livelihoods; and, to secure our political, economic and cultural liberation that has been denied for over 500 years of colonization and oppression, resulting in the poisoning of our communities and land and the genocide of our peoples, do affirm and adopt these Principles of Environmental Justice:

The Principles of Environmental Justice (EJ)

- 1) Environmental Justice affirms the sacredness of Mother Earth, ecological unity and the interdependence of all species, and the right to be free from ecological destruction.
- 2) Environmental Justice demands that public policy be based on mutual respect and justice for all peoples, free
- 3) Environmental Justice mandates the right to ethical, balanced and responsible uses of land and renewable

water, and food.

5) Environmental Justice affirms the fundamental right determination of all peoples.

- 6) Environmental Justice demands the cessation of the production of all toxins, hazardous wastes, and radioactive materials, and that all past and current producers be held strictly accountable to the people for detoxification and the containment at the point of production.
- 7) Environmental Justice demands the right to participate as equal partners at every level of decisionmaking, including needs assessment, planning, implementation, enforcement and evaluation.
- 8) Environmental Justice affirms the right of all workers to a safe and healthy work environment without being forced to choose between an unsafe livelihood and unemployment. It also affirms the right of those who work at home to be free from environmental hazards.
- 9) Environmental Justice protects the right of victims of environmental injustice to receive full compensation and reparations for damages as well as quality health care.

- 10) Environmental Justice considers governmental acts of environmental injustice a violation of international law, the Universal Declaration On Human Rights, and the United Nations Convention on Genocide.
- 11) Environmental Justice must recognize a special legal and natural relationship of Native Peoples to the U.S. creements, compacts, and covenants affirming sovereignt and self-determination.
- 12) Environmental Justice a firms the need for urban access for all to the full range of resources.

enforcement of principles of informed consent, and a halt to the testing of experimental reproductive and medical procedures and vaccinations or people of color.

- (4) Environmental Justice opposes the destructive operations of multi-national corporations.
- 15) Environmental Justice opposes military occupation, repression and exploitation of lands, peoples and cultures, and other life forms.
- 16) Environmental Justice calls for the education of present and future generations which emphasizes social and environmental issues, based on our experience and an appreciation of our diverse cultural perspectives.
- 17) Environmental Justice requires that we, as individuals, make personal and consumer choices to consume as little of Mother Earth's resources and to produce as little waste as possible; and make the conscious decision to challenge and reprioritize our lifestyles to ensure the health of the natural world for present and future generations.

More info on environmental justice and environmental racism can be found online at www.ejnet.org/ej/

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT:

Reorganization to Create the Office of Environmental Equity -- DECISION

MEMORANDUM

FROM:

Kathy Fetruccelli, Director

Management and Organization Division

TO:

Christian R. Holmes Assistant Administrate

F. Henry Habicht II

NOVEMBER 1992 – EPA ESTABLISHES OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY UNDER

Administration and Resources Management (OARM) proposes to ADMINISTRATOR WILestablis Ath Office of Environment Equity which will report to the

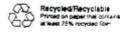
Deputy Assistant



In a report to the Administrator, the Environmental Equity Workgroup found that low-income and minority communities are disproportionately impacted by environmental dangers. The House Appropriations Report on the FY 1993 Budget documented Congress' concern over this matter and its requirement that targeted strategies be developed and implemented to address the environmental dangers to high-risk communities.

To address this issue, OARM proposes to establish the Office of Environmental Equity to serve as a centralized unit to deal with environmental impacts on racial and lowincome populations. The Office will coordinate communication, outreach, education and training of the public on environmental equity issues, serve as a source of information, and provide technical/financial assistance on equity related issues as needed. The new organization will be comprised of five FTE with staff increases projected in the outyears.





Equality



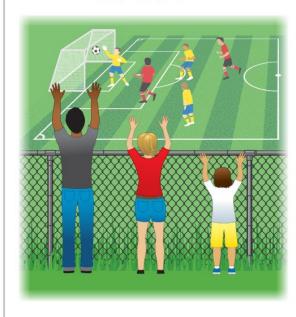
The assumption is that
everyone benefits from
the same supports. This
is equal treatment.

Equity



Everyone gets the supports they need (this is the concept of "affirmative action"), thus producing equity.

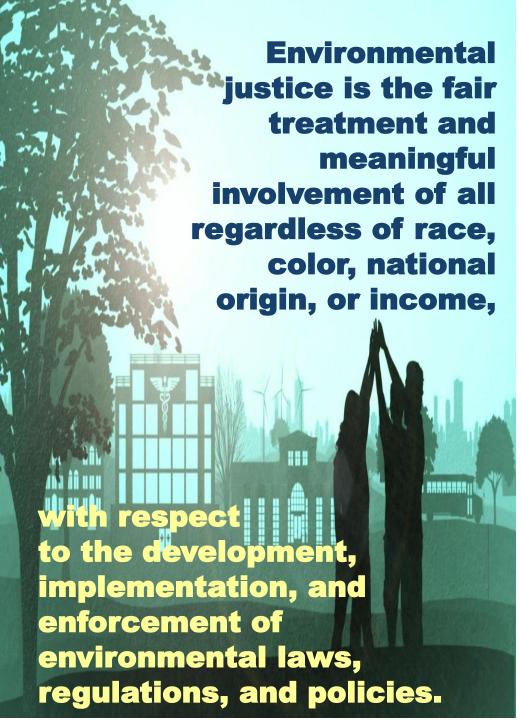
Justice



All 3 can see the game without supports or accommodations because the cause(s) of the inequity was addressed.

The systemic barrier has been removed.





OEJ SUPPORTS EPA'S MISSION

ADVANCING EJ AT EPA

EJ Integration, EJCRC, EJ Strategic Framework, EJSCREEN, EJ Program Measures

PROTECT HUMAN HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT

COLLABORATING WITH PARTNERS

EJ IWG, NEJAC, States, Tribes, Indigenous Peoples

SUPPORTING EJ COMMUNITIES

Grants, Technical
Assistance,
Support Services,
EJ Hotline, EJ
Listserv

STRUCTURE OF OEJ

- Reorganized in April 2019 within OP
- Leads EJ Program throughout the Agency
 - EJ Coordinators in all NPMs & all 10 Regions
- Started in 1992, expanded by 1994's <u>E.O.</u> <u>12898</u>



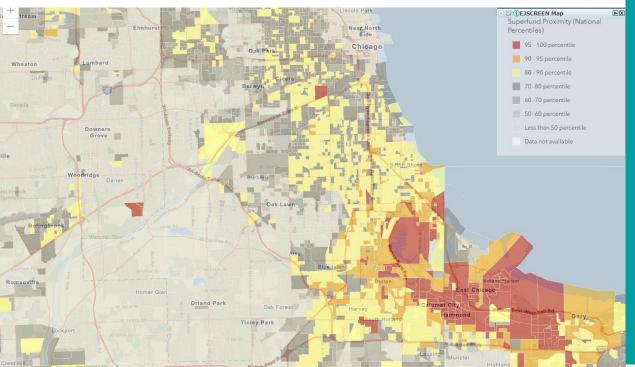
NPM EJ Coordinators, Managers, Support

EPA Administrator AA **Office of Policy EJ OFFICE** PAC SCIM CSE **Teams** PartnerInvestigate LiaisonReview **REGIONAL EJ** Coordinators, roblemsolve Managers, **Support**

EJSCREEN

EPA'S EJ SCREENING & MAPPING TOOL

EJSCREEN'S SUPERFUND PROXIMITY EJ INDICATOR FOR THE CHICAGO AREA.

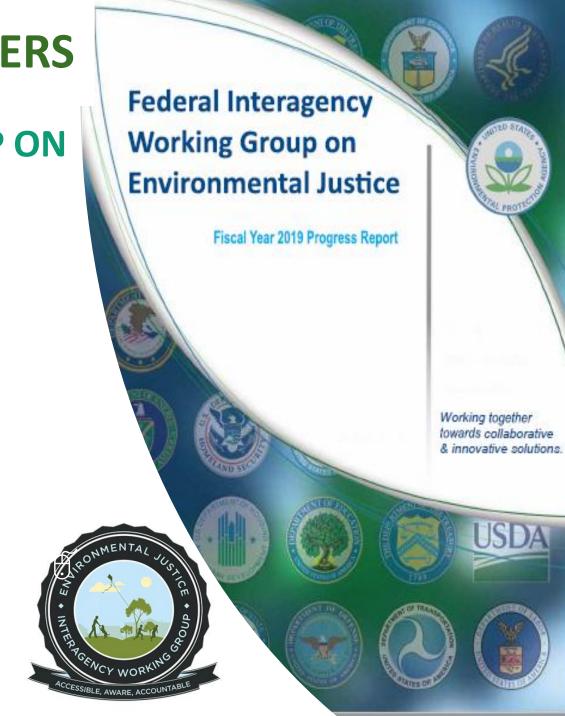


- Combines environmental & demographic data to highlight areas with potential EJ concerns
- 2012 Internally at EPA; starting point for EJ consideration
- 2015 Externally to assist EPA partners & stakeholders
- 2019 Mobile version
- FY19 868 EJ screenings done in enforcement work

OEJ COLLABORATES WITH PARTNERS

FEDERAL INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (EJ IWG)

- Chaired by EPA Administrator
- Managed and led by OEJ Director and OEJ Associate Director
- Monthly meetings, regularly attended by 16+ federal departments and agencies
- Focus Areas: leveraging resources for capacity building and economic investments in minority, low-income, rural, indigenous & tribal communities
- Annual Progress Reports



NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL (NEJAC)

- Started in 1993 to give advice & <u>recommendations</u> to EPA Administrator, who gives <u>charges</u> to the NEJAC (e.g., Superfund Taskforce)
- 30 members community, NGO, business / industry, academia, tribes & indigenous peoples, state & local governments
- Average 3-4 public meetings/year
- Designated Federal Officer convenes
 - December 2019 Added 9 new members
 - February 2020 Last meeting Jacksonville, FL
 - August 2020 Teleconference



FY18 (above) & FY19 (below) NEJAC meetings.



EJ TRAINING WEBINARS FOR STATES

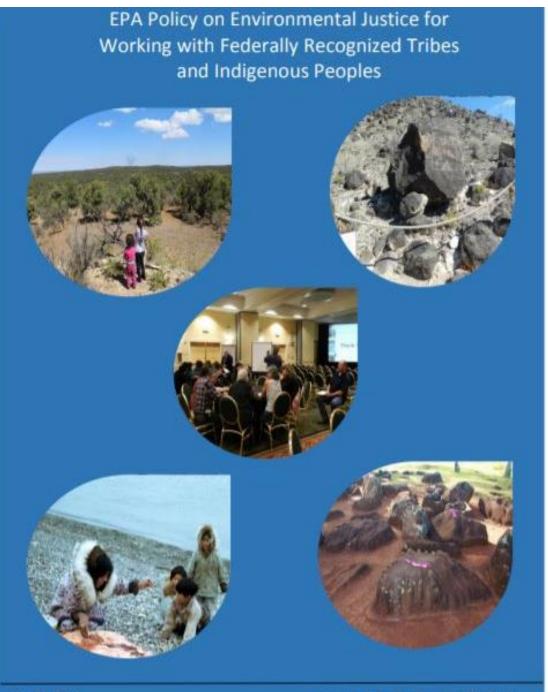
Benefits of Community Engagement

- Learn local knowledge, experience, history
- Minimize delays in the permitting and regulatory processes
- Address concerns that may be outside scope of environmental regulations
- Develop relationships with future partners



"This new training will help states identify, prioritize, and address the needs of at-risk communities facing immediate environmental and public health challenges."

- EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler
- > 4,000 people registered
- Represented government in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam and DC
- Trainings recorded online



TRIBAL AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES EJ POLICY

- Provides consistency and clarity in EPA's work with both Federally Recognized Tribes and all other Indigenous Peoples - 2014
- Four Focus Areas for EJ Integration
 - EPA's Direct Implementation of Programs, Policies and Activities
 - Tribal Environmental Protection Programs
 - EPA's Engagement with Indigenous Peoples
 - Intergovernmental Coordination and Collaboration
- OEJ leads implementation, with program and regional staff advisors (EJ TIPAs)
- Consideration of Traditional Knowledge in EPA decision-making

OEJ PROVIDES COMMUNITY SUPPORT



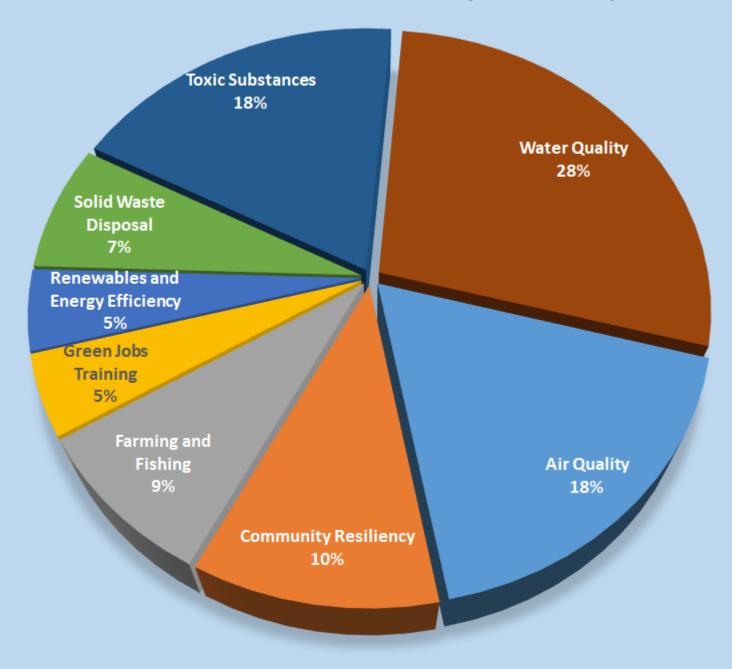
WORKING DIRECTLY WITH VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

- EJ Grants <u>Small Grants</u>; <u>Collaborative</u> <u>Problem-Solving</u>; <u>State EJ Grants</u>
- Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) Contract - OEJ provided \$200K to support TASC, inc. community trainings, facilitations & guidance from scientists & engineers.
- Community Support Services Technical assistance to communities for capacity building & addressing community's priorities.

EJ GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

- Since 1994, \$34+ million in EJ grants to > 1500 communities
- 2013-2018, \$7+ million to
 151 communities
- Recently announced \$1M SEJCA Grants to help EJ communities address
 COVID-19 concerns faced by low-income and minority communities





CONCLUSION

OEJ RELEASES AN <u>ANNUAL EJ PROGRESS REPORT</u>
THAT HIGHLIGHTS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN OEJ, THE EJ PROGRAM AND
THROUGHOUT THE AGENCY.

