



Tools & Resources

OEJ Homepage

<http://www.dep.pa.gov/PublicParticipation/OfficeofEnvironmentalJustice/Pages/default.aspx>

EJ Viewer – Interactive map that identifies trigger permits and EPA sites in relation to EJ communities.

<http://padep1.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=f31a188de122467691cae93c3339469c>

PA Bulletin – Published weekly, the Bulletin includes all permit applications, actions, and special notices announced by the DEP.
www.pabulletin.com

eNOTICE – Automatically updates users via email as permit applications progress through the DEP's review process.
www.ahs.dep.pa.gov/enoticeweb

EPA EJ – The EPA website provides many resources for gaining an understanding of environmental justice issues nationwide.
www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice

Environmental Education Grants – Grants are awarded annually to entities that focus on education.
www.dep.pa.gov/Citizens/EnvironmentalEducation/Grants/

Provide Us with Your Comments & Thoughts

- In person at one of the EJ listening tour stops
<http://www.dep.pa.gov/PublicParticipation/OfficeofEnvironmentalJustice/Pages/Listening-Sessions.aspx>
- In writing, at
Rachel Carson State Office Building
Office of Environmental Justice
400 Market Street, 16th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101
- Online at DEP-OEJ@pa.gov

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For more information, please visit
DEP's website at www.dep.pa.gov



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Office of Environmental Justice

The mission of the Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) is to help ensure the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people with the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental policies, regulations, and laws; as well as the identification of environmental issues that affect the Commonwealth's most vulnerable communities.



What is Environmental Justice?

Historically, minority and low-income populations have been forced to bear a disproportionate share of adverse environmental impacts. It is our duty to ensure that all Pennsylvanians, especially those that have typically been disenfranchised, are meaningfully involved in the decisions that affect their environment and that all communities are not unjustly and/or disproportionately burdened with adverse environmental impacts. Simply put, environmental justice ensures that everyone has an equal seat at the table.

How does DEP identify Environmental Justice areas?

An EJ area is any census tract where 20 percent or more individuals live in poverty, and/or 30 percent or more of the population is minority, based on the most current census tract data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the federal guidelines for poverty.

Environmental Justice Listening Tour Focus Areas

- What environmental justice concerns are most pressing in your community?
- Do you feel that the current definition of an environmental justice community (20% poverty and/or 30% minority) properly represents the needs of your community and the commonwealth at large?
- Do you feel the DEP is engaged with marginalized communities to ensure that they have a voice in the decision making process? How can the DEP be more engaged with these communities?
- What tools have you used to find out information on DEP permitting/enforcement actions?
- What ways can the DEP be more effective at sharing information with the public?
- How can the DEP be more effective at receiving public input?
- What resource(s) is your community lacking that the DEP can provide that would assist in efforts to ensure environmental equity?
- What additional steps can be taken by the DEP to effectively reach out to these vulnerable communities to ensure that their concerns are taken into consideration?

The Office of Environmental Justice has three main goals:

- **Minimize Adverse Environmental Impacts**
Low income and minority populations are especially vulnerable to the negative impacts of pollution. The focus of the OEJ must be to ensure that all projects, both in and outside of EJ communities, are considering those most at risk regardless of where the project is located.
 - **Empower Communities**
EJ communities typically have the least access to the political processes that can affect them the most, so it is critical that they have a seat at the table. In addition to the permit triggers, there must be an open dialogue between Pennsylvania industries and EJ communities.
 - **Foster Economic Opportunities**
The OEJ hopes to cultivate environmentally responsible economic development to and within economically depressed EJ communities. The OEJ will foster relationships with the community and industry.
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