

EJ UPDATE

Your Environment, Your Voice



TOM WOLF, GOVERNOR • PATRICK MCDONNELL, DEP SECRETARY

Greetings, Environmental Justice partners!

We hope you are staying safe and well. The Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) team is writing to send you important updates and resources from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

DEP Updates



Internships Available – PA DEP and Office of Environmental Justice

The Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) is looking for an intern with a passion for environmental justice and skill for strategic communications. During summer 2022, the OEJ intern will assist in the development of public communications tools including information sheets about warehousing and illegal dumping. See all DEP internship postings at [the Commonwealth's employment website](https://www.commonwealth.pa.gov/employment). The summer internship program will run May 2, 2022 – August 26, 2022. The hourly rate for these interns will be \$14.61.

Interested in Buying an Electric or Hybrid Electric Vehicle?

Did you know that DEP offers an Alternative Fuel Vehicle Rebate to incentivize the purchases of new *and pre-owned* hybrid and electric vehicles? Additional funding is available if your household qualifies as low income. The new fact sheet highlights available resources that can make an electric or plug-in hybrid vehicle purchase more affordable. [See the fact sheet here](#).



Coming Soon: Updated Environmental Justice Policy

After years of preparation and collaboration, an updated [Environmental Justice Policy](#) will soon be available for official public comment. DEP will host three virtual public hearings and would like to partner with organizations to raise awareness about the policy, hearings, and public comment period. **If your organization is hosting a virtual event between March 14 and May 6, 2022, we would like to present it to your supporters.** We are targeting at least one virtual presentation in each of [DEP's six regions](#) to raise awareness of the opportunity to comment on the draft policy and to participate in a hearing. Our EJ policy presentation is meant to accompany your planned content and can be adjusted to fit in the time you are willing to give us at your event, from 5-30 min. To request a presentation, contact RA-EnvironJustice@pa.gov.

Black Health and Wellness

Celebrate and Make History with Us!

BLACK HISTORY MONTH
2022

Office of Environmental Justice Celebrates Black History Month

Many say that the environmental justice movement was born in rural, poor, and majority Black, Warren County, North Carolina. In 1982, the state government decided that the small community of Afton would be a suitable site for a new landfill to house truckloads of hazardous waste. Others tie the beginning of the movement to the Memphis Sanitation Strike in 1968 when Black sanitation workers stood up against dangerous working conditions and low pay. However there is no disputing that the pursuit of environmental justice is rooted in Black history. Here are some resources to review in celebration of Black history this month.

[EPA History of the Environmental Justice Movement](#)

[Unladylike Podcast interview with Vernice Miller-Travis and Leah Thomas](#)

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