Town Hall on Environmental Justice

Hosted by the NYC Environmental Justice Advisory Board
This is how we Zoom it!
Part 1:
What is Environmental Justice?
Environmental Justice

Fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all persons

Regardless of race, color, national origin, or income

With respect to:

- the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, policies, and activities
- the distribution of environmental benefits
Part 2:
What is NYC’s Environmental Justice program?
NYC’s Environmental Justice Laws

Local laws 60 & 64 of 2017 codified environmental justice into City decision-making.

Became law after 10 years of advocacy from grassroots environmental justice organizations and the leadership of elected officials including NYC Councilmembers Charles and Inez Barron and Costa Constantinides.
NYC’s Environmental Justice Laws
Our roadmap to identify and address Environmental Justice concerns in NYC.

ASSEMBLE

Establish an Advisory Board of local leaders and experts

Convene a Working Group of City agencies

ASSESS

Identify EJ Areas and outline concerns through a study/report

Publish a web portal with EJ maps, data, and programs

ADDRESS

Develop a Citywide EJ Plan to:

- Incorporate EJ concerns into City decision-making
- Identify City initiatives for promoting EJ

Current step
NYC’s EJ Advisory Board

Established by the City’s Environmental Justice laws

Comprised of EJ leaders – advocates, academics, and public health experts

Advises the City on the implementation of EJ laws

Brings this work to New Yorkers and ensures it is grounded in the experiences of people living in frontline EJ communities
# Environmental Justice Team

Each role helps ensure that the process and final plan are transparent and impactful.

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<th>Role</th>
<th>Responsibilities</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Interagency Working Group</strong></td>
<td>• Conduct research and develop the EJ report&lt;br&gt;• Assemble relevant data to publish EJ portal&lt;br&gt;• Develop Citywide EJ Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Environmental Justice Senior Advisor</strong></td>
<td>• Manage process&lt;br&gt;• Convene Interagency Working Group and Advisory Board&lt;br&gt;• Advise on environmental justice issues</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Environmental Justice Advisory Board</strong></td>
<td>• Review and advise on EJ report, portal, and Plan&lt;br&gt;• Engage with environmental justice communities and the public</td>
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**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE REPORT, PORTAL, AND PLAN**
Part 3:

What is the Environmental Justice for All Report?
Environmental Justice For All Report

- Study the city's Environmental Justice Areas
- Provide a comprehensive view of the present state of environmental justice
- Lay the foundation for the Environmental Justice Plan
- Fulfill 10 legal minimum requirements, to ensure that major climate, environmental, and health concerns are identified and that existing City programs are examined
Environmental Justice Areas in NYC

EJ Areas are defined by law as Census tracts that are either:

- **Low-income communities:** Population below poverty is 23.59% of the total population or greater
- **Minority communities:** Minority population is 51.1% of the total population or greater

Find out if you live in an EJ Area at [nyc.gov/ejstudy](http://nyc.gov/ejstudy)
Minimum Requirements of the Environmental Justice Report

Ten legal minimum requirements, spanning:

- Assessing Environmental Outcomes
- Reviewing City Programs and Policies
- Engaging Communities
Minimum Requirements

Assess Environmental Outcomes

Relates to the analysis of environmental benefits and burdens as well as identification of Environmental Justice Areas.

1. Location of Environmental Justice areas
2. Description of environmental justice issues
3. Latest environmental data, location of City infrastructure, and violations of environmental regulations
4. Investment in renewable energy in Environmental Justice Areas

For more details on what must be included in the study, visit nyc.gov/EJstudy
Minimum Requirements

Review City Programs

Mandates the identification of city programs and processes that advance or hinder Environmental Justice.

5. Existing programs that advance environmental justice and allow the public to participate in agency decision-making.

6. Existing City programs that may cause environmental justice concerns.

7. Environmental justice programs in other municipalities or states.

For more details on what must be included in the study, visit nyc.gov/EJstudy
Minimum Requirements

Engage Communities

Aims to advance public engagement and ensure Environmental Justice communities have a voice in decision-making.

8. Barriers to meaningful participation in environmental decision-making in EJ areas

9. Existing city programs that allow for participation in decisions regarding siting facilities and infrastructure

10. Changes that could be made to existing programs and policies to increase participation in EJ Areas

For more details on what must be included in the study, visit nyc.gov/EJstudy
Part 4:

What kinds of EJ issues are already being tracked?
Health and Mental Hygiene

Community Health Profiles
Data on social, economic, housing conditions and behaviors, healthcare access and health by neighborhood. Includes graphics and maps.

Environment and Health Data Portal
Catalogue of 200+ environmental health indicators across eight topics: outdoor air and weather, built environment, pests and pesticide use, food and drink, environmental sustainability, health outcomes, behavior and social factors.

Examples of Data Available
• Air quality, asthma hospitalizations, infant mortality, cyclist hospitalizations, diabetes diagnoses, and life expectancy
City Planning

**Facilities Database**
Data on 30,000+ facilities that help shape quality of life within neighborhood

**NYC Flood Hazard Mapper**
Interactive map of City’s coastal flooding hazards and how they’ll increase with climate change
Walk to a Park Initiative
Borough maps show if you live walking distance to a park

Street Tree Map
Includes information about every street tree in New York City

Citywide Statistics

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>692,892 Trees on Map</th>
<th>28,350 Activities Reported</th>
<th>7,277 Trees Favorited</th>
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233 Tree Species on Map

London Planetree
Most Common Species
85,450 trees, 12% of trees on the map

Recent Tree Care Activities

- Feb 21, 2021: The Ginkgo near 415 West 118 Street was pruned.
- Feb 21, 2021: The Ginkgo near 417 West 118 Street was pruned.
- Feb 21, 2021: The Ginkgo near 417 West 118 Street was pruned.

Source: Street Tree Map
Economic Opportunity

Social Indicators and Equity Report
Information on economic, social, environmental, and physical health of residents

Mean Travel Time to Work in Minutes by Race/Ethnicity in 2017

- Asian: 42.4 minutes
- Black: 47.4 minutes
- Hispanic/Latínx: 43.3 minutes
- White: 37.9 minutes

Source: Social Indicators and Equity Report
Environmental Remediation

SPEED Mapping Tool

Search for environmental cleanup projects, cleanup requirements on rezoned land, petroleum spills, resiliency info, historic land uses, and community brownfield planning areas.

Source: SPEED Mapping Tool
Part 5:
How can I get involved?
How will public input shape this work?

- **Feb – Apr 2021**: Help develop the draft Report scope
- **June 2021**: Comment on the draft Report scope
- **Dec 2021 – Feb 2022**: Feedback on the draft EJ Report
- **July – Sept 2022**: Propose solutions for the EJ Plan
- **Jan – Mar 2023**: Comment on the draft EJ Plan
Getting Involved

Leave a public comment
- online at nyc.gov/ejstudy
- email EJ@climate.nyc.gov
- voice message 212-788-4144

Comments must be submitted by April 30, 2021

Share with your community

Stay in touch @NYClimate
Make Your Voice Heard

This work is a priority for our board and in line with citywide efforts on racial justice and an equitable recovery from COVID-19.

To achieve Environmental and Climate Justice, we must center the voices of those most impacted by environmental degradation and climate change.
Discussion

nyc.gov/EJstudy  EJ@climate.nyc.gov  212-788-4144  @NYClimate

NYC Town Hall on Environmental Justice
NYC Environmental Justice Team

Environmental Justice Interagency Working Group

- City Commission on Human Rights*
- Dept. of City Planning*
- Dept. of Citywide Administrative Services
- Dept. of Environmental Protection*
- Dept. of Buildings*
- Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene*
- Dept. of Transportation*
- Dept. of Parks and Recreation*
- Dept. of Sanitation*
- Economic Development Corporation
- Dept. of Housing Preservation & Development*
- Mayor’s Office of Climate Policy and Programs
- Mayor’s Office of Resiliency*
- Mayor’s Office of Sustainability*
- New York City Housing Authority
- Mayor’s Office of Environmental Coordination
- Mayor’s Office of Environmental Remediation
- Mayor’s Office of Operations

*Required to Participate per Local Law

Environmental Justice Advisory Board

- Chair: Peggy Shepard, Executive Director, WE ACT
- Christine Appah, Senior Staff Attorney, NYLPI
- Eddie Bautista, Executive Director, NYC-EJA
- Rebecca Bratspies, Professor of Law, CUNY Law
- Dr. Luz Claudio, Professor and Chief of Division of International Health, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
- Omar Freilla, Founder & Executive Director, Green Worker Cooperatives
- Diana Hernandez, Associate Professor, Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia
- Anhthu Hoang, NYC Resident
- Albert Huang, Senior Attorney, NRDC
- Tina Johnson, NYCHA Resident
- Beryl Thurman, Executive Director, North Shore Waterfront Conservancy of Staten Island

*Required to Participate per Local Law