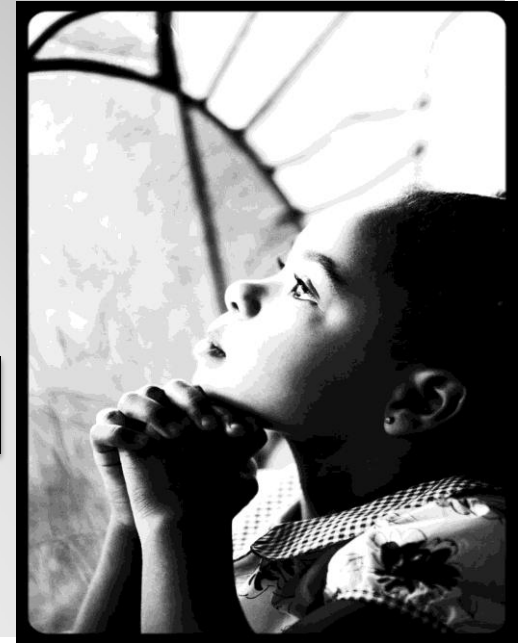


# Environmental Justice, Climate Change, & Racial Justice



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PDE Climate Change Outreach Roundtable  
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# What is Environmental Justice?

Environmental Justice is defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as 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.

# How has EJ arrived here?

The EJ Movement gained mainstream awareness when President Clinton signed Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice in 1994.

EO 12898 mandated that all federal agencies generate agency-specific strategies to address the disproportionate pollution experience by minority communities.

EO 12898 resulted from momentum created during the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit in 1991 where the Principals of EJ were created.

Environmental Justice reveals the *power inequalities* associated with *class and race*.

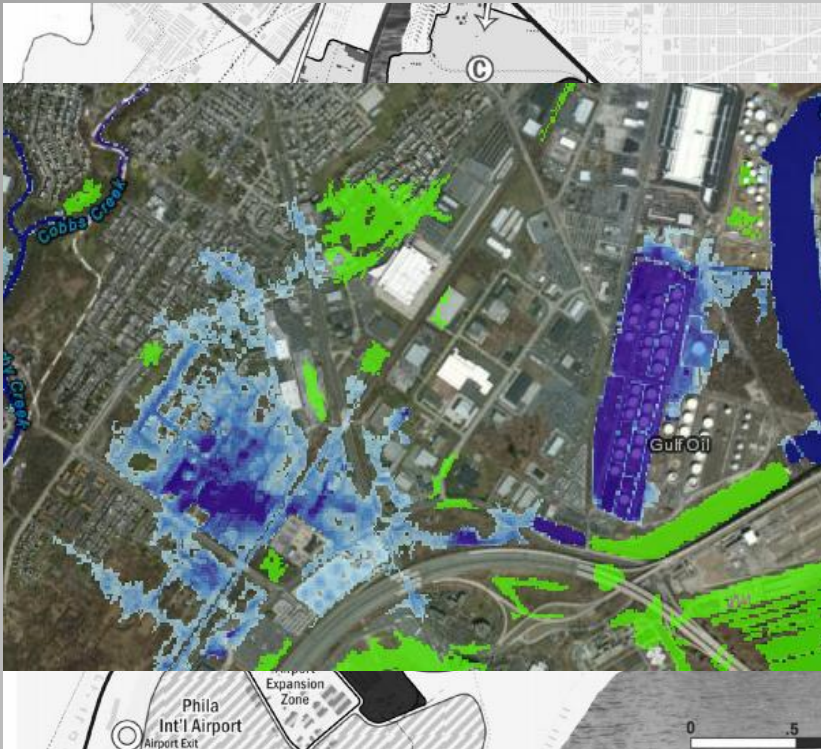


**Beyond the Legalese...**



- Climate change is not only an issue of the environment; it is also an issue of justice and human rights.
- People of color and low-income communities are less responsible for climate change yet bear disproportionate risk.

## **Climate Change at the Intersection of Race & Class**



# Eastwick

- Eastwick is a predominately African-American (73.2 percent) neighborhood with high unemployment (15.7 percent) and modest income levels.
- More than 10 percent of neighborhood households earn less than \$10,000 annually.
- Eastwick is located within a 100-year floodplain.
- Approximately 150 homes in a two-mile radius experience structural problems, including sinking into foundations.

# Disproportionate Vulnerability

1. EJ communities are at greater risk from elevated temperatures and associated co-pollutants.
1. EJ communities are economically more vulnerable to disasters and illnesses.
1. EJ communities are at greater risk from energy and food price shocks.
1. EJ communities are at greater risk of displacement.

- Low income people are less likely to have access to heat-adaptive features.
- 71% of African Americans live in counties in violation of federal air pollution standards, as compared to 58% of non-Hispanic whites.
- Asthma has a strong association with air pollution, and African Americans have a 36% higher rate of incident.

## **Greater Risk from Elevated Temperatures and Co-Pollutants**

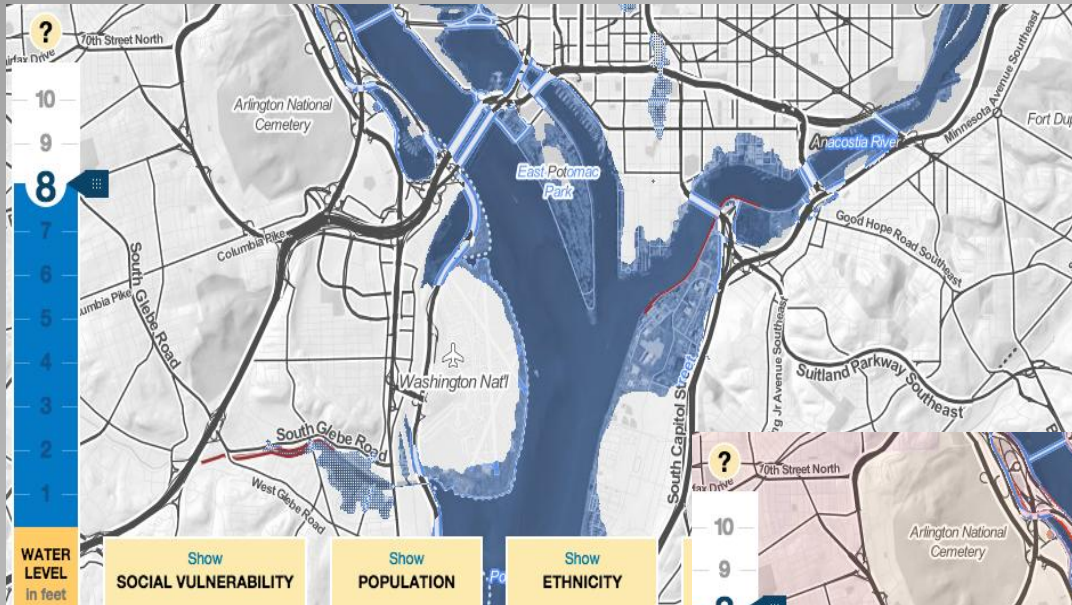


- African Americans net wealth is approximately 1/10 that of whites.
- 70% of white families own their home, while only approximately 50% of African American families do.
- Racial discrimination in the nation's housing markets has resulted in disparity in housing equity.
- Racial discrimination in homeowner's insurance is also extensive.

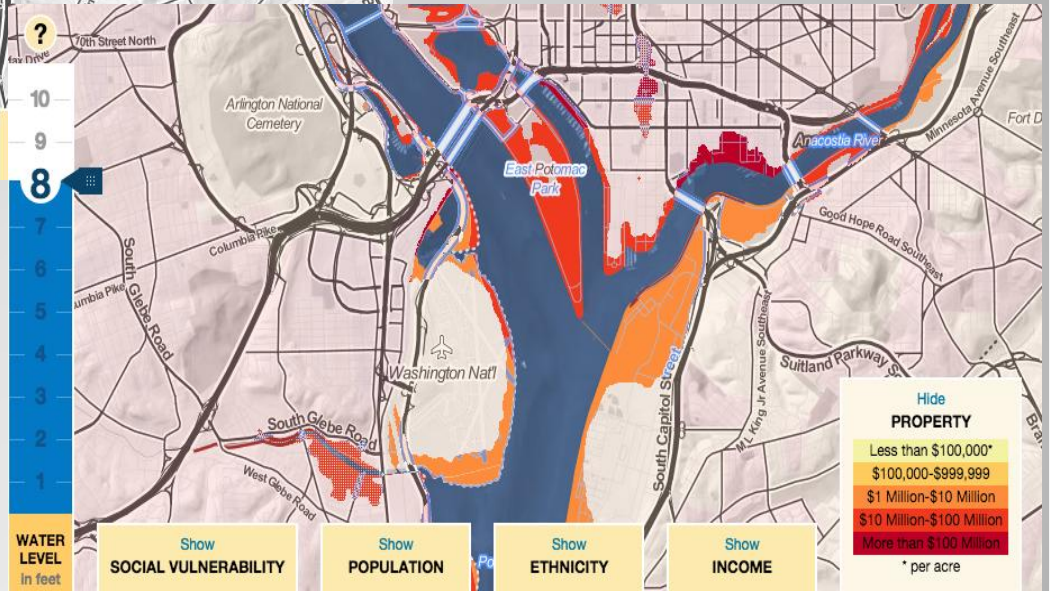
## **Economic Vulnerability to Disaster**

- African Americans spend 30% more of their income on energy than whites.
- African Americans maintain higher rates of food insecurity.
- In 2013, rates of very low food insecurity among African Americans was 10.1% compared to 4.6% for whites.

## **Greater Risk from Energy and Food Price Shocks**



- WATER LEVEL in feet
- Show SOCIAL VULNERABILITY
- Show POPULATION
- Show ETHNICITY



- WATER LEVEL in feet
- Show SOCIAL VULNERABILITY
- Show POPULATION
- Show ETHNICITY
- Show INCOME

Hide PROPERTY
Less than \$100,000*
\$100,000-\$999,999
\$1 Million-\$10 Million
\$10 Million-\$100 Million
More than \$100 Million

\* per acre

# Greater Risk to Displacement

# **Inequity in Sustainability & Resiliency**

1. Smart growth
2. Market-based environmental policy
3. Resiliency planning

***"You cannot serve people by giving them orders as to what to do. The real servant of the people must live among them, think with them, feel for them, and die for them."***

**– Carter G. Woodson**

- Neighborhood-based approaches are more effective at increasing resilience.
- Communities are demanding to speak for themselves.
- Alter our perception of legitimate knowledge.
- Phenomenology is interested in the individual experiences of people.
- Results emerge from the data, instead of being imposed by a structured statistical analysis.

## **Bridging the Equity Gap**