

The EJ 2020 Action Agenda (EJ 2020) is the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) strategic plan for environmental justice for 2016-2020. EJ 2020 will build on the foundation established by EPA's previous plan, Plan EJ 2014, as well as decades of significant environmental justice practice by the Agency, communities and our partners.

## VISION

**B**y 2020, we envision an EPA that integrates environmental justice into everything we do, cultivates strong partnerships to improve on-the-ground results, and charts a path forward for achieving better environmental outcomes and reducing disparities in the nation's most overburdened communities.

Achieving this vision will help to make our vulnerable, environmentally burdened, and economically disadvantaged communities healthier, cleaner and more sustainable places in which to live, work, play and learn.

"EJ 2020 continues EPA's strong leadership and demonstrates a deep commitment to equity. As President of ECOS (the Environmental Council of States), I appreciate the increased acknowledgement of the role of states as co-regulators, our shared responsibility, and the value of collaboration as partners in achieving environmental justice. Advancing equity at all levels is among our most important jobs in government. By working together and learning from each other we can most effectively reduce disparities and strengthen the capacity of communities to create their own healthy futures."

- John Linc Stine  
Commissioner, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
President, Environmental Council of States



## GOALS & KEY AREAS

We will achieve this vision through three goals, eight priority areas, and four national challenges:

**Goal I: Deepen environmental justice practice within EPA programs to improve the health and environment of overburdened communities**

Priority areas: (1) Rulemaking, (2) Permitting, (3) Compliance and Enforcement, and (4) Science

**Goal II: Work with partners to expand our positive impact within overburdened communities**

Priority areas: (1) States and Local Governments, (2) Federal Agencies, (3) Community-Based Work, and (4) Tribes and Indigenous Peoples

**Goal III: Demonstrate progress on significant national environmental justice challenges**

Challenges: (1) Lead Disparities, (2) Drinking Water, (3) Air Quality, and (4) Hazardous Waste Sites

## ACTIVITIES

### Implementation

EJ 2020 will be implemented using a cross-agency approach. The various priority areas and actions in this plan will be led by programs and regional offices in an effort to incorporate environmental justice into every aspect of EPA's work. Therefore the responsibility for the successful implementation will truly be a cross-agency endeavor.

### Stakeholder Outreach

Vibrant stakeholder engagement and partnerships are the backbone of EJ 2020 and essential to achieving meaningful outcomes for overburdened communities. Through early, ongoing and meaningful stakeholder engagement, EPA will catalyze a new level of stakeholder dialogue and collaboration during the course of implementation. EPA will continue to hold webinars and meetings on the plan, solicit input and feedback, and offer other opportunities for stronger stakeholder engagement and collaboration. In addition, EPA will continue to use partnership mechanisms with advisory committees and federal, state, tribal and local government organizations to solicit feedback.

### Annual Reporting

EPA will produce annual reports on our EJ 2020 progress starting at the end of 2017 through 2020. We are doing this in an effort to be transparent and accountable to the public in our implementation of these important efforts.

## KEY AREAS & LEAD EPA OFFICES

**Rulemaking** - Office of Policy, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, Region 7

**Permitting** - Office of Air and Radiation, Region 2

**Compliance and Enforcement** - Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, Region 8

**Science** - Office of Research and Development, Region 1

**States and Local Governments** - Office of Water, Region 5

**Federal Agencies** - Office of Land and Emergency Management, Office of Environmental Justice, Region 4

**Community-Based Work** - Office of Land and Emergency Management, Office of Environmental Justice, Region 3, Region 10

**Tribes and Indigenous Peoples** - Office of International and Tribal Affairs, Office of Environmental Justice, Region 6

**National Measures** - Office of the Chief Financial Officer, Region 9



Through EJ 2020, EPA will advance EPA's environmental justice efforts to a new level in improving the health and environment of overburdened communities. By 2020, we will:

- Improve on-the-ground results for overburdened communities;
- Institutionalize environmental justice integration in EPA decision-making;
- Build robust partnerships with states and co-regulators;
- Strengthen our ability to take action on environmental justice and cumulative impacts; and
- Better address complex national environmental justice issues.