

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY CHARTER

WHITE HOUSE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL (WHEJAC)

1. **Committee's Official Designation (Title):**

White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC)

2. **Authority:**

The White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council is established by Executive Order 14008, titled *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad* (issued on January 27, 2021). As such, this is a non-discretionary committee and operate under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. App. 2.

3. **Objectives and Scope of Activities:**

The WHEJAC will provide independent advice and recommendations to the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and to the White House Interagency Council on Environmental Justice (Interagency Council) on how to increase the Federal Government's efforts to address current and historic environmental injustice, including recommendations for updating Executive Order 12898. The WHEJAC will provide advice and recommendations about broad cross-cutting issues related but not limited to issues of environmental justice and pollution reduction, energy, climate change mitigation and resiliency, environmental health and racial inequity. The WHEJAC's efforts will include a broad range of strategic, scientific, technological, regulatory, community engagement, and economic issues related to environmental justice.

4. **Description of Duties:**

The duties of the WHEJAC are to provide advice and recommendations to the Interagency Council and the Chair of CEQ on a whole-of-government approach to environmental justice, including, but not limited, to environmental justice in the following areas:

- a. Climate change mitigation, resilience, and disaster management
- b. Toxics, pesticides, and pollution reduction in overburdened communities
- c. Equitable conservation and public lands use
- d. Tribal and Indigenous issues
- e. Clean energy transition
- f. Sustainable infrastructure, including clean water, transportation, and the built environment
- g. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), enforcement and civil rights
- h. Increasing the Federal Government's efforts to address current and historic environmental injustice

5. Agency or Official to Whom the Committee Reports:

The Council will submit advice and recommendations and report to the Chair of the CEQ and the Interagency Council.

6. Support:

EPA will be responsible for financial and administrative support. Within EPA, this support will be provided by the Office of the Administrator.

7. Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Work Years:

The estimated annual operating cost of the WHEJAC is \$1,000,000 which includes 3.0 full-time equivalent support.

8. Designated Federal Officer:

A full-time or permanent part-time employee of EPA will be appointed as the Designated Federal Officer (DFO). The DFO or an alternate DFO will be present at all meetings of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council and subcommittees. Each meeting will be conducted in accordance with an agenda approved in advance by the DFO. The DFO is authorized to adjourn any meeting when he or she determines it is in the public interest to do so and will chair meetings when directed to do so by the Administrator of EPA.

9. Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings:

The WHEJAC expects to meet four times per year. The WHEJAC's subgroups (i.e. subcommittees and/or working groups as needed and directed) will meet on an as-needed basis. WHEJAC meetings may occur approximately one per quarter or more frequently as needed and approved by the DFO.

As required by FACA, the WHEJAC will hold open meetings unless the Administrator of EPA determines that a meeting or a portion of a meeting may be closed to the public in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c). Interested persons may attend meetings, appear before the committee, or file comments with the WHEJAC.

10. Duration:

The duration of the WHEJAC is continuing, subject to the Termination section below.

11. Termination:

Unless extended by the President, the WHEJAC will terminate on January 27, 2023.

12. Membership and Designation:

The WHEJAC will be composed of approximately 40 members appointed by the President. The President will appoint two Co-Chairpersons and two Vice-Chairpersons. Members shall be drawn from across the political spectrum and will be persons who have demonstrated high levels of competence, knowledge, and expertise in environmental justice, climate change, disaster preparedness and racial inequity. Members will serve as Representatives for a 2-year term. Members are selected to represent the points of view from among but not limited to environmental justice communities, environmental justice community-based organizations, environmental justice research and academia, and tribal, state and local governments.

13. Subcommittees:

The Chair of CEQ with the Administrator's/DFO's approval, may form subcommittees or workgroups for any purpose consistent with this charter. Such subcommittees or workgroups may not work independently of the chartered committee and must report their recommendations and advice to the chartered WHEJAC for full deliberation and discussion. Subcommittees or workgroups have no authority to make decisions on behalf of the chartered committee, nor can they report directly to a Federal officer or agency.

14. Recordkeeping:

The records of the committee, formally and informally established subcommittees, or other subgroups of the committee, will be handled in accordance with NARA General Records Schedule 6.2 and EPA Records Schedule 1024 or other approved agency records disposition schedule. Subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, these records will be available for public inspection and copying, in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

March 15, 2021

Agency Approval Date

February 22, 2021

GSA Consultation Date

March 15, 2021

Date Filed with Congress