

EPA Natl EJ Community Engagement Call

November 23, 2021

Summary of Questions and Answers

Welcome! Thank you for joining us today. The purpose of these engagement calls is to inform communities about EPA's environmental justice work and enhance opportunities to maintain an open dialogue with environmental justice advocates. As environmental justice continues to be integrated into EPA programs and policies, the Agency hopes that these calls will help reaffirm EPA's continued commitment to work with community groups and the public to strengthen local environmental and human health outcomes.

o Webpage with information about upcoming calls: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-community-engagement-calls>

o For up-to-date information about Environmental Justice funding opportunities, events, and webinars, subscribe to EPA's Environmental Justice listserv by sending a blank email to: join-epa-@epa.gov

o Follow us on Twitter: [@EPAEnvJustice](https://twitter.com/EPAEnvJustice)

o Meeting materials and recordings for this call and all past calls will be here: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-community-engagement-calls>

o Send follow-up questions or comments to: EnvironmentalJustice@epa.gov

Question	Commenter	Answer
Hi there, can you share those links to these opportunities in the chat?	Emily Dyett	Hi Emily, thank you for your question, there are a lot of great opportunities coming up! I will post them below and they will also be in the powerpoint slides which I will be posting the our website here following the call: https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-community-engagement-calls .
		EPA Environmental Justice Webinar Series for Tribes and Indigenous Peoples webinar on November 30th: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/justice-40-a-whole-of-government-approach-for-environmental-justice-tickets-196611629677
		EPA Tools and Resources Webinar: Finding EPA Resilience Resources with the Environmental Resilience Tools Wizard webinar on December 1st: https://usepa.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_BPGj1IePTiSNutSAsYbhkg
		EPA EJSCREEN Office Hours on December 8: https://usepa.zoomgov.com/j/1606887018
		EPA Tools and Resources Webinar: Community and Citizen Science – Making Your Data Count on December 15: https://usepa.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_synLsFAeSKCXcLPecuI5jQ
		Superfund Redevelopment Mapper Tool and Training Webinar on January 26, 2022: https://clu-in.org/conf/tio/superfund-redevelopment/
When is the NEJAC meeting again? Thank you!	Anonymous Attendee	NEJAC Meeting: January 5, 2022 between 1:00pm - 4:00 pm (ET)
How are communities selected for the Justice to Journey tours?	Nina Morgan	live answered
Do you have programs for Native Hawaiians?	Lyn McNutt	live answered Please reach out to capilla.morgan@epa.gov
I Love the "Mindful" moment of Gratitude! I am very grateful for EPA's passion for EJ-Equity work.	Tami Thomas-Burton	Thank you
Who are the economists developing the environmental justice benefits methodology that is to be submitted to the Whitehouse on December 14?	Anonymous Attendee	live answered

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Also, what would it mean for the EJ Office to advance to a National Program Office? How would that kind of transition advance EJ work at the EPA and across the country?	Nina Morgan	live answered
For a new IGAP employee from alaska, what resources and tools are available for our state? Justice 40 is new to me as a worker and would like to figure how to best utilize the assistance and tools offered by this federal program.	Wales Igap Program	Hi Wales, thank you for your comment. I encourage you to reach out to your EPA region 10 EJ coordinator: Sheryl Stohs (stohs.sheryl@epa.gov). Thank you!
What is the planned outcome of the Justice to Journey Tour?	Antonia Izuogu	live answered
Native Hawaiians are NOT considered "tribal" or "indigenous ". We have a LOT of issues here in Hawaii and the Pacific Islands.	Lyn McNutt	Thank you for your important comment Lyn
Region 9 competes with California. I was in AK before HI. we don't get funding.	Lyn McNutt	Thank you for bringing this to our attention Lyn
Please contact me. I am at U Hawaii Kauai CC	Lyn McNutt	Hi Lyn, I encourage you to reach out to Morgan Capilla at capilla.morgan@epa.gov
Our teachers, from early childhood through elementary and beyond, are the troopers who routinely must deal with behavioral disorders of increasing numbers of children in their classes. According to a good friend who has been teaching elementary for 40+ years, the impact is daunting and effects the whole classroom culture. We are loosing teachers because of those challenges and the paycales that rarely come close to adequate compensation and appreciation for the time and enery required. Numerous scientific studies have shown an association between fluoride exposure and lowered IQ and other neurodevelopmental disorders, including ADHD. It has been well documented that Blacks and other minorities are disproportionately harmed from fluoride exposure (dental fluorosis being the most visibly obvious harm, and which is only a visible symptom of fluoride toxicity).	John Mueller	Hello John, we thank you for your insightful and informative comment. I encourage you to reach out to our Office of Public Engagement and Environmental Education to bring this to their attention: education@epa.gov. Their website is: https://www.epa.gov/education
In the WHEJAC meetings last week, several Council members expressed concern that the 60% which is the non-EJ allocation of benefits, may be used to sustain harms to their communities. How will you prevent this from happening?	Patricia Taylor	live answered
EPA is currently reconsidering the 2020 rule that loosened limitations on toxic water pollution from power plants. Is NEJAC involved in bringing an environmental justice framework to this important reconsideration, and how can members in affected communities uplift environmental justice concerns in this process?	SOCM	live answered
Cont'd . . . The EPA must shift the paradigm from adding toxic hazardous waste (fluorosilicic acid from phosphate fertilizer production) to public drinking water to help the CDC redirect pro-fluoridation efforts to more direct dental treatment programs where needed most, instead of continuing the promotion of mass medication to treat tooth decay. Fluoride is as toxic to in utero and early childhood brain development as lead. What will it take from the EPA to reverse the increasing incidence of classroom behavior issues that may be attributed to fluoride exposure?	John Mueller	Hi John, appreciate you continuing your thought. I do encourage you to reach out to the Office of Public Engagement and Environmental Education to bring this to their attention: education@epa.gov. Their website is: https://www.epa.gov/education

Question	Commenter	Answer
To what extent are you at EPA taking into account the NJ landmark law that is approaching implementation sooner than later? Western PA is the subject of multiple health studies from the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of emissions from undisclosed chemicals released during unconventional fracking operations. Are you looking at these studies?	Rachel Dawn (she/her)	live answered
Thank you, Christina. The entire fluoridated population in the US is an "environmental injustice community." Are you saying the NEJAC cannot do anything?	John Mueller	Hi John, we appreciate your comment. We cannot speak on behalf of the NEJAC and their capabilities, they are valuable group independent of the EPA. But with their upcoming meeting, I recommend submitting a comment to the NEJAC. Information on how to do this will be posted here soon: https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-advisory-council-meetings
I have done so, beginning with the inaugural WHEJAC public mtg on March 30, also NEJAC meetings in June, August, and two weeks ago. Since fluoridation is a national crisis, and the entire fluoridated US comprises an EJ community, can't this issue be addressed in these community calls? The CDC is responding - why not the EPA? Adding fluoride exposure is contributing to classroom "chemical brain drain." And it is clearly an EJ issue. Sweeping it under the rug in this meeting is quite simply more of the same, status quo. Please advise. Thank you Christina.	John Mueller	live answered
Our state (Michigan) doesn't use EJ screen in the permitting process. How can EJ screen be used as a tool beyond an acknowledgement that a community is exposed to toxic pollutants?	nayyirah shariff	live answered
Will do. Thank you Matt. CDC has not responded to me, but I have reliable info that CDC's Dr. Karen Hacker has been responding to others.	John Mueller	Thank you John. Matthew's email is tejada.matthew@epa.gov
Thank you again, Christina. I am reasonably sure I am the John who has contacted Matt, and will email him with the CDC contact.	John Mueller	You are welcome John
December 7th. Great!	John Mueller	Yes, that is the date for the next National EJ Community Engagement call which will feature conversations about Justice40 implementation by U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the U.S. Dept of Energy (DOE)
Thank you and Happy Thanksgiving!	Sean Joyner (HUD)	Thank you Sean, same to you!
Matt is awesome!!	John Mueller	Yes he is!