





NEJAC Finance and Investment Workgroup

Presentation to EFAB
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Introduction

Objectives/General Asks

1. A response as to how each of the sections that are provided in the document are being implemented.
2. A roadmap plan that outlines how EPA implementation of Justice40 objectives will be conducted.
3. A presentation of foreseen challenges or barriers toward ensuring timely prioritization of funding and investments to EJ communities across short-, medium-, and long-term timeframes.
4. A consultation with the NEJAC on the ways in which finance and investment opportunities in communities with legacy EJ problems will result in environmental and economic improvements for these communities.

Defining Investments and Benefits in EJ Communities

The NEJAC seeks information on how EPA defines investments and benefits so they can be provided in overburdened and under-resourced communities

Recommendation: Develop a “model” definition of benefits that will be used to determine how benefits will be assessed

- Involve co-creation
- Race/ethnicity should be central

Prioritizing Investments and Benefits in EJ Communities

The NEJAC seeks to understand how the EPA prioritizes and centers the concerns and needs of communities experiencing EJ problems through financial investments and benefits across the Agency's offices and programs.

Recommendations

- Scope and flow of investments, benefits, co-benefits
- Funds should go directly into EJ communities
- Develop REJACs (Regional Environmental Justice Advisory Councils)

Assessing/Determining and Distributing Investments and Benefits in EJ Communities

The NEJAC seeks information on how EPA provides avenues to allow for community-based organizations (CBOs) to gain access to funding and overcome barriers that often prevent them from competing with better-resourced non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and academic institutions.

Recommendations

- Communities should be able to address their own EJ concerns
- Building community capacity is central

Measuring and Tracking Investments and Benefits in EJ Communities

The NEJAC seeks to understand how investments and benefits are measured and tracked, the method by which the afore mentioned are measured and tracked and how are the challenges and barriers to creating this accountability system might be overcome.

Recommendations

- Strong guidelines for states to include EJ objectives in their federal funding implementation
- Measure performance for any centers that are meant to build capacity in EJ communities
- Address climate change issues with measurable outcomes

Mapping and Reporting Investments and Benefits in EJ Communities

The NEJAC seeks to understand how there will be increased transparency in understanding how funding is distributed by the EPA.

Recommendations

- Develop a visualization tool on funding
- Improve current tools to meet community concerns



Questions and Discussion