

Thank you to our Patrons



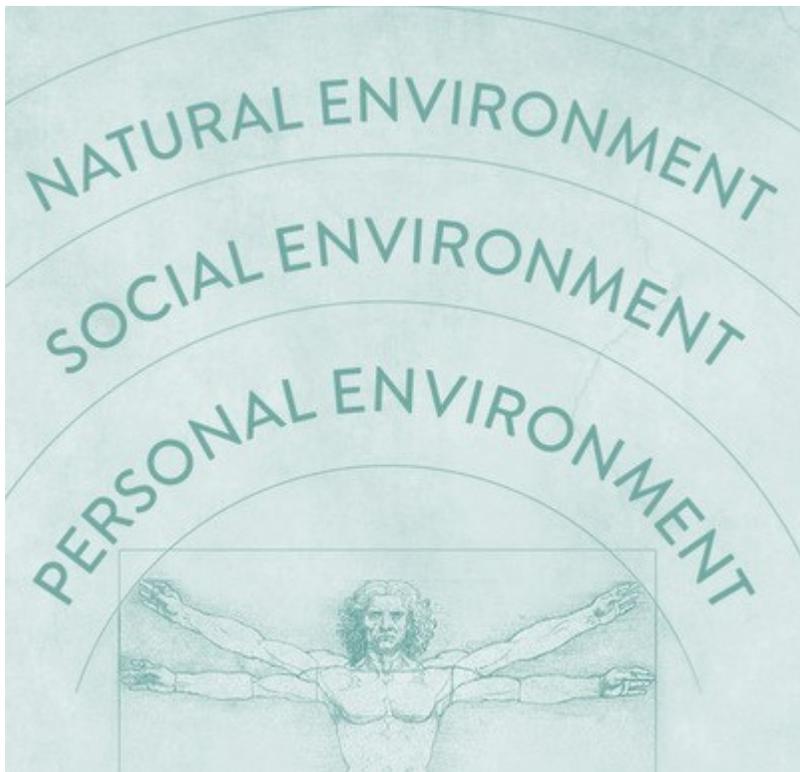
We will begin our presentation in a few minutes...



Leadership and Excellence in Environmental Engineering and Science

Advancing Environmental Health Through Research, Policy, and Environmental Justice

Christina Lee Brown Envirome Institute



Natural: everything that is not man-made like the weather, mountains and rivers, and plants and animals.



Social: how we organize ourselves into a society and build communities.



Personal: the lives we to build for ourselves, where we live, what we eat, and behaviors including exercise or smoking.

Riggs, DW, Yeager, RA, & Bhatnagar, A. (2018). Defining the human envirome: an omics approach for assessing the environmental risk of cardiovascular disease. *Circulation research*, 122(9), 1259-1275.

<https://enviromeinstitute.org>

The Timeline is Just Part of the Story

Chemical Technician Specialist at Lexmark International Inc.

PhD in Public Health, concentration: Environmental Health

Policy Analyst in Environmental Health at American Public Health Association

Professorial Lecturer at The George Washington University (current)

Deputy Director at White House Council on Environmental Quality



Bachelor's degrees in Chemistry and Biology

Master of Public Health, concentration: Environmental Health

Postdoctoral fellowship in Environmental Cardiology

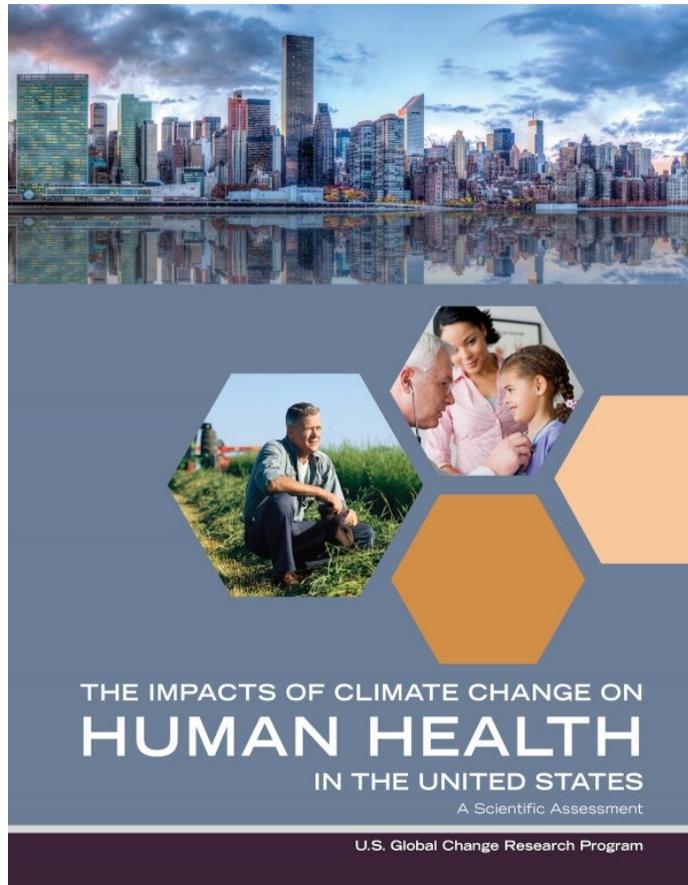
Interim Associate Director at National Environmental Health Association

Assistant Professor University of Louisville (current)

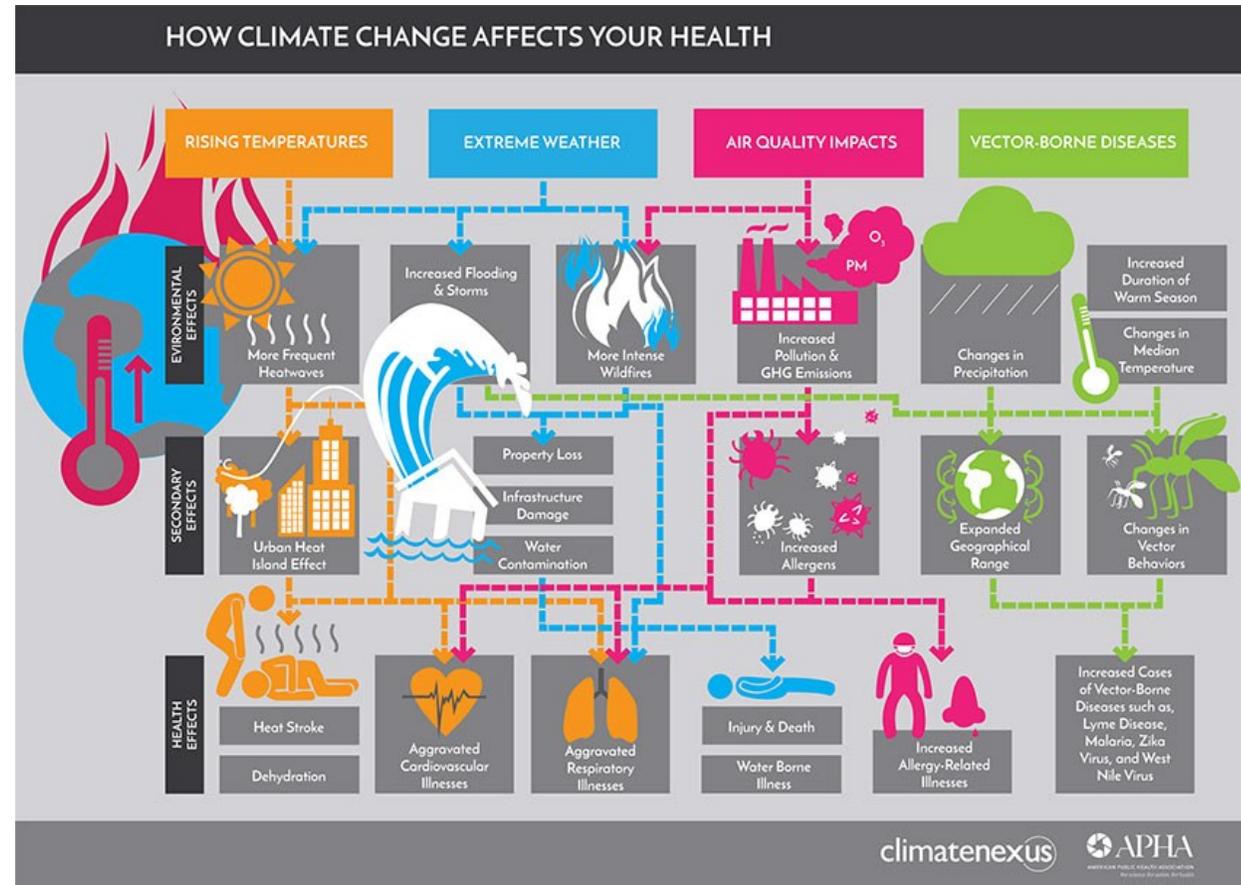
What's in the Air



Informing Policy



www.globalchange.gov/



www.apha.org

Informing Policy



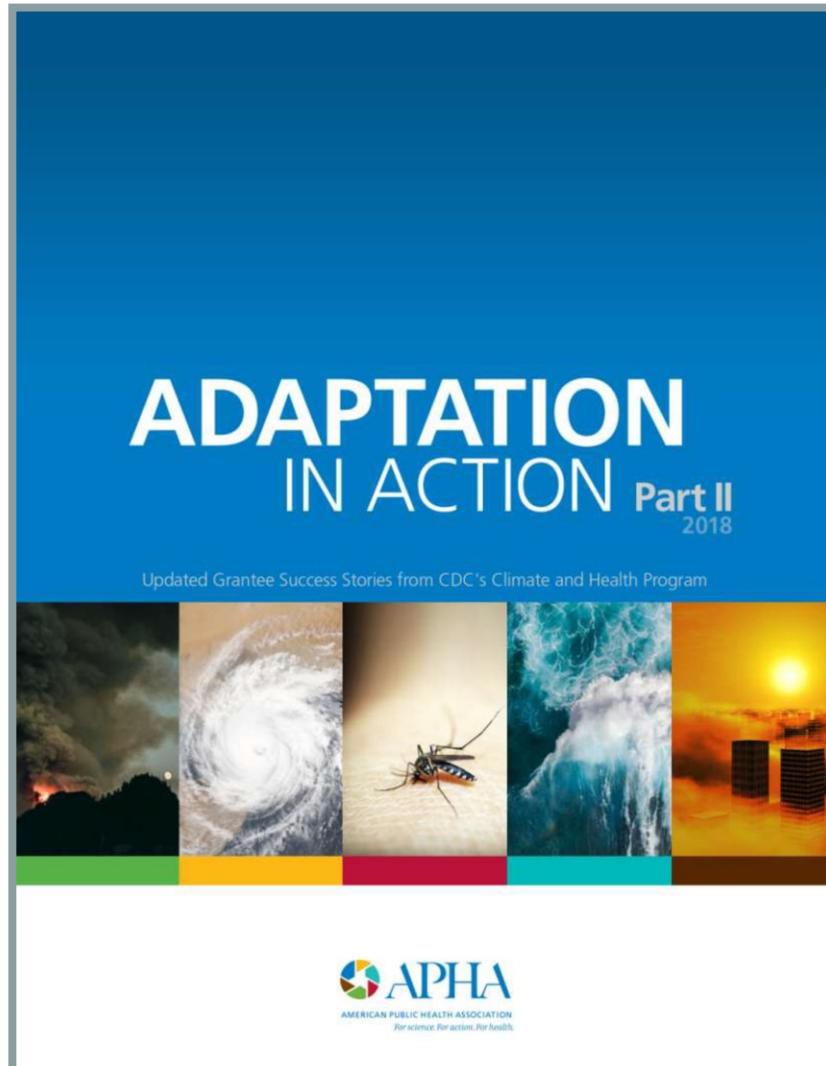
Making the Connection:
Climate Changes Health
webinar series

 **APHA**
AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

 **CLIMATE**
for **HEALTH**™

ecoAmerica
start with people

Informing Policy



www.apha.org

EXTREME HEAT CAN IMPACT OUR HEALTH IN MANY WAYS

Climate change poses many risks to human health. Some health impacts of climate change are already being felt in the United States.

We need to safeguard our communities by protecting people's health, wellbeing, and quality of life from climate change impacts. Many communities are already taking steps to address these public health issues and reduce the risk of harm.



BACKGROUND

When we burn fossil fuels, such as coal and gas, we release carbon dioxide (CO₂). CO₂ builds up in the atmosphere and causes Earth's temperature to rise, much like a blanket traps in heat. This extra trapped heat disrupts many of the interconnected systems in our environment.



Climate change also affects human health by increasing the frequency and intensity of extreme heat events. Increases in the overall temperature of the atmosphere and oceans associated with climate change cause changes in wind, moisture, and heat circulation patterns. These changes contribute to shifts in extreme weather events, including extreme heat events.

THE CLIMATE-HEALTH CONNECTION

Extreme heat events can be dangerous to health – even fatal. These events result in increased hospital admissions for heat-related illness, as well as cardiovascular and respiratory disorders.

- Extreme heat events can trigger a variety of heat stress conditions, such as heat stroke. Heat stroke is the most serious heat-related disorder. It occurs when the body becomes unable to control its temperature. Body temperature rises rapidly, the sweating mechanism fails, and the body cannot cool down. This condition can cause death or permanent disability if emergency treatment is not given. Small children, the elderly, and certain other groups including people with chronic diseases, low-income populations, and outdoor workers have higher risk for heat-related illness.
- Higher temperatures and respiratory problems are also linked. One reason is because higher temperatures contribute to the build-up of harmful air pollutants.
- Many cities across the United States, including St. Louis, Philadelphia, Chicago, and Cincinnati, have seen large increases in death rates during heat waves.

Informing Policy

Adaptation Checkup: Public Health and Climate Change – A Podcast with Dr. Natasha DeJarnett

Jul 23, 2018



In episode 70 of *America Adapts*, Doug Parsons celebrates two years of *America Adapts* by talking with **Dr. Natasha DeJarnett**, a policy analyst in the **American Public Health Association's (APHA) Center for Public Health Policy**. Natasha leads the Natural Environment portfolio focusing on water, air and climate change. ...

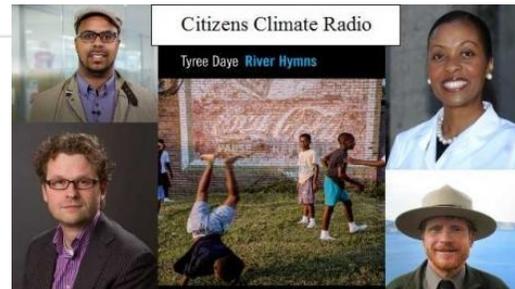
[Read More](#)

Adaptation Checkup



Public Health and Climate Change

A Podcast with **Dr. Natasha DeJarnett**



Dr. Natasha DeJarnett from the American Public Health Association and Dr. Jalonne White-Newsome from the Kresge Foundation appear on this episode of Citizens' Climate Radio.

Join Peterson and fellow panelists for an engaging and interactive presentation on storytelling at the **10th Annual Citizens Climate International Conference** in Washington, DC

Storytelling is a skill we learn and hone. In doing effective climate advocacy, we tell simple but powerful stories that lead to deeper understanding, curiosity, and action. Panelists will share examples of climate change related stories.

You will hear stories about their districts and their identities. They will also tell stories about the benefits of carbon fee and dividend. The audience will then get the chance to work on their own two minute stories. These can then be used for lobbying, public speaking, in social settings, and in print media.



Dr. Natasha DeJarnett

Citizens' Climate Radio Ep. 6: Health risks on a changing planet

Citizens' Climate Radio is a monthly podcast hosted by CCL volunteer Peterson Toscano. Browse all our past episodes [here](#), and check out the [latest episode](#) in the post below.

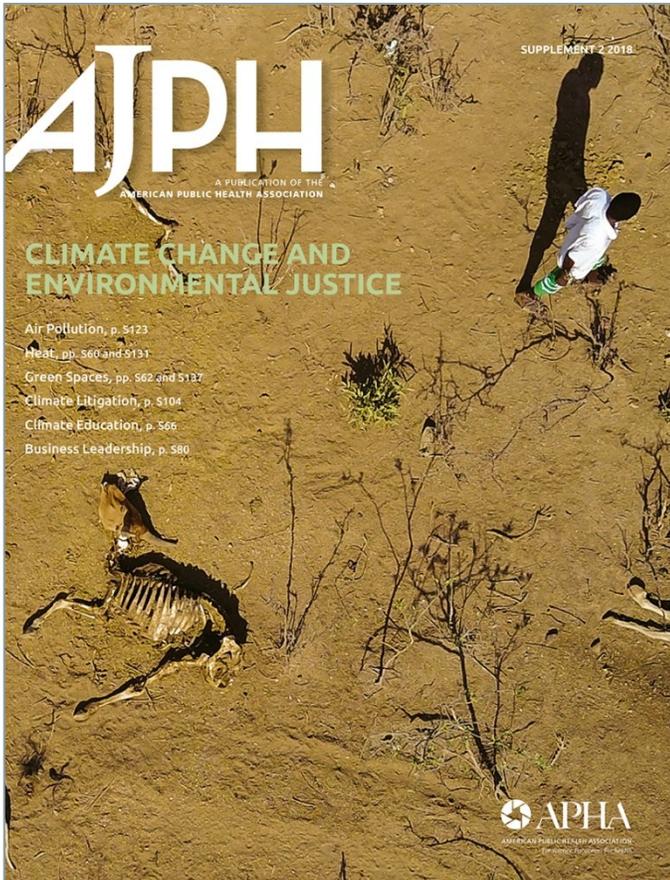
Our rapidly changing planet is already posing risks to public health. Dr. Natasha DeJarnett from the [American Public Health Association](#) sits down with Peterson Toscano to outline some of these risks and explore community-building opportunities. [Dr. Jalonne White-Newsome](#), senior program officer from the Kresge Foundation, provides a new framework for looking at resiliency.



Building a Movement

“It’s always the right time to do what’s right.”

Building a Movement



AJPH PERSPECTIVES

The American Public Health Association's 2017 Year of Climate Change and Health: Time for Action

Climate change is today's greatest public health threat.¹ As the nation's leading voice in public health, the American Public Health Association (APHA) has demonstrated an enduring commitment to addressing climate change as a health issue. As far back as the mid-1970s, APHA reported on the health impacts of climate change.^{2,3} Shaping the development of future governmental policies, APHA members created the organization's first policy statement on climate change in 1993 (updated in 2007 and 2015). APHA continued to bring attention to climate change and public health, making it the theme of National Public Health Week 2008. Since then, evidence of climate change's causes and effects has mounted, but public action of the same and low prioritization by the public has made progress toward mitigation and adaptation slow.

Climate change's chronic health demands urgent action from the public health community. To this end, APHA sought to strengthen the coalition of public health practitioners and cross-sectoral partners committed to build momentum on climate change action. As a first step, APHA resolved to take a more strategic, proactive approach to address the health effects of climate change.

MAKING A PLAN

In summer 2016, APHA set out to develop a multi-year strategic plan to address climate change and health mitigation and adaptation. Members, supporters, and partners gathered at APHA headquarters in Washington, DC, to generate the following vision for the future: "Climate change is a national priority with broad political and social support. Our nation will address it in ways that improve public health and health equity, creating the healthier nation in one generation."

To advance this vision, participants in the two-day planning meeting set strategic goals and action steps. These supported building awareness of the health impacts of climate change; creating a climate-health environment; promoting equitable policies; and inspiring and promoting multidisciplinary research to inform decisions.

One of the Climate Change and Health Strategic Plan calls the 2017 Year of Climate Change and Health, a campaign to increase awareness by educating APHA members that climate change is a public health issue and not exclusively an environmental issue, and (2) mobilize leaders who are successful in climate change but have not yet begun to take action.

MOBILIZING A MOVEMENT

In its October 2016 Annual Meeting, APHA held the first-ever "Climate Change and Health" roundtable to unveil the new strategic plan and discuss how the 2017 Year of Climate Change and Health would advance the plan's goals. Attendees included APHA members and affiliate leaders and partners, who suggested topics to cover (Appendix A, available as a supplement to the online version of this article at <http://www.ajph.org>), planned activities to support, and proposed partnerships to include in the campaign.⁴

With a sense of urgency heightened by concern about changing federal priorities, APHA began building on the roundtable's suggestions. It hired a survey dissemination and social media to APHA's Twitter followers in which 530 respondents voted on what they believed to be the most pressing current topics in climate change and health. On January 12, APHA announced the 2017 Year of Climate Change and Health to more than 200 members, stakeholders, and key influencers at the Partner Kickoff Meeting in Washington, DC. There, informed by the survey results, participants set monthly campaign themes and proposed activities to plan and audiences to reach throughout the year (Box 1).

On February 16, APHA convened the Climate & Health Meeting at the Carter Center in Atlanta, Georgia, alongside first vice-president M. Genu and other notable climate change leaders. Discussion highlighted the challenges and potential solutions for conducting the health impacts of climate change. The audience of more than 200 climate change champions left the meeting armed with the scientific evidence and central messages that were key to collectively move forward.

GALVANIZING MOMENTUM

The Year of Climate Change and Health built momentum over the months, with more than 35 organizational partners joining the campaign by evidence and the engagement of member expertise throughout. Through this

1. World Health Organization. *Climate Change and Health: The Solid Facts*. Geneva: WHO, 2014.

2. American Public Health Association. *Climate Change and Health: A Public Health Perspective*. Washington, DC: APHA, 1976.

3. American Public Health Association. *Climate Change and Health: A Public Health Perspective*. Washington, DC: APHA, 2007.

4. American Public Health Association. *2017 Year of Climate Change and Health: A Public Health Perspective*. Washington, DC: APHA, 2017.

5. American Public Health Association. *2017 Year of Climate Change and Health: A Public Health Perspective*. Washington, DC: APHA, 2017.

378 | *Epidemiol. Infect.* (2018), 146, 378–382

AJPH, Supplement 2, 2018, Vol. 108, No. 12



Building a Movement



Builds on the 2018 Global Call to Action on Climate and Health.

**U.S. CALL TO ACTION
ON CLIMATE, HEALTH, AND EQUITY:
A POLICY ACTION AGENDA**

2019



Themes:

- Climate change is a health emergency -- one of the greatest threats to world health.
- We are dedicated to improving the health of our patients, communities, and planet.
- Action to reduce climate change can dramatically improve health – but it must be at policy-level scale.
- Equity must be central to climate action.



With the right policies and investments, we have the opportunity to realize our vision of *healthy people in healthy places on a healthy planet.*

Sign for your Organization <https://climatehealthaction.org>

2019 U.S. Call to Action On Climate, Health, and Equity

A Policy Action Agenda

Building a Movement

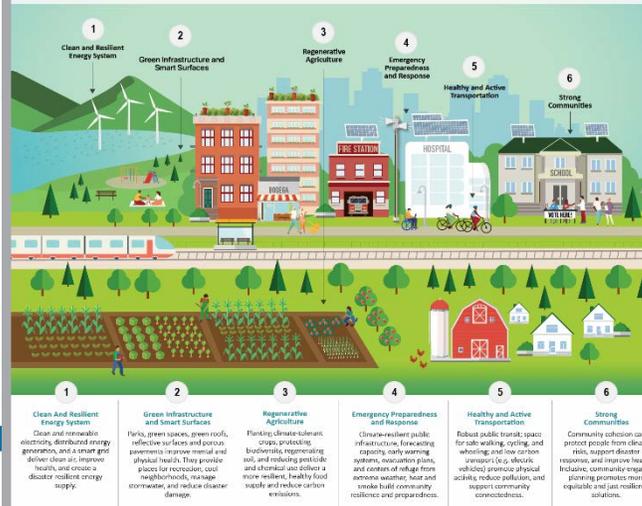
The Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change

Policy Brief for the United States of America

2022



STRATEGIES TO BUILD HEALTHY, EQUITABLE, CLIMATE-RESILIENT COMMUNITIES



THE COMPOUNDING EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



- 1 Climate Change Threats**
Climate change impacts—like worsening heat, extreme weather, and poor air quality—affect everyone.
- 2 Mental Health and Well-being Impacts**
Climate change is associated with depression, stress, anxiety, grief, substance abuse, disempowerment, hopelessness, PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) and other impacts.
- 3 Systemic Stressors**
Systemic racism and gender, economic, and environmental injustice compound with climate change to put some communities at greater risk of mental health harm.
- 4 Susceptible Groups**
Communities that are most impacted include: older adults, people experiencing homelessness, pregnant people, low-wealth communities, Indigenous communities, some communities of color, people living with disabilities, and people living with pre-existing illness, gender diverse and LGBTQ persons.
- 5 Children and Youth**
Climate change is creating new risks and worries for children and adolescents, increasing anxiety around what their future will look like and whether they have the power to shape it.
- 6 Protective Factors**
Some communities have access to resources that protect them from the stress of climate change, such as safe housing, adequate nutrition and sleep, access to nature and a sense of belonging.
- 7 Barriers to Resilience**
Communities harmed by systemic injustice do not have the same access to buying economic and social resources.
- 8 Solutions to Build Resilience**
There are many things that can be done in our schools, communities, and policy choices to foster mental health and well-being. Examples include: accessible, affordable mental health care; equitable access to nature, safe housing and economic resources; opportunities for community and civic engagement; and strong community preparedness and disaster response services.

Building a Movement



Schools for Climate Action - Youth Advocacy Summit 2019

UNCOVERing Policy



UNCOVERing Policy



UNCOVERing Policy

- CDC, NEHA, and Baylor University partnered on the UNCOVER EH initiative.
- UNCOVER EH collected information from more than 1,700 environmental health professionals in health departments across the nation.
- UNCOVER EH seeks to assess and improve the profession and practice of environmental health.

Workforce Development UNCOVERed

CDC, NEHA, and Baylor University partnered for the **UNCOVER EH** initiative

Collected information from more than **1,700** environmental health professionals

Assessment of strengths and areas for improvement in environmental health practice

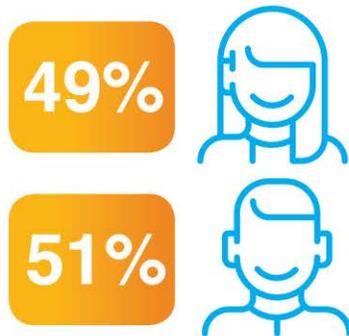


UNCOVERing Policy

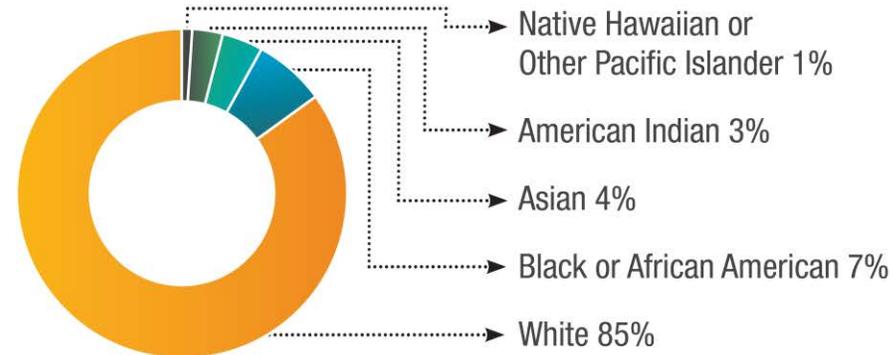
The EH workforce is gender-diverse, but less diverse racially and ethnically.

While balanced between men and women, the EH workforce has opportunities to become more racially and ethnically diverse.

About half of the EH workforce is women.



More than 8 in 10 EH professionals are white.
6% of the EH workforce is Hispanic.



UNCOVERing Policy

What we learned from UNCOVER EH:

- A** The EH workforce is gender diverse, but there is room for improvement in racial and ethnic diversity
- B** Food safety is the most frequently identified specialty area
- C** Most participants identified themselves as “EH Specialists”
- D** The EH workforce is highly educated
- E** A majority of the workforce are REHS/RS credential-holders
- F** Most EH professionals expressed satisfaction with their jobs

UNCOVERing Policy

NEHA Position Statement on Racism



National Environmental Health Association

303-756-9090
720 S. Colorado Blvd., Suite 1000-N, Denver, CO 80246-1926
staff@neha.org

The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) represents more than 6,700 governmental, private, academic, and uniformed services sector environmental health professionals in the U.S. and its territories and internationally. NEHA is the profession's strongest advocate for excellence in the practice of environmental health as it delivers on its mission to build, sustain, and empower an effective environmental health workforce.

Role of Environmental Health in Addressing Racism as an Environmental Health Issue
July 2020
Policy Sunset: July 2023

According to Dr. Camara Jones, "Racism is a system of structuring opportunity and assigning value based on the social interpretation of how one looks (which is what we call 'race'), that unfairly disadvantages some individuals and communities, unfairly advantages other individuals and communities, and saps the strength of the whole society through the waste of human resources" (American Public Health Association, 2020).

The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) acknowledges that racism is a threat to public health. It threatens public health through fostering race-based differences in access to and quality of healthcare. Racism can be found at the center of poverty and limited employment opportunities, poor investment in education, and adverse environmental exposures. Racism fuels health disparities—the systemic consequences of social determinants of health. For example, the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has exposed how health disparities and higher pollution exposures may contribute to excess COVID-19 mortality among Blacks. In addition, COVID-19 has exposed health disparities in Native American populations that are exacerbated by challenges in the delivery of environmental health services, including access to clean water.

Key services provided by environmental health professionals are undermined by racism. As a result, not all populations have benefitted equally from national improvements to air and water quality or food safety. Therefore, NEHA recognizes that racism hinders its members from fully carrying out its mission to "advance the environmental health professional with the purpose of providing a healthful environment for all."

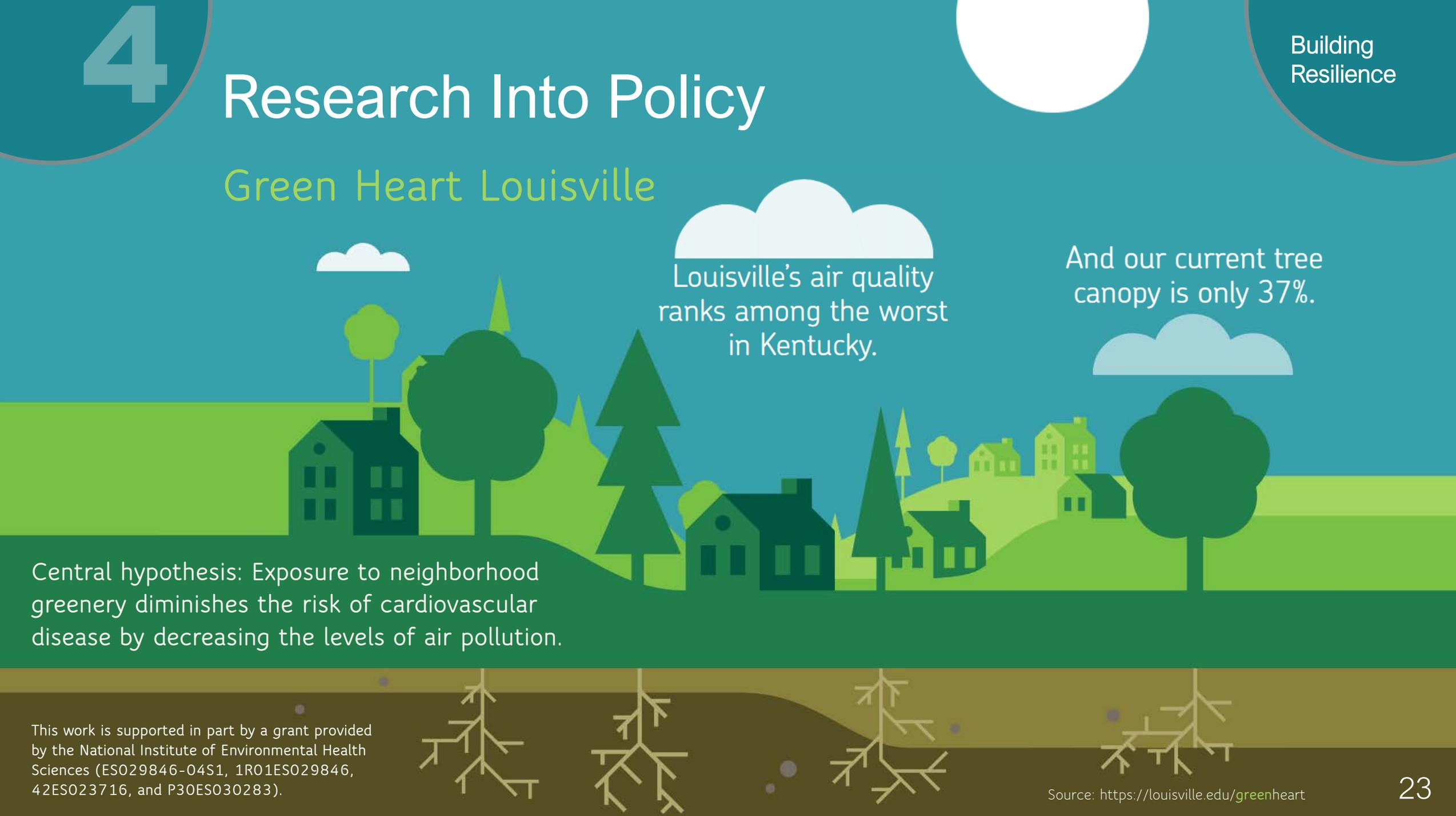
NEHA recommends that environmental health professionals address structural and systemic racism that hinder the delivery of environmental health services to the most vulnerable populations.

NEHA recommends the following action agenda for federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial governmental agencies:

- 1 EH agencies should adopt statements on justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion.
- 2 Uphold environmental justice.
- 3 EH agencies should utilize a Health in All Policies framework to inform decision-making.
- 4 EH agencies should require justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion training for staff.
- 5 EH agencies should employ hiring practices that encourage diversity in the workforce.

Research Into Policy

Green Heart Louisville



Louisville's air quality ranks among the worst in Kentucky.

And our current tree canopy is only 37%.

Central hypothesis: Exposure to neighborhood greenery diminishes the risk of cardiovascular disease by decreasing the levels of air pollution.

This work is supported in part by a grant provided by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (ES029846-04S1, 1R01ES029846, 42ES023716, and P30ES030283).

4

Policy into
Action



Council on Environmental Quality

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT





Regulation 1.09
Prohibition of Air Pollution

Starting Local

...which permit or cause the emission of air pollutants which exceed the requirements of the district regulations or which cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to any considerable number of persons or to the public or which



Policy Into Action

Executive Order 12898

Federal Actions To Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations



Presidential Documents

Executive Order 14008 of January 27, 2021

Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad

The United States and the world face a profound climate crisis. We have a narrow moment to pursue action at home and abroad in order to avoid the most catastrophic impacts of that crisis and to seize the opportunity that tackling climate change presents. Domestic action must go hand in hand with United States international leadership, aimed at significantly enhancing global action. Together, we must listen to science and meet the moment.

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

PART 1—PUTTING THE CLIMATE CRISIS AT THE CENTER OF UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY AND NATIONAL SECURITY

Section 101. Policy. United States international engagement to address climate change—which has become a climate crisis—is more necessary and urgent than ever. The scientific community has made clear that the scale and speed of necessary action is greater than previously believed. There is little time left to avoid setting the world on a dangerous, potentially catastrophic, climate trajectory. Responding to the climate crisis will require both significant short-term global reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and net-zero global emissions by mid-century or before.

It is the policy of my Administration that climate considerations shall be an essential element of United States foreign policy and national security. The United States will work with other countries and partners, both bilaterally and multilaterally, to put the world on a sustainable climate pathway. The United States will also move quickly to build resilience, both at home and abroad, against the impacts of climate change that are already manifest and will continue to intensify according to current trajectories.

Sec. 102. Purpose. This order builds on and reaffirms actions my Administration has already taken to place the climate crisis at the forefront of this Nation's foreign policy and national security planning, including submitting the United States instrument of acceptance to rejoin the Paris Agreement. In implementing—and building upon—the Paris Agreement's three overarching objectives (a safe global temperature, increased climate resilience, and financial flows aligned with a pathway toward low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development), the United States will exercise its leadership to promote a significant increase in global climate ambition to meet the climate challenge. In this regard:

(a) I will host an early Leaders' Climate Summit aimed at raising climate ambition and making a positive contribution to the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) and beyond.

<h1 style="text-align: center;">EO 14008: Securing Environmental Justice and Spurring Economic Opportunity</h1>		
Justice40 Initiative	Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)	Environmental Justice Scorecard
White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC)		White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council (IAC)

Policy Into Action

Executive Order 14008

Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad

4

Image source: <https://shorturl.at/shC81>

Executive Orders

Policy Into Action



Through the Justice40 Initiative, President Biden and Vice President Harris set a goal to deliver **40%** of the overall benefits of certain federal climate, clean energy, affordable and sustainable housing, and other investments to **disadvantaged communities that are overburdened by pollution and marginalized by underinvestment.**

Overall, **71%** of the grants, loans, and other investments federal agencies made from Justice40 programs in the Initiative's first two full fiscal years **reached or benefited disadvantaged communities.**

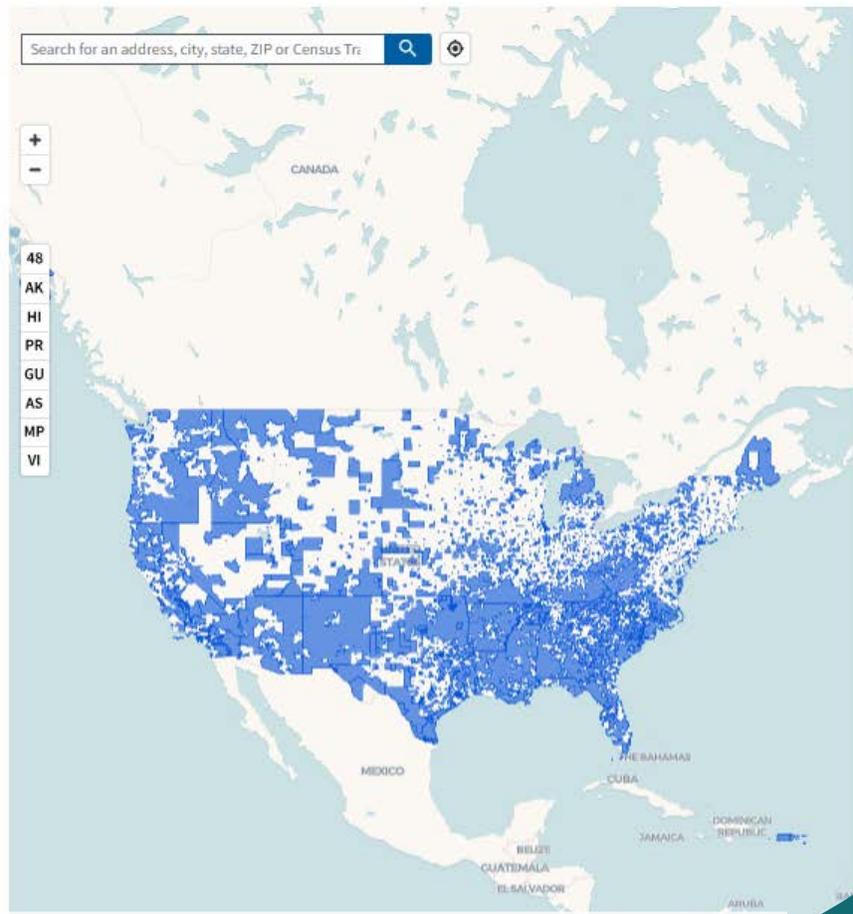
Explore the map

Census tracts that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution are highlighted as being disadvantaged on the map. Federally Recognized Tribes, including Alaska Native Villages, are considered disadvantaged communities, whether or not they have land.

Zooming in and selecting shows information about each census tract.

Get the data

Download the data with documentation and shapefile from the [downloads](#) page



How to use the map:

Zoom in +, search, or locate yourself and select to see information about any census tract.

Things to know:

The tool uses census tracts. Census tracts are a small unit of geography. They generally have populations of between 1,200 - 8,000 people.

Communities that are disadvantaged live in tracts that experience burdens. These tracts are highlighted on the map.

The tool ranks most of the burdens using percentiles. Percentiles show how much burden each tract experiences when compared to other tracts.

Thresholds, or cut-points, are used to determine if communities in a tract are disadvantaged. Burdens use percentiles to compare a simple year.

Land Use

Policy Into Action

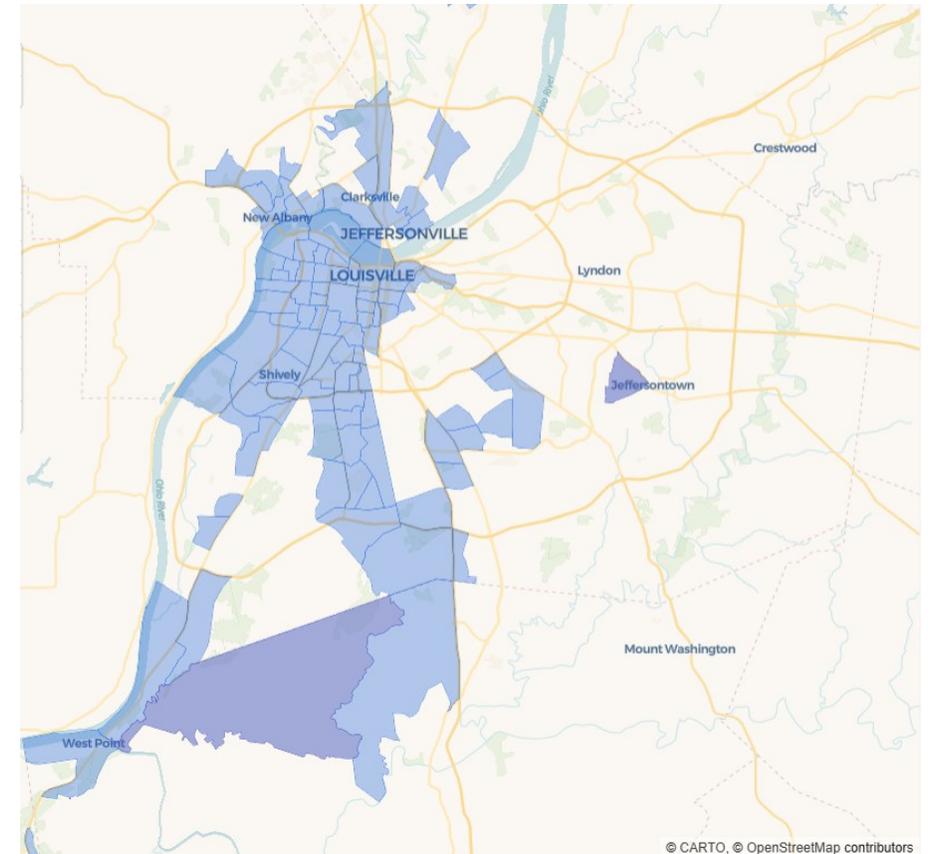
Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)

- EO 14096 called on CEQ to create a geospatial climate and economic justice screening tool and publishing interactive maps highlighting disadvantaged communities
- Federal agencies used the tool to identify disadvantaged communities for the purpose of the Justice40 Initiative
- These communities are disadvantaged because they are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution
- Uses publicly accessible data available at the census tract level
- Code published open source

Policy Into Action

Disadvantaged in Kentucky

Location	Disadvantaged Tracts (%)	Disadvantaged Population (%)
US	38.5	35.1
Kentucky	51.7	45.8
Jefferson County	39.8	34.1



Policy Into Action

Environmental Justice Scorecard



The first-ever government-wide assessment of what the federal government is doing to advance environmental justice



Phase Two Scorecard, outlines actions taken by federal agencies to advance environmental justice in Fiscal Year 2023 (October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023)



Assessment of the following areas:

Advancing the President's Justice40 Initiative

Implementing and enforcing environmental and civil rights laws

Centering environmental justice in decision-making

Embedding environmental justice throughout the federal government

An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know](#)

The Environmental Justice Scorecard has been updated. Phase Two of the Environmental Justice Scorecard was released on July 24, 2024.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SCORECARD

TRACKING PROGRESS ACROSS THE WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT

Scorecard Agencies About Contact

Welcome

Welcome to the Biden-Harris Administration's Environmental Justice Scorecard. On this website, you will find information about what federal agencies are doing to advance environmental justice in communities across America.

During his first week in office, President Biden signed Executive Order 14008, [Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad](#), launching the most ambitious environmental justice agenda ever undertaken by the federal government. The Environmental Justice Scorecard is a signature component of the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to confronting longstanding environmental injustice and inequities. It is the first-ever government-wide assessment of what the federal government is doing to advance environmental justice.

The current version of the Environmental Justice Scorecard, or the Phase Two Scorecard, outlines actions taken by federal agencies to advance environmental justice in Fiscal Year 2023 (October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023). It builds upon the baseline assessment presented in the Phase One Scorecard, released in April 2023, in the following areas:

- Advancing the President's [Justice40 Initiative](#)
- Implementing and enforcing environmental and civil rights laws
- Centering environmental justice in decision-making
- Embedding environmental justice throughout the federal government



President Joe Biden delivers remarks highlighting the Biden-Harris Administration's environmental justice agenda and announces new actions to advance environmental justice during a ceremony in the Rose Garden of the White House on April 21, 2023. (Source: [White House Flickr](#))

View Progress by Agency

Select an agency below to view its progress on environmental justice.

 AmeriCorps	 Arctic Region Commission	 Delta Regional Authority	 Denali Commission
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[View all 24 federal agencies](#)

Policy Into Action

Executive Order 14096 on *Revitalizing our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All*



The **just treatment and meaningful involvement** of all people, regardless of income, race, color, national origin, Tribal affiliation, or disability, in agency decision-making and other Federal activities that affect **human health and the environment** so that people:



Are fully
protected

i.

are fully protected from disproportionate and adverse human health and environmental effects (including risks) and hazards, including those related to climate change, the cumulative impacts of environmental and other burdens, and the legacy of racism or other structural or systemic barriers; and



Have equitable
access

ii.

have equitable access to a healthy, sustainable, and resilient environment in which to live, play, work, learn, grow, worship, and engage in cultural and subsistence practices



4

Policy Into Action

National Science and Technology Council Environmental Justice Subcommittee



Address the need for a coordinated Federal strategy to identify and address gaps in science, data, and research related to environmental justice



Prepare and update biennially an Environmental Justice Science, Data, and Research Plan

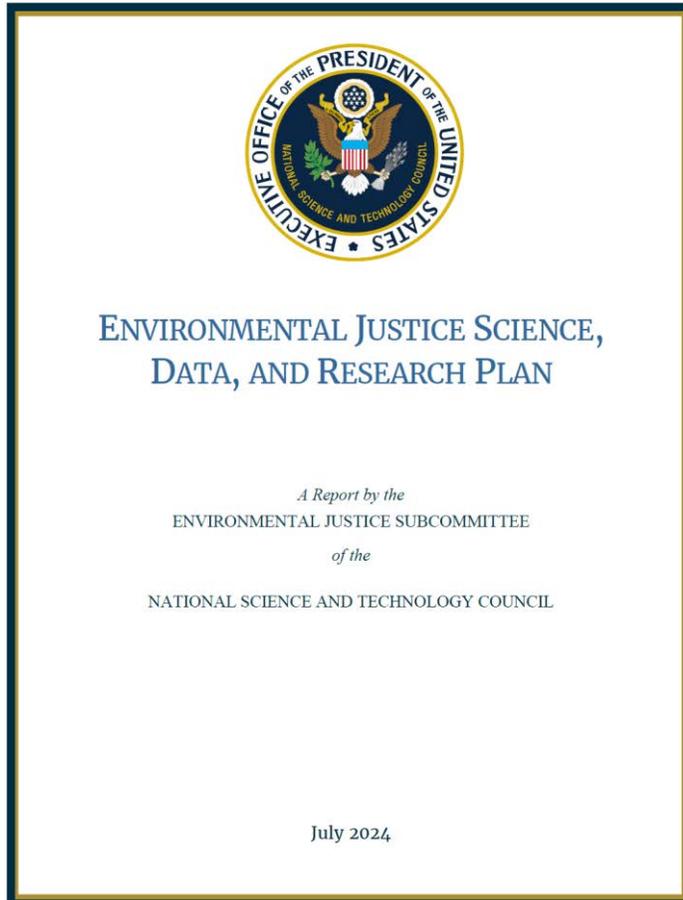


Hold an annual summit on the connection of science, data, and research with policy and action on environmental justice



Policy Into Action

Environmental Justice Research Plan



Enhancing meaningful involvement and engagement of the public

Fortifying just treatment, equitable access, and protection from environmental injustice

Strengthening work and partnership with non-federal entities

Institutionalizing environmental justice

Policy Into Action

Maintaining Local Roots



4

Policy Into Action

Facing the Current Reality

ENVIRONMENTAL & ENERGY LAW PROGRAM
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

Federal Environmental Justice Tracker

EJ Tracker Update

Rollback: CEQ's Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) Removed

On Jan. 20, 2025, President Trump issued an Executive Order (Initial Rescissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions) rescinding President Biden's Executive Order 14008, which established the Justice40 Initiative and required CEQ to create a Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) identifying communities with significant environmental, social, and/or economic burdens as "disadvantaged communities" that would receive targeted investment of federal "benefits" from certain climate, energy, and environmental programs. As of Jan. 22, 2025, CEQ's

Morgan Lewis

Our Practice Our People Our Approach Our Thinking Our Firm Careers

Our Thinking > Publications > Executive Actions Substantially Revise Environmental Justice Policies and Practices

LAWFLASH

EXECUTIVE ACTIONS SUBSTANTIALLY REVISE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POLICIES AND PRACTICES

February 10, 2025

President Donald Trump's early executive actions have rescinded environmental justice initiatives dating back more than 30 years as a part of the US administration's broader objective of eliminating considerations of race, ethnicity, and diversity from the federal government.

President Trump's actions addressing environmental justice policies and practices are spread across multiple executive orders and include: (1) rescinding the Climate and EJ Justice40 program that targeted funding to disadvantaged communities; and (2) making a variety of organizational and personnel changes.

RELATED RESOURCES SERVICES

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Partner
Washington, DC

DOUGLAS A. HASTINGS
Partner
Washington, DC

APRIL R. KNIGHT
Associate
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Trump Administration Removing

Community-Led Advocacy Groups, Archivists, and Universities Scramble to Download Climate Resources and Datasets

EPA, NOAA, and CEQ all Targets of Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency

End of Term Web Archive and Internet Archive's Wayback Machine Crucial in Preserving Web Data

Washington, D.C., February 6, 2025 - In the first two weeks of President Donald Trump's second term, the administration has begun to scrub critical environmental resources and datasets from federal agency websites. To combat this effort to

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Edited by Rachel Santarossa

As data goes offline under Trump, researchers upload backups

January 29, 2025

As Data Goes Off-Line Under Trump, Environmental Researchers Are Uploading Backups

A team of scholars has worked since November to archive resources that are valuable to themselves and the public—just in case they were taken down.

By Ryan Quinn




Scientists restore climate justice data tool after Trump administration took it offline

By EHN Curators Feb 05, 2025 1 min read

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'Canary in a Coal Mine': Data Scientists Restore a Climate Justice Tool Taken Down by Trump

As one of its first acts, the Trump administration removed the online data tool used to allocate money to environmental justice communities. In two days, a coalition of data scientists had restored it on an independent internet domain.

By Anika Jane Beamer February 4, 2025



Government Executive

NEWS MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT DEFENSE TECH PAY & BENEFITS WORKFORCE



Workforce

Trump administration environmental justice removals cut across agencies

Agencies leaders placed nearly 200 on administrative leave as

Reports surfaced this week that the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights had placed around 170 employees on administrative leave, joining reductions at the Justice and Energy departments. TERREY L. GROSS / GETTY IMAGES

E.P.A. Workers Who Assist Heavily Polluted Communities Are Put on Leave

President Trump is expected to close the office as he cuts programs to help poor and minority communities that are disproportionately affected by pollution.

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Inside Climate News

Pulitzer Prize-winning, nonpartisan biggest crisis facing our planet.

Justice & Health

After Trump Administration Closes DOJ's Office of Environmental Justice, Advocates Worry About Future Enforcement

Set up in 2022, the office teamed up with federal prosecutors to coordinate work in vulnerable communities. The Trump administration shut the office and placed its staff on leave earlier this month.

By Kristoffer Tigue February 14, 2025




Environmental Groups Sue the Trump Administration to Restore Web Tools Critical for Gauging Climate and Pollution Impacts

By Georgina Gustin

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POLICY ANALYSIS

The Environmental Justice Movement Isn't Going Anywhere — Even As It Faces Attacks

Jalonnie White-Newsome, who headed environmental justice initiatives under Biden, weighs in on the executive orders aimed at dismantling its progress.

By Jessica Kizer, The 100 February 6, 2025



Public Environmental Data Partners

The Public Environmental Data Partners are **committed to preserving and providing public access to federal environmental data**. We are a volunteer coalition of several environmental, justice, and policy organizations, researchers across several universities, archivists, and students who rely on federal datasets and tools to support critical research, advocacy, policy, and litigation work. To gather insights on what data to preserve, we reached out to our networks, which consist largely of environmental justice groups and networks, state and local government climate offices, and academic researchers. We compiled a large list of federal databases and tools, and prioritized them based on their relative impact, our confidence that we could archive them, and the relative effort it would take to obtain and archive them.

Fill out the form [here](#) to nominate data for us to preserve.

Updates

- [June 19, 2025] PEDP created a [guide for Environmental Data Mapping & Investment Tools](#), helping users know when to use which tool.
- [March 27, 2025] PEDP shared list of archived resources [here](#).
- [March 19, 2025] PEDP created a [new map](#) that displays environmental justice grants the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has made through the Inflation Reduction Act since 2024.
- [February 28, 2025] Access to DOE [Local Investment Map for Demonstration and Deployment Projects](#) was made publicly available.
- [February 27, 2025] Access to [FEMA's Future Risk Index](#) was made publicly available.
- [February 14, 2025] Access to [EPA EJAM](#) was made publicly available.
- [February 7, 2025] Access to [EPA EJScreen](#) was made publicly available.
- [January 31, 2025] Access to CDC's [datasets for the Social Vulnerability Index and Environmental Justice Index](#), along with county level reports was made publicly available.
- [January 28, 2025] Access to [Funding for Environmental Justice EJScorecard](#) was made publicly available.
- [January 24, 2025] Access to [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](#) was made publicly available.
- [January 20, 2025] Based on these criteria, we have identified 57 high-priority databases, of which we've archived 37 thus far. In addition, we have made replicas of the Climate and Economic Justice Screening tool, and EJScreen.

Policy Into Action Resources

4

Still Advancing
Environmental
Justice

Thank you

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