

The logo for Bradley, featuring the word "Bradley" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. A thick red horizontal line is positioned directly beneath the letters "a", "d", and "l".

Bradley

Presentation to:

2019 Alabama Brownfields Conference

September 26, 2019

Presented by: Buddy Cox

History of Environmental Justice

Origins date back to the Civil Rights era

Professor Robert Bullard, Father of the Environmental Justice Movement, wrote:

"whether by conscious design or institutional neglect, communities of color in urban ghettos, in rural 'poverty pockets', or on economically impoverished Native-American reservations face some of the worst environmental devastation in the nation."

Warren County, North Carolina 1982

- Proposal to construct a hazardous waste disposal facility in Warren County, North Carolina for the disposal of PCB-contaminated waste from Superfund remediation along North Carolina roads
- Over 500 environmentalists and civil rights activists were arrested during the protest over the landfill
- Landfill was constructed and operated (and subsequently remediated under Superfund)

GAO Study 1983

- Looked at four off-site hazardous waste facilities in EPA Region IV
- Found 3 of 4 were located in minority areas
- All 4 located in low-income areas
- Study predated RCRA amendments in 1984

Other Significant Events 1984-1990

- Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA) to RCRA (1984)
- United Church of Christ Commission on Racial Justice study (1987)
- Environmental Justice Organizations founded
 - WE ACT (West Harlem Environmental Action)
 - Indigenous Environmental Network
 - Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice
- EPA Administrator creates Environmental Equity Workgroup

National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit – October 1991

WE, THE PEOPLE OF COLOR, gathered together at this multinational People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit, to begin to build a national and international movement of all peoples of color to fight the destruction and taking of our lands and communities, do hereby re-establish our spiritual interdependence to the sacredness of our Mother Earth; to respect and celebrate each of our cultures, languages and beliefs about the natural world and our roles in healing ourselves; to ensure environmental justice; to promote economic alternatives which would contribute to the development of environmentally safe livelihoods; and, to secure our political, economic and cultural liberation that has been denied for over 500 years of colonization and oppression, resulting in the poisoning of our communities and land and the genocide of our peoples, do affirm and adopt these Principles of Environmental Justice:

The Principles of Environmental Justice (EJ)

- 1) **Environmental Justice** affirms the sacredness of Mother Earth, ecological unity and the interdependence of all species, and the right to be free from ecological destruction.
- 2) **Environmental Justice** demands that public policy be based on mutual respect and justice for all peoples, free from any form of discrimination or bias.
- 3) **Environmental Justice** mandates the right to ethical, balanced and responsible uses of land and renewable resources in the interest of a sustainable planet for humans and other living things.
- 4) **Environmental Justice** calls for universal protection from nuclear testing, extraction, production and disposal of toxic/hazardous wastes and poisons and nuclear testing that threaten the fundamental right to clean air, land, water, and food.
- 5) **Environmental Justice** affirms the fundamental right to political, economic, cultural and environmental self-determination of all peoples.
- 6) **Environmental Justice** demands the cessation of the production of all toxins, hazardous wastes, and radioactive materials, and that all past and current producers be held strictly accountable to the people for detoxification and the containment at the point of production.
- 7) **Environmental Justice** demands the right to participate as equal partners at every level of decision-making, including needs assessment, planning, implementation, enforcement and evaluation.
- 8) **Environmental Justice** affirms the right of all workers to a safe and healthy work environment without being forced to choose between an unsafe livelihood and unemployment. It also affirms the right of those who work at home to be free from environmental hazards.
- 9) **Environmental Justice** protects the right of victims of environmental injustice to receive full compensation and reparations for damages as well as quality health care.
- 10) **Environmental Justice** considers governmental acts of environmental injustice a violation of international law, the Universal Declaration On Human Rights, and the United Nations Convention on Genocide.
- 11) **Environmental Justice** must recognize a special legal and natural relationship of Native Peoples to the U.S. government through treaties, agreements, compacts, and covenants affirming sovereignty and self-determination.
- 12) **Environmental Justice** affirms the need for urban and rural ecological policies to clean up and rebuild our cities and rural areas in balance with nature, honoring the cultural integrity of all our communities, and provided fair access for all to the full range of resources.
- 13) **Environmental Justice** calls for the strict enforcement of principles of informed consent, and a halt to the testing of experimental reproductive and medical procedures and vaccinations on people of color.
- 14) **Environmental Justice** opposes the destructive operations of multi-national corporations.
- 15) **Environmental Justice** opposes military occupation, repression and exploitation of lands, peoples and cultures, and other life forms.
- 16) **Environmental Justice** calls for the education of present and future generations which emphasizes social and environmental issues, based on our experience and an appreciation of our diverse cultural perspectives.
- 17) **Environmental Justice** requires that we, as individuals, make personal and consumer choices to consume as little of Mother Earth's resources and to produce as little waste as possible; and make the conscious decision to challenge and reprioritize our lifestyles to ensure the health of the natural world for present and future generations.

More info on environmental justice and environmental racism can be found online at www.ejnet.org/ej/

Delegates to the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit held on October 24-27, 1991, in Washington DC, drafted and adopted these 17 principles of Environmental Justice. Since then, the Principles have served as a defining document for the growing grassroots movement for environmental justice.

EPA Workgroup Report: Reducing Risk in All Communities

- June 1992
- Recommendations included the creation of an office within EPA to address various inequities recognized in the report. Office of Environmental Equity was established in November 1992. Later became Office of Environmental Justice.



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Policy, Planning,
And Evaluation
(PM-221)

EC-2002-009
EEDIC-2002-001
EPA230-R-92-008
June 1992

Environmental Equity

Reducing Risk For All Communities

Build Up to EO 12898

- National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC)
 - Established by Administrator Carol Browner
- Environmental Justice Small Grant Program Established
 - provides financial assistance to eligible organizations
 - to build collaborative partnerships
 - to identify the local environmental and/or public health issues
 - to envision solutions and empower the community through education, training, and outreach.

25 Years With Executive Order 12898

- Signed by President Bill Clinton, February 11, 1994
- Entitled "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice In Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations"
- No private right of action or right to judicial review
- Not all federal agencies have made an effort to comply

EO 12898

- Established an Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice
- Directed federal agencies to develop strategies on how to identify and address the disproportionately adverse human health and environmental effects of programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations.

Impacts from EO 12898

- State actions
- Dependent on each agency and priorities of administrations
 - Clinton
 - Bush
 - Obama
 - Trump

**ENSURING RISK REDUCTION IN
COMMUNITIES WITH MULTIPLE STRESSORS:
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND
CUMULATIVE RISKS/IMPACTS**

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL



DECEMBER 2004

**Prepared by the
National Environmental Justice Advisory Council
Cumulative Risks/Impacts Work Group**



ENVIRONMENTAL LAW INSTITUTE
RESEARCH REPORT

**OPPORTUNITIES
FOR ADVANCING
ENVIRONMENTAL
JUSTICE:**
An Analysis of U.S. EPA
Statutory Authorities

November 2001

People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit (Second)

October 23, 2002

Convened in Washington DC

Reviewed accomplishments of environmental justice movement

**Unintended Impacts of Redevelopment and
Revitalization Efforts in Five Environmental Justice
Communities**



August 2006

Prepared by the

National Environmental Justice Advisory Council

a Federal Advisory Committee to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Toxic Wastes and Race at Twenty 1987—2007

**A Report Prepared for the
United Church of Christ
Justice & Witness Ministries**



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

MILESTONES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS: 1964-2014

A Report Prepared in Commemoration of the
Twentieth Anniversary of the Environmental Justice
Executive Order 12898

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FEBRUARY 2014



NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL

20-Year Retrospective Report (1994 – 2014)

Plan EJ 2014

Plan EJ 2014 was EPA's overarching strategy for advancing environmental justice from 2014-2016. It sought to:

- 1. Protect the environment and health in overburdened communities.
- 2. Empower communities to take action to improve their health and environment.
- 3. Establish partnerships with local, state, tribal, and federal governments and organizations to achieve healthy and sustainable communities.

EJ 2020 Action Agenda

- Environmental Justice Agenda - 2016-2020
- Identified Three Goals in 12 Areas

EJ 2020 Goals & Areas

Goal I: Deepen EJ Practice Within EPA Programs to Improve the Health and Environment of Overburdened Communities

Rulemaking

Permitting

Compliance and Enforcement

Science

Goal II: Work With Communities to Expand Our Positive Impact Within Overburdened Communities

States and Local Governments

Federal Agencies

Community-Based Work

Tribes and Indigenous Peoples

Goal III: Demonstrate Progress on Significant National Environmental Challenges

Lead Disparities

Drinking Water

Air Quality

Hazardous Waste Sites

EJSCREEN: Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool

CONTACT US



- ### Links
- [Environmental Justice at EPA](#)
 - [Grants and Other Funding Opportunities](#)
 - [EPA's Environmental Justice in Action Blog](#)
 - [Sign Up to Receive Updates on EJSCREEN and Other EJ Issues](#)

In order to better meet the Agency's responsibilities related to the protection of [public health](#) and the environment, EPA has developed a new environmental justice (EJ) mapping and screening tool called EJSCREEN. It is based on nationally consistent data and an approach that combines environmental and demographic indicators in maps and reports.

[What is EJSCREEN?](#) [Learn to Use EJSCREEN](#) [Launch the Tool](#)

EPA's Performance Reports



EPA ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRESS REPORT FY 2018

<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/annual-environmental-justice-progress-reports>

Environmental Justice and ADEM

- Civil rights complaints filed with EPA regarding permitting decisions
- EPA's Office of Civil Rights Responses
- ADEM's Procedure for Addressing Civil Rights Complaints
- Citizen Challenge to
- Next Steps

Questions?

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