

Environmental Justice

Generational Goal. Make certain both public and private institutions promote representative and just economic, industrial, and corporate practices, thereby ensuring the health and employment of all communities.

Objective 1. Federal, state, and municipal policy must be written to ensure that there is a fundamental human right to a healthy environment which leads to a reduction of health disparities.

Strategies/Tasks:

1. Clean production, alternatives to a petroleum-based economy, and standards to safeguard human health must be integrated into new and existing policies.
2. Prioritize legacy chemicals recognized to be toxic for redesign through green chemistry techniques.
3. Ensure that the environmental justice community is involved in discussions around climate justice.

Objective 2. End the practices of the public and private sectors that promote disproportionate hazard exposures in poor communities and in communities of color.

Strategies/Tasks:

1. Increase the distances between polluting facilities and communities, and remediate existing contamination.
2. Increase funding from federal agencies (NIEHS, EPA, etc.) to the communities which need it most.
3. Ensure that existing environmental justice legislation is enforced and implemented.
4. Codify Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898. In order to strengthen compliance and enforcement of environmental justice objectives at the federal level, ensure that discriminatory agency decisions and actions are addressed, and to provide clear leadership to the states, Congress should codify into law Executive Order 12898 "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations."
5. Implement government accountability efforts to keep agencies honest, especially regarding disaster relief.

Objective 3. Ensure that community members are involved in discussions and benefit from initiatives that lead to creation of green jobs, careers, and entrepreneur opportunity.

Strategies/Tasks:

1. Establish a sustainability center focused on public policy, innovation, and demonstration projects where businesses, government, and residents can work toward a shared vision.
2. Create guidelines for the distribution of green jobs so their gains can be seen equitably and so their "greenness" can be assured.
3. Institute environmental youth training so communities can foster their future leaders.
4. Education and job training will be needed for green jobs, a green economy, and green education.