

Episode 56TCEQ June 5, 2023. Deadline June 6, 2023 to Register to Comment Virtually at Hearings June 13 to 15, 2023 about Wood Smoke Pollution from Residential Wood Burning!

CEQ Environmental Justice Connector
5th Edition of 2023 (June 5, 2023)

Staying Connected: Important Announcements

Biden-Harris Administration Announces New Actions and Investments to Lower Energy Costs, and Make Affordable Homes More Energy Efficient and Climate Resilient for Hard-Working Families

On May 11, the Biden-Harris Administration announced new actions from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda to incorporate climate risk planning and mitigation into federally-supported housing as well as to advance the historic Justice40 Initiative. These actions include the availability of new funding through the Green and Resilient Retrofit Program, totaling \$837.5 million in grant and loan subsidy funding and \$ 4 billion in loan commitment authority for this new program established by the Inflation Reduction Act. Reducing energy burden, cutting emissions, and improving climate resilience are crucial to communities that face disproportionate climate risks, such as flooding, fire, and extreme temperature.

Biden-Harris Administration Releases Updated Fact Sheets Highlighting Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Investments

On May 15, on the first day of Infrastructure Week and 18-month anniversary of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Biden-Harris Administration released updated fact sheets highlighting Bipartisan Infrastructure Law investments in all 50 states, D.C., and territories. As part of the President's Investing in American agenda, the Administration has already announced over \$220 billion in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding, including over 32,000 specific projects and awards, across over 4,500 communities in all 50 states, D.C., and territories. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds many Justice40 Initiative covered programs, helping ensure that disadvantaged communities receive the benefits of federal investments.

Staying Connected to Community

Allison Rogers, Director of Environmental Justice Public Engagement, participated on a panel discussion hosted by the U.S. Climate Alliance. (@USClimate 5/3 Tweet)

Dr. Jalonnie L. White-Newsome provided remarks at the New Horizons in Conservation Conference hosted by the Yale School of Environment's Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Sustainability Initiative. (@JWhiteNewsome46 5/19 Tweet)

Chair Brenda Mallory joined Environmental Learning for Kids and Next 100 Coalition in Colorado.
(@BrendaMallory46 5/23 Tweet)

Chair Brenda Mallory joined Aclima and the DC Department of Energy and Environment to launch a new mobile air quality monitoring pilot program for disadvantaged communities in Washington, DC.
(@BrendaMallory46 5/25 Tweet)

Dr. Jalonnie L. White-Newsome provided remarks at Michigan's Path to a Prosperous Future: A Virtual Statewide Discussion convening hosted by Bridge Michigan, Citizens Research Council of Michigan, and Altarum. (@JWhiteNewsome 5/30 Tweet)

Dr. Jalonnie L. White-Newsome discussed the Justice40 Initiative and the Inflation Reduction Act with Maryland state legislators at an event hosted by the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators.
(@JWhiteNewsome46 5/30 Tweet)

Staying Connected: Opportunities For You to Engage

Register to Provide Public Comment and Participate in the WHEJAC's Hybrid Public Meeting from June 13 to 15

The White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC) will convene an in-person public meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, with a virtual option, on Tuesday, June 13 starting at 6:00 pm Mountain Standard Time (MST) and on Wednesday, June 14 and Thursday, June 15 from approximately 9:00 am to 6:00 pm MST each day. Members of the public who wish to participate during the public comment period must register by 11:59 pm MST on Tuesday, June 6. The WHEJAC is interested in receiving public comments relevant to environmental justice activities, the Justice40 Initiative, the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, the Environmental Justice Scorecard, and environmental justice resources and tools that would be beneficial from federal agencies. In addition to public comments during the hybrid meeting, the public can submit written comments until Tuesday, June 20.

Provide Feedback on Phase One of the Environmental Justice Scorecard

We encourage the public to provide feedback on Phase One of the Environmental Justice Scorecard. You can provide feedback by taking this survey or emailing EJScorecard-Support@omb.eop.gov.

Provide Feedback on CEQ's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool

We encourage the public to provide feedback on version 1.0 of the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). CEQ is working to update the tool, and we greatly value public feedback. The tool's website has multiple ways to offer feedback on the tool.

You can find census tracts that you are familiar with and send feedback about those tracts. Click the yellow "send feedback" button in the side panel of any tract. That feedback is used to inform future versions of the tool. We are especially interested in any information that may help to better reflect the realities for particular communities or census tracts.

You can also submit data sources or ideas for consideration.

You can also take a short survey to help improve the experience of using the tool.

You can also email Screeningtool-Support@omb.eop.gov

We encourage you to visit the "About" page on the CEJST website to discover new resources on using the map and using the data.

Upcoming Public Comment and Application Deadlines in June Across Federal Agencies

June 5: Deadline for concept papers for the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program, a Justice40 covered program; and deadline for responses to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Request for Information on the Clean Ports Program and Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program.

June 6: Deadline for applications to EPA's Pollution Prevention Grant: Environmental Justice in Communities, a Justice40 covered program.

June 12: Deadline for public comments in two separate dockets – EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0244 and EPA-HQ-OAR-2019-0178 – on EPA's proposed new standards to reduce exposure to ethylene oxide, including more stringent air emissions standards and additional protections for workers who are exposed to the gas used to sterilize medical devices and certain spices; and deadline for public comments on EPA's Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking asking the public for input regarding potential future hazardous substance designations of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) (Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OLEM-2022-0922).

June 13: Deadline for application for the Federal Highway Administration's Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program.

June 16: Deadline for public comments on EPA's proposed Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards for Heavy-Duty Vehicles – Phase 3 (Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2022-0985); and deadline for concept papers to DOE's Industrial Assessment Centers Program and Building Training and Assessment Centers.

June 20: Deadline for applications to EPA's Pollution Prevention Grant: Environmental Justice Through Safer and More Sustainable Products, a Justice40 covered program; and deadline for applications to DOE's Hydroelectric Efficiency Improvement Incentives Program, a Justice40 covered program.

June 22: Deadline for letters of intent on DOE's Maintaining and Enhancing Hydroelectricity Incentives.

June 23: Deadline for public comments on EPA's proposal to strengthen and update the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards for coal- and oil-fired power plants (Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2018-0794); and deadline for applications to the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Reduction of Truck Emissions at Port Facilities Grant Program that focuses on port electrification and efficiency improvements.

June 26: Deadline for public comments on EPA's proposal to update several air toxics regulations that apply to chemical plants, including fence-line monitoring provisions that would apply to the highly toxic chemicals ethylene oxide and chloroprene (Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2022-0730); and deadline for concept papers to DOE's Fiscal Year 2023 Advanced Vehicle Technologies funding opportunity.

June 30: Deadline for the Request for Applications for EPA's Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking (EJ TCGM) Program, a Justice40 covered program; and deadline for public comments on Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service's