

**WHITE HOUSE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE  
ADVISORY COUNCIL (WHEJAC)**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Virtual Zoom**

**June 5 - 6, 2024**

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## PREFACE

The White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council is established by Executive Order 14008, titled “Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad” (issued on January 27, 2021). As such, this is a non-discretionary committee and operates under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C.App.2.

The WHEJAC will provide independent advice and recommendations to the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and to the White House Interagency Council on Environmental Justice (Interagency Council), on how to increase the Federal Government’s efforts to address current and historic environmental injustice, including recommendations for updating Executive Order 12898. The WHEJAC will provide advice and recommendations about broad cross-cutting issues related, but not limited to, issues of environmental justice and pollution reduction, energy, climate change mitigation and resiliency, environmental health, and racial inequity. The WHEJAC’s efforts will include a broad range of strategic scientific, technological, regulatory, community engagement, and economic issues related to environmental justice.

The duties of the WHEJAC are to provide advice and recommendations to the Interagency Council and the Chair of CEQ on a whole-of-government approach to environmental justice, including but not limited to environmental justice in the following areas:

- Climate change mitigation, resilience, and disaster management.
- Toxics, pesticides, and pollution reduction in overburdened communities.
- Equitable conservation and public lands use.
- Tribal and Indigenous issues.
- Clean energy transition.
- Sustainable infrastructure, including clean water, transportation, and the built environment.
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) enforcement and civil rights.
- Increasing the Federal Government’s efforts to address current and historic environmental injustice.

EPA’s Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) maintains summary reports of all WHEJAC meetings, which are available on the WHEJAC website at: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/white-house-environmental-justice-advisory-council>. Copies of materials distributed during WHEJAC meetings are also available to the public upon request. Comments or questions can be directed via e-mail to [whejac@epa.gov](mailto:whejac@epa.gov)

## **WHEJAC Members in Attendance**

- Richard Moore, WHEJAC Co-Chair, Los Jardines Institute
- Peggy Shepard, WHEJAC WHAJAC Co-Chair, WE ACT for Environmental Justice
- Catherine Coleman-Flowers, WHEJAC Vice-Chair, Center for Rural Enterprise and Environmental Justice
- Carletta Tilousi, WHEJAC Vice-Chair, Havasupai Tribal Council
- Ruth Santiago, Municipality of Puerto Rico
- Angelo Logan, Moving Forward Network
- Rachel Morello-Frosch, PhD, University of California-Berkley
- Viola Waghiyi, Alaska Community Action on Toxins
- Miya Yoshitani, Asian Pacific Environmental Network
- Kim Havey, Susology
- Tom Cormons, Appalachian Voices
- LaTricea Adams, Black Millennials for Flint
- Harold Mitchell, ReGenesis Institute
- Beverly Wright, PhD, Deep South Center for Environmental Justice
- Susana Almanza, People Organized in Defense of Earth and Her Resources
- Jade Begay, NDN Collective
- Robert Bullard, PhD, Texas Southern University
- Juan Parras, Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services
- Jerome Foster II, Waic Up
- Maria Lopez-Nunez, Ironbound Community Corporation
- Michele Roberts, Environmental Justice and Health Alliance for Chemical Policy Reform
- Nicky Sheats, PhD, Kean University
- Kyle Whyte, PhD, Environment and Sustainability
- Reverend Susan Hendershot, Interfaith, Power and Light
- Harleen Marwah, M.D Medical Students for a Sustainable Future
- Anita Cunningham, North Carolina Disaster Response
- Jamaji Nwanaji-Enwerem, MD, PhD, MPP, University of Pennsylvania
- Joanne Perodin, CLEO Institute
- Michael Walton, Energy Transition Finance
- Donele Wilkins, Green Door Initiative
- Tanner Yess, Groundwork Ohio River Valley, Groundwork USA
- Tye Baker, The Environmental Protection Service
- Carlos Evans, Office of Environmental Quality
- Lloyd Dean, CommonSpirit Health
- Igalious Mills, International Farms and Ranches

# AGENDA

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
 WHITE HOUSE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL (WHEJAC)  
 VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING  
 JUNE 5-6, 2024

Note: Agenda times are approximate; when the discussion for one topic is completed, discussions for the next topic will begin.

Day One	Wednesday, June 5, 2024	12:00 PM- 6:15 PM Eastern Time
12:00 PM – 12:15 PM	Welcome and Opening Remarks	
12:15 PM– 12:30 PM	WHEJAC Member Introductions	
12:30 PM – 1:15 PM	CEQ Opening Remarks	
	CEQ Update on the Environmental Justice Scorecard and Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool Recommendations	
1:15 PM – 2:15 PM	Panel Presentation: White House Interagency Council Update on Climate, Planning, Preparedness, Response, Recovery, and Impacts Recommendations	
2:15 PM – 2:30 PM	BREAK	
2:30 PM – 3:30 PM	Panel Presentation: White House Interagency Council Update on Carbon Management Recommendations	
3:30 PM – 3:45 PM	BREAK	

3:45 PM – 5:00 PM	Public Comment Period Members of the public will be given three (3) minutes to present comments relevant to... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carbon management</li> <li>• Indigenous People and Tribal Nations</li> <li>• Environmental justice goals and priorities that could advance the White House Interagency Council's mission and work as defined in Executive Orders 14008 and 14096.</li> </ul>
5:00 PM – 5:15 PM	BREAK
5:15 PM – 6:15 PM	Public Comment Period Continues
6:15 PM	Closing Remarks, Announcements, and Adjourn for the Day

Day Two	Thursday, June 6, 2024	12:00 PM – 6:00 PM Eastern Time
12:00 PM – 12:05 PM	Public Meeting Opens	
12:05 PM – 12:15 PM	Welcome and Opening Remarks	
12:15 PM – 12:25 PM	WHEJAC Member Introductions	
12:25 PM – 12:55 PM	Presentation: WHEJAC Indigenous Peoples and Tribal Nations Workgroup Update	
12:55 PM – 1:45 PM	Presentation: WHEJAC Executive Order Workgroup Recommendations	
1:45 PM – 2:00 PM	BREAK	
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Presentation: WHEJAC Carbon Management Workgroup Recommendations	
3:00 PM – 3:15 PM	BREAK	
3:15 PM – 4:45 PM	IAC Public Meeting in Coordination with WHEJAC	
4:45 PM – 5:00 PM	BREAK	

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM	WHEJAC Business Meeting The WHEJAC will use this time to reflect on the meeting proceedings and public comments, discuss action items and finalize next steps.
6:00 PM	Closing Remarks & Adjourn

**WHITE HOUSE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL (WHEJAC)**  
**Hybrid Public Meeting**  
**June 5 - 6, 2024**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

The White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC) convened via Zoom meetings on Wednesday, June 5 through Thursday, June 6, 2024. This synopsis covers WHEJAC members' deliberations during the two-day public meeting. It also summarizes the issues raised during the public comment period.

**1.0 WHEJAC Meeting Day 1**

**1.1 Welcome, Opening Remarks, and WHEJAC Member Roll Call**

On Wednesday, June 5, Ms. Audrie Washington, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), U.S. EPA, welcomed attendees to the first day of the public meeting and made announcements. She stated that everyone is in listen-and-view mode, and public commenters are invited to speak later that afternoon and/or invited to submit written comments. She noted that Spanish translation and closed captioning are available. She turned the meeting over to the co-chairs and vice chair for opening remarks.

**Co-Chair Richard Moore, Co-Chair Peggy Shepard, and Vice-Chair Catherine Coleman-Flowers** welcomed everyone.

**Secretary Deb Haaland**, Department of the Interior, gave a welcome.

**DFO Washington** administered roll call and informed the Council that a quorum was met.

**1.2.0 White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Opening Remarks and Updates**

**1.2.1 Brenda Mallory, Chair, White House Council on Environmental Quality**

**Chair Brenda Mallory** presented CEQ opening remarks. She thanked the Chairs, Council and EPA for their leadership. She acknowledged how much the Council's recommendations has helped over the last three years. She welcomed the 12 new members to the Council. She shared updates on work the Administration has accomplished since the last meeting.

**Update on the Environmental Justice Scorecard and Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool Recommendations**

**1.2.2 Dr. Jalonne L. White-Newsome, Federal Chief Environmental Justice Officer, White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)**

**Dr. Jalonne White-Newsom** thanked everyone for inviting her and thanked EPA for their leadership as well as the Council. She gave a brief explanation of the creation of CEQ's Office

of Environmental Justice and shared the goals. She explained OEJ's three goals are to reduce burdens and pollution, ensure dollars benefit the community that needs it the most and to institutionalize the work so Environmental Justice (EJ) will live on. Updates included introduction of new member, Justice40 initiative, EJ Scorecard, Climate and Economic Justice Screening tool (CEJST), and WHEJAC Workgroups. She also invited everyone to join the Inaugural joint meeting of the WHEJAC and White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council (IAC) set to take place the following day. For looking ahead, Dr. White-Newsome delivered an update on the White House Campaign for Environmental Justice and Public Engagement. Questions were asked and answered, and she turned the floor to **Co-Chair Richard Moore** to introduce the next presentation.

### **1.3.0 Panel Presentation: White House Interagency Council Update on WHEJAC's Climate, Planning, Preparedness, Response, Recovery, and Impacts Recommendations**

**Co-Chair, Richard Moore**, introduced the panelists, Dr. Jalonne White-Newsome, Dr. Catherine Doyle-Capitman, Dr. John Balbus, Dr. Sharunda Buchanan, and Victoria Salinas.

#### **1.3.1 Panel Presentation: Dr. Jalonne White-Newsome update and introduction**

**Dr. Jalonne White-Newsome**, started by thanking the Council for their participating in this work and for their recommendations. She shared that each Agency was asked to provide updates on two topics to the recommendations in order to address as many as possible. She stated that a written response to all of the recommendations will also be provided. She turned the floor over to **Dr. Buchanan and Dr. Balbus** for the first presentation.

#### **1.3.2 Dr. Sharunda Buchanan and Dr. John Balbus, Highlights of Health and Human Services (HHS) Activities in Response to WHEJAC Recommendations on Climate Change and Disaster Preparedness**

**Dr. Buchanan and Dr. Balbus** provided the workflow organization of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health and advised that they have put environmental justice and climate change as a priority. **Dr. Buchanan** discussed the following recommendation:

“Make federal agencies and decision-makers in these agencies available to participate in, aid, and support disaster preparedness planning in the most impacted communities, answer questions, and clarify programs and resources available. Train local stakeholders in Federal requirements for response and recovery grants.”

**Dr. Buchanan** stated that ACF's offices are already engaging in activities relating to environmental or climate justice from existing work with underserved and overburdened populations. She stated that ACF offices currently work to provide tools, resource, funding and technical assistance to these populations, providing critical things like energy assistance, housing assistance, nutritional assistance. She advised that key actions and next steps are to develop robust partnerships with key actors to socialize human services in CJ and EJ, develop ACF commitments to action plan, socialize Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFO) to stakeholders. He also overviewed some preparedness and response resources that exist as well as the equitable disaster recovery assessment guide and checklist.

**Dr. Balbus** addressed the second recommendation:

“Ensure climate anxiety and mental health are considered when understanding and addressing human health impacts associated with climate change.”

**Dr. Balbus** stated that the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration has robust disaster mental health programming and is developing broader mental and behavioral health resources related to climate change. He stated that HHS office of climate change and health equity is convening an informal group of HHS divisions and other agencies to coordinate activities for climate change and youth mental and behavioral health.

He turned the floor to back to **Dr. White-Newsome** who then introduced **Victoria Salinas**.

### **1.3.3 Victoria Salinas: FEMA**

**Ms. Salinas** discussed progress that has been made at FEMA regarding removing barriers to programs and taking a people-first approach, making things simpler, more accessible and more user friendly. She shared examples of systematically removing barriers, reforms to disaster assistance program and discussing policy and regulation changes. She highlighted that critical needs assistance that states had to separately request was changed to serious needs assistance and noted a one-time payment of \$750 for essential items. She shared that people who are underinsured may also now receive assistance from FEMA to help cover aspects of home repair for the full amount of the individual assistance program dollars, \$42,500.

**Ms. Salinas** also highlighted displacement assistance which are benefits that provide survivors up-front funds to assist with immediate housing options. She noted that there was a reform to the [disasterassistance.gov](https://www.disasterassistance.gov) website to make it easier for users to navigate. She shared updated progress regarding FEMA and the Community Disaster Resilience Zones. She stated that FEMA is the lead coordinating agency before, during and after disasters with the partnership of many other federal agencies have identified ways that they will prioritize technical assistance and grant funding. She turned the floor back to **Dr. White-Newsome** who introduced the next speakers.

### **1.3.4 Dr. Catherine Doyle-Capitman, Kathryn Zook, Brad Simpkins, US Department of Agriculture**

**Dr. Doyle-Capitman** introduced colleagues and shared broad work being done around combatting climate change, preparing for climate change, and mitigating the risk and working with communities after natural disasters. She turned the floor to **Brad Simpkins** to share information about work around wildfire risk mitigation.

**Mr. Simpkins** presented information on the Community Wildfire Defense Grant. He shared that steps were taken to get funding specifically to low-income, underserved or disadvantage communities, to meet the EJ initiatives. He noted that proactive educational approaches were being taken to reduce risk before a fire starts. He shared that a separate NOFO was developed specifically for tribes, and a tool called Wildfire Risk to Communities website was developed for individuals to look up their communities and see what the wildfire risk hazard is, susceptibility to

structures, et cetera.

**Mr. Simpkins** noted that there are scheduled office hours to answer questions, and that the agency has partnered with Headwaters Economics to do a deep dive into economics of grants to help with making adjustments if criteria or marks were not met. He stated that community navigator partners were engaged, First Development Institute Hispanic Access Foundation, the Federation of Southern Cooperatives Coalition and Collaboratives, the Watershed Research and Training Center. He shared results of awards released.

Questions were asked and answered. In the interest of time, it was suggested that questions be asked, and written answers would be provided. The presentations concluded and the floor was turned to **Co-Chair Moore** to move to the next presentation.

#### **1.4.0 Panel Presentation: White House Interagency Council Update on Carbon Management Recommendations**

**Dr. Catherine Doyle-Capitman**, opened up the next panel and introduced the speakers, **Dr. Jalonne White-Newsome, Ms. Shalanda Baker, Dr. Danny Broberg, Mr. Bruno Pigott, Mr. Tristan Brown, and Ms. Katheryn Kovacs**. She turned the floor over to **Dr. White-Newsome** to begin.

**Dr. White-Newsome**, kicked off the panel by thanking the co-chairs and workgroup for producing the first set of recommendations related to carbon management. She stated that they were looking forward to hearing the second set of recommendations tomorrow. She stated that there will be a formal written response to the WHEJAC's November recommendations on carbon management per the Federal Advisory Committee Act. She stated that this is a challenging issue and the Administration is in agreement that the United States would need to advance and deploy carbon management strategies to meet the national goal. She stated that the concerns felt by some, that carbon management technologies could add more industrial and polluting infrastructure in communities that are already overburdened, is understandable. She stated that the Administration is present for the discussions as these concerns should not be discounted.

**Dr. White-Newsome** stated that there are some recommendations from the WHEJAC, such as the recommendation against the deployment of carbon management technologies, that will not be able to be adopted. She explained that in some areas Congress has given federal agencies explicit statutory direction that they are required to follow. She stated clearly that the deployment of carbon management technologies cannot be stopped, however, there are a lot of recommendations from the WHEJAC that will be critical in helping to advance the work in the right way. She shared some steps CEQ has taken to address the WHEJAC's recommendations. She introduced **Ms. Shalanda Baker and Dr. Danny Broberg** to get the panel discussion started.

#### **1.4.1 Department of Energy (DOE) - Funding and Implementation of Carbon Management Programs in Support of Transition to a Net Zero Economy**

**Ms. Shalanda Baker** welcomed the new WHEJAC members and thank everyone for their

participation in the work. She noted that a letter was sent to the WHEJAC on October 6, 2023, in response to draft recommendations. She stated that there was a commitment to formalize an internal cross-office working group to provide information to the WHEJAC and communities about climate benefits and potential risk of carbon management technologies based on the best available science. She stated that Secretary Granholm outlined four tasks that the cross-agency would undertake in response to the draft recommendations. These tasks included to develop and distribute community facing resources that outline the respective carbon management technologies, that CEQ and White House Interagency Council prepare to address the important question raised by the working group regarding the safety of carbon capture utilization and sequestration technologies, to prioritize ongoing engagement and consultation within every program implementing community benefits plan well in advance of any project breaking ground, and continue to incorporate feedback from the community in all the workshops on community benefits plan.

**Ms. Baker** laid out a few examples of the work that has been accomplished, the local engagement website, project fact sheet, and community benefit commitment summaries that will be publicly available. She mentioned stakeholder engagement commitments as well as hydrogen community engagement. She also mentioned the Harnessing Hydrogen Public Forum to help participants understand the benefits and tradeoffs of hydrogen technologies and effective community benefits planning strategies. She briefly mentioned the Regional Energy Democracy Initiative. She turned it over to **Dr. Broberg** for further discussion.

**Dr. Broberg** began by thanking everyone and stated that the cross-agency team has been an impressive effort to participate in. He discussed clarifying the landscape of technologies that fall within carbon management, an across agency comprehensive map, and carbon management diagram, accompanied by additional community resources. He also mentioned materials in line with performing a systematic review of evidence relating to carbon management risks via a study initiated with the National Academies. **Dr. Broberg** concluded and **Dr. White-Newsome** introduced **Mr. Bruno Pigott** from EPA.

#### **1.4.2 Department of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - Insuring Drinking Waters and Clean Air Protections**

**Mr. Pigott** opened by explaining that EPA's work in carbon management is in the Underground Injection Control program which is managed out of the Office of Water. He stated that this office is bringing a longstanding experience of the agency and underground control, regulatory and permitting programs to bear on underground carbon storage. He stated that several essential steps are being incorporated to ensure that the activities do not harm surrounding communities or their drinking water. He mentioned that the regional water programs and other partners across the country is working to implement the Class VI underground injection control program in a manner that aligns EJ and climate resiliency goals while achieving the fundamental mandate of the Safe Drinking Water Act to protect our underground sources of drinking water, thus the release of the Environmental Justice Guidance for Class VI permitting and primacy in August of 2023. **Mr. Pigott** turned it back over to **Dr. White-Newsome** who then introduced **Mr. Tristan Brown** from the Department of Transportation.

#### **1.4.3 Department of Transportation (DOT) - Health/Safety of CO2 Transportation**

**Mr. Brown** began with a brief explanation of the things that were regulated in his department. He stated that he leads a team of approximately 650 full-time employees at the Department of Transportation with the responsibility of overseeing safe operations design and maintenance and construction of nearly 3.3 million miles of oil gas, hydrogen carbon dioxide pipelines across the country, as well as over a million shipments of hazardous materials every day. He went on to discuss that DOT is currently working on strengthening standards for all CO2 pipelines that is expected to apply to projects in development. He also reported on the Satar Mississippi pipeline failure. He explained that a 300 page report was generated followed civil penalties. He also noted that rulemaking was initiated to strengthen protections from CO2 pipelines.

**Mr. Brown** shared that DOT has launched social equity mapping tools to visualize pipeline failures and explain the causes of them to the public as well as to reporters who often ask for that information when a pipeline failure occurs. He stated that one of the federal government's top experts, Carolyn Nelson, was hired to lead the White House Environmental Justice Interagency staff Task Force, and she has built a team hiring additional engineers and environmental professionals on her environmental justice and policy focused team.

**Mr. Brown** closed informing the group that their input is helping to have a big impact on the work at DOT. He turned it over to **Dr. White-Newsome** who introduced **Ms. Kathryn Kovacs**, Department of Interior.

#### **1.4.4 Department of Interior (DOI) - Carbon Sequestration - Onshore/Offshore**

**Ms. Kovacs** outlined her discussion on the work of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), onshore, and then offshore initiatives at the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE). She stated that BLM administers 700 million acres of federally owned subsurface mineral estate as the nation's largest land management agency. She noted in a 2022 policy, BLM established best practices for considering EJ issues during environmental reviews. She shared that throughout its work, the BLM strives to engage and deeply hear the community's input, including tribal consultation, and then leverage that information to shape the Bureau's ultimate decision. She noted that currently the BLM is at various stages of environmental review on several carbon sequestration projects with several more proposals in the pipeline

Ms. Kovacs stated that DOI is also preparing for long-term challenges and opportunities by developing specific EJ strategies and action plans to guide the bureaus engagement and regulatory actions moving forward. She stated that to ensure that each bureau meets the highest standards, the Department of the Interior is taking a thoughtful all-of-government approach to ensure that coastal and underserved communities can engage and benefit equitably from activities with minimal impacts. She stated that together these bureaus are drafting a comprehensive regulatory framework to govern the entire life cycle of carbon sequestration projects offshore. She noted that those regulations will address environmental safeguards, well integrity, financial and economic matters, and monitoring and reporting.

Questions were asked and answered. In the interest of time, it was noted that written responses to questions will also be provided. The presentations were concluded and **DFO Washington**

announced the break to be followed by the Public Comment Period.

### **1.5.0 Public Comment Period**

On June 5, 2024, the WHEJAC held a Public Comment Period to allow members of the public to discuss environmental justice concerns in their communities. **Audrie Washington, Designated Federal Officer**, explained that written public comments will be accepted through June 19, 2024. A total of 36 individuals rendered verbal public comments to the WHEJAC. Each speaker was allotted three minutes.

#### **1.5.1 Lea Harper, Managing Director**

**Lea Harper:** Thank you so much for this opportunity, I really appreciate WHEJAC and the opportunity to share our concerns. We are looking at carbon capture in the Appalachian region that ARCH2 has vaguely outlined. We have no idea where the carbon capture facilities will be located, where the pipelines and how the CO<sub>2</sub> will be stored and where. We do know that the PHMSA has not promulgated adequate regulations for any of it. For any carbon sequestration it's essential that you do not give Ohio primacy for class VI injection because of the terrible job the state has done to oversee leaking class II injection wells for fracking. In fact, we have petitioned the U.S. EPA to investigate Ohio's implementation of its primacy for Class II with the facts to no avail so far.

We have direct experience with one Class VI well that was drilled in Ohio that contaminated groundwater and resulted in lawsuits and deaths of animals and likely one person from the air and water pollution that the Class VI well created when it was used to stabilize a coal mine to build the Guernsey Power Station. U.S. EPA-Region 5 knows the disaster this was, with local landowners seriously harmed and forced to move. Nothing was done when people complained that they could not breathe or drink their water during the Class VI injection. No regulatory authority came to test air or water. It was only because we were able to find a lawyer that the families were able to move. We had no input into the permitting process with a public announcement placed in the wrong paper and no one told of the downsides of what was being planned for their community, only about the temporary construction jobs. There is too much compromise in our political system to safely implement the ARCH2 Blue Hydrogen and required carbon capture facilities in the Valley. There are extremely corrosive properties of the CO<sub>2</sub> waste stream and what the impacts of that and any hydrogen blending is being planned for the Valley on those pipelines.

It is not just the high radon and fracked gas, but the radioactive particulate matter and water contamination, hydrogen embrittlement that's a growing disaster in our region, not to mention the loss of service and groundwater because of fracking to begin with. We have an outstanding public records request to EPA Region 5, which will take an inordinate amount of time to complete just to receive records that are required to be filed regarding the components of the waste stream injected by Archer Daniels. Our requests for expediting and fee waiver have been denied.

There is more that our government should be doing now to get the truth and involve the communities that will be impacted. We witnessed the invasion of fracking and its harms, along

with its toxic radioactive waste stream over the last 10 years and know the harms that are hidden by gag orders. A major harm includes eminent domain, given fracked gas pipelines, rover nexus, even though these huge pipelines are used for export and have not delivered on the tax revenue that was promised. We see the harms of fracking and its infrastructure being amplified by ARCH2. Poor space is already being leased by Tenasca, without people being told what that means over time. We are frightened that eminent domain will again take private property, just like fracked pads and pipelines. This cannot happen.

There are egregious denial of facts that we know about fracking, with fracking proponents like Sean Bennett who are heavily invested in promoting the industry. There are better ways to achieve necessary carbon reduction goals. Anything that involves fracking and supports the fossil fuel industry, including having forbid the repurposing of existing pipelines that are not engineered to handle the corrosive properties of CO2 and hydrogen and hydrogen blends, must not be allowed. Thank you. I really appreciate it. There's more, but I'll send the rest.

### **1.5.2 Davon Hall, Fineblackart/Fighthatewithgloves, (Wilmington, Delaware)**

**Davon Hall:** Good evening. My name is Davon Hall. I'm from Wilmington, Delaware. I was born in Chester, Pennsylvania. I'm sorry that we all have to be here for this discussion tonight, but I'm grateful for the opportunity to speak. Once again, this is Davon Hall from Wilmington, Delaware and I'm really upset that we have to be here for this conversation. I have an email that was directed to me from an environmental attorney who let me know that he was aware of the WHEJAC meeting coming up. These are his words exactly, he said, but he didn't plan to speak there himself. He said, in my experience, I just get ignored anyway. He's an attorney, an environmental attorney, who's been working, active, who has been organizing. I've protested with this man at Covanta, the incinerator in New Jersey. And we had folks from Swarthmore, the students, they were raising their fist up for the first time for an issue. But he said he was ignored. So, hell, we had 274 -- and hell was his word. I try not to curse too often, but he said, hell, we had 274 groups write a letter to the White House Council on Environmental Quality with a copy to the WHEJAC co-chairs, and they never even acknowledged receiving it. That was in October 2022. The website that he gave me the link for is [energyjustice.net](http://energyjustice.net) backslash incineration or forward slash 2022CEQletter.pdf. He said, if you do decide to speak, feel free to ask why they still never responded to 274 organizations writing them with that letter about the Biden administration's policies on incineration. If he plans to, I'd attend just to see their reaction.

And with that being said, I'll say here in Delaware we have a plant that makes oxycodone, they make Percocet, they make Xanax. I got about 400 people to sign petition to delay their enlarging, their increasing of their pollution on our air. Because we live in a heavy impacted area, we live in a heavy cumulative, impacted area. It's an industrial site, but it's really a residential site. And we all know about how there's companies that make chemicals. There's companies that make cleaning supplies. We have all of this. There's a concrete manufacturer. There's a landfill. And where I was born in Chester, this plant, Covanta, burns trash from all the way up in New York from the five boroughs. I have cousins, I have brothers and sisters who have had tumors. That's it. I don't want to go over time. There's a lot of work that need to be done; you guys have my information. Thank you.

### **1.5.3 Audrey Ernstberger - Kentucky Resources Council, (Kentucky)**

**Audrey Ernstberger:** Thank you for the opportunity to comment this evening. My name is Audrey Ernstberger. I'm a staff attorney and lobbyist for Kentucky Resources Council (KRC). KRC is a statewide public interest environmental law and advocacy organization. And I will submit written comments for your consideration as well. If national carbon management strategies are to incorporate CCUS technology, we recommend advancing carbon management technologies that capture carbon directly from the ambient air and result in permanent sequestration. Given the significant advancements in CDR technology and the transmission and storage infrastructure necessary to make this technology beneficial to reduce atmospheric carbon, we encourage focusing national resources on achieving these goals, which are projected to yield necessary long-term results, as opposed to the subset of CCUS technologies that only offer short-term solutions and utilizations that do not result in permanent sequestration.

Because studies, a few of which were cited in WHEJAC's previous recommendations, indicate that CCUS technology and corresponding infrastructure presents a net burden, not benefit, to host communities, it must be offset by permanent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Historically disadvantaged communities are the most susceptible to the negative effects of climate change. To that end, demonstration programs, as a component of funding, should require carbon reduction projections accounting for the full life cycle, not just from the point of capture. This is a net reduction after accounting for parasitic load and co-pollutant production, transportation-related emissions, and the subsequent supply chain emissions it supports. To streamline projects, these projections should be required in some form at the project proposal and funding negotiation stage, then expanded during the environmental assessment that is required later pursuant to NEPA.

Federal go and no-go schemes should incorporate a net benefit to the host community requirement, especially in the case of environmental justice communities, and should balance factors like co-pollutant generation, co-environmental benefit generation, capacity for permanent greenhouse gas reduction, short- and long-term human health impact, plans for community support in the event of disaster, and overall protectiveness of the state-permitting regulatory framework. The project applicant should be responsible for submitting necessary information in the project application in the form of a limited preliminary assessment, and this should be the foundation for ongoing discussions with the community.

In addition to the community benefit plans, which while incorporating economic benefits should also incorporate more direct and specific pathways for reducing legacy pollution in the host community, public discussion about disaster plans that adequately support community resiliency, like environmental surety bonds and community funds that supplement federal support if FEMA assistance is granted, and long-term environmental health assessment plans that monitor the pilot technology and the unique community health profiles. That's all I'll say because I'm out of time, but I'll submit the written comments. Thank you so much.

#### **1.5.4 KD Minor, Alliance for Affordable Energy, (Louisiana, New Orleans)**

**KD Minor:** Thank you. The damage to the lake has already been unbelievable, said a public commenter during a CCS task force hearing here in Louisiana. Months before Louisiana was granted primacy over underground injection for CCS, Air Products launched an all-out assault to

begin a project in Lake Maurepas, one of our state's last still estuaries. Hiring over 25 lobbyists to influence the decisions of our lawmakers, the international corporation was very successful at killing the protections we sought for, our way of life, our lands and our waterways. While we have a moratorium on CCS here in Bulbancha, known as New Orleans, just 20 minutes to the west after crossing the largest continuous bridge over water in the world, the community surrounding Lake Maurepas experienced a rapid decline in the number of CCS in the state of Louisiana. The number of CCS in the state of Louisiana has increased by more than a third in the last 20 years to over 14,000 charges under the lakebed to drill a test well.

Fishermen who supply many of our nation's seafood reported being harassed and their businesses sabotaged by the destruction of their equipment, by enormous barges and armed guards who were hired to patrol the lake. They received reports of crabs experiencing growth on their shells and the nearby community of Tangipahoa experienced an implosion of their water well. Over 3,500 fish were killed.

On April 6th of this year, the city of Sulphur, Louisiana experienced a CO2 pipeline failure that had no operator in the vicinity to repair. The pipeline failure didn't make it into this presentation today. The people of the town received most of their communication by word of mouth and Facebook. We did see how the incident in Mississippi left the people incapacitated, but the under-reporting and lack of emergency preparedness in Sulphur has proven that we are still not taking this seriously.

Thank you to the Council for dedicating your time to help curate the policies that govern our lives. Thank you to the co-chairs for taking this charge seriously. I am KD Minor, and as the community solutions coordinator for the Alliance for Affordable Energy, I have spent the last year working to understand why carbon capture, hydrogen, and LNG are false solutions for our climate goals. Equipped with your previous recommendations to halt all carbon management implementation, we have worked to educate and empower our communities to prepare them for the onslaught of CCS and DAC slated to appear in Louisiana.

I have come to make two requests today. First, please insist that the administration engage with communities before industry does. Using the guidance of the precautionary principle, it is your social responsibility to protect the public from exposure to harm when scientific investigation has found a plausible risk. We have experienced multiple layers of intimidation by representatives of very wealthy companies who do not share our value system. Louisianians are facing compounding issues like high energy burden and climate catastrophe, and for too long industry has benefited from our suffering. CCS is the oil and gas industry using phone a friend in their game of Who Wants to be a Millionaire.

My second act is that the administration considers the impacts of this buildout to the nation's water. The we don't know from the Office of Science and Technology, but continues to echo in my head and serves as a frightening reminder that our crumbling water infrastructure and absent appropriations are too often overlooked in the conversation about our energy transit. We have heard of facilities requiring 100 gallons of water -- (commenter out of time and was asked to submit comments in writing.)

**1.5.5 Melissa Miles, New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance (NJEJA), (New Jersey)**

**Melissa Miles:** Good afternoon. I'm Melissa Miles, Executive Director of the New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance, a statewide non-profit founded to address the legacy of environmental pollution in low-income and of color communities. We are a member of the Climate Justice Alliance and the Equitable and Just National Climate Platform, where we interact with leaders from other environmental justice and climate-impacted communities across the nation. Our gratitude to the WHEJAC members, specifically the members of the Carbon Management Workgroup, who have labored intensively to create recommendations that reflect the voices of communities disproportionately burdened by energy infrastructure. Our NJEJA team has divided up our areas of comment, so I'll speak briefly to the outsized federal investment in carbon management technology and how this approach may actually set us back in our collective effort to eliminate carbon emissions from the energy sector and make it even more difficult to protect fence line communities from the health impacts of the co-pollutants that accompany fossil fuel generation. Like Dr. White-Newsome stated in her comments today, many communities are steadfastly opposed to the use of carbon management technologies.

The NJEJA Alliance was appalled that these investments are being framed as Justice 40 initiatives and that hundreds of billions of tax dollars are being utilized to research and deploy CCS and CCUS at the expense of better, safer, and more readily available systems of emissions reductions. Subsidies, tax breaks, loans, and investments are being made on the backs of environmental justice communities. This may effectively neutralize the legacy of President Biden's Executive Order. Just last week, Dr. Robert Bullard, a WHEJAC member, published an op-ed detailing the massive financial blunder that our country is poised to make with the expanded 45Q tax credits through the Inflation Reduction Act to the tune of \$5 billion from the pockets of taxpayers over the next five years. Tax incentives are not free. Eventually, they come from the funding paths of least resistance, like social service programs and education.

Then there's the \$12.1 billion through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and up to \$290 billion in potential loan funds. With all due respect to the Department of Energy team and their hard work, the budget for oversight and enforcement will never match these investments. Just look at the insurance sector that is arising to address the fraud and mismanagement happening with these projects. In addition, while the incentives are baked into tax law for the next decade, agency funding for oversight and enforcement is subject to political will. Not to mention the perverse incentive, quote unquote, of creating and expanding markets for carbon, the very thing we want to eliminate.

There is real concern that once those dollars leave the Department of Treasury, the market will do what the market has historically done, which is to create new markets which cannot be controlled or regulated until it is too late. These investments are dooming our communities, our country, and our world, and must be reconsidered before it is too late. Thank you.

#### **1.5.6 Ennedith Lopez, Youth United for Climate Crisis Action (YUCCA), (New Mexico)**

**Ennedith Lopez:** Good afternoon. My name is Ennedith Lopez. I'm the policy campaign manager of Youth United for Climate Crisis Action, also known as YUCCA, a member-based youth-led environmental and climate justice organization here in New Mexico. Alongside our partners at the New Mexico No False Solutions Coalition and the Climate Justice Alliance, we

stand in strong opposition to carbon management projects incentivized by federal funding. In New Mexico, we are seeing our governor and environment department actively plan for projects that would prop up false solutions. As of now, we are fighting with our communities against a strategic water supply plan, a hydrogen corridor, and carbon storage projects placed directly in overburdened communities. The people of New Mexico are treated as an energy sacrifice zone, and the interest is applying the massive energy demand across the country. During the Nixon administration in 1973, the Four Corners region was designated a national energy sacrifice zone to ensure our dependence on fossil fuels.

This has come at the cost of past, current, and future generations, our community's health, and the well-being of the environment. In December 2023, after COP28, which was held in Dubai, our governor, Michelle Lujan Grisham, announced the strategic water supply plan, an initiative to allocate \$500 million to buy, treat, and sell produced water for green hydrogen. The proposed water reuse rule vastly expands produced water to large-scale and demonstration projects off the oiled field, with no scientifically based standards for treatment, handling, or disposal of a toxic and radioactive substance. We know that this rule poses threats to New Mexican health and safety by enabling industrial and large-scale projects to be developed in communities across the state without adequate protections for workers and community members. It is also important to recognize that on the day to day, we see about four spills, and frankly, those are never remediated or cleaned up.

The strategic water supply plan is being pursued in the interest of securing water resources for the development of a hydrogen economy, despite the fact that we're in a mega-drought. For example, during the community consultation process, it became clear that the New Mexico Environment Department is prioritizing the I-40 Hydrogen Transportation Corridor. This would come across communities such as my own, which is already overburdened, such as the International District, and poses risk of explosions, leakage, and flammability. In addition, we also see carbon projects being developed in the Four Corners region in collaboration with labs, universities and private corporations without any proper community consultation, and also without any plugging of abandoned wells.

So this brings into questions and concerns of the Cass VI wells, which time and time again, New Mexico Environment Department tells us they don't have the adequate staffing to do an oversight cleanup or any type of remediation of these wells. And because of this, we stand against carbon capture because it will only lock us into fossil fuel production. I urge you at WHEJAC to please look into the strategic water supply plan, to look into the I-40 transportation corridor and the carbon state projects, as we see these projects in further continuing and prolonging the hold of the fossil fuel industry here in New Mexico. And particularly how federal funds are incentivizing this technology. Thank you for your recent carbon management reports. I plan on submitting my comment in writing. Thank you.

### **1.5.7 Susan Thomas, Just Transition Northwest Indiana, (Northwest Indiana)**

**Susan Thomas:** I'm Susan Thomas, Director of Legislation and Policy for Just Transition Northwest Indiana and Environmental Justice Nonprofit, serving three counties in the industrial epicenter of Northwest Indiana. We're a proud member of Climate Justice Alliance and we work with nine other EJ orgs from across the US to write the EJ framework for scientific technical

reports, debunking hydrogen and CCS with the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research.

A recent treasury department investigation revealed of nearly 1 billion in CCS tax credits through 2019. \$893 million was submitted in ways that did not meet EPA rules. The companies receiving the credits are required to monitor, report and verify their findings to EPA, yet the levels of emissions reported to the IRS didn't match the figures reported to EPA, which were lower. There must be stringent IRS and EPA oversight and transparency of these rules and credits given to bad faith companies.

Companies who knew they were causing climate change since the 70s, knew for decades their plastics are hardly recyclable and now microplastics are in our brains, our blood and our breast milk. They know carbon capture is a dangerous, unproven false solution that will continue fossil fuel use and global warming, yet their unscientific and unproven greenwashing campaigns have full DOE support that will harm the most vulnerable EJ communities. These same oil and gas corporations are now referred to the justice department for investigation in promoting their profit driven policies in exchange for financing Trump's presidential campaign. Blatant and historic corporate criminals reaping huge rewards who were largely the cause of climate change we're here discussing today. We cannot fiscally or environmentally continue to allow the fox to guard the hen house, dumping on EJ communities who deserve a chance to thrive and be heard.

We don't want these toxic, unproven experiments in our neighborhoods. Additionally, we suggest any communications for permit requirements be thoroughly documented in terms of community input and actions taken as a result. We are not boxes to be checked on a form. Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

#### **1.5.8 Alejandria Lyons, New Mexico No False Solutions, (New Mexico)**

**Alejandria Lyons:** Thank you. My name is Alejandria Lyons. I am the coordinator for New Mexico No False Solutions and also another proud member of the Climate Justice Alliance. We work across the state of New Mexico with all of our steering committee members, and I'm here to talk and add more to the conversation around carbon management strategies, specifically CCS and hydrogen. As many of you know, in New Mexico, we fought diligently to make sure that DOE had the appropriate information to deny the WISH (phonetic) application, which was denied, but we continue to see hydrogen being propped up in New Mexico. We also see the application for the primacy of Class VI wells. We understand that there are major water scarcity issues.

So these are the two issues I wanted to bring to the WHEJAC for your consideration. As my colleague Ennedith Lopez mentioned, New Mexico is designated as a national energy sacrifice zone. This is not a narrative building exercise, this is part of Project Independence. And as we see time and time again, no matter what administration, we see the mining of hard rock and the elements of life in New Mexico and specifically indigenous lands. Right now, what we are seeing is in groups in the area of McKinley County, Escalante, they are trying to pull through this Class VI injection well. And to give some more statistics of what my colleague Ennedith mentioned. We mentioned in our letter to the Department of Energy that EMNRD specifically was unfit to oversee these sorts of wells. There's a 50% vacancy of staff and only nine inspectors for over 66,000 active oil and gas wells. If we added these Class VI injection wells, we are

already underfunded, and we don't have the expertise to look over this. So just for some numbers sake, this is one inspector for 7,300 wells, and the agency is simply not in a safe place to oversee this.

We also worked with Susan and other groups to put together a guideline for hydrogen, and one of the specific things that we want to bring to the WHEJAC's attention is the issue of water scarcity. We are seeing the governor's strategic water supply in New Mexico, and so what we are asking is for community consultation in water planning. Specifically, around the hydrogen issue because we cannot sustain green hydrogen nor hydrogen of any color. The bottom line is that hydrogen is not a silver bullet. It will not get us out of the energy crisis. This is a market mechanism. And we will submit more comments and evidence from New Mexico No False Solutions. Thank you.

### **1.5.9 Miriam Rotkin-Ellman, Environmental Justice Health Alliance (EJHA), (New York)**

**Miriam Rotkin-Ellman:** Hi, good evening. My name is Miriam Rotkin-Ellman. I'm a public health scientist working with the Environmental Justice Health Alliance for chemical policy reform. EJHA is a national network of environmental and economic justice organizations in communities that are disproportionately harmed by toxic chemicals and legacy pollution. Our communities are at the front lines and for some at ground zero for the harm stemming from the lack of considering environmental justice in carbon management technology investments. Thank you for this opportunity to speak and thank you for your service to the WHEJAC and to communities across the country. As investments in technologies to manage carbon emissions and decarbonize polluting industries ramped up, it is critical that communities have champions like this council to help ensure that these investments are not further burdening communities and exacerbating racial and ethnic health disparities.

The Administration's commitment to taking a whole-of-government approach to advance environmental justice is critically important and unfortunately not being realized when it comes to the Department of Energy's industrial demonstration program grants for the chemical and refining sector. Most of these million-dollar grants of taxpayer money are going to either new or expanded facilities that will make toxic chemicals using processes that are known to result in dangerous and health-harming toxic emissions. Six out of the seven projects are planned for Gulf Coast communities.

While descriptions of these projects claim climate benefits, none described reductions in emissions of hazardous air pollutants, carcinogens, reproductive toxicants. I want to highlight two of these projects to illustrate why the DOE's decarbonization investments are endangering this Administration's commitment to environmental justice. One of these projects would grant Exxon Mobil close to \$332 million for hydrogen CCS demonstration technology at the Baytown Olefins plant in Baytown, Texas. Tens of thousands of cancer-causing emissions every year from this facility and they have had 25 federal air quality violations in just five years. The technology supported by this grant will not reduce the toxic burden and can result in increased harmful exposures.

I also want to highlight a second project of close to a hundred million dollars to Dow Chemical for CCS at a facility that produces the chemical and hazardous air pollutant ethylene oxide. This

causes cancer in communities. It's one of the leading risk factors for cancer in communities. Why are we supporting additional new plants that will not reduce this hazardous air pollutant? These projects and investments illustrate the urgent need for reforms to these programs.

It's also apparent that the commitment to ensuring public health Of protections and addressing cumulative impacts from carbon management technology is not being adhered to with regard to the chemical sector. I am here to ask WHEJAC to develop environmental justice criteria and recommendations for the Department of Energy projects and grants. Please stand with frontline communities and with the frontline of chemical and plastic manufacturing communities in declaring that these communities have the right to breathe healthy air without toxic pollution. The new net zero and decarbonized industrial buildout must not perpetuate and deepen the sacrifice zones already borne by environmental justice communities. Thank you.

### **1.5.10 Annie Fox, Clean Air Council, (Pennsylvania)**

**Annie Fox:** I'm Annie Fox with Clean Air Council, a nonprofit environmental health organization serving thousands of members throughout Pennsylvania and the mid-Atlantic region. It's great to hear today's speakers' express commitment to meaningful public participation and equity in carbon management. I fervently hope the initiatives presented and general enthusiasm in this space will bring change. However, you all need to hear about how the process has been going regarding hydrogen hub development. The word that best captures how frontline communities feel is unheard. Today, Dr. White-Newsome said the Justice40 initiative encourages early meaningful dialogue, yet potential hydrogen hub project communities fighting for transparency and a seat at the table have received only lip service from DOE. From denials of early freedom of information requests on, the process has been shrouded in secrecy. 54 organizations, including Clean Air Council, received only a form letter after writing DOE detailing information the public needs about the ARCH2 project and asking DOE to suspend ARCH2 negotiations until they work with EJ stakeholders to incorporate their input.

I heard a hydrogen hub representative claim that people want dialogue now only because they don't understand that the hubs are only at the negotiation stage. In reality, people know that early input facilitates meaningful impact. Furthermore, listening sessions are not dialogue and transparency. Worse, minimal outreach leaves most people unaware and thus unable to participate. People reported being unable to sign up and it doesn't help to tell excluded people to send written comments that won't receive a response. Speakers almost uniformly stressed that the hydrogen generated by fossil fuels with carbon capture will not help the climate. For example, studies show that the lifetime carbon footprint of so-called blue hydrogen would be 20% larger than directly using fossil fuel gas for heating.

The frustrated public raised many important questions, a sample of which is, when will people learn whether their communities might host a hub project? How will fugitive hydrogen emissions that drive climate change be controlled? Will operators be responsible for emergency response plans and public notification?

Lastly, people need to stay in a planned Pittsburgh airport project. use hydrogen generated from coal mine methane. To make the project viable, the companies are lobbying for the 45V tax credit to expand to subsidize dirty coal mine methane at the highest tier as if it were green

hydrogen. The disastrous implications include that one, unprofitable coal mines would suddenly become wildly profitable, operating indefinitely rather than being shattered. Two, frontline communities would then continue to be sickened from the associated toxic emissions. And three, truly green hydrogen generated with solar and wind energy would become uncompetitive. Thank you.

#### **1.5.11 Basav Sen, Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy Program, (Washington, DC)**

**Basav Sen:** Good afternoon. My name is Basav Sen, and I am the Climate Policy Director at the Institute for Policy Studies, and we're also proud members of the Climate Justice Alliance. Thank you for the opportunity to talk about carbon management, and my comments will focus on carbon capture and storage, CCS in particular. The entire point of CCS is to allow fossil fuel use without the greenhouse gas emissions. But the technology does not work. It does not mitigate upstream methane leakage, and we know that methane is an extremely powerful greenhouse gas. The technology doesn't even capture carbon dioxide from smokestacks effectively. CCS projects in many parts of the world, whether it's a biofuels facility in Illinois, or a power plant in Canada, or an LNG export terminal in Australia, have been expensive, publicly subsidized failures. Relying on a failing technology to address a grave threat such as climate change is highly irresponsible.

Even if this technology were to work, it will not address any of the other environmental harms of fossil fuels, such as emissions of particulate matter and nitrogen oxides at the point of combustion, or air and water contamination from oil and gas drilling and coal mining at the point of production. Because of the energy penalty of CCS technology, which requires more fossil energy input for a given amount of energy output, these toxic impacts are actually going to become much worse if CCS were to be implemented at scale. And there are serious and well-known racial and economic disparities in who is most harmed by these toxic pollutants. Choosing to mitigate fossil fuel emissions by using fossil fuels with CCS instead of replacing them with renewable energy is a political choice to keep sacrificing frontline communities for the benefit of the fossil fuel industry. Further, implementing carbon capture and storage creates new hazards in the form of carbon pipeline ruptures. Carbon dioxide pipelines are susceptible to catastrophic ruptures releasing asphyxiating gas, as the experience of the leak in Satartia, Mississippi shows.

In conclusion, carbon management is a bad idea and should be abandoned. There is no substitute for phasing out fossil fuel production and use and the just transition to renewable energy. And I'm going to provide detailed written comments as well. Thank you.

#### **1.5.12 Megan Franco, Northern Virginia Food Rescue, (Virginia)**

**Megan Franco:** Good evening. My name is Dr. Megan Franco. I'm the executive director of Northern Virginia Food Rescue and I'm speaking on the behalf of all of our Food Rescue Hero partners. Food waste is a major emitter of greenhouse gas and represents a significant waste of resources that are required to grow, harvest, manufacture, transport and store food. According to the EPA, U.S. food loss and waste embodies 170 million metric tons of carbon dioxide, which is equal to the emissions of 42 coal-fired power plants. This figure excludes the substantial methane emissions that are produced when food waste decomposes in these landfills. EPA data

shows that food waste is the most common material that is landfilled and incinerated in the U.S. This constitutes 24 percent of landfill and 22 percent of combusted municipal solid waste.

Eliminating food waste is essential for creating substantial and equitable food systems. Food production and transportation generate significant CO<sub>2</sub> emissions while food waste in landfills produces methane, a potent greenhouse gas. Reducing food waste mitigates climate change, enhances food security, boosts economic efficiency, conserves resources and strengthens resilience against climate-related supply chain disruptions. To underscore the magnitude, if food waste were a country, it would have the third largest carbon footprint globally. So we ask that you please continue to support food recovery efforts. By recovering unsold food and preventing waste, we can significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, conserve valuable resources and create a more sustainable and equitable food system. Thank you.

### **1.5.13 Brooke Helmick, New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance, (New Jersey)**

**Brooke Helmick:** Hello everyone. My name is Brooke Helmick, and I am the Director of Policy with the New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance. I am also a member of the Climate Justice Alliance and the Equitable and Just National Climate Platform. I'm here today to talk about the clear and present dangers of CCS and hydrogen and their impact on frontline and EJ communities. I urge the WHEJAC to stop the movement of these projects as they do not represent a viable, safe, or appropriate solution to the risk of air pollution and climate change. With regards to CCS, it distracts us from the necessity of transitioning away from fossil fuels. Merely capturing carbon emissions does not actually limit or phase out the use of fossil fuels. And furthermore, we must acknowledge the demonstrated failure of these projects and the risk they pose to EJ, frontline, and host communities. The Department of Energy spent and wasted \$195 million on the Petra Nova project, which ran into multiple technical difficulties, could not stay consistently operational, and failed to capture CO<sub>2</sub> at its promised rate.

All of this speaks nothing to the risks of transportation and storage, which can and do include risks of pipeline leakage and rupture, leading to highly hazardous situations. CO<sub>2</sub> is odorless, colorless, heavier than air, an asphyxiant and intoxicant that will harm humans and animals living nearby. Underground storage can also bring about seismic activity and groundwater contamination. In the matter of hydrogen usage and hydrogen hubs, EJ communities have faced significant challenges in receiving transparent and accessible information on these projects. Hydrogen as an energy source will require significant infrastructural development, even if industry stakeholders' proposal to use existing natural gas pipelines, which brings about its own grave dangers, is accepted. Hydrogen in general, as the smallest element, vibrates at an incredibly high frequency and thus is more prone to creating cracks and fissures in the pipelines, especially if rigorous safety measures are not put into place. Such cracks can lead to leaks and explosions as a result of hydrogen's high flammability. Explosions are larger and burn hotter, risking the lives of host communities and damage to the environment where the infrastructure is situated.

Furthermore, there is significant resource input in order to develop hydrogen, including, in the context of green hydrogen, valuable water and renewable electricity usage. Additionally, hydrogen production holds the potential to increase NO<sub>x</sub> emissions. Such renewable energy would be more effective and better suited to the goals of electrifying sectors currently relying on

fossil fuels. This infrastructural investment can and should be pivoted to focus on truly clean, renewable sources of energy that do not continue to place EJ communities in positions of precarity and risk our health, physical safety and our lives. CCS and hydrogen are incredibly likely to be cited in EJ communities.

We cannot allow our communities to continue to become sacrifice zones, putting our health, lives and neighborhoods at risk. We call on the WHEJAC to represent us, to name the risks of CCS, and tell the Biden Administration that CCS and other false solutions are delaying the transition towards proven and sustainable solutions and putting our communities' lives on the line yet again. Thank you.

#### **1.5.14 Parson Brown, Topless America Project, (Virginia)**

**Parson Brown:** Hello everybody. I'm Parson Brown and you know what? I had a million things that I could say tonight but I have been overwhelmed by the testimony of all of the frontline community representatives that I've heard this evening. I originally started a group called the Topless America Project which was intended to spread awareness of mountaintop removal coal mining in Appalachia. I went on to join the ranks of the Chicago Environmental Justice Coalition and we shut down two of the oldest dirtiest coal-fired power plants in America. But you know what, as I had up pages and pages that I could talk about, but you guys are representing yourselves and I think that the most important thing is to just take this time to say that I support our frontline communities, everybody on the ground that is doing the work.

There is one thing that I do want to talk about because I just had a conversation with my own senator, Senator Cain, about carbon sequestration. And we both agreed that we have to take a better look at this technology because it is not what we want it to be. There is no safe keeping of Carbon or of CO2.

I'd like to reference Lake Nyos the disaster in Cameroon in 1986, where a natural release of CO2 from the lake killed its 1800 people and thousands of livestock. This technology is not tested. And honestly, I think that I'm going to yield my time to frontline community organizers that have it under control. I support you. I'm your ally and solidarity to every single one of you that have the courage to speak up. And you shouldn't have to speak quickly you should be able to tell your story as long as it takes. I yield my time.

#### **1.5.15 Dan Sakura, Sakura Conservation Strategies, LLC, (Maryland)**

**Dan Sakura:** Thank you so much. My name is Dan Sakura, I'm an Advisor to the Minidoka Pilgrimage Planning Committee (MPPC). We are a Seattle-based organization that works with survivors and descendants of the forced incarceration of Japanese-Americans and Alaska Natives to Minidoka National Historic Site, a unit of the National Park System located in Idaho. During World War II, the U.S. government rounded up Japanese-Alaskan families, these are families with Japanese-American fathers, and separated the fathers and sent them to prisons in New Mexico. The government then incarcerated the Alaska Native women and their mixed Japanese-Alaskan children at Minidoka in Idaho.

We are currently fighting a proposed wind project located on sacred ground that would dishonor

the Japanese-American Alaska Native community, including folks that are Inupiat, Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian. The Biden administration, despite its pledge to advance racial and environmental justice, despite President Biden's statement three weeks ago to preserve Asian-American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander heritage, has released a final environmental impact statement tomorrow that would authorize a massive wind project that would, according to BLM, have disproportionate high and adverse impacts on the Japanese-American, including Alaska Native communities.

We strongly encourage the Administration to adopt the no-action alternative in the final EI, in the Record of Decision, which they plan to issue later this summer. We believe that this proposal violates basic principles of racial and environmental justice, jeopardizes the critical support, public support needed to fight climate change. Our community supports renewable energy. We recognize the existential threat of climate change, but citing renewable energy projects on sacred ground is a mistake. According to Bill McKibben, we cannot repeat the mistakes of the past. If approved, this project would mark the U.S. government's second betrayal of our community and reverse over 50 years of acknowledgement that the forced incarceration of Japanese-Americans and Alaska Natives are wrong.

We encourage the Administration to think twice and to make a sound decision. And we encourage the WHEJAC to support our efforts to preserve our heritage, to honor the legacy and the memory of over 1,000 Japanese-Americans who served in the military and over 73 who gave their lives while their families were incarcerated by their own government. We encourage you to help us on our road to healing and to preserve our heritage. Thank you very much.

#### **1.5.16 Eliza Llenza, Eliza Llenza Multimedia, (Puerto Rico)**

**Eliza Llenza:** Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity. My name is Eliza Llenza and I'm an independent border journalist from Puerto Rico in the Caribbean. And we've been, even though we're not a tribe, a Native American community or anything, we are managed under the Natural Resources and Tribal Issues Committee in Congress. And so, I decided that even though we're not classified directly as that, we do share all the issues that the different communities that are disadvantaged, and are either by their ethnical or race or whatever other -- or economical situation, we share the same kind of situation with those communities. We have been suffering from a disaster that was given to us by the Maria hurricane. And then we had a series of earthquakes, which we had never had for at least more than 100 years. And on top of that, our government has put us into financial harm and we're under a bankruptcy law.

So we have, even though we, to begin with, we have 50 percent of the people are living under US poverty levels. This has added on to all this hardship for everybody on the island. We're a small island, but we have more than 3 million people on it. So basically, most of the island is disadvantaged. And this has even been described like this with this Opportunity Zone classifications that are ruling us right now. In the middle of everything else, people that didn't know about our island have come here or seen us on the television. And we have all kinds of projects that are trying to be pushed in energy. In the middle of our transition project that we had established for transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy, we have all these speculators and companies that are coming in and trying to push us into other forms of fossil fuels and complicated energy solutions that will not help us because we don't have the money to manage

expensive propositions.

We don't have the technology. And when there's a risk involved, we cannot evacuate people. There's nowhere to go. Three million people surrounded by water cannot evacuate. Evacuate when we have risky propositions like now, they're trying to change our -- instead of just getting us into renewable energy on rooftops, which is the fastest way, we have an energy grid that's all messed up, but they insist on putting large solar farms which need the grid to transmit the energy. So we're like continuously stuck and the government and the municipal agencies are giving permits out for projects that go against not only the plan that we have for energy transition, but even environmental laws. Nobody's complying with this. And in Puerto Rico, the communities don't have the money to do a lot of these things. And I really would request that we have our own environmental justice office in Puerto Rico and not in New York. Thank you very much. I will be submitting additional comments in writing. Thank you so much.

### **1.5.17 Sebrena Rhodes, Empower DC, (Washington, D.C.)**

**Sebrena Rhodes:** Yes, as a resident of Ivy City, Ward 5, a native to D.C., community organizer with Empower D.C. and Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner, I do appreciate the intentions behind Executive Orders 14008 and 14096. Although its focus is to address climate change and ensure environmental justice for all communities, I have a concern that a community like Ivy City will not benefit from these orders.

First, specific strategies for a community like Ivy City have not been provided except for testing currently being done by the EPA. This is because toxins have been found in our air due to polluters and bad actors. There are no strong EJ laws that are in effect in Washington, D.C. How can we speed this up? Because at this pace, we will continue to be poisoned while testing is done to find out what we already know. Our community faces challenges such as heavy truck traffic, high PM 2.5 levels, inadequate green space, idling, industrial uses, district agency gas and diesel fleet parking lots, which house hundreds of cars and trucks, and a manufacturing facility that uses cancer-causing chemicals such as formaldehyde, phenols, and creosols. To make an industrial grade adhesive with no air permit, being neglected and being overlooked is what will happen with broad initiatives from these executive orders.

We have been left behind and don't see us as residents getting relief from the fumes from these polluters or protection from the agencies. These issues need to be addressed first. The zoning laws need to be strengthened to prevent polluters from emitting toxic pollution in our backyards. Specifically, I want to mention many of my neighbors don't have the time or the resource or the knowledge to engage in processes that are set out to protect the wealthy and the capitalists, the business owners and the developers. There's already a lack of trust in the government and I've seen firsthand how the government can make us feel like we're complaining and whining about something that's a hazard to our health. We face immediate health risks from our current environmental conditions. Executive orders should include urgent actions to mitigate these risks, such as stricter enforcement of existing pollution regulation.

Immediate cleanup efforts, polluters should be responsible for an emergency health interventions. Regular updates, transparent and easy to understand reporting and measurable goals specific to our community obviously will help build trust. Okay, I'll send the rest.

### **1.5.18 Shiv Srivastava, Fenceline Watch, (Houston, Texas)**

**Shiv Shrivastava:** Hello, my name is Shiv Shrivastava, the Policy Director at Fenceline Watch, a community-based environmental justice organization in Houston, Texas. I'd like to thank the WHEJAC and its members for the opportunity to provide oral comment. In addition, we'll be providing further written comment.

Our communities along the Houston ship channel have been targeted by the Department of Energy for the high velocity hydrogen hub. The stated purpose of this hub from DOE is to demonstrate the ability to produce hydrogen cheaply. The vast majority being gray and blue hydrogen based on fracked gas and fossil fuels. Our communities are once again being treated as a sacrifice zone for industry to experiment a greenwashed unproven technology for which there is no market. So much so that \$1 billion from the Department of Energy is being used to find buyers for the hydrogen produced. What is certain is the DOE guidance as well as industry partners of this hub have stated intention to use hydrogen production to fuel further petrochemical production, waste of plastic and other applications that only exacerbate the toxic loads our already overburdened communities feel.

In addition, the process has lacked transparency, has not been equitable and lacked formalized processes. OSED has held informal listening sessions that have not required response to community comment or publicly available records of sessions. The chemical disaster risk, human health and environmental impacts have not been made available to the public. What we have seen is the administration slate billions in taxpayer dollars to the same companies responsible for the multi-generational toxic harm that our communities face. ExxonMobil, Shell, Chevron, Lyondell Basell are all partners in the Gulf Coast hydrogen hub. All have been identified by EPA as having major violations of Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act or both. In fact, they're receiving taxpayer money and being posited as a solution to the problems that they've created. We have asked DOE for an official definition of what it considers a community-based organization because the tools that OSIT and DOE use rely on a self-identified system.

I would also like to briefly comment on the White House Interagency Council as part of one of the charges of WHEJAC, it's seeking comment on. Unfortunately, we have not seen a broad cross-cutting effort in embedding EJ principles across federal agencies, specifically the State Department. The U.S. is currently in negotiations in the Intergovernmental Negotiations Committee of the United Nations for a Global Plastics Treaty. Houston is home to 618 chemical facilities and produces 44% of the nation's base petrochemical capacity, the vast majority going towards plastic production. Black, brown and under-resourced vulnerable EJ communities are most harmed by the production of these plastic feedstocks, yet the State Department has not embedded EJ principles in their negotiations and has not had equitable outreach to EJ communities such as ours. The IAC must ensure that all federal agencies are truly embedding EJ principles and that these principles are not simply siloed to domestic policies.

We would also like to support the statements made by Maria Lopez-Nunez, Ana Baptiste, Miya Yoshitani, and Dr. NickySheats in regards to carbon management strategies, specifically how fenced-line communities such as ours have already been selected, without our prior consent and without having proven that these technologies are effective. We would especially like to thank

LaTricea Adams' comment, uplifting the GAO's report that show many of these technologies do not accomplish what they claim. Thank you so much for this time.

### **1.5.19 Yanna Lambrinidou, Campaign for Lead-Free Water, (Washington, DC)**

**Yanna Lambrinidou:** Good afternoon WHEJAC. My name is Yanna Lambrinidou, and I'm with the Campaign for Lead-Free Water. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on environmental justice goals and priorities in the context of Executive Order 14096. I'm here today to sound the alarm about EPA's approach to lead in water, which has for over 30 years itself functioned as a systemic barrier to people's protection from routine exposures. In the absence of significant regulatory and other fixes, we are concerned that EPA's impending lead and copper improvements are likely to, at best, trap the nation needlessly into many more years of defenselessness against routine ingestion of lead through tap water and through food prepared with this water. This scenario would fly in the face of our nation's commitment to environmental justice for all. In the interest of time, I'll highlight just one point.

EPA's own research has shown that the technology to reduce lead in water levels to, or very close to, the health-based standard of zero is available today, and it consists of lead-certified point-of-use filters. If people were told the truth about the health benefits of using such filters as a matter of course, communities across the country would be far less vulnerable to lead in water contamination. Telling the truth means disclosing first, that lead is prevalent, even in buildings with no lead service lines, and even in communities that meet LCR requirements with flying colors.

Second, that lead can leach in the form of particles which can exceed hazardous waste concentrations. And third, that lead in water exposures are associated with miscarriage, fetal death and violent crime among other problems. In short, a filter-first approach would catapult us to a new chapter in the history of this contaminant wherein people would know what the risk is and how to proactively address it. And yet, EPA is showing little willingness to level with the public or to require water utilities to do so themselves. To the contrary, even in its most recent final revisions to the annual right to know report requirements, EPA went as far as to abandon its own proposal to prohibit water utilities for including in their public messaging, "false or misleading statements".

This, despite compelling evidence that current public education messaging about lead in water does not comply with the CIGWA (phonetic) treatment technique requirement that it must comply with, and does not achieve EPA's own goal for public education, which is empowering people to make informed decisions in order to reduce their exposures. The systematic delivery of misleading public messaging hamstring people's ability to protect themselves. This perniciousness is compounded for communities of color and low-income communities which face higher rates of water quality problems. Please advocate to the CEQ and the IAC for CIGWA's (phonetic) Right to Know provision and please ask for their intervention. Thank you.

### **1.5.20 Yvette Arellano, Fenceline Watch, (Houston, Texas)**

**Yvette Arellano:** My name is Yvette Arellano. As a Mexican-American person who faces reproductive issues and hormone imbalances, these issues are a priority. I'm also the founder of

Fenceline Watch, a community-based CJ organization on the east end of Houston. And as you heard my previous colleague mention, the home of over 618 chemical manufacturers, resins and plastics characterizing the number one containerized commodity exported and providing the U.S. with 40 percent of its chemical needs. We're concerned over not only plastics, but also hydrogen and CCS. We're concerned over the lack of DOE oversight over the hydrogen hubs. It is inappropriate for EPA to be expected to be the oversight body, as stated, through DOE. While the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is funded by industry and feeds funding funded by Congress, this is a failure on behalf of DOE, who should operate with transparency over who our concerns should also be directed towards. Additionally, we have not heard DOE increase any resources or efforts on nature-based solutions when it comes to carbon management that it should be funding. Out of the 14 largest facilities in our area, 13 of them produce plastic feedstocks.

An unproven and greenwashing technologies of chemical recycling in our region are increasing and growing. Proponents of a circular economy are also proponents of hydrogen hubs. As he stated, the Global Plastics Treaty is in its last round of negotiations in small island states, African states, the group of Latin American and Caribbean states. In fact, the majority of nation delegates support a whole life cycle approach towards plastic that leads with human rights and addresses toxics. We support a call for transparency and disclosure throughout the entire life cycle, intergenerational equity, production caps, comprehensive controls, prohibit problematic chemicals of concern on avoidable plastics.

To achieve these goals, we need a globalized standard around chemicals. We support the development of financial mechanisms that is driven by public bodies that tax polluters must pay into, redirect subsidies and other mechanisms to ensure that profit-driven industries like ExxonMobil, Shell, Dow Chemical and good manufacturers, these multinational profiteers must at levels commensurate with the amount of unevaluated damage that they have forced with impunity on countless communities, biodiversity and our environment.

We remind folks that the plastic pollution crisis must be accomplished, that greenwashing tactics must be rejected. One thing is clear, a proven way to address the global plastics crisis is by curbing production levels, eliminating the most problematic and avoidable plastics that present adverse human health impacts and impacts on the biodiversity and our environment. We call for an end to waste colonialism by global North countries like the United States, and this treaty must deter practices that reinforce waste colonialism through the export of waste and the export of unproven technologies using plastic as a feedstock for hydrogen, CCS and other false solutions is not acceptable. Thank you so much for your time.

#### **1.5.21 Erik Olson, National Resources Defense Council, NRDC, (Washington, D.C.)**

**Erik Olson:** Thank you very much for the opportunity. And I feel intimidated by seeing all these really important leaders of the environmental justice community. I wanted to just address one issue, which is pending in front of the White House Office Management Budget, or will soon be, Council on Environmental Quality, and I would urge the WHEJAC to weigh in with OMB, with the White House, and with EPA on this issue. And the issue is, after Flint, we still haven't resolved our lead pipe issue.

The President of the United States has called for the country to pull out all of our lead pipes, but there is a serious environmental justice issue that is not being addressed by the EPA proposal, and I wanted to just narrow in on that. Multiple studies have shown that lead pipes disproportionately affect low-income communities and especially communities of color. We know this in Illinois, it's been well documented. NRDC, Coming Clean, Environmental Justice Health Alliance, did a study showing drinking water violations are disproportionately affecting communities of color. And we know, of course, that blood lead levels are disproportionately affecting especially black children. So this is a quintessential environmental justice issue, and I want to ask the WHEJAC to specifically address a single issue under this rule. And that issue is lead pipe replacement and who's going to pay for it.

The proposed rule that EPA put on the table says that the water utilities do not have to pay for those lead pipes, and they aren't even going to be responsible for pulling out the lead pipes if they don't own or control the lead pipe. That sounds kind of narrow and sounds kind of in the weeds, but it is going to drive whether or not this program actually works. Specifically, some cities like New York City has just proposed this week to say they don't own any of the lead pipes in the entire city and it's going to be the responsibility of the low-income people and landlords who will never pay for it to pull out the lead pipes, not the water utility itself. The final rule really needs to address this problem. It is a major environmental justice issue.

There's a study by American University here in Washington, D.C., finding that when the water utility charges people to replace their lead pipe, low-income people landlords don't get their lead pipes replaced. Higher-income, predominantly white parts of the city, did get their lead pipes replaced. So we urge WHEJAC to specifically recommend to the Office of Management, Budget, CEQ, and EPA to fix this problem and require the water utilities to pay to replace fully all lead pipes in the country and their own lead pipes. Thank you very much.

### **1.5.22 Rola Masri, Environmental Health Trust, (Wyoming)**

**Rola Masri:** My name is Rola Masri, and I'm the Director of Government Outreach for the Environmental Health Trust, a nonprofit, scientific think tank. We are asking WHEJAC and IAC to number one, address carbon management. We are asking WHEJAC and IAC to one, address carbon management and broadband technology and two, address radiofrequency exposures by funding the proper agencies to study and regulate it.

According to studies, CO2 emissions due to digital technologies have increased by 450 million tons since 2013 in advanced countries. And with 5G, energy consumption is expected to increase by 160% by 2030, thus increasing carbon emissions as 60 percent of our electricity generation is through fossil fuel. In contrast, a study done by the German government found that wired broadband connections to end users were up to 50 times more energy efficient than wireless broadband. We urge WHEJAC and IAC to first look for opportunities that reduce carbon emissions like superior wired broadband connections. Secondly, wireless electromagnetic radiation is a growing environmental pollutant and an environmental justice issue, and yet no U.S. government agency is ensuring public safety. The EPA's last report on the biological effects of electromagnetic fields was dated 1984. Sources include cell towers, 4G, 5G networks, Wi-Fi devices, and other transmitters.

In 2021, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit ruled in our favor in the case of Environmental Health Trust et al. v. FCC, finding that in regards to radiofrequency human exposure guidelines, the FCC had failed to take into account record evidence on health and environmental impacts, and mandated that the FCC address impacts on children, implications of long-term exposures, ubiquity of wireless devices, and explain how its limits are adequate in light of the major technological changes since 1996. The FCC has not responded to the court. Without the proper scientific review, current FCC human exposure guidelines are based on the outdated assumption that heating is the only harm from wireless exposure. Yet thousands of studies, including studies done by our own government through the National Toxicology Program, have found non-thermal impacts including DNA damage, clear evidence of cancer, impacts to the nervous system, brain development, and reproduction, not to mention harm to trees, birds, and pollinators.

Importantly, this radiation can act synergistically with other chemicals to increase impacts. This is especially important to note in communities seeking environmental justice who will now bear disproportionate exposure to wireless radiation in the name of closing the digital divide. In addressing carbon management and environmental hazards in broadband, we urge this council to ensure that the proper agencies are monitoring, studying effects of and regulating wireless emissions. We also recommend investments in wired broadband all the way to the end user. Wired broadband is not only energy efficient and safer, it is exponentially faster, more reliable, private or secure than wireless.

### **1.5.23 Heather Howell, CLIMATE Reality, Sierra Club, SLO Climate Coalition, (Atascadero, California)**

**Heather Howell:** Well greetings members of the WHEJAC and thank you for this opportunity to speak directly to our most pressing issues today and for facilitating this exercise in truth to power. My name is Heather Howell. I'm a lifelong educator and documentary filmmaker, now as an active retiree. I claim environmental activist and volunteer community organizer. I live in Atascadero California. Zip Code 93422. Twenty miles inland on the central coast of California, midway between San Francisco and Los Angeles. I want to acknowledge that here in SLO County, we all live on unceded land of the Salinan and Chumash tribal groups and others. We are grateful for their wise and continuing stewardship past and present. As their ageless wisdom has taught us, they steward well by thinking and acting seven generations forward in all their decisions for the well-being of mother earth and all her children and species she supports.

The bottom-line work of this advisory council, I would imagine is to demonstrate our understanding of the consequences of the policy choices between short-term gains and long-term sustainability and to insist on the sustainable options. I bring to you today a perfect example of the present and future consequences of these opposing policy choices. The first example falls under WHEJAC's topic of carbon capture and sustainability, and I may have an opposing definition of the carbon capture. I'm thinking about forests but sustainability for sure.

The Dana reserve or Dana deforestation is an imminent environmental disaster in the name of affordable housing. It's a development and an illegal and run by the wealthy 1 percent and their cronies around the laws and commonsense cautions that our community's better judgment has built over the years. A local developer and landowner has just pushed through our SLO County

Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission an extravagant development under the guise of affordable needed housing.

The fact is, less than one third of the homes will be reserved for low to moderate income level families. This developer has paved the way with illegal exemptions to standing laws and campaign contributions to selected said supervisors ignoring the local national and global impact on climate crisis of the removal of 3,000 native ancient coastal oaks and their entire biosphere. The low-income community of Nipomo, California, Zip Code 93444, at their own considerable time and expense have fought for a more reasonable sustainable and locally responsive plan with over 50 percent of housing reserved for low to moderate income families and 2,500 fewer trees removed. The developer nor the supervisors allowed any community input over the last two years.

I will be submitting my comments and my requests online and to the committee and thank you so much. It's an emergency and we need to have a means for announcing an emergency to the EPA EJ. Thank you. Think about that. Bye.

#### **1.5.24 Sylvester Reeder, III, Houston One Voice, (Houston, Texas)**

**Sylvester Reeder, III:** Hello, I'm Sylvester Skip Reeder. It's been 25 years since the old HRDI. I am the co-founder of Houston One Voice in Houston, Texas. Houston One Voice is a nonprofit 501C3 partnership with the University of Houston. We were founded to eliminate closed landfills within Harris County area. There are 30 landfills in Houston, Harris County area. We could not find one that was not in a disenfranchised community of color. But what we've also found is that to remediate those landfills, what we'd like to do is to remediate those landfills, turn those landfills back into an asset. And that will eliminate the most critical needs of those communities to do that. Over the last five years, we have we have searched for them with architects to determine the cost of that. And the cost is between 100 to 150 million. The Corps of Engineers says it's 200 million. And right now, the Corps of Engineers will not even take a look at this opportunity to meet the analysis.

And with environmental justice, Corp of Engineers in their environmental justice should reassess their cost benefit analysis on closed landfills will never be remediated. I'm asking the government to place grants that will accommodate the cost of eliminating those landfills. Of those 30 landfills, 15 of them are old Freedmen's communities founded prior to the Civil War. Those landfills were taken away -- that land was taken away either through eminent domain or taken away because they could, because the community could.

Because s these landfills have been remediated, private developers will come in and purchase those landfills and never see a benefit to those or their descendants ever again. If the land has been purchased by eminent domain, there is a record, memorialized record, as to who that land was bought from, and those descendants should be able to buy that land at the eminent domain price. And that's all that I have to say. Thank you.

#### **1.5.25 Julian Gonzalez, Earthjustice, (Washington, D.C.)**

**Julian Gonzalez:** Thank you. First off, I'd like to thank WHEJAC for this opportunity and for

the important work you all do in communities everywhere and in advising this Administration. So the purpose of my comments is to flag an important, large obstacle to the implementation of this Administration's very important goal of removing all lead service lines in ten years and an obstacle to reaching water justice for communities of color and low income communities.

Under the EPA's proposed lead and copper rule improvement framework for lead service line replacement, a water system can be in compliance with the rules requirement to replace all of their lead service lines, despite few of the lead service lines or even none of the lead service lines actually being replaced. If that sounds a little crazy, it's because it is a little crazy. This is because under the proposal, water systems don't have to pay for a placement. And if they choose not to, a property owner has to pay for the private part of the line.

And in some places where folks don't have a lot of money, they can't afford to replace that line. And if they can't afford to pay for that line themselves, then the water system is allowed to say we can't replace that line. Therefore, it doesn't count as one of the lines that needs to be replaced under the rule. So for purposes of compliance legally, it's almost like that lead service line doesn't exist. So as you can guess, this is the type of loophole that's going to affect low income communities that have been disinvested in for a long, long time and communities of color the most. And it would cause a repeat of a lot of the dynamics that we see in places where there's a lot of places like DC, where I live, where only wealthier folks have been able to replace their lead service lines in the years since the lead crisis here has begun. We're going to be submitting more information through our written comments on behalf of Earth Justice.

And I just encourage all of you good folks on the WHEJAC to work with the appropriate agencies to make sure that this problem doesn't stand in the way of reaching the Administration's really important goals regarding lead service line replacement. Thank you.

#### **1.5.26 John Mueller, (Edmond, Oklahoma)**

**John Mueller:** Good evening, and thank you, again, WHEJAC members for the opportunity to participate in these meetings. Please recall, after many previous meetings I have attended with you, I am John Mueller in Edmond, Oklahoma, a retired civil engineer having enjoyed a 25-year career in public works, mainly with water utilities. I refer to WHEJAC's August 29, 2023, report from its Workgroup for Water Infrastructure with recommendations to Administrator Regan.

In that report, Appendix C presents a list of nine issues that the workgroup, and I quote, “suggests WHEJAC consider for future EPA charges.” The second of those nine issues includes fluoride in the statement, and I quote, “chemicals and emerging contaminants that have a negative impact on public and environmental health, e.g. PFAS, lead, fluoride, chromium-6, and others.” Notice, fluoride is in that list and is the only substance listed that is deliberately added to public water in an unpurified state, no less, under an obsolete policy that must end sooner than later with EPA updating its regulated limits in drinking water.

In 2006, 18 years ago, the National Research Council reported to the EPA that fluoride in drinking water is toxic. It is past time to end that risky, deliberate exposure. We also note that WHEJAC's Indigenous Peoples and Tribal Nations workgroup has declared, and I quote, “the working group's recommendations will adopt the precautionary principle to first do no harm.”

I would strongly urge WHEJAC to do the same in all of its workgroups. Let us also recognize the April 30, 2024, very recent, National Security Memorandum on Critical Infrastructure, Security and Resilience. We know that more fluoridation chemicals are being imported to drinking water treatment plants, mainly from China, and with questionable quality controls and potentially unscrupulous contaminating with what is added to fluoridated tap water in the U.S.

Such a threat alone is sufficient justification for my request, which now follows, which is I respectfully ask WHEJAC to collaborate with the IAC's stakeholder agencies to recommend to Administrator Regan that EPA at once concede in the TSCA lawsuit, given the weight of evidence presented with expert testimony, also especially with the potential security threat to our safe water infrastructure from bad actors. I also request that Mr. Regan and CDC Director, Dr. Mandy Cohen, jointly urge the White House to declare a nationwide moratorium on the addition of fluoridation chemicals to public water supplies until acceptable safe levels of fluoride exposure have been established. Such a single action would significantly, measurably and directly advance the mission and work that is immediately relevant to Executive Orders 14008 and 14096. Thank you again for this opportunity.

#### **1.5.27 Charles Ellison, (Washington, D.C.)**

**Charles Ellison:** Good evening. My name is Charles Ellison, Senior Fellow at the Smart Surfaces Coalition. Based in Washington, DC, we are 40 partners committed to ensuring the Smart Surfaces strategies are the equitable urban design standard globally. We appreciate the Administration's efforts and the momentum felt through the passage of historic policy and community investments such as Justice 40. Still, we worry.

We're in this grave existential moment where temperatures are the highest they've ever been. The indication that climate crisis has reached a tipping point as humanity braces for the apocalyptic 1.5 Celsius threshold. Have populations hit hardest by climate crisis, Black and Brown, especially those trapped in vulnerable economic circumstances and spaces, urgently grasp the gravity of this situation? Not really. Go to the block I grew up on in North Philadelphia and surrounding neighborhoods. Ask them if they know Justice40, and I guarantee they'll say, Justice what? We're about to observe the 80th anniversary of D-Day, the successful allied invasion of Nazi-occupied Europe that saved the world.

So, let's then talk about a bold Marshall Plan to immediately reduce climate crisis impacts in the most vulnerable communities. Frame it within the context of the public safety, public health, educational and economic struggles they deal with each day. Marshall Plan-sized deployment of resources and strategies can be relatively inexpensive, effective, and efficient. We call these smart surface solutions.

The resources you've discussed today are there for deployment, along with additional state, local and private partnership and support. Tree canopy expansion should be maximized, building in every possible space to decrease the temperatures by five to ten degrees in our hottest neighborhoods. At minimum, every effort should be underway for the installation of reflective surfacing on all sidewalks and streets, all residential, commercial and school buildings. Every effort should be underway for multi-city installation of solar panels and green roofs for all

residential, commercial and school buildings. Every effort should be underway for the building of the thousands of bioretention parks, such as river gardens and bioswales that would dramatically absorb flooding in the areas that need it the most. All of this is easily deployable.

They all result in one, job creation, two, small business development, three, health benefits now, training, certification and educational opportunities abound. They translate into enormous and immediate socioeconomic yield, while dramatically decreasing crime, all while affording them the opportunity to respond to immediate climate crisis dangers. Give this solution the deeper consideration it deserves. Thank you for your time.

### **1.5.28 Isatis Cintron, Climate Trace PR, (Puerto Rico)**

**Isatis Cintron:** Hello, everyone. My name is Isatis Cintron Rodriguez. I'm an activist and a scientist from Puerto Rico. Thank you for this space. As a small island developing state, we're currently very aware of the necessity of the United States to fulfill its fair share in the Nationally Determined Contribution. It is crucial that the development of the NDC involves strong and broad participatory processes with the affected groups to ensure the highest level of ambition. It is our last opportunity to keep temperatures on 1.5. This includes avoiding dangerous destruction such as carbon markets, and ensuring that the U.S. climate actions addresses climate harm and loss and damage domestically, like in Puerto Rico and abroad. It is essential that the U.S. international investment benefit the communities over which it has built its empire, rather than a war machine. We invite WHEJAC to urge the White House to ensure the NDC is not only participatory, but also based on a fair share.

Now, turning to some of our local communities' concerns. First, communities in the south of the island, like Guayama and Salinas, are confronting serious health risks due to coal ash contamination from AES plant.

Persistent heavy metals and carcinogens have been leaking out to our soil and groundwater. Today, our communities demand further testing, stringent air quality, and rejecting any permits for AES to switch to methane gas burning due to significant safety risks involved. Second, our coasts have been destroyed to private gain. Projects like the cliffs in Aguadilla proceed in clear violations of local zoning laws, which prohibit condo hotels in residential areas. These projects have been implicated in human rights violations and environmental crimes, including shooting at protesters. It threatens critical habitats for native species and has destroyed visual karst landscapes that are crucial for our water security. The unsupervised construction has led to uncontrolled dust, sediment, and runoff that continue to impact communities and ecosystems nearby.

Lastly, the U.S. Army Corps has a river canalization project in Rio Piedras that threatens to expropriate and displace hundreds of families in San Juan. What we truly need is an integrated management plan for the entire Rio Piedras basin, home to 250,000 people.

We advocate for nature solutions from reforestation to retention ponds and a plan that goes from the mountains in my community in Caimito to the river mouth. These solutions support the adaptive capacity of our communities and ecosystem in the long term, which is imperative for the true and just and ecological transition that not only follows the do not harm, but actively

seeks to do good. Thank you.

### **1.5.29 Stephanie Herron, Environmental Justice Health Alliance for Chemical Policy Reform, (EJHA), (Pennsylvania)**

**Stephanie Herron:** Thank you for the opportunity to comment. My name is Steph Herron. I'm the National Organizer for the Environmental Justice Health Alliance for Chemical Policy Reform. EJHA is a national network of environmental and economic justice groups in communities that are disproportionately harmed by toxic chemicals and legacy pollution. Together with our affiliates and partners, we're working to achieve a pollution-free economy that leaves no worker and no community member behind.

In Executive Order 14096, President Biden said to fulfill, and I quote, “to fulfill our nation's promise of justice, liberty and equality, every person must have clean air to breathe, clean water to drink, safe and healthy foods to eat, an environment that is healthy, stable, climate resilient and free from harmful pollution and chemical exposure.” Unfortunately, we're so far from fulfilling that promise to communities like those in Mossville, Louisiana, Houston, Texas, Louisville, Kentucky, Institute, West Virginia, and too many more to mention.

Some recent actions by the Administration are to be commended, including EPA's recent proposals in the HON rule, the RMP rule, worst case discharge, and a number of other rules that EPA has proposed to reduce exposure to extremely hazardous chemicals, including ethylene oxide. These are small but very important steps in the right direction. But in trying to comment on some of these actions, especially the HON rule last summer, I realized that air toxics regulation is confusing, siloed and totally inadequate to protect communities.

The Baytown ExxonMobil olefins plant mentioned earlier by my colleague, which is currently up for a Title V permit renewal, emitted almost 57,000 pounds of toxic 1,3-butadiene in 2022 alone. Exxon has racked up over 25 federal air quality violations in just the last five years, and five years ago had an explosion that killed or injured 30 workers. Yet this same facility is set to get over 330 million dollars from DOE. Federal investments must not perpetuate further harm in our communities.

I'm here to ask the WHEJAC to develop environmental justice criteria and recommendations for federal projects and grants, especially these DOE investments in unproven technologies. And I'm calling on the IAC and the agencies represented therein to commit to abiding by these criteria. These criteria are needed and important to direct where investment is needed to reduce the toxic burden in EJ communities living at the fence line of these facilities. And guidance is needed on where and when proposals must be rejected because they would further harm communities. The climate crisis is urgent but moves toward decarbonization must not perpetuate and deepen the sacrifice zones already borne by EJ of color and low-income communities. I also request that the IAC add to your next meeting agenda an item about ensuring that climate efforts and federal investments -- (Commenter ran out of time and was asked to submit comments in writing.)

### **1.5.30 Jon Robinson, Metropolitan AME Church, (Washington, D.C.)**

**John Robinson:** Good evening. I am Reverend Doctor Jon Robinson with Metropolitan AME Church and the Smart Surfaces Coalition in Washington, D.C. Thank you to the WHEJAC for the opportunity to speak this evening. Any honest efforts to address climate equity must first acknowledge that climate and economic policy in America have never been equitable. The foundations of American public policy are rooted in racism and misogyny and have disproportionately exposed black, native and brown communities to the adverse impacts of ecological apartheid. Since the turn of the 20th century, communities that have emitted the least amount of greenhouse gases and consumed the least natural resources, communities that have seen the lowest investment in parks and other green spaces are the communities experiencing the highest temperature disparities, the worst air quality and are the most susceptible to crime, violence, flooding, mold and heat-related deaths.

The Biden-Harris administration's efforts to address public policy disparities through executive orders have been impactful, but executive orders alone will not close a 125-year environmental equity gap. We need more intentional investment in communities that have historically been under-invested and under-resourced. The good news is that we have a generational opportunity because the political will of this Administration matches the will of the people who are demanding bold, swift, decisive and just climate action. To seize this historic moment, we must enact another new deal-sized deployment of federal resources that create just and equitable health, climate and economic opportunities in historically neglected communities. We need infrastructure that holds death-dealing polluters accountable for poisoning bodies, water, soil and air. We must center vulnerable communities in all policy considerations and engage them at the conception stage of government initiatives and not after decisions have already been made.

We must deploy even more resources to the state and local governments to expand tree canopy, which will lead to cooling of 5 to 10 degrees Fahrenheit. We must make even more robust investments in proven smart surface solutions like solar, green roofs, and other cooling technologies, and make those investments accessible to the most vulnerable BIPOC communities.

We are at a crucible moment. Future generations will judge us not by our noble intentions, but by what we actually did when on the precipice of a global climate collapse. If we continue to make the kinds of progress we have seen during this Administration and further those advances, there is a chance that our children and grandchildren will inherit a beautiful, promise-filled future. Thank you for your time.

### **1.5.31 Diane D'Arrigo, Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS), (Maryland)**

**Diane D'Arrigo:** My name is Diane D'Arrigo. I'm the Radioactive Waste Program Director at Nuclear Information and Resource Service. We are a nonprofit organization and member of many national and international climate coalitions. We represent local communities, individuals, organizations who are concerned about nuclear power, nuclear weapons, nuclear waste and the whole nuclear fuel chain from uranium mining, milling, fuel fabrication, conversion enrichment and all along the way radioactive emissions are routinely emitted and radioactive waste is generated.

We greatly appreciate the WHEJAC position against nuclear power but point out that the Biden

Administration is now calling for tripling of nuclear power worldwide, which technically can't happen. And even if it could, it would not be in time to help the climate problems. Nuclear makes climate worse, and along the way, it leaves its poisons in communities, in their water, their air, their food chains. And also, the current effort to make even more enriched fuel called HALEU, High-Assay Low-Enriched fuel, which is being promoted by the government, would raise the concentration of the fuel to a point where it's almost able to make bombs, so that it is on the verge of bomb grade. So the whole fuel chain is a problem. And by pushing for more nuclear, it means that the over 4,000 uranium mines out in the west and some in the east will not be cleaned up and that there will be more. They'll either be reopened, the mills and the injection facilities that are on hold now could get restarted and cause more contamination. So the whole fuel chain is a problem.

But I wanted to especially mention today our concerns and our efforts to try to reverse EPA Administrator Regan's decision to approve a new landfill at the Oak Ridge, Tennessee Nuclear Weapons Complex. The EMDF, Environmental Management Disposal Facility, is in the process of being dug now to -- there's already a dump there, where it's, as the Oak Ridge Major Nuclear Weapons Complex is being quote, "cleaned up", it is being buried in the ground on the site.

And this new landfill was approved by both the Trump Administration Wheeler, EPA Director, and now reaffirmed by Administrator Regan at a very high-risk level. The EPA's allowable risk range for pollutants is one in a million to one in 10,000 people exposed getting cancer. That's their allowable range. This landfill, which Administrator Regan approved, has been calculated could give cancer to everybody fishing downstream as a recreational fisherman. So we're calling on the Administrator to reassess his decision to reverse his decision on the Oak Ridge landfill, which violates Superfund and other laws and regulations. Thank you.

### **1.5.32 Thomas Ikeda, Center for the Urban Environment, (New Jersey)**

**Thomas Ikeda:** Hi, my name is Thomas Ikeda. I am the Research and Policy Development Fellow at the Center for the Urban Environment at the John S. Watson Institute for Urban Policy and Research at Kean University. I support everything EJ organizations and EJ allies have said before me on the risks and hazards of CCS, hydrogen and other carbon management tech/foss solutions. And I know this is -- it's getting really late so I'll keep my comments short and focus on just a few key things.

First, I'd like to highlight the Government Accountability Office report, GAO report, CCS published a few years ago that others have talked about. I wanted to highlight that this report reviewed the \$700 million dollars that the DOE invested across eight different coal projects, and highlight that all but one project failed to be even completed and become operational. And that the one project that did manage to enter operation, Petra Nova, shut down in 2020. And all of this due, in large part, to economic factors. What this highlights, I think, is that despite the massive investment of both public and private dollars, CCS is just not financially viable, and it is in fact better to just shut down coal plants, or simply not build them to begin with. So I ask, why do we invest so much public money into a failing technology that has yet to even prove its effectiveness at reducing carbon emissions, especially when it's clear that it only serves to extend the lifespan of these coal plants and prolong our dependence on fossil fuels? We need to transition away from fossil fuels and invest this money into truly new renewable energy.

The second thing I would like to comment on is the need for oversight on carbon management investments. The singular recommendation from the GAO report was for greater oversight and accountability of DOE CCS demonstration project funding. DOE is recklessly spending hundreds of millions of dollars in high-risk projects, many of which never even reach completion. This is true for both CCS, which the report covers, as well as hydrogen projects such as the numerous hydrogen hubs around the nation. Here again, investing hundreds of millions of dollars on high-risk projects with no transparency in project selection, no community engagement, no right to refusal and no oversight.

Closing up here, I applaud the WHEJAC for voting in support of the report's recommendation and calling on the Biden Administration to remove its support and funding for carbon capture. I urge you all to continue to push against false carbon management solutions and to call for greater oversight. Thank you.

### **1.5.33 Shaina Oliver, Navajo Nation, (Colorado)**

**Shaina Oliver:** All right, thank you. I'm Shaina Oliver. I'm residing as an urban Native American enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, residing on the ancestral lands of the Cheyenne and Arapaho, Shoshone, Paiute, as well as Kiowa, Comanche, as many other 48 tribes that have ancestral ties to the state of Colorado, as well as my own ancestral ties. And there's a lot to say, and I think a lot of the speakers before had talked on a lot of the subjects that are appalling to me, especially with uranium mining.

Working with the tribal communities, the Green Deal is we can't dig our way out of climate change, and we need to think about reimagining our communities to being really sustainable and preparing our children for the future that they really are going to be impacted with, instead of trying to carry on with colonial payout to big industry that continue to contaminate our water, our air. Mining rules have not changed since the 1800s. That's an environmental racist policy that's still existing, Fort Laramie Treaty, anything west of the Mississippi is Indian land that has not been respected.

The last treaty was over after ten treaties that have been signed with the Navajo Nation. The last treaty is an environmental harm policy that forces our nation to extract. For now, we have over 500 abandoned uranium sites across the Navajo Nation. We have the Navajo Nation that have invested in other parts of the outside of their territory and with the Crow Nation impacting Cheyenne Nation's way of life and endangering their medicines and plants and bringing environmental harms to them by mining coal. They're shutting down a coal plant. There's a lot of things going wrong here is the fact that we have environmental racist policies that continue to leave our community members out, continue to leave tribal community members out of the discussion and having politics decide our lives for us. It's time to listen to our younger generation that want a better way of life and want to be better prepared for how they're going to have to live.

And we cannot continue with this shining the money in our faces is going to buy us out of this. We need continuous subsidies to sustain projects that will create sustainable community and offer food sovereignty for many communities beyond tribal communities. Food sovereignty is

an important issue that is not discussed the way we treat water. We need to eliminate the use of industries, unlimited access to fresh water. They're allowed to dump waste and PFAS waste straight into the waterways that are impacting wildlife and fish and communities and our unhoused relatives that live along these waterways are utilizing these ways to sustain their living. We need to address those issues. We know that these projects are temporary -- (Commenter ran out of time and was asked to submit comments in writing.)

#### **1.5.34 Jonathan Garza (East Los Angeles, California)**

**Jonathan Garza:** Thank you. It's my humble thanks. A spiritual elders, my brothers and sisters and everything in between. It's me your EJ child Garza. I'm a proud Yaqui indigenous queer Mexican calling from my cousin's Tongva land of East Los Angeles, and it is a pleasure to be here. And it is a pleasure to be alive. I want to echo his wisdom. I will never forget where I am from. And I have so much love to return to my ancestors and mothers who helped raise me. It really takes a village to raise children. And I want to bring into the space our grandfathers, (inaudible) who is currently battling cancer, send him his prayers because God is not done with him. And grandfathers Donald McEachin (phonetic), who made the final call and served his purpose and Cecil (phonetic) who was taken from us too soon. All my elders on the call y'all better start picking which stars will play you in the EJ miniseries I'm writing about us so that future generations can know our work and sacrifice.

So we're here in California battling the hydro monster. And the one thing that has not come up in any discussions is the use of water. A severe crisis issue in California and no one has taken not even Governor Newsom into consideration what the water usage of a hydrogen industry would cost us. Right now, it takes 35 liters of pure clean water to make one liter of hydrogen. It would be pretty cool if Auntie Deb and the Department of Interior ran a full study of the full usage of hydrogen on our water supply, especially in the West.

And I want to praise our brothers and sisters in New Mexico leading the charge on water. I wonder where y'all got it from. The other thing, the NDAA is a non-starter. We can't teach our communities if we don't know what's going on behind the scenes. This is the same play that businesses have done before. They want to put their chips in before everyone else. They're tipping the playing field.

And the last thing I want to raise is union safety. We don't know the full effects. We know hydrogen is volatile, that there are explosions, and the real safety risks have not been presented to unions and could cause big trouble. The other thing I want to elevate, but it's not on topic, but, you know, something we're dealing with in California, housing. I haven't heard or I don't know if in the past where the Department of Housing has their EJ report, but that would be good info to know. But hey, y'all, I'm alive. I miss y'all. I love y'all. Peggy, Nicky, I love y'all.

#### **1.5.35 Sofia Martinez, Los Jardines Institute, (Albuquerque, New Mexico)**

**Sofia Martinez:** Good afternoon, council members, staff and public. My name is Sofia Martinez. I'm co-coordinator of Los Jardines Institute here in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and president of the Concerned Citizens of Wagon Mound and Mora County. Obviously, as Los Jardines Institute and as a member of the No False Solution Coalition, we are opposed to CCUS

as another false solution to deal with climate change, and there certainly won't be any climate justice with that, right? I also want to just thank the people on the Council that have spoken and, you know, questioned the science, right, that is not there. So thank you to all the folks that spoke on this. We really appreciate having a lot of friends on the Council that speak truth to power, right?

But today I'm here to talk about Justice40 and how it actually intersects with No False Solutions, right? In New Mexico, we're seeing a big push for hydrogen, and again we've been the guinea pigs of the nuclear cycle, and what did that create for us, right? We are basically a military colony of the United States, and so, again, no to any kind of false solution, whether that be CCUS, hydrogen and nuclear.

Right now a lot of money is coming into New Mexico, as always, to Los Alamos and Sandia Labs. We don't want that. Our own senators and representatives often push for that because it's work, right? Because that's how our communities are often fooled into basically agreeing to certain things that are not good for our communities. As a matter of fact, our colleagues from New Mexico spoke against CCUS, so I won't go into that much more other than to say that we, again, do not support any of this false solutions. Just in terms of Justice 40, we're hoping that the Administration has a plan for accountability and to basically follow the money of Justice 40. Where did it go? Because it's going to be another example of the trickle-down effect, right, that works well in capitalism but doesn't work well for our communities, so that's a recommendation.

If there's not a plan right now, we definitely would like for this Administration to have a plan to see where did this money go? Did it actually benefit our communities? Who did benefit? And speaking to our brothers and sisters in the uranium belt, I've heard a lot of cleanup in the Permian Basin with oil abandoned mines, but I haven't seen much yet on abandoned uranium mines. So we need for all of this information to be clear and public. And again, we are waiting for some kind of a plan to figure out how we're going to follow the money Justice 40 and who actually benefited from it. Thank you very much for your work. I respect the fact that you all do work very hard for our communities.

### **1.5.36 Faith Chase, Re-Use Hawaii, (Hawaii)**

**Faith Chase:** First of all, I just like to take a deep bow to the amazing community advocates and experts here today. My name is Faith Chase. I am the Director of Strategic Communications at Re-Use Hawaii. We're the only licensed deconstruction service provider in Hawaii. I have been actively reviewing the EJ funding opportunities and mobilizing our disadvantaged communities with their environmental justice needs. One comment and/or requests specific to the community change grants through my research and data mining, I see the pools of funding are divided into a general application and another that serves the tribal population or first peoples as preferred by some. When working on the Department of Interior drought relief grants, I was pleased to learn that the Department of Interior in fact understood that when tribal population was mentioned, it in fact includes native Hawaiians or Kanaka Maoli that many prefer. In my attendance at preparatory webinars for the EJ community change grant work, the question was raised to define this point.

While I mean not to injure or insult the funding opportunities that serve the needs of continental

first peoples, I am in continuing need for this clarification to be made across all agencies and departments. This would do many things, but immediately allow my work to serve the greater island populations of native Hawaiians who continue to struggle in their home country. How this parallels with the EJ mapping tools, I can't say, but we in Hawaii could use this distinction. Those are my comments and my requests from my occupation standpoint. I would like to make additional comments in my personal capacity.

For those who may not be aware, the country of Hawaii is currently under an illegal occupation. There are efforts towards the restoration of the country with transitional government, but this situation has put the existing government and the population in a significant quandary. This is why I emphasize the importance of clarifying the classification of tribal populations.

Additionally, there is a substantial military presence in Hawaii, which has led to numerous environmental issues that have likely been observed in the news. These include the bombing of the island of Kaho'olawe, the fuel spill on Red Hill on O'ahu's aquifer, the training area of Makua Valley, also on O'ahu, whose lease is up in four years and cleanup is demanded, the Hawaii Island Pohakuloa Training Center or training area where uranium has been found, and most recently, the fuel spill on Haleakala on my home island by Maui Space Force and Air Force. I've been reviewing the military budgets, and I don't see enough funds allocated to remediate our sacred spaces. In addition, specific to the Navy Red Hill fuel spill, when forums are planned and scheduled, they are a no-show. And as one of those speakers said earlier today, I understand that facing communities after disasters can be uncomfortable and unsatisfactory, but how do we start to recover if you don't even come to the table? My comments are coming to an end here very shortly.

All of this, not even mentioning Maui fires. Of course, as everyone likely knows, we have a massive housing crisis. As the previous testifier alluded to, housing is a situation that can be resolved by addressing all these other issues. My plea here is how this body can assist me and my fellow legal rights advocates to have conversations with the bodies of the armed forces as it relates to extreme environmental polluting concerns. Thank you.

## **1.6 Closing Remarks - Adjourn**

**DFO Audrie Washington** thanked everyone for their public comments and concluded the Public Comment Period. She reiterated that written public comments will be accepted through June 19, 2024, and can be sent via email [towhejac@epa.gov](mailto:towhejac@epa.gov), or through webforms on the web page. She turned the floor over to Co-Chair **Peggy Shepard**, who thanked the public commenters and the Council for their contribution today. **DFO Washington**, adjourned the meeting for the day.

## **2.0 Welcome, Opening Remarks, and WHEJAC Roll Call**

On Thursday, June 6, **DFO Washington** welcomed everyone to the second day of the public meeting. She gave a few instructions and the overview of the agenda for the day and handed the meeting over to **Co-Chair Richard Moore** who gave his opening remarks and thanked everyone for the previous day's work. In recapping the discussions of yesterday, he stated that it is clear that some protocols are in place from Congress, but the workgroups and the public will

continue to make recommendations that benefit the community. He turned it over **Co-Chair Shepard** who gave opening remarks as well.

**DFO Washington** proceeded to have the WHEJAC members introduce themselves. She had the new members to introduce themselves first and give a background on where they are from and the work they do. **Co-Chair Moore** then introduced **Dr. Kyle Whyte** to proceed with the first presentation of the day, Indigenous Peoples and Tribal Nations Workgroup updates.

## **2.1 Indigenous Peoples And Tribal Members Workgroup Updates**

**Dr. Kyle Whyte** began with a hearty thanks to all the agency participants, Council and workgroup members as well as the public commenters from the previous day. He stated that the workgroup met up to construct what would essentially be a set of recommendations for the issues that the indigenous communities face. He stated that they worked through the challenges that there is a significant body of policy and law and administrative work pertaining to tribes, especially throughout the government to government relationships. He stated that the workgroup areas of focus chosen were health, from environmental health to mental health, with connection to food and the environment to climate and climate change. He also mentioned they focused on education and communication and tribal consultations. He stated that they also looked at land rights and the importance of the impact on land and food. He stated that they crafted stories to define key concepts and illustrate as much as possible the issues that matter so much to indigenous people. He advised the Council that they did not have recommendations to put forth for a vote for today.

### **2.1.1 Indigenous Peoples and Tribal Nations Workgroup Updates Vote Discussion**

**Dr. Whyte** stated that the recommendations are being prepared and will be shared at a later date at a public WHEJAC meeting. **Co-Chair Moore** clarified with Dr. Whyte that no recommendations were being made at this time so no vote was needed. Additional questions from the Council were asked and answered and other Council members add points of focus to the recommendation updates that were discussed. **Co-Chair Peggy Shepard** introduced the next working group presentation and had the Workgroup chairs, **Ms. LaTricea Adams** and **Mr. Harold Mitchell** introduced themselves.

## **2.2 WHEJAC Executive Order 14096 Workgroup Recommendations**

**Ms. Adams** began with background of the Executive Order (EO) 14096 recommendation charge language and timeline. She then went on to present a summary of recommendations that align with the sections of the EO. She presented the following recommendations from the workgroup:

Section 1 - Policy recommendation: Develop Whole-Government Environmental Justice Training and Education. The federal government should provide comprehensive training for agency staff to improve their understanding of environmental justice, civil rights and relevant laws, to promote equitable enforcement and address past environmental discrimination.

Section 2 - Definitions: Adopt clear definitions and acknowledge environmental justice policies. Agencies should adopt EO 14096 policies and clear, agency-wide definitions to transparently address environmental justice through fair, inclusive decision-making and equitable resource

distribution. Key terms to clearly define are cumulative impacts and communities with EJ concerns. Both EPA and the state of California's definition of "cumulative impacts" were referenced.

Section 3 - Government-wide Approach to EJ: Encourage agency-wide environmental justice practices and public engagement. Agencies should fully integrate environmental justice into funding, contracting, technical assistance, and community engagement to equitably support impacted communities, i.e., following the 17 Principles of EJ and the Jemez Principles.

Section 4 - EJ Strategic Plan: Use environmental strategic plans to promote transparency. Agencies should 1) use the WHEJAC's EJ Scorecard recommendations as a guide to develop EJ strategic plans, 2) implement robust public engagement to fully integrate environmental justice across federal activities, 3) transparently report on progress.

Section 5 - Research, Data Collection & Analysis to Advance EJ: Use the WHEJAC EJ Scorecard recommendations as the accountability criteria for the White House Environmental Justice Subcommittee. The White House Environmental Justice Subcommittee should employ the WHEJAC's EJ Scorecard recommendations to drive comprehensive, inclusive community engagement and transparent, accountable progress tracking.

**Ms. Adams**, turned the floor to **Co-Chair Mitchell** to summarize the remaining recommendations in which they were as follows:

Section 6 - Community Notifications on Toxic Chemical Releases: Improve accessibility and transparency in agency reports and Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) data. Agencies should improve accessibility, transparency, and data collection (including cumulative impacts) for the Toxic Release Inventory through user-friendly platforms, public meetings, and stakeholder input on environmental justice. The respective platforms should have multilingual capabilities for translation.

Section 7 - White House EJ IAC: Hold all agencies accountable to developing and implementing high quality environmental justice strategic plans. The Federal Chief Environmental Justice Officer should integrate environmental justice across agencies, coordinate strategies, and ensure staff have ongoing training in environmental justice.

Section 8 - White House Office of EJ: Build a fully staffed and collaborative environmental justice office. Fully staff the White House Office of Environmental Justice with experienced EJ experts to ensure agency cooperation and transparency in supporting the Federal Chief Environmental Justice Officer.

Section 9 - Guidance: Create opportunities for meaningful community feedback on interim guidance. Feedback on the interim guidance should be presented in a public WHEJAC meeting to ensure transparency and accountability, and the guidance should also be open for review and input from the public through a public comment process.

Section 10 - Reports To The President: Prioritize comprehensive recommendations for environmental justice. Prioritize legislation, regulations, and policies that comprehensively

address environmental health disparities, cumulative impacts, equitable access, and economic opportunities for overburdened communities across federal agencies.

Section 11 - Provisions: Establish funding allocation and incentives for EO 14096 adoption. Provide sufficient funding and incentives for all agencies to fully implement EO 14096, with corrective actions for non-compliance.

**Co-Chair Mitchell** turned it back over to **Co-Chair Adams**.

**Co-Chair Adams**, closed out providing agency examples of the government-wide approach that could be taken to accomplish the EJ goals through an appreciative inquiry process. She shared a case study example of an EPA appreciative inquiry process in Memphis, Tennessee for lead poisoning prevention. **Co-Chair Mitchell** shared a case-study example of the US EPA's remedial investigation fieldwork at dump sites in Spartanburg, South Carolina. They closed out the presentation with acknowledgment and thanks to the workgroup members. The workgroup presenters entertained questions from committee members before taking a vote to fully accept the recommendations.

### **2.2.1 WHEJAC Executive Order 14096 Workgroup Recommendations Vote**

A vote was attempted and **DFO Washington** advised that the vote would need to be revisited in the absence of quorum. **DFO Washington** explained that since the members were so new and did not have the opportunity to review recommendations to understand the content, it would not be fair to ask them to vote, thus the leadership excused new members from voting. **DFO Washington** clarified that because the WHEJAC is comprised of 36 members, the quorum would be 19.

The Council members took a short break. Some additional WHEJAC members joined the meeting once the break concluded and the vote on the recommendations were completed as a quorum was met. The vote was made to accept the recommendations.

After another short break, the presenters of the Carbon Management workgroup recommendations, **Co-Chair LaTricea Adams** and **Co-Chair Maria Lopez-Nunez**, were introduced for the next presentation.

### **2.3 WHEJAC Carbon Management Workgroup Recommendations**

**Ms. Lopez-Nunez** opened, presenting the overview and timeline for the Carbon Management Workgroup recommendations. She reminded the group of the November 2023 recommendations that were submitted: 1) Cease carbon management investments and projects. 2) Clarify the landscape of carbon management initiatives and technologies that federal agencies are advancing. 3) Conduct a systematic review of the evidence of risks related to carbon management. 4) Engage in accountable communications with EJ communities. 5) Ensure free, prior and informed consent and meaningful engagement of the most impacted communities be put into practice. It was noted that the workgroup to date has not received a full set of responses to the previous recommendations.

The overall focus of the recommendations were on a recent GOA report and public engagement. Recommendation 1: The workgroup requests a response to specific information regarding carbon management projects and investments under the purview of the DOE. See Appendix C for a detailed list of requests that would be the subject of a FOIA request to DOE from the WHEJAC workgroup. It was noted that the workgroup went through 9 sections of prior and past recommendations to highlight important points:

Section 1, Introduction

Section 2, Hydrogen Investments, projects and regulations

Section 3, Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage (CCS), direct air capture (DAC), bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS)

Section 4, BIOCHAR

Section 5, EPA underground injection control class VI Permits

Section 6, EPA rule on reducing GHG emissions from existing natural gas plants fired stationary combustion turbines

Section 7, NEPA permit rule for carbon management projects

Section 8, agency transparency, accountability, public engagement and community benefit agreements or community benefit plans

Section 9, case studies of carbon management in EJ communities.

The presentation concluded with perverse incentives and request for information. The workgroup acknowledged the contributions of the workgroup members and opened the presentation up for feedback, suggestions, questions and comments.

### **2.3.1 WHEJAC Carbon Management Workgroup Recommendations Vote**

A vote was taken and a quorum was met, and the recommendations were accepted.

### **2.4 Reconvene of IAC Public Meeting in Coordination with WHEJAC**

**Ms. Brenda Mallory** opened the session and welcomed the members to the first joint public meeting of the White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council (WHEJAC) and the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC). She stated that this meetings marked an important milestone and special moment as it delivers on the President's ambitious environmental justice agenda. She stated that when Biden signed his Executive Order on revitalizing the nation's commitments to EJ for all, he directed the Interagency Council and Advisory Council to come together for an annual meeting. She state that these two councils are critical to the Biden-Harris Administration's efforts to ensure every person has clean air, clean water and a healthy environment.

**Dr. White-Newsome** continued the discussion with first giving an outline of the creation of the IAC and it's charge. She introduced IAC agency members and gave them the opportunity to introduce themselves and describe the works taking place in their agencies. The discussions ranged from focus on institutionalizing environmental justice through strategic plans and environmental justice training.

Agency representatives from the Department of Transportation (DOT), Department of Energy

(DOE), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) shared their efforts in providing technical assistance, community engagement and training for staff. DOT highlighted their Thriving Communities program and the DOT Navigator, which provides resources and support for communities to access federal funding. DOE discussed their Energy Justice People Roadshow and the Regional Energy Democracy Initiative, aimed at engaging communities and supporting the implementation of community benefits plans. USDA highlighted their Creating Opportunities through Rural Engagement (CORE) program and the Rural Energy for America Technical Assistance grant program. The discussion also touched on the importance of community input and the need for communities to have the right to reject projects before engaging in community benefits agreements.

Additional questions, comments, and concerns were put forth by WHEJAC members. One WHEJAC member suggested that the public meeting for the IAC and WHEJAC be held independent and separate from the WHEJAC meeting to give the councils more time to engage. The session ended with a call for continued collaboration and feedback from the WHEJAC members.

## **2.5 WHEJAC Business Meeting**

**Co-Chair Peggy Shepard** opened the business meeting and explained that the business meeting was a discussion among members to reflect on any highlights that would need to be discussed, what was learned and what is needed to improve upon going forward.

They discussed topics such as reconvening the meeting, reflections on the meeting format, procedures of voting on a letter regarding lead service line replacement, the need for in-person meetings, technical issues with Zoom, communication strategies, and upcoming work group meetings.

A vote was held on a recommendation made by a Council member in which a letter is to be drafted regarding lead service line replacements and that the timeline laid out be followed. The vote was passed with a quorum being met to adopt the recommendation of writing the letter.

The business meeting was closed and call for closing remarks for the public meeting were issued.

## **2.6 Closing Remarks - Adjourn**

**DFO Washington** reminded the members of the closed meeting to take place the next day. She stated that the three active working groups will have individual meetings. She stated that many who are not a part of the workgroup already have expressed interest in attending. She stated that she made a note of this. She stated that the Carbon Management Workgroup meeting will start at 10:30 a.m. EST, the Executive Order Workgroup meeting will be at 12:30 p.m. EST, and the Indigenous People and Tribal Nations workgroup will be at 1:45 p.m. EST. She stated that then the workgroup co-chairs will have a debrief meeting at 3:00 p.m. EST.

**Co-Chair Richard Moore** and **Co-Chair Peggy Shepard** gave closing remarks in the form of

thank yous and **DFO Washington** adjourned the meeting.

**[THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED]**



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

# The White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council

Wednesday, June 5, 2024

# Council On Environmental Quality

Coordinates the federal  
government's efforts to *improve,*  
*preserve, and protect* America's  
public health and environment



# CEQ Office of Environmental Justice

1. **Reduce pollution and other burdens** and harms, including in communities with environmental justice concerns.
2. Help federal agencies **deliver the benefits** of the President's historic investments in climate, clean energy, water, infrastructure, and other priorities to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution.
3. **Institutionalize and advance environmental justice** across the federal government.

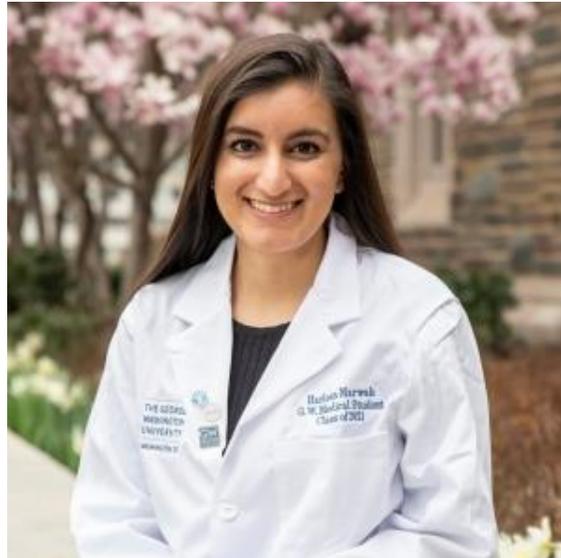


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WASHINGTON

# New Member Introductions

## Region: Northeast / Mid-Atlantic

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**DR. HARLEEN MARWAH**  
Children's Hospital of  
Philadelphia  
PENNSYLVANIA



**REVEREND SUSAN HENDERSHOT**  
Interfaith Power & Light  
VIRGINIA



## Region: Southeast

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**ANITA CUNNINGHAM**  
NC Disaster Survival and  
Resiliency School  
NORTH CAROLINA



**JOANNE PÉRODIN**  
The CLEO Institute  
FLORIDA



**MICHAEL WALTON**  
Energy Transition Finance LLC  
TENNESSEE



**DR. JAMA JI NWANAJI-  
ENWEREM**  
Emory University of Medicine  
GEORGIA



## Region: Midwest

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**DONELE WILKINS**  
Green Door Initiative  
MICHIGAN



**TANNER YESS**  
Groundwork Ohio River Valley  
OHIO



## Region: Southwest

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**TYE BAKER**  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma  
OKLAHOMA



**CARLOS EVANS**  
Office of Environmental  
Quality & Sustainability,  
City of Dallas  
TEXAS



**IGALIOUS MILLS**  
International Farmers and  
Ranchers  
TEXAS



## Region: West

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**LLOYD DEAN**  
CommonSpirit Health  
CALIFORNIA





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# Environmental Justice Updates

# The Justice40 Initiative

- 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution.
- Not a one-time investment and not a single pot of money.
- 518 Justice40 covered programs across 19 federal agencies.
- Boosted by funding from President Biden's Investing in America agenda.
- 74 Inflation Reduction Act Programs are Justice40 covered programs, totaling over \$118 billion in federal funding.



*Two people plant trees as part of a project in the City of South Tucson, Arizona. The tree-lined pathway now offers a reprieve from the harsh desert temperatures. (Photo courtesy of Courtesy of Tucson Clean and Beautiful)*



# Environmental Justice Scorecard

- Created to assess the federal government's progress on advancing environmental justice, to provide transparency to the public, and to increase accountability for federal agencies.
- The Phase One Scorecard was released in April 2023.

## Environmental Justice Scorecard

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.

President Biden has prioritized environmental justice by launching a whole-of-government effort to confront longstanding environmental injustices and inequities. The Environmental Justice Scorecard is a signature component of this commitment. It is the first-ever government-wide assessment of what the federal government is doing to advance environmental justice.

The Environmental Justice Scorecard was created at the direction of President Biden to assess the federal government's progress on advancing environmental justice, to provide transparency for the public, and to increase accountability for federal agencies.

### Phase One Scorecard

This first version of the Environmental Justice Scorecard, or the Phase One Scorecard, presents a baseline assessment of actions taken by federal agencies in 2021 and 2022 to help achieve the Biden-Harris Administration's environmental justice goals.

The Phase One Scorecard reports on the progress of 24 federal agencies in the following areas:

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

Future versions of the Environmental Justice Scorecard will build on this baseline assessment, measure the progress of federal agencies over time, and include additional information on how this work is benefiting disadvantaged communities.

### View Agency Progress

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

## About the Scorecard

President Biden prioritized environmental justice from the start of his Administration by launching a whole-of-government effort to confront longstanding environmental injustices and inequities. The Environmental Justice Scorecard is a signature component of this commitment. It is the first-ever government-wide assessment of what the federal government is doing to advance environmental justice.

Executive Order 14008, [Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad](#), directs the White House Office of Management and Budget, in coordination with the White House Council on Environmental Quality and other relevant agency heads, to publish an annual Environmental Justice Scorecard detailing agency environmental justice performance measures. The White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council (IAC) [White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council \(IAC\)](#) is also directed to develop performance measures to ensure accountability for work to address current and historic environmental injustice.

## Phase One Scorecard

The Phase One Scorecard incorporates recommendations and feedback from environmental justice stakeholders and experts. In particular, recommendations from the [White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council](#) and public comments informed its development.

The Phase One Scorecard provides a baseline assessment of the federal government's efforts to secure environmental justice. It outlines steps taken, processes implemented, and other actions by federal agencies in 2021 and 2022 to help achieve the Biden-Harris Administration's environmental justice goals. Establishing this baseline will help measure the progress of federal agencies over time, creating a tool for transparency and accountability.

The metrics and actions included in the Phase One Scorecard vary based on the type, size, and mission of each federal agency. For example, some but not all of the agencies participating in the Phase One Scorecard are members of the IAC and have Justice40 covered programs. If data were unavailable for a federal agency, the corresponding metrics do not appear on that agency's page.

The Phase One Scorecard provides a valuable snapshot of key environmental justice work in progress at a particular point in time, but it alone cannot fully capture the depth or range of active work or the long-term impact on communities. The Environmental Justice Scorecard will be updated annually, with the goal of creating a durable, robust, and comprehensive tool to assess and demonstrate the federal government's efforts to secure environmental justice for all.

## About the Justice40 Initiative



<https://ejscorecard.geoplatform.gov/scorecard/>

# The Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)

- **Version 1.0 of the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)** launched on Nov. 22, 2022.
- Federal agencies are using the tool to **identify disadvantaged communities** who benefit from the Justice40 Initiative.
- Version 1.0 responds to **extensive feedback** received on beta version.

## Explore the map

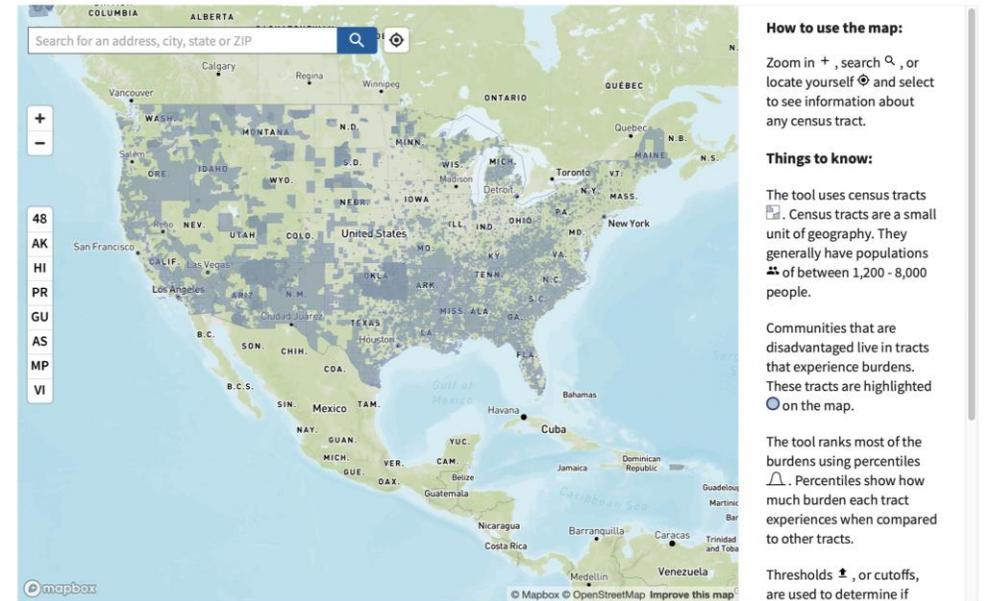
[Public engagement](#)

Census tracts that are overburdened and underserved are highlighted as being disadvantaged on the map. Federally Recognized Tribes, including Alaska Native Villages, are also considered disadvantaged communities.

Zooming-in and selecting shows information about each census tract.

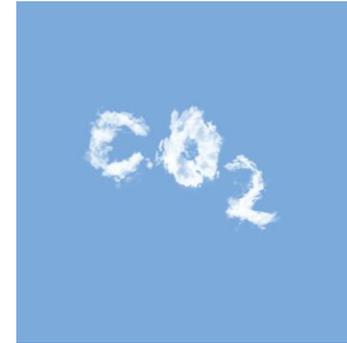
### Get the data

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



<https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/>

# WHEJAC Workgroups



Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool

Scorecard

Indigenous Peoples and Tribal Nations

Climate Planning, Preparedness, Response, Recovery, and Impacts

Carbon Management

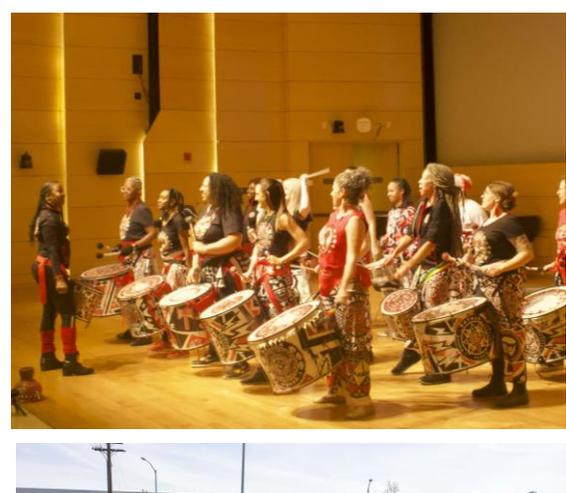
EO 14096 (on *Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All*)



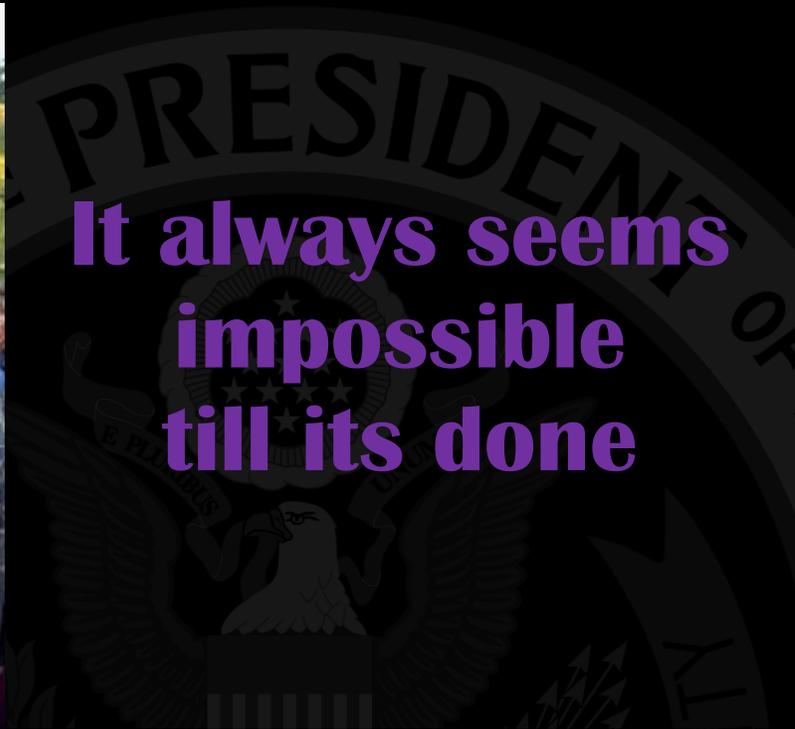
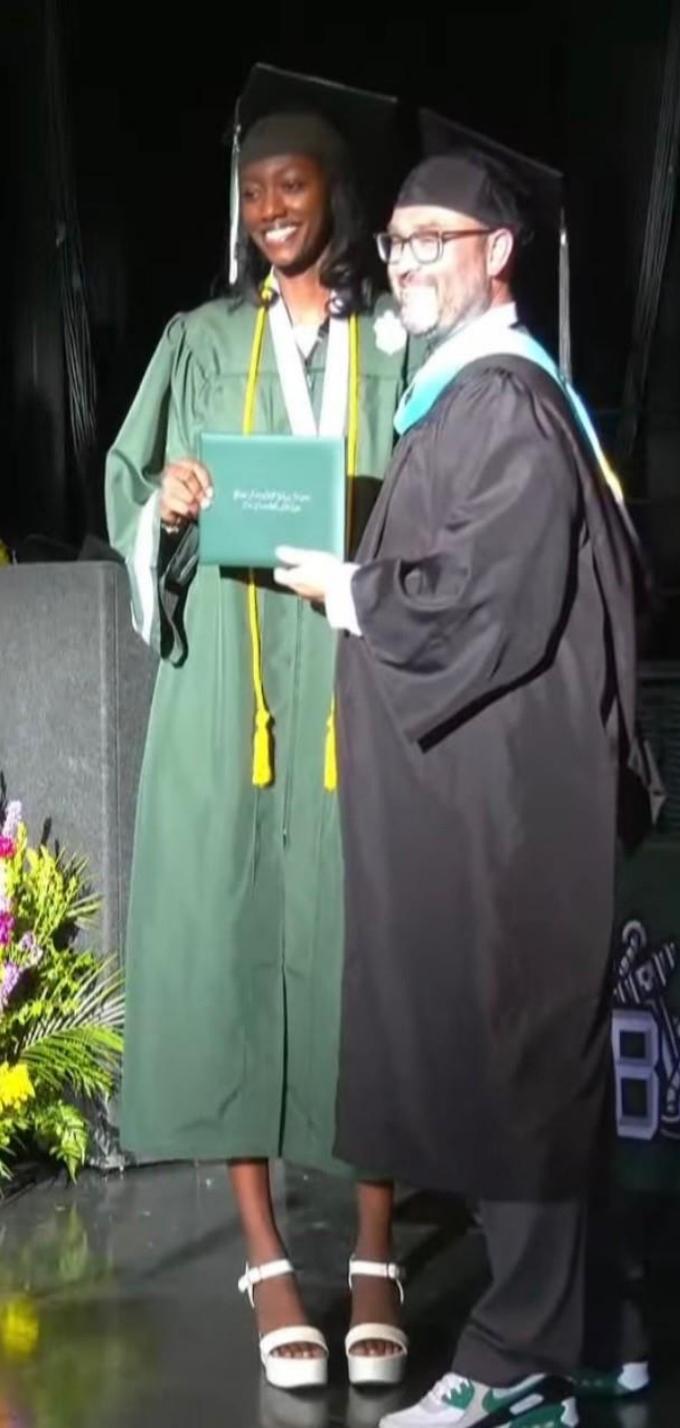


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# Looking Ahead



# White House Campaign for Environmental Justice and Public Engagements



**It always seems  
impossible  
till its done**







THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

# The White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council

Thursday, June 6, 2024

# IAC Overview

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- **Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad**
- **Executive Order on Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All**
- **Objectives:**
  - A. To pursue a whole-of-government approach to advance environmental justice for all as defined in EO 14096, including to facilitate interagency coordination and collaboration on programs and activities related to environmental justice.
  - B. To develop and sustain a strategy to address current and historic environmental injustice and to cultivate effective strategic planning to advance environmental justice.
  - C. To provide leadership and support to ensure the Interagency Council operates effectively and efficiently through its structure and operations.
  - D. To identify particular areas of focus for the Interagency Council and to support IAC member-led environmental justice efforts.



# IAC Charges from EO 14096

- Memorandum of Understanding
- Public meetings
- Environmental Justice Clearinghouse
- The National Science and Technology Council's Environmental Justice Subcommittee

## EJ Clearinghouse

Use the filters provided below to narrow your search to a specific category, or "reset" to view all EJ Clearinghouse information.

Access Subject Matter Expertise

Applying for Assistance

Available Funding

Develop Organizational Capacity

Justice40

Public Participation

Publications

Screening and Mapping Tools

What is EJ

Reset

Search:

Category	Document or Website Title	Description
Access Subject Matter Expertise	<a href="#">Urban Waters Learning Network (members)</a> 	The Urban Waters Learning Network is a peer-to-peer network of people and organizations that share practical on-the-ground experiences in order to improve urban waterways and revitalize the neighborhoods around them. Explore the searchable map below to learn more about the organizations and entities that make up the Urban Waters Learning Network membership.



# What does the IAC work on?

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The IAC and all of its members have played an important role in the development of the following:

- **The Justice40 Initiative:** Federal agencies play a vital leadership role and have shared best practices and lessons learned in implementing the government-wide Justice40 Initiative through 518 covered programs.
- **The Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST):** The IAC provided input that informed CEQ's creation of version 1.0 of the CEJST. Federal agencies are using the CEJST to identify disadvantaged communities that will benefit from the Justice40 Initiative.
- **The Environmental Justice Scorecard:** The Office of Management and Budget, CEQ, and the U.S. Digital Service published Phase One of the Environmental Justice Scorecard, the first government-wide assessment of federal agencies' efforts to advance environmental justice. Phase One of the Environmental Justice Scorecard incorporates input from the IAC.
- **White House Campaign for Environmental Justice:** IAC agencies are helping advance the campaign and its goal to redouble the Biden-Harris Administration's efforts to meet people where they are and better focus agency resources and attention on the needs of marginalized and overburdened communities.
- **Update to Executive Order 12898:** Many IAC members provided feedback on how Executive Order 12898 should be updated.





Brenda Mallory  
Chair of CEQ & IAC

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

# WHITE HOUSE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL

## Principals of the White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council



SECRETARY OF STATE  
ANTONY BLINKEN



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
LLOYD AUSTIN



ATTORNEY GENERAL  
MERRICK GARLAND



SECRETARY OF  
TRANSPORTATION  
PETE BUTTIGIEG



SECRETARY OF ENERGY  
JENNIFER GRANHOLM



SECRETARY OF VETERANS  
AFFAIRS DENIS MCDONOUGH



SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
DEB HAALAND



SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE  
TOM VILSACK



SECRETARY OF COMMERCE  
GINA RAIMONDO



SECRETARY OF HOMELAND  
SECURITY  
ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS



ADMINISTRATOR OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION AGENCY  
MICHAEL REGAN



DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF  
MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
SHALANDA YOUNG



ACTING SECRETARY OF  
LABOR JULIE SU



SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES  
XAVIER BECERRA



ACTING SECRETARY OF  
HOUSING AND URBAN  
DEVELOPMENT  
ADRIANNE TODMAN



OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND  
REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
ADMINISTRATOR  
RICHARD REVESZ



CHAIR OF COUNCIL OF  
ECONOMIC ADVISERS JARED  
BERNSTEIN, PHD



ADMINISTRATOR OF GENERAL  
SERVICES ADMINISTRATION  
ROBIN CARNAHAN



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF  
FEDERAL PERMITTING  
IMPROVEMENT STEERING  
COUNCIL ERIC BEIGHTEL



DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
POLICY ARATI  
PRABHAKAR, PHD



NATIONAL CLIMATE ADVISOR  
ALI ZAIDI



DIRECTOR OF DOMESTIC  
POLICY COUNCIL  
NEERA TANDEN



DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL  
ECONOMIC COUNCIL LAEL  
BRAINARD



ASSISTANT TO THE  
PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR OF  
THE GENDER POLICY COUNCIL  
JENNIFER KLEIN



SENIOR ADVISOR TO THE  
PRESIDENT FOR CLEAN  
ENERGY INNOVATION AND  
IMPLEMENTATION  
JOHN PODESTA

*“The Interagency Council shall develop a strategy to address current and historic environmental injustice by consulting with the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council and with local environmental justice leaders.”*

EXECUTIVE ORDER 14008 ON “TACKLING THE CLIMATE CRISIS AT HOME AND ABROAD”



# IAC Committees and Working Groups

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- EJ Officer Committee
- Steering Committee
- EO 14096 Implementation Committee
- Public Participation and Community Engagement Committee
- Justice40 Working Group
- Regional Working Group
- Tribal Nations and Indigenous Peoples Working Group
- Rural Communities Working Group
- Impacts from Commercial Transportation – “Goods Movement” Working Group
- NEPA Working Group
- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and EJ Working Group
- Natural Disasters and EJ Working Group

