



Environmental Justice Task Force

Purpose and Responsibilities

The Environmental Justice Task Force is responsible for recommending strategies for incorporating environmental justice principles into future State agency actions across Washington. This task force will meet over a 16-month period, and will produce a final report due to the legislature and Governor by October 31, 2020 that must include:

- Guidance for using the Washington Environmental Health Disparity Map to identify communities that are highly impacted by environmental justice issues with current demographic data.
- Best practices for increasing meaningful and inclusive community engagement that takes into account barriers to participation that may arise due to race, color, ethnicity, religion, income, or education level.
- Measurable goals for reducing environmental health disparities for each community in Washington state and ways in which state agencies may focus their work towards meeting those goals.
- Model policies that prioritize highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations for the purpose of reducing environmental health disparities and advancing a healthy environment for all residents.

Task Force Goal

To improve health outcomes, especially among communities that are most severely and frequently impacted by environmental health hazards in the state. The Task Force will work diligently to center the voices of those who belong to communities that are most impacted by environmental justice issues throughout its work.

Defining Environmental Justice

The Environmental Protection Agency defines environmental justice as, "...the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies."

See this video explaining the disproportionate impacts of environmental burdens on people

with low incomes and people of color. For more information on environmental justice please visit the Environmental Protection Agency's website.

Authority

A proviso in the 2019-2021 biennial operating budget (ESHB 1109 , section 221, subsection 48) directs the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities to convene and staff an Environmental Justice Task Force. The proviso outlines the Task Force's membership and reporting requirements to the Legislature.

Membership

Representing	Member	Alternate Member
Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities	Victor Rodriguez (Co-Chair)	
Statewide Environmental Justice Issues; Front and Centered	David Mendoza (Co-Chair)	
Public Lands (Dept. of Natural Resources)	Cassie Bordelon	
Department of Commerce	Michael Furze	
Department of Ecology	Millie Piazza	
Puget Sound Partnership	Larry Epstein	Leah Kintner
Department of Transportation	Allison Camden	
Department of Health	Lauren Jenks	
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (Utilities & Transportation Commission)	Sonia Bumpus	
Department of Agriculture	Ignacio Marquez	
Community Based Organization: Community to Community Development	Tomas Madrigal	
Community Based Organization: Tacoma League of Young Professionals	Emily Pinckney	
Community Based Organization: Asian Pacific Islander Coalition	Rowena Pineda	
Union/Organized Labor Association: The Union of Academic Student Employees	Judy Twedt	
Statewide Agricultural Interests: Washington State Farm Bureau	John Stuhlmiller	

Staff Contact Information

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Contact the Council

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