


# Environmental Justice

- Principles
- Problems
- Solutions



## What is Environmental Justice?



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## What is Environmental Justice?

Modern Environmental Movement (1960—1980)

- Natural Resources
  - Wilderness Act - 1964
  - Multi-use Sustained Yield Act - 1968
  - Endangered Species Act - 1973
- Human Health
  - Clean Air Act – 1963
  - Clean Water Act - 1977
  - Toxic Substance Act - 1976



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## What is Environmental Justice?

“Environmental Justice is 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.”

“It’s the marriage between the environmental movement and human rights movements



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## What is Environmental Justice?

“No one community should have more environmental burdens and fewer environmental benefits than any other.”

“Race and class are extremely reliable indicators of where one might find the good stuff like parks and trees, and where one might find the bad stuff such as power plants and waste facilities.”

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## What Causes Environmental Injustice?

1.) **Path of least resistance:** Some communities are purposefully saddled with negative environmental impacts, because polluters expect less resistance.



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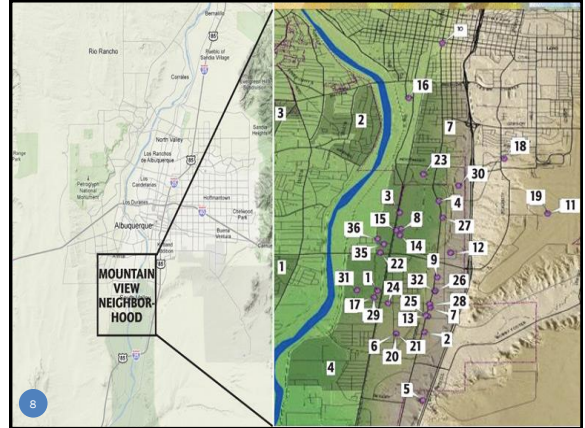
## What Causes Environmental Injustice?

2.) **Institutional:** Generations of perverse policies



Mountain View, New Mexico

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## What Causes Environmental Injustice?

3.) **Lack of law enforcement:** Current environmental regulations are not enforced in some communities.



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## What Causes Environmental Injustice?

4.) **Excluded from planning:** Communities are excluded from clean-up and preservation decisions.



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## Consequences

### Health Effects

- Increased asthma
- Cancer
- Diabetes

**Majora Carter**

2: 40 to 4:20

[http://www.ted.com/talks/majora\\_carter\\_s\\_tale\\_of\\_urban\\_renewal.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/majora_carter_s_tale_of_urban_renewal.html)



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## Consequences



Decreased value of outdoor recreation

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## Consequences



The 1993 photo of the Bunker Hill Superfund Site in Coeur d'Alene Basin

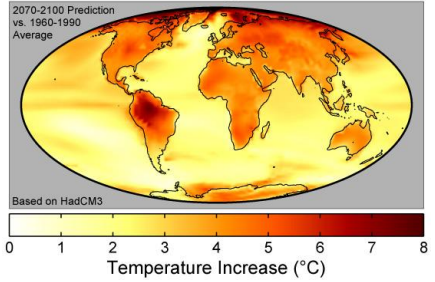
"Lead, arsenic and other heavy metals from mining operations have polluted 160 miles of the Coeur d'Alene River, its shoreline and downstream water bodies including Lake Coeur d'Alene and the Spokane River. About 150 tundra swans died last spring after ingesting toxic doses of lead in marshes along the Coeur d'Alene River and many of the river's tributaries are too polluted to support fish."

- Loss of culture
- Denied access to natural resources
- Toxic communities

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## Consequences

### Global Warming Predictions



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Questions so far?

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## Environmental Justice Solutions



No longer should we pit economic profitability against environmental quality

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## Environmental Justice Solutions

### Economic Development



"It might take another decade to see real progress. It won't come so much from passing laws to protect the community. Economics will help solve it."  
~ Julio Dominguez

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## Economic Development



Few toxic waste sites are located in affluent neighborhoods.

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### Economic Development



**But:** Per-capita income directly correlates with trash production.

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### Stop negative impacts with innovative solutions



Increased recycling may decrease need for dumps and trash incinerators.

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### Stop negative impacts with innovative solutions



**But:** The concrete recycling facility in Mountain View, NM harms community health.

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### Distribute negative impacts evenly

UPPER CLARK FORK WATERSHED



Smelter stack in Anaconda, MT

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### Distribute negative impacts evenly



Heavy metals contaminate a riverbank

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### Distribute negative impacts evenly

UPPER CLARK FORK WATERSHED



"Its just good sense to keep all the rats in one trap"

~ Joel Chavez, MT DEQ

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## Diversify

U.S. Census Bureau projects that by 2050, people of color in this nation will more than double, growing to almost 220 million, and will almost certainly comprise the majority of the population.

Will land management agencies and environmental organizations change with it?

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## Diversify Environmental Organizations



Marcelo Bonta, executive director of the Center for Diversity & the Environment.

Do people of color support environmental issues?

Exit polls and surveys have found that people of color do support environmental issues, in many cases, at higher levels than the general public.

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## Diversify Environmental Organizations

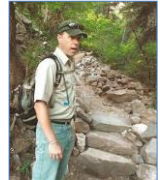


Are people of color interested in environmental careers?

A 2007 study found that white and minority students are equally willing to work for mainstream environmental groups (Taylor 2007).

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## Diversify Land Management



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## National Environmental Leaders



Lisa Jackson  
EPA Administrator



Hilda Solis  
Secretary of Labor



Ken Salazar  
Interior Secretary



Steven Chu  
Energy Secretary

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## Diversify Land Management

Should land management change as demographics change?



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## Diversify Land Management



"Environmental organizations and land management agencies should appeal to and benefit all Americans from all walks of life."

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## Partnerships

Rebalancing grass-roots and top-down partnerships increases power of disenfranchised communities.

Majora Carter 16:35 to 17:40

[http://www.ted.com/talks/majora\\_carter\\_s\\_tale\\_of\\_urban\\_renewal.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/majora_carter_s_tale_of_urban_renewal.html)

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## Environmental Justice Solutions

- Policies and laws
- Economic development
- Reconnect consequences
- Diversify
- Build partnerships
- **Ethical behavior**

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## Environmental Justice

"Environmental justice is in our vocabulary, but we're making it up as we go along. It's changing and you can be changing it. It's messy and unstructured, relentless and global."



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