

2022 Environmental Justice Caucus

August 15, 2022, Oklahoma City

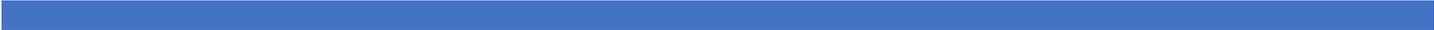
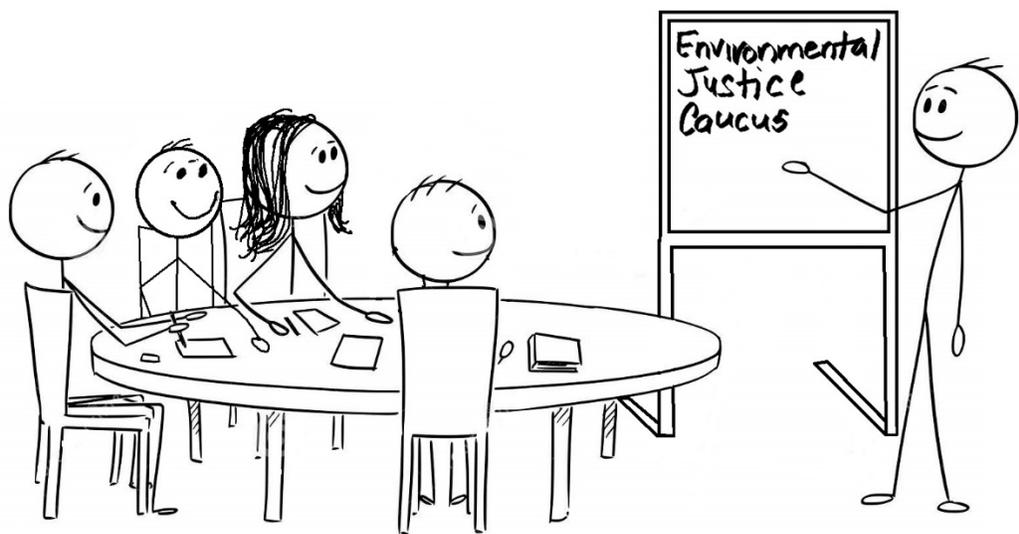


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Executive Summary

The 2022 Environmental Justice Caucus was held on August 15, 2022, at the Oklahoma City Convention Center, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. This Caucus was an affiliate event to the 2022 National Brownfields Conference. It was a locally driven event that was nationally attended where people and organizations involved in Environmental Justice convene, share ideas, build relationships, and communicate directly with the Environmental Protection Agency. There were over 300 participants representing various communities, non-profit organizations, local, state, and federal government agencies. This report is a compilation of notes from the table discussions during EJ Caucus.

The EPA defines brownfields as a property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. This Caucus worked to investigate how Brownfields Program resources can be helpful in addressing the Environmental Justice Concerns nationwide.

During registration, participants were asked what topics they would like to discuss at the 2022 EJ Caucus (see appendices), these were then combined into 7 Table discussions titled

1. Equitable Development
2. Equitable Engagement
3. Brownfields and the Environmental Justice ‘Big Picture’
4. Beyond Brownfields
5. Tips from the Field
6. Brownfields Cause/Effect and mitigation on Crime
7. What’s on your Mind?

Each Table topic had two groups discussing that topic. Participants had the opportunity to voice their priorities and offer suggestions about how EPA and other brownfield stakeholders can better achieve Environmental Justice goals. Notes taken during the table discussions are included below this summary.

Participants repeatedly expressed that brownfields redevelopment can better meet the direct needs of the communities surrounding them. This can be achieved through intentional actions that move stakeholder engagement from a limited event to an ongoing dialogue and partnership building. Doing so will build trust and forge relationships that leverage resources.

To be effective, EPA can help ensure grantees implement some straightforward principles.

- Meet the community in the community.

- Be intentional to integrate community input into the plans and resulting redevelopment and be prepared to show how that input helped shape the development.
- Provide essential education and technical assistance to all stakeholder groups, including developers, sources of capital, government, community members, local businesses and organizations, institutions, and others who work together for mutual gain. This should be an ongoing activity, not a meeting.
- Provide smaller, under-resourced, and EJ communities with additional education and technical assistance to help identify, access, and manage available funding.
- Build accountability for grantees and developers into ensuring equitable development goals are met.
- Train local developers and build their capacity
- Consider a new approach of Quarterly or Bi-annual grant opportunities, to help communities facing Environmental Justice Concerns with timely federal funding and overcome the limitations of the annual funding to improve the timeliness of cleanups and repurposing of Brownfields properties.

Notes from the Caucus

Table #1: Equitable Development

Equitable development is “an approach to meet the needs of underserved communities and individuals through projects, programs, and/or policies that reduce disparities while fostering places that are healthy, vibrant, and diverse.”

Problems and Goals:

- Decision making is critical
 - Who is making decisions
 - How to shift power to the communities affected by brownfields?
- Not all development equals prospering/fulfilling community needs
- Community benefit should be included as a fundamental intent of the development
- Avoid displacement resulting from redevelopment
- Create private accountability for positive outcomes
- Equitable development is about opportunities consensus
 - Housing
 - Transportation
 - Mitigation
 - Amenities
 - Education
 - Affordability
 - Livability
 - Mutual social and economic environments
- Keep improvements in the same community, and same community members

Action items:

1. Coalition building between political power and local organizations and community members gives them a voice.
2. Integrate equity throughout decision making and operation to ensure sustainable and long-lasting goals.
3. Create succession plans
4. Pay for “meaningful” labor
5. Grant writing talent is important
6. Widespread outreach and engagement by all involved/affected
7. Consider physical outcomes
8. 3rd party facilitator and other partners to connect resources
9. Community leads, not developers
10. Education is necessary on all sides of the table, public/private/community/etc. that outlines the benefits of and methods to achieve equitable development.

11. Make financing more attainable
12. Think big!
13. Major infrastructure changes are coming soon.
14. Improve communication between local/state/fed/tribal/public/private

Table #2: Equitable Engagement

“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” Note: if you go fast, you may end up at the finish line all by yourself. You won, but you have no support, no community. That’s no fun, so, let’s talk about going together. Meaningful engagement.

Problems and Goals:

- Communities need a Trusted Process
- Instead of bringing people to the table let them make their own table, and developers and officers go to that table
- Key Priorities
 - Health & safety for families
- Identifying EJ Community
- Possible ways EPA can engage
- Understanding current scenario and find how it fits into the big picture
 - Understanding the financial aspect for equitable development
- Build trust, take time to commitment
- Not a presentation but talk about issues themselves
- Figure out what needs to be done.
- How do you go into a neighborhood? You might not realize it’s a EJ issue.
- Training and education on what money there is and how to spend it.
- Technical assistance with the money. Need help with how to get the money and manage it.
- In person meetings build trust with government officials and establishes relationships
- This is not just an urban issue. Rural and small towns.
- Work with faith-based community

Action Items:

1. NGOs need to help communities, they need to provide access to resources
2. Making tours or look into census data,
3. Listen to cohort groups, community members need to know where to voice their issues. Need to provide a safe platform for them to voice their opinion.
4. Standards for meaningful engagement and no permits until concerns are addressed
5. Reuse needs to reflect the character of surrounding Community

6. EPA should also inform about process to fit with community driven goals

Examples:

- Gowanus Canal in Brooklyn NY is a good example.
 - They know the issues
 - Meetings held on site
 - Don't make them come to "your table" go to theirs
 - Purse strings must be tied to the engagement process. Show the process first before giving money.
 - Confirm engagement was meaningful. What did the community contribute to the project?
 - Community is part of the actual decision making
 - Community should have access
 - Need a "champion" to bring others on board
 - Champions should be passionate and make sure they are really a champion.
- Newark, NJ has a new environmental ordinance and chief sustainability office. County shows up to community meetings.

Table #3: Brownfields in the Environmental Justice 'Big Picture'

Environmental Justice is defined 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. This is a discussion on where the Brownfields program can fit.

Problems and Goals:

- **Public/private Relationships**
 - Funding needs better language for public/private relationships, embedding Environmental Justice in the language for funding
 - Ownership to municipality until end of project, while putting an intended end use clause with the grant's applications
- **Redevelopment precursor to gentrification**
 - Communities that start off as Environmental justice areas tend to get costlier to live in after redevelopment. Displacement moves to new corners vs low-income housing. A balance needs to be maintained between job creation and housing.
- **Rural Vs. Urban**
 - Rural areas do not have the same resources as urban areas. When Urban Areas run out of space, there is reuse planning, repurposing of properties.

- **Need more ammunition to get arguments across**
 - Engage with the communities for the grant application process
 - Encourage developers to participate in brownfields planning
 - Carry out survey with the communities- public/community meetings
- **Different States has different Brownfields programs that operate differently (different tax breaks),**

Action Items:

1. Work with communities to create comprehensive plan for neighborhoods or communities facing Environmental justice issues to address brownfields
2. EPA needs to update its regulations as per each state and their legislations
3. Encourage developers to participate in brownfields planning
4. Engage the communities in the process of grant applications

Table #4: Beyond Brownfields

Environmental Justice is defined 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. This is a discussion on resources beyond Brownfields that can assist with EJ.

Where are we with EJ? - Problems and Goals:

- **Rethinking Resilience**
 - Communities must be involved in the planning when seeking local funding
 - Private development may not always meet community needs - there must be a better connection between the efforts of these entities to the needs. It can be facilitated by community inclusion from local governments during their discussions (if any) with private developers
 - EPA must tie funding to addressing EJ or a positive neighborhood impact - there must be positive outcomes
 - Local representation must exist before approving industry/development
 - Ordinances are a powerful tool of local governments and need to be enforced
 - There should be financial reciprocity for community members' work on a project that has been funded - they should be paid
 - Meet people where they are (schools, churches, community centers, etc.)

Action Items:

1. Foster or repair networks between community groups and local government or legislators/representatives

2. Offer funding within grants for community expertise related to a project but ensure outcomes are reached

Table #5: Tips from the Field

Discussion with those who work in Brownfields redevelopment and have experiences to share.

Problems and Goals:

- **Community engagement and Communication Process**
 - Innovative ways to reach out to communities that are outside the EPA's radar about the Brownfields opportunities with limited access to technology.
 - Improvements on Community Outreach process. Example through postcards, radio stations, contacting faith leaders, frequently used businesses
 - Showing up in the community/ public meetings
 - Utilizing the existing NPO's as they are already working in the targeted communities
 - Conducting one on one videotaped interviews for regulatory agencies to hear from
 - Improvements required in the language of conversations
 - Flexible tools that customize projects- creating a roadmap for reference
 - Not all communities are facing same issues, there needs to be an update in EPA regulations allowing different communities to participate in grant application processes
- **Train the trainers from community**
 - Allows communities to own their project building capacity
 - Help determine the best grant sources to support their specific projects
 - Involving students-reaching out to institutions, course credit to students
 - Grant training, pre application trainings, grant writing-turn stories from communities into the grant application
- **Getting the story out there-result oriented, relatable information to all, putting together stories into small pieces**
- **Enable collaboration**
 - Multiple engagement over time
 - Incorporate input, confirm incorporation into plans and decisions; create accountability to show results
- **Create real connection to elected officials**
- **Strong education/technical assistance is important**

- Land ownership /use mechanisms like land banks and land trusts support anti gentrification
- **Benefit the people living in the communities**
 - Job training and employment in areas needed for construction/redevelopment such as the building trades.
 - Shoot for long term community wealth
 - Balance property controls w/ funds for implementation incentives tied to Environmental Justice communities
- **Ways to improve the process?**
 - Accountability to benefit the EJ community and track progress financially and qualitatively
 - Listen to the community. Act on input. Give community votes a say.
 - Provide education
- **What tools are available?**
 - Job training grants integrated with the redevelopment
 - Factor in people
 - Ongoing Education and technical assistance
- **How to integrate EJ into brownfields projects**
 - Avoid gentrification
 - Community level plans and collaboration
 - Meeting people where they are.
 - There is no one set process
 - Tell the story.
- **Engaging the people**
 - Multiple engagements over time during the project to incorporate input and verify how and where it influenced the project
 - Provide childcare at engagement events
- **Lessons Learned**
 - Caution about equity limits
 - Connection with local elected officials
- **Success Story**
 - Community gardening and local food networks.

Action Items

1. EPA needs to improve their ways of community outreach.
2. Regulatory agencies need to update their regulations regarding grants and process by allowing flexibility based on communities and their needs and access to resources

Table #6: Brownfields Cause/Effect and Mitigation on Crime

Discussion around the effect Brownfields sites may have on nearby crime rates and how redevelopment may mitigate those impacts.

Problems and Goals:

- **Tribal**
 - Turning Brownfields sites into safe space for women
- **Effect on health**
 - Indirect impacts of Brownfields or disinvestment areas. Example, Tribal kids playing on dangerous sites, causing injuries and other health hazards
 - Gather data on life expectancy by zip code
- **History and Geography of Brownfields Sites**
 - Consider the end use of any site and not just the geography
- **Focus on in-place job training**
 - Emphasize the concept of live, work, and play. Celebrate job creation that breeds historical continuity
- **Fair allocation of grants to communities that have limited resources and inexperienced grant writers**

Action Items:

1. Providing free of cost tech centers to help communities for grant applications with no grant writing experience
2. Bringing the people from communities affected by Environmental Justice issues to the table. Listening to their needs, how do these communities define brownfields and what would they like to do with these brownfields.
3. Pre- and post-monitoring of crime in grant areas. Provide Root Cause analysis of crime. What are the needs and how do we meet them.

Table #7: What's on your Mind?

Discussion around anything Brownfields. May include grant writing, networking, community engagement, or anything else on your mind.

Problems and Goals:

- **Environmental justice is Racial justice**
 - Economic and social justice is interwoven together with EJ.

- **Quantify and address the cumulative effects of the industry**
 - Communities are unaware if the factories are producing hazardous toxins or if one of the components of emission is harmful for them.
- **Community led redevelopment**
 - Communities need to be involved in the early phases of development to make them part of it.
- **Equitable data accessibility**
 - Data should be accessible to the community as well and not just the researchers.

Action Items:

1. More conversation needs to happen within the community on topics like EJ, we need to get comfortable talking about it
2. There is an inherent fear when new development comes up and need to remedy gentrification.
3. Change the policies, especially the industrial zoning should be optimally placed without disturbing other land uses and reformation within the legislature is also required.
4. Testing standards should be mandatory within factories/industries, need regular checking and invigilation by the testing commission.
5. Goals should align with the community interest
6. Need to get input not only from the older generation but need to engage younger community members as well.
7. Engagement needs not to be done only through public meetings, but also through multiple platforms. Moreover, they need to be followed up once they already meet up.
8. Easy access to data not just for the researcher but also to the public as well, data should justify the funding for the project. - Data transparency
9. Simplify grant application process & requirements. Difficult to find grant writers, grants should be designed in a way that anybody from the community can fill the application.
10. Will EJ become a regular, required part of SIPs? A better understanding of how EJ affects local citizens and businesses. To better understand how EJ will affect SIP writing in the future. How will EJ communities improve through rulemaking in relation to other environmental projects which require SIP submittals.

Appendices

Questions from Registrants

The table topics discussed during the Caucus was a result of the questions that the registrants had submitted during their registration, and the questions/topics that the planning committee put together. The questions/topic ideas were categorized into a total of seven topics. These topics concerned the current environmental justice issues, how the communities facing these Environmental Justice issues are dealing with it, and how these communities can utilize the resources offered by the EPA brownfields programs.

The following is the list of questions/topics that the planning committee put together:

1. Does redevelopment of brownfield sites result in equitable development?
2. What is equitable development and how can practitioners' partner with the development community to bring about greater understanding and buy in to desired results?
3. What strategies can EPA employ to further the effectiveness of brownfield development on a community?
4. What are true and meaningful measures that developers, community, and EJ practitioners agree on?
5. What is meaningful engagement? How do you measure it?
6. Current Requirements and how they miss the mark on true community engagement, ways we can improve
7. Best practices for working with EJ Communities
8. How can the limited scope of Brownfields play a role in the larger Environmental Justice issues?
9. Open table for Conversations
10. Orientation of EJ, Climate Change and Regulatory environment (or maybe at BF University?)
11. Beyond Brownfields: Landfills, Oil Wells and Superfund Sites, and more: Many communities have barriers beyond brownfields - sites where brownfields resources typically cannot be used. These stymie even the most coordinated efforts and partnerships. Whenever these sites are involved - Superfund, some landfills and oil fields, and enforcement sites - planning and reuse are paralyzed and persist for decades. This session will orient the audience on the roadblocks and innovative workarounds with regulatory approach and planning, assessment and cleanup challenges. Can brownfields resources and tools can be useful, and what communities can do to move these projects forward? And if barriers are insurmountable, what financial, policy and legislative fixes could help?
12. Reuse without Displacement: discuss the necessary and complex work of redeveloping brownfield properties for the benefit of the existing community by proactively planning for equitable development.

13. Equitable Engagement: Culturally Informed Pathways in Brownfield Revitalization: Engaging and informing community members early in any land reuse process is essential to redeveloping brownfields in a just and equitable manner. Discuss various techniques for engaging communities through a cultural lens, approaching civic engagement and collaborative design visioning through art and comprehensive, intergenerational outreach, while avoiding displacement of the existing community as a result of land redevelopment.
14. Roadblocks & Speedbumps: Just Transitioning through Brownfields Reuse: Brownfields resources for planning, assessment and cleanup have been bridges to sustainable and equitable reuse. Yet, brownfields resources are typically just the first step. Along the way, reuse projects will need funding, regulatory approval from various environmental and planning agencies, local and state government support, community input and acceptance. Local capacity is strained and there is limited funding for such efforts. To attain all those objectives, partnerships must be built, plans must be developed, efforts need to be funded and bureaucracies need to be overcome. What can communities do navigate bureaucratic potholes, funding and financing voids, gridlocked politics and ideological silos, and the challenges yet to overcome to achieve Just Transition.
15. 101 Brownfields – Qualifications and Application Process (or something like that) Have a community and/or tribal member(s) who have a Brownfields located in their community/tribal land discuss their road to get one located in their community/tribal land. Discuss how to qualify, prepare an application, and overcome some of the challenges.
16. Other suggestions for raising awareness for EJ Communities

The following is the list of questions/topics that the registrants entered during their registrations:

1. Is violence in America an environmental Crisis?
2. How to engage the youth to care about environmental issues?
3. Is Gun Violence an environmental issue that the caucus will address?
4. How to establish and/or what job training courses that would focus on engaging youth between 18-25 years old?
5. What funding mechanisms are available to remedy environmental justice issues?
6. Innovative ways to remedy environmental justice concerns.
7. Justice 40 Programs and Opportunities
8. Brownfields to Health fields Opportunities
9. EPA Brownfields Grant Funding for Underserved Communities
10. Learning about Brownfields and other tools and resources to promote Environmental Justice and Health Equity.
11. Connectivity between the Justice40 maps and EPA's EJ Screen map.

12. Best practices when performing environmental cleanups and outreach to communities with environmental justice concerns.
13. How to identify communities with environmental justice concerns and how best to perform outreach in these communities.
14. I want to learn about current topics in EJ, state efforts, EPA grants, and opportunities to support. Opportunities to get involved and support EJ efforts.
15. Climate change and public health.
16. Hoping to understand how to get the community excited by Brownfields redevelopment and how we can assist in job training and placement.
17. How can we leverage EPA brownfields funding with other federal programs (HUD, DOE, SBA, Dept. of Labor) to maximize positive outcomes in communities with EJ concerns?
18. I would like to learn about best practices, examples of big successes, and how to expand my network of contacts with expertise and experience on how the brownfields program can be a greater accelerator of workforce development and job growth in underserved communities.
19. Addressing EJ issues on Tribal lands.
20. Hear what other people are addressing and how. Resources for EJ communities.
21. Justice40 and the implementation within communities. Future of Brownfields and Environmental Justice
22. The history of abandoned brownfield properties in primarily minority and underserved populations and how those properties affect the health and lifestyle of those that live near them. How communities can effectively advance Environmental Justice.
23. Federal, state and local laws. if and how it applies to Brownfield clean up.
24. The relationship between health, poverty and environmental justice. To learn more about current efforts to advance environmental justice and to connect with other who are passionate about this work.
25. Learn what other State and Federal Agencies are doing regarding Environmental Justice.
26. Learn more about Environmental Justice initiatives.
27. I want to learn the process of identifying, combating, and correcting environmental injustice!
28. Workforce Development Training Programs, Impact of Solar on employment, Impact of electric vehicles on employment
29. Revitalization through a scope of environmental justice, how do we make sure it is just and fair for all. I hope to learn more about the intersection of environmental justice and remediation / revitalization work.
30. Intersection of EJ and brownfields redevelopment; specifically, preserving affordability via mechanisms such as development agreements with local governments. Early strategies for engaging residents in the process of brownfield redevelopment.
31. Where EJ contacts are in rural AA communities.?

32. Where are we with EJ? What New and Emerging for rural African American Communities?
33. Combating gentrification / supporting existing communities in place. Greater understanding of Justice 40 and other initiatives to reduce legacy environmental harms for overburdened communities.
34. Displacement risk as a result of brownfields revitalization in disproportionately impacted communities. Ways to better understand, describe, and represent communities with a history of disproportionate environmental impacts.
35. I would like to discuss best practices for brownfield remediation that will eventually be housing. I work with environmental justice communities in Los Angeles City and County. I would like to share what my experiences have been with dealing with brownfield remediation and what my concerns are about streamlining development processes in order to build rapidly upon brownfields.
36. Gentrification, community capacity building, and complementary programming to alleviate health disparities. Learn about some key strategies that have been implemented in other communities.
37. Brownfields and Environmental Justice. Listen to the Environmental Justice issues communities are facing from around the nation.
38. Building an intersectional movement; opportunities for collaboration and funding opportunities; building a coalition to work on JEDI and EJ issues. Meeting like-minded JEDI advocates and changemakers to create a community of practice
39. Local and national priorities that EPA can address through brownfield grants. How EJ priorities have evolved over the past 20 years.
40. Is the rising prices of real estate gentrifying neighborhoods or creating new EJ neighborhoods? Learn about actions to address EJ issues.
41. Realistic ways the Federal Government can empower, support, and further the efforts of locals seeking environmental justice. To gain insight into the hurdles to achieving environmental justice, the needs of communities seeking environmental justice, and ways in which governments can aid in overcoming environmental injustices.
42. Strategies for engaging traditionally marginalized groups such as low-income populations, minority groups, and Native Americans in brownfields reuse planning. Learn about successful inclusion strategies from others and how to maximize the benefit to these communities in the final development strategy.
43. Increased funding for Brownfield communities. Initiatives and or groups that are helping Brownfield communities.
44. How to build mutually beneficial relationships between neighbors and owners of environmentally unfriendly facilities in our communities. Learn and meet other community members engaged in and have overcome various EJ challenges, especially those that are local to the area.
45. Environmental Justice. Gather tips and outreach ideas.

46. Seeing what I can learn on EJ to assist in our workforce development and job placement program. Seeing what I can learn on EJ to assist in our workforce development and job placement program.
47. Funding for research and developing an inventory and data base, Marketing a Brownfield Project for redevelopment of Communities of Color. I want to hear from people who are working in this space. I want to hear about success stories, strategies, and funding for a work study student for building a database.
48. Landfills and hazardous waste facilities located in minorities communities. Learn more about what rural minority communities can do to prevent hazardous waste facilities from being located in their community.
49. Development of an EJ toolkit for use by brownfield practitioner. Meet and network with others working on EJ and brownfield issues
50. Why is the Environmental Justice Caucus a pre-conference event requiring those who are interested in attending to incur an extra night food and lodging costs? How serious is US EPA about "Moving the Needle" towards Environmental Equity and Justice? What New and/or Improved procedures are in place to ensure Environmental Justice Policy happens at the community project level?
51. Equitable Development. To learn about green energy efforts and how to promote them in equitable development.
52. How to incorporate EJ into Economic Development. How to incorporate EJ into Economic Development
53. Learning and Building relationships.
54. Lead and air issues in EJ Communities. New approaches for addressing environmental challenges in communities with very little resources.
55. Seeing what I can learn on EJ to assist in our workforce development and job placement program. Seeing what I can learn on EJ to assist in our workforce development and job placement program.
56. What are some of the challenges being faced with in other communities when dealing with EJ issues? And how are they being resolved? How are other communities dealing with EJ issues?
57. Justice 40 Interagency Collaborations on Environmental Justice and Brownfields. Roles of EPA Brownfields staff in Environmental Justice How to work better with other EPA programs on Environmental Justice.
58. To observe what others are implementing to determine opportunities to put into action. Examples of EPA guidance; actions underway; community interests.
59. Brownfields and EJ projects
60. Climate change effects on tribal reservations, how brownfields seem to only identify problems on the reservation but then we don't have money to clean it up, how environmental issues and extractive industries in Indian Country can lead to MMIW and increased poverty in Indian Country. Increase awareness of Tribal brownfield issues and increase understanding of the complexity of EJ issues in Indian Country.
61. Justice 40, Interagency Collaborations, community driven redevelopment. Find more assistance for communities.

62. Solid waste. to gain more knowledge and insight about Brownfields.
63. Equity. Lessons learned
64. Equitable development in EJ communities and gentrification. What is happening in other communities and success stories.
65. Is EJ being incorporated into the decision making of local governments when considering brownfield redevelopments. learn more how NGOs are being incorporated into the decision process of Brownfield Redevelopments.
66. USTs and Opportunities or plans for abandoned USTs.
67. I would like to listen and try to understand issues and topics discussed by local, state, and other stakeholders. I would like to take this opportunity to listen, understand, and network with fellow attendees.
68. Outreach obstacles that Tribal communities and Rural communities face. A better understanding of who to reach out to - networking and getting to know different agencies in order to offer our services.
69. The definition of a disadvantaged community. How rural communities are represented in EPA's calculations.
70. Native Nations, Indigenous Peoples, Land Revitalization, Urban/Rural Partnerships, and EJ. Learn, network, and collaborate.
71. Community engagement ideas, ideas on preventing gentrification, and info on redeveloping brownfield EJ sites in non-urban areas. I'll learn whatever I can. I've always come away with more information and ideas than I had beforehand.
72. Approach for EJ for each community is unique. Various agencies will be able to comprehend that there is a difference in tribal communities' vs non-tribal communities.
73. What suite of reliable tools (in addition to EJScreen) are available and being used to identify potential areas of concern? What holistic approaches are being used to address concerns in EJ communities? I am hoping to learn what innovative and creative ideas are being used to address EJ concerns in communities.
74. How to incorporate EJ in Brownfield redevelopment or how cities can better select sites to benefit the communities with the most EJ concerns
75. Inclusive community development. How to redevelop without displacement.
76. Recognizing Environmental Justice needs in brownfields programming. How to introduce environmental justice concepts, needs and solutions; how to stimulate enthusiasm and interest
77. How has Environmental Justice been taken into consideration when restoring Brownfields areas?
78. Real examples of efforts to achieve justice in Brownfields. To gather a sense of community as it relates to justice.
79. How communities can use the process to further their goals and work together with developers.
80. Learn more about Environmental Justice and what I and my organization can do.

81. Environmental Justice Strategies in Big Cities & Collaborative partnerships. How other cities are creating collaborative public/private partnership to confront environmental justice issues.
82. Realistic ways the Federal Government can empower, support, and further the efforts of locals seeking environmental justice. Hurdles to achieving environmental justice, the needs of communities seeking environmental justice, and ways in which governments can aid in overcoming environmental injustices.
83. Community EJ priorities and connections to brownfields.
84. I want more information on how local governments can get started to address environmental justice issue. More information on how local governments can get started to address environmental justice issue.
85. Superfund Sites and plans to clean up and fund projects that are not designated as fund lead sites. Different options of redevelopment of superfund sites.
86. How the EJ approach can benefit my Brownfields sites. I am an EPA R7 Brownfields Project Officer.
87. Environmental sustainability for black and brown communities.
88. EPA's Environmental Justice grant program. Listen to stakeholder's views on EPA's EJ grant programs.
89. Inner city redevelopment/renewal. Dialogue between affected groups, developing real neighborhoods.
90. A way forward to achieving equitable and sustainable development in EJ communities w/o gentrification and displacement. Is Justice40 a realistic and viable solution to achieving equitable community and economic development in EJ communities? Knowledge sharing and meaningful solutions to addressing environmental justice at the state level, especially in southern states that deny EJ & climate change.
91. EJ issues that fall outside EJ communities. While we have environmental justice issues in my state (Vermont) we have very few mapped EJ communities. As grants are more competitive, how can we better tell our stories for gaining public funding.
92. Will EJ become a regular, required part of SIPs? Is there an ultimate and reasonable goal for addressing EJ? Has EJ been asked for by the persons in the EJ identified communities? A better understanding of how EJ affects local citizens and businesses. To better understand how EJ will affect SIP writing in the future. How will EJ communities improve through rulemaking in relation to other environmental projects which require SIP submittals.
93. Equity in severely blighted former industrial areas. Learn more of the latest research on EJ as a 1st time participant and attendee at the Brownfields conference.
94. I would like to hear others speak on making an impact in EJ communities using state resources. Learn how state can better use their resources to improve EJ communities.
95. Community air quality monitoring, electric vehicles, bike/ped infrastructure.

96. Incorporating environmental justice practices into our brownfield programs. Learn about what others are doing and how we can better serve our clients in preparing their grant applications.
97. Climate, public health, investment in communities, tribal EJ issues.
98. EJ in Oklahoma. Tools and skills to advance EJ principles in Oklahoma.
99. Updates regarding policy and looking forward to hearing from participants and/or the general public regarding community engagement. Policy updates and listening to questions/comments or concerns raised by participants and/or the general public regarding community engagement.
100. Learn more about how the Brownfields Program can work to address environmental justice issues. Residential redevelopments. Understanding the impacts of expensive redevelopments on the surrounding community.
101. How can EJ Communities and Tribes access Rescue Plan and Infrastructure Law funding, to realize their goals.
102. Increase knowledge and capacity to be a change maker in my community for brownfields.
103. Climate Change; In Reach & Outreach efforts, EJ efforts, etc.
104. Environmental Justice issues in communities of color. Hoping to learn about: EJ success stories, What EPA can do – funding
105. Facilitation, engaging Environmental Justice in day-to-day activities. Focusing on what is ideal for engaging EJ.
106. Ways EPA can best find contacts within underserved communities. An improved understanding of current concerns. Learn what environmental justice issues communities are experiencing. Environmental Justice issues in communities of color.
107. How to form a collaboration with EPA's Brownfield Sustainable Communities Program. How to identify private and charitable funds to develop a brownfields Inventory in EJ communities to redevelop Commercial Corridors.
108. How to find technical and financial resources to assist in forming a Brownfields Education Program and Redevelopment Plan for a Commercial Corridor in My Community? How to find marketing and financial management resources to engage and form partnerships with the Campbellton Road Brownfield Commercial Corridor for both residential and commercial property owners and merchants and the financial communities.
109. What does Environmental Justice really mean? They cannot make people clean up junk yards in rural communities, that pose a threat to safety and health, hundreds of snakes and other smells coming from these junk yards and the owners do not live in the community.
110. What is the best way to help local investors secure Brownfield deconstruction monies? Valuable information for use in my city.
111. Find out about resources that can support returning environmental challenged sites in disinvested communities back to community use. Learn what opportunities there

- are to support development that return environmental challenged sites in disinvested communities back to community use.
112. Interested in the latest updates regarding EJ. More information that I can utilize in my program and community.
 113. National trends and concerns in EJ communities. How are they different this year from prior years.
 114. What can you use the Brownfield Redevelopment Funding? Remediation of environmental sites.
 115. Health disparities connected to hazardous waste sites in communities of color. What resources exist for poorer communities.
 116. How environmental justice can benefit our communities. Become more knowledgeable about changing communities through transformative opportunities related to sustainability and environmental justice.
 117. Gentrification: a solution to gentrification.
 118. Starting Neighborhood Community Garden.
 119. How private citizens can best leverage government regulations and resources to achieve compliance by polluters. I hope to learn relevant information to help communities live free from harmful pollution.
 120. How the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) is being used, what changes do we expect to see when the final guidance comes out? How will this impact smaller communities? How do we make sure the tool is addressing the needs of states? Hearing about ways to meet requirements and learning what challenges and solutions others are experiencing.
 121. Gentrification.
 122. Looking to learn more about the concerns and how EPA Region 7 can provide assistance.
 123. Brownfields and Health Equity - Brownfields and J40. Current status of Brownfields and EJ and Public Health.
 124. Strategies for taking care of the community.
 125. EJ communities participation in brownfields development and how does this not lead to gentrification in communities of color. How to engage urban communities and help them to participate and keep urban communities updated without gentrification.
 126. Information to take back to our neighborhood association.
 127. The current status of the program and priorities as it relates to EJ.
 128. Want to hear what local community members have to say about Oklahoma's efforts. Education.
 129. I am attending to see if/how environmental issues are being addressed in EJ communities. I hope to (1) have a better understanding of what the exact environmental issues are in Oklahoma's EJ communities and (2) how my program can more effectively address the issues.
 130. Interested in hearing from representatives of various EJ communities concerning their triumphs and concerns as it relates to brownfields and redevelopment

- opportunities in their respective communities. Interested in hearing about some of the successes and concerns experienced by EJ communities and hear about ways to further engage and support these communities.
131. Impact of executive orders on EJ community. Better understand the needs of the EJ community.
 132. Garnering community buy-in, ownership, and stewardship in brownfields and other environmental work. How Environmental Justice looks different in different places in the county.
 133. Climate health impacts on communities with EJ concerns. Network, connect and learn more about EJ issues EPA stakeholders are facing.
 134. Engagement, partnership with States and communities. How to better engage with rural and low-income communities.
 135. Anti-gentrification and anti-displacement strategies in EJ communities. I am hoping to gain more specialized knowledge in EJ efforts.
 136. How best to engage underserved rural and Colonia Communities for addressing Environmental Justice Concerns. Understand a path forward to tackle Environmental Justice issues at Border Colonies.
 137. Integration of Brownfields with EJ. How we can integrate EJ in Brownfields projects.
 138. What steps are being taken to address EJ issues? How to assist EJ communities.
 139. Different issues and legislation across the country. Stakeholder insight.
 140. Hear from community members/leaders.
 141. Want to learn more about others' concerns and possible solutions.
 142. Brownfields in my local area. The best way(s) to deal with local Brownfields, guidelines to achieve the best results for local communities.
 143. Student/learning opportunity. Future direction for clean-up efforts.
 144. EPA's Environmental Justice Grant Programs. Listen to discussion of EPA's Environmental Justice grant programs.
 145. A first-time attendee to the conference and am interested in hearing thoughts, ideas and discussions involving environmental justice. I hope to further my understanding and learn from shared experiences to ensure environmental justice is a part of everyday decision-making processes and conversations when evaluating cleanup sites and eligibility for brownfield funding.
 146. EPA's plan for Super Fund sites that do not have the fund lead site designation. What are suggestions for tackling major costs associated with clean up. Future direction for cleanup methods.
 147. Become familiar with the EJ issues focus for 2023.
 148. Community-led Brownfield projects with an EJ focus. Using grant money to help further these initiatives. Tips for engaging with communities in EJ areas on what they want to see happen with Brownfield redevelopments.
 149. Community involvement. How to encourage dialogue and collaboration with community members.
 150. Learn more about EJ.

151. Justice40 and the Justice for All Act. Better understanding of how other communities are addressing Environmental Justice issues.
152. It is an opportunity to learn more. I am new to my position and view this as another resource of information.
153. Environmental Justice principles. Gain a better understanding of Environmental Justice principles.
154. EPA's direction and focus on this issue. Hear EPA's policy on Environmental Justice Network/meet others
155. Justice 40. Learn more about current environmental justice issues.
156. Better understanding of EJ.
157. How to better serve communities that are dealing with environmental justice issues.
158. Interested in hearing general EJ issues brought up by other members. Learn more about EJ initiatives and successful/unsuccessful EJ implementations.
159. Infrastructure and funding for programs to aid low-income communities in securing safe and clean drinking water. Achieving a better understanding of how the Caucus is able to aid in fighting environmental racism and injustice.
160. I want to hear the communities' concerns. I want to see what type of resources to bring from my Agency to help address communities' concerns.
161. Tribal and Regional brownfields planning and projects. Past, current and future planning.
162. Local community/institutional partnerships to address Climate Adaptation and inequitable Climate Displacement policies. Effective Collective Action strategies that motivate institutions to enforce existing contamination laws.
163. Redevelopment of Brownfields.
164. I would like to hear from the people involved in EJ issues on the local level on what they consider to be the biggest environmental and community challenges facing communities with EJ concerns, and how EPA could help. A better understanding of the biggest challenges facing communities with EJ concerns.
165. Technical assistance. Meet Community Activists.
166. Understanding how to work with real estate developers to develop the land. The ability to go back our community and by the end of 2024 draft and execute a brownfield clean up in our community, at least one.
167. Community redevelopment around infrastructure.

Additional input

Providing grant opportunities quarterly or bi-annually could be helpful in offering timely, less competitive assistance to communities with Environmental Justice Concerns. This will help maintain the momentum and improve the quality of cleanups and repurposing of Brownfields properties.

Environmental Justice Caucus Planning Committee

Amanda B Alewine, City of Oklahoma City

Clark Henry, ICMA

Olivia-R Balandran, EPA

Christa Ogden, Cherokee Nation

Yolanda Bouchee, Revitalized
Communities, LLC

Sheila Sevenstar-Horn, ITEC

Gerardo Costa, EPA

Channing Shepherd, EPA

Ignacio Dayrit, CCLR

Monica Smith, EPA

Denyvetta Davis, JFKNA

Gina Sofola, Sofola and Associates

Deanna Debose, EPA

Elyse Sutkus, EPA

Madeline Dillner, OCC

Gloria Vaughn, EPA

Amy Dzialowski, GeoSyntec

Afiya Wilkins, Environmental Attorney,
ODEQ

Mumuchhu Gurung, City of Oklahoma
City

Special Thanks

Carlton Waterhouse, Deputy Assistant Administrator, EPA

Dr. Earthea Nance, Regional Administrator, Region 6 EPA

Dr. John Harris, Director, Regional and City Planning, University of Oklahoma

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