

Community Engagement Subcommittee Objectives & Timeline

Environmental Justice Task Force

The Environmental Justice Task Force is supported by two subcommittees, one focused on the Environmental Health Disparities Map and the other concentrating on community engagement among historically marginalized populations and highly impacted communities. Both subcommittees will recommend model policies and measurable goals for reducing environmental health disparities. Subcommittees will meet monthly to collaborate on current efforts, present findings, and share resources.

Following are objectives specifically for the Community Engagement Subcommittee. These objectives are from guidance outlined in the budget proviso for the Environmental Justice Task Force ([ESHB 1109](#), section 221, subsection 48). The proposed order and timeline (organized by required outcome) for the objectives is listed below. Many objectives will need to be completed simultaneously across and within study areas.

Required Outcome: Community Engagement

Proviso Language: “Best practices for increasing public participation and engagement by providing meaningful opportunities for involvement for all people, taking into account barriers to participation”

Guidance to community engagement subcommittee members: “Throughout this study area please consider how to prioritize obtaining input from historically marginalized communities that have been highly impacted by environmental hazards.”

December 2019: Present findings at the January Task Force Meeting

- A. Identify current policies, systems, and other functions of state government that create barriers for meaningful and authentic community engagement (*note: Refer to the Health Disparities Council work that identifies the state’s policy and process barriers to community engagement*).

February & March 2020: Present findings at the March Task Force Meeting

- B. Research necessary organizational functions, investments, assets, and resources (for example: resource allocation, workforce diversity, commitment from management and leadership, etc.) needed to sustain meaningful and authentic community engagement (*note: look at the Office of Equity Task Force’s preliminary report and the Department of Health’s community engagement guide for guidance*).
- C. Using the knowledge from lived experiences and existing literature, develop criteria for meaningful, authentic, and useful community engagement in specific contexts (i.e. rulemaking, policy development, grantmaking, etc.) as well overarching criteria for all community engagement work (*note: use the Department of Health’s community engagement guide as a resource*).

April & May 2020: Present findings at the May Task Force Meeting

- D. Develop general, and when appropriate, agency-specific recommendations for how to remove existing barriers to public participation.
- E. Using the knowledge from lived experiences and existing literature, identify and record best practices for public participation and engagement.
- F. *Suggested:* Estimate the cost to do small, mid, and large scale (or short, mid, and long term) community engagement work that is meaningful and authentic

Required Outcome: Measureable Goals

Proviso Language: "Recommendations for establishing measureable goals for reducing environmental health disparities for each community in Washington and ways in which state agencies may focus their work towards meeting those goals"

December 2019 & January 2020: Present findings at the January Task Force Meeting

- A. Inform the Task Force's proposed definition for environmental justice in the Washington state context with community input.
- B. Research existing metrics used in other local and state jurisdictions to measure progress toward reducing environmental health disparities on a community scale. Research existing metrics used in other local and state jurisdictions to quantitatively measure progress toward reducing environmental health disparities on a community scale. If possible, provide recommendations for how these metrics can inform application of best practices for community engagement.

February 2020: Present findings at the March Task Force Meeting

- C. Using knowledge from lived experience and existing literature, develop strategies and methods to better understand community-determined environmental health goals.

March 2020: Present findings at the March Task Force Meeting

- D. *Suggested:* Develop recommendations for measureable and actionable goals to eliminate environmental health disparities based on community input. Provide agency-specific recommendations when appropriate.

Required Outcome: Model Policies

Proviso Language: "Model policies for prioritizing highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations for the purpose of reducing environmental health disparities and advancing a healthy environment for all residents."

January – March 2020: Present findings at the March Task Force Meeting

- A. Identify existing or proposed policies that require prioritizing highly impacted communities and historically marginalized populations to address environmental justice and health disparities.
- B. Research and present best practices for including communities throughout the development of new environmental justice policy solutions.

April & May 2020: Present findings at the May Task Force Meeting

- C. Make recommendations for how policies could improve community engagement by prioritizing highly impacted communities and historically marginalized populations. Provide agency-specific recommendations when appropriate.