

Washington State Environmental Justice Task Force

What is it & why should I care?

What is 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.”

Currently, **race is the biggest predictor for the location of hazardous waste facilities** throughout the United States, meaning that many communities of color in this country are often overburdened with hazardous waste compared to predominately white communities. These burdens negatively affect health, and can lead to increased rates of cancer, asthma, high blood lead levels, psychological distress, among many other adverse health conditions.

What is the responsibility of the state’s Environmental Justice Task Force?

The purpose of the state’s Environmental Justice Task Force is to recommend strategies for incorporating environmental justice into state agency work. Specifically, the Task Force is charged with developing recommendations for how the state government should:

- Use the Washington [Environmental Health Disparities Map](#)
- Conduct meaningful community engagement
- Establish measurable goals for eliminating environmental health disparities across Washington
- Prioritize communities, such as communities of color and low-income communities, that are highly impacted by environmental injustices

This Task Force seeks to understand concerns regarding environmental justice across the political spectrum, among various state agencies, and within various communities in Washington.

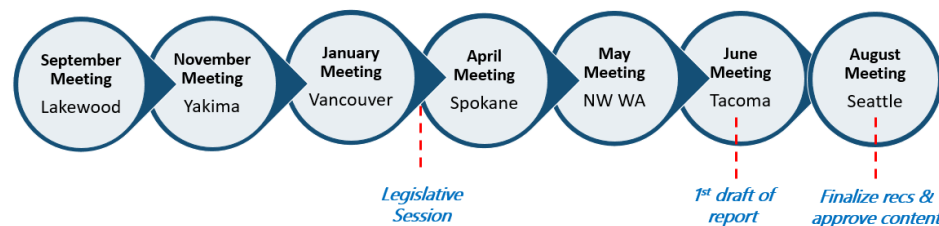
Why should I care about the Environmental Justice Task Force?

We want to hear from you! Task Force meetings are happening across the state in 2020, and community input is prioritized at every Task Force meeting. Let the Task Force know what changes you would like to see to improve the health of your community.

Help shape Task Force recommendations! The Task Force will deliver its final report with recommendations for environmental justice to the Governor and State Legislature in October 2020.

<https://healthequity.wa.gov/> | wsboh@healthequity.wa.gov

Task Force Timeline



Final Report Due October 31, 2020