

2021

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
& HEALTH DISPARITIES
SYMPOSIUM



THE 7TH ANNUAL UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
SYMPOSIUM ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
AND HEALTH DISPARITIES
AUGUST 19 - 21, 2021

Organized by:



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7TH UMD SYMPOSIUM ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & HEALTH DISPARITIES

2021

JOIN VIRTUALLY
AUG. 19 - 21ST
10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

HOSTED BY:
THE CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, & HEALTH (CEEJH),
17 FOR PEACE & JUSTICE, AND THE MARYLAND INSTITUTE FOR APPLIED ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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The logo for the 2021 Environmental Justice & Health Disparities Symposium. It features the year '2021' in a large, blue, sans-serif font on the left. To the right, there are three horizontal bars: a teal bar with 'ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE' in white, a light green bar with '& HEALTH DISPARITIES' in white, and a dark blue bar with 'SYMPOSIUM' in white. The letter 'O' in 'SYMPOSIUM' is replaced by a white outline of a globe showing the Americas.

2021 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & HEALTH DISPARITIES SYMPOSIUM

Day 1 | Thurs | Aug 19

Sessions

- **P1:** 10 Years of CEEJH
- **1A:** Hyper-Local Air Quality Monitoring in Goods Movement Communities
- **1B:** Transportation and Equity in Maryland: We Can (and Must) Do Better
- **1C:** Namati's Global Environmental Justice Corps
- **1D:** Statewide Environmental Justice Commission Reportbacks: Maryland
- **1E:** Unequal Response, Unequal Protection: The Government's Unequal Response to Toxic Chemical Exposure Leads to Unequal Protection of Communities' Health
- **1F:** NEPA Then, NEPA Now, and the Future of Environmental Policy in the US
- **1G:** Intersectional EJ: Unhoused and Overlooked - EJ and the Homelessness Epidemic
- **1H:** Environmental Justice in the Old Dominion State
- **1I:** It's Too Darn Hot: Urban Heat Islands and Environmental Justice
- **1J:** Special Invited Talks on Local Environmental Justice Issues
- **1K:** Statewide Environmental Justice Commission Reportbacks: Virginia
- **1L:** Stormwater, Sewage Backups, and Environmental Justice
- **1M:** The Environmental Justice Scorecard: Holding Legislators Accountable
- **P2:** Advancing Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) in Environmental Advocacy



Day 2 | Fri | Aug 20

Sessions

- **P3:** 10th Annual CEEJH Lecture: Dr. Cecilia Martinez, Senior Director of Environmental Justice, CEQ
- **2A:** Environmental Justice, Industrial Animal Agriculture, and Rural Communities
- **2B:** Mid-Atlantic Environmental and Economic Justice Coalition (MAEEJC): Renew the People, Renew the Planet
- **2C:** Legislative Listening Session: Fenceline and Frontline Communities' Priorities
- **2D:** Intersectional EJ: Environmental Justice, Racism, Stress, and Health Disparities
- **2E:** Fighting for Food Sovereignty in the DMV
- **2F:** Justice40: Positioning Communities for Climate Funding
- **2G:** Intersectional EJ: Environmental Racism, Incarceration, and Toxic Prisons in the US
- **2H:** The Environmental Justice Dynamics of Warehouses, Electrification, and Air Pollution
- **2I:** My Block Counts: A Comprehensive Community Block Assessment Tool
- **2J:** 30 Years On: Youth Leaders' Reflection on Being Raised in the EJ Movement
- **2K:** NEJAC'S Renewed Role in the EPA's Regan Era
- **2L:** Equitable and Affordable Housing in the DMV
- **P4:** Donors of Color Network Presents: Getting EJ Funded 101
- **P5:** Voice From The Fenceline: Leadership and Resistance in Cancer Alley

2021 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
& HEALTH DISPARITIES
SYMPOSIUM

Day 3 | Sat | Aug 21

Sessions

- **P6:** *Ej 30 Years Later: Reflecting on the 1991 First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit*
- **3A:** *Visualizing Health Disparities: Maryland Environmental Public Health Tracking Tool Demo*
- **3B:** *Transportation Equity in Baltimore, Maryland*
- **3C:** *AAPI Voices on Environmental Justice*
- **3D:** *Pro Bono Legal Services for Frontline and Fenceline Communities in the DMV*
- **3E:** *...And Park Equity for All: Demo/Q&A Session with the Maryland Park Equity Mapper Development Team*
- **3F:** *Intersectional Ej: Indigenous Perspectives on Environmental Justice*
- **3G:** *Regional Look at Environmental Public Health Tracking*
- **3H:** *State of the Air: Reportbacks from DC, MD, VA, and DE Officials*
- **3I:** *Intersectional Ej: Beyond the Binary – Gender, Ecofeminism, and Environmental Health*
- **3J:** *Environmental Justice Highlights from the National Wildlife Federation*
- **3K:** *A Rising Threat: Climate Inequity in Coastal Communities*
- **3L:** *The Promise (and Pitfalls) of Mapping Environmental and Climate Injustice*
- **P7:** *A New Page: WHEJAC & President Biden's Executive Order on Climate Change*

2021

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

& HEALTH DISPARITIES

SYMPOSIUM

Thurs | Aug 19

10:00AM - 5:30PM

10:00AM Opening Remarks

10:15AM Morning Plenary: *10 Years of CEEJH*

Dr. Sacoby Wilson, Director of the Center for Community Engagement, Environmental Justice, and Health (CEEJH)

11:20AM Concurrent Sessions I

12:30PM Lunch Break (30-Min)

1:00PM Concurrent Sessions II

2:20PM Concurrent Sessions III

3:40PM Afternoon Plenary: *Advancing Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) in Environmental Advocacy*

5:00PM Closing Remarks

5:05PM Networking Tables

Day 1 - August 19

Opening Remarks

10:00am - 10:10am

Sacoby Wilson, Director of the Center for Community Engagement, Environmental Justice & Health (CEEJH), will welcome all to the 7th UMD EJ Symposium, provide a land acknowledgment to honor our local indigenous communities, thank our event sponsors and coordinators, and give a brief overview of the coming sessions.

EJ In Memoriam

10:10am - 10:15am

Whether due to the COVID-19 pandemic or other causes, the environmental justice movement lost several advocates and activists last year. We will take a few moments to remember those members of our community who are no longer with us. Use the hashtag #EJinMemoriam to share your memories of loved ones who have impacted the movement.

Plenary Session - 10 Years of CEEJH

10:15am - 11:05am

From hog waste emissions in rural communities, to concrete block plants in historic urban Black communities, to goods-movement air pollution at ports, to toxic impacts from coal ash landfills, and so much more, CEEJH has busied itself with fighting environmental injustice since 2011. CEEJH Director Sacoby Wilson will provide a retrospective look on CEEJH's last 10 years of research, advocacy, and action as well as the Center's plans for the future.

Special Guest: Michael Regan,

Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency

Administrator Regan, via pre-recorded video, will share brief remarks on his personal commitment to environmental justice and the importance of community engagement and community action.

Concurrent Sessions I | Day 1 - August 19

11:20am - 12:30pm

1A: Hyper-Local Air Quality Monitoring in Goods Movement Communities

Speakers:

Jan-Michael Archer, CEEJH Doctoral Student (Moderator)

Dawud Shabaka, Associate Director, Harambee House, Inc./Citizens for Environmental Justice

Karen Moe, Cheverly Green Infrastructure Committee

Kim Gaddy, Founder and Director, South Ward Environmental Alliance

Omar Muhammad, Executive Director, Lowcountry Alliance for Model Communities

Benjamin Eaton, President, Black Belt Citizens Fighting for Health and Justice

Goods movement, the transport of freight from manufacturer to storage to point of sale and everywhere in between, has been called “the backbone of society.” But getting raw materials and finished products from Point A to Point B has enormous carbon and air pollution footprints—with negative impacts almost always centered in communities of color and low wealth areas. Adding insult to injury, regulatory air quality monitoring near land, air, and sea ports is often inadequate to assess toxic exposures. Fortunately, low-cost air quality monitors are revolutionizing—and democratizing—how data is collected and how research is transformed into action. Hyper-local air quality monitoring networks provide real-time data to community members, allowing them to identify health risks at the neighborhood level.

In this session, community leaders will describe the successes and challenges associated with developing these networks, their impacts on goods movement conversations, and how they put information and power back into community hands.

Concurrent Sessions I | Day 1 - August 19

11:20am - 12:30pm

1B: Transportation and Equity in Maryland: We Can (and Must) Do Better

Speakers:

Vernice Miller-Travis, Executive Vice President, Metropolitan Group
(Moderator)

Samuel Jordan, President, Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition

Elizabeth Bunn, National Policy and Maryland State Director, Labor Network for Sustainability

Kate Zyla, Executive Director, Georgetown Climate Center

Transportation is the great equalizer. It has the potential to connect communities to good paying jobs and healthy foods, to educational and healthcare opportunities, and to the places where we play and pray. However, communities in Maryland have not had meaningful opportunities to shape the transportation decisions that affect their lives. This session will explore current transportation issues in Maryland and opportunities to engage in the decision-making process to develop a transportation system that meets the needs of Maryland communities -- especially those who are overburdened by pollution from the transportation system.

Concurrent Sessions I | Day 1 - August 19

11:20am - 12:30pm

1C: Namati's Global Environmental Justice Corps

Speakers:

Vivek Maru, Chief Executive Officer, Namati (Moderator)

Hassan Sesay, Sierra Leone Program Officer, Namati

Vidya Viswanathan, Environmental Justice Program Lead, Centre for Policy Research

Felipe Pino, Environmental Lawyer, Access to Justice Team, NGO Fiscalía del Medio Ambiente (FIMA)

The global environmental crisis is intertwined with the crisis of social and economic inequality. From coal plants to palm oil plantations, economic activities that threaten the planet are concentrated in communities with less power and wealth. "You can't have climate change without sacrifice zones," writes Hop Hopkins, "and you can't have sacrifice zones without disposable people." To counter the inequality that has made the destruction possible, and to protect nature, we need deep changes in our systems for governing the economy and the environment. But worldwide, the people facing environmental harm have almost no role in either the creation or the functioning of those systems. Environmental advocacy, meanwhile, is often dominated by elites and focused on highly technical channels like litigation. In this session, Namati founder and CEO Vivek Maru invites you into a conversation with community advocates and environmental justice leaders from Africa, Asia, and Latin America. They will discuss (1) what environmental justice looks like in frontline communities; (2) how ordinary people are using law and organizing not only to address specific challenges in their communities but to improve laws and systems; and (3) how we can come together to grow the movement for grassroots environmental justice around the world.

Concurrent Sessions I | Day 1 - August 19

11:20am - 12:30pm

1D: Statewide Environmental Justice Commission Reportbacks: Maryland

Speakers:

Rebecca Rehr, Director, Climate for Health at ecoAmerica (Moderator)

Camille Burke, Chair, Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities

Ben Grumbles, Secretary of the Environment, Maryland Department of the Environment

Monica Brooks, Co-Founder, Concerned Citizens Against Industrial CAFOs

Devon Dodson, Senior Energy Advisor, Maryland Department of the Environment

The Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities (CEJSC) was first established on January 1, 2001 and signed into law on May 22, 2003. The Commission is a fifteen-member body with the primary focus of guiding state policies that will ensure Maryland's communities are healthy, safe, economically vibrant, sustainable, and environmentally just. CEJSC works to advise State government agencies on EJ issues, critique the effectiveness of laws and policies addressing issues involving EJ and sustainable communities, and recommend priority options and areas of Maryland requiring immediate attention. The 2021 CEJSC's Action Plan includes: identifying communities with EJ issues, supporting enhanced engagement strategies, virtual listening sessions in EJ communities across the state, adding additional representatives from affected communities, and investing in long-term EJ strategies.

In this session, Commission members will discuss what they and their staff have been doing to advance environmental justice throughout Maryland. Attendees will be able to share their environmental justice concerns and the plans, initiatives, and legislation that they would like to see in order to address the environmental injustices still facing Marylanders particularly residents who live in frontline and fenceline communities with EJ issues.

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Lunch Break | Day 1 - August 19

12:30pm - 1:00pm

Concurrent Sessions II | Day 1 - August 19

1:00pm - 2:10pm

1F: NEPA Then, NEPA Now, and the Future of Environmental Policy in the US

Speakers:

Adrienne Hollis, Senior Climate Justice and Health Scientist, Union of Concerned Scientists (Moderator)

Anita Desikan, Research Analyst, Union of Concerned Scientists

Suzi Ruhl, Director of Policy, Elevate Policy Lab at the Yale School of Public Health

Omar Muhammad, Executive Director, Lowcountry Alliance for Model Communities (LAMC)

In 1970, the passage of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) marked a revolution in environmental monitoring and management. The Act's newly established environmental review process standardized federal agencies' roles and responsibilities concerning permitting, enforcement, compliance monitoring. Importantly, many advocates have been able to leverage the power of NEPA to advance environmental and climate justice. Now more than 50 years old, NEPA has seen several challenges from conservative politicians and other entities wishing to "streamline" development in protected areas.

In this session, government, non-profit, and community experts will weigh in on NEPA's impact on the environmental justice movement. Panelists will provide examples of how the Act has been successfully used in supporting the environmental health concerns of frontline and fence-line environmental justice communities. Audience members will also hear about current and future challenges related to NEPA and how it can be more effective in advancing environmental justice.

Concurrent Sessions II | Day 1 - August 19

1:00pm - 2:10pm

1G: Intersectional EJ: Unhoused and Overlooked - EJ and the Homelessness Epidemic

Speakers:

Mary Washington, Co-Chair, Maryland Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness

Joe Savage, Jr., Regional Coordinator, U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness

Lisa Fay, Chairperson, Right 2 Survive

Eric Bonds, Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Mary Washington

Marcia Hale, Assistant Professor and Graduate Program Director, Department of Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of North Carolina Greensboro

People experiencing homelessness are faced with a number of disproportionate impacts--especially concerning exposures to environmental hazards such as extreme heat, litter, pollution, toxic substances, and unsafe water. These ongoing disparities increase disenfranchisement and displacement of vulnerable groups. Additionally, disparities intersect with identities along the lines of race, gender, socio-economic status, age, and disability status to further threaten homeless individuals. The result is a crisis that inherently invokes environmental justice, but that has also been left out of the majority of EJ discussions. Furthermore homeless persons in many cities are criminalized and dehumanized, treated like viruses and contamination. Populations that need to be cleaned up or pushed to or concentrated in fringe areas of cities with limited infrastructure and poor environmental conditions.

In this session, panelists will discuss the overlapping burdens facing homeless populations--from infrastructure limiting the distribution of environmental resources, to the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, to the affordable housing shortage that is creating more and more homeless families every day and more. The panelists will also discuss the intersectionality of homelessness and environmental justice and what we must do to better support homeless populations through the environmental justice movement.

Concurrent Sessions II | Day 1 - August 19

1:00pm - 2:10pm

1H: Environmental Justice in the Old Dominion State

Speakers:

Steve Fischbach, Litigation Director, Virginia Poverty Law Center (Moderator)

Lakshmi Fjord, Anthropologist, University of Virginia

Renada Harris, Community Activist, Brown Grove Preservation Group

Chris French, Environmental Justice Chairman, Hanover NAACP

La'Veesha Rollins, Founding Member, Concerned Citizens of Charles City County

This session will showcase ongoing environmental justice struggles in Virginia: the fight against fossil fuel infrastructure and landfill expansion in Charles City County, and a battle against a proposed supermarket distribution center in a historic African American community, largely displaced by industrial development. Charles City County has been subject to multiple proposed power plant expansions - all with limited involvement from residents. The Brown Grove community has been impacted by over 60 years of concentrated industrial expansion, with the latest proposition taking place on lands that house unmarked graves, along with cultural and historic resources. Panelists will highlight the origins, progress, and setbacks of these campaigns, along with the use of door-to-door surveys to prove that those most directly impacted by proposed projects reside in communities with EJ issues, when census data suggests otherwise.

Concurrent Sessions II | Day 1 - August 19

1:00pm - 2:10pm

II: It's Too Darn Hot: Urban Heat Islands and Environmental Justice

Speakers:

Jan-Michael Archer, CEEJH Doctoral Student (Moderator)

Robert Nelson, Mapping Inequality Project, University of Richmond

Scott Krayenhoff, Assistant Professor, University of Guelph School of Environmental Sciences

Jeremy Hoffman, Affiliate Faculty, L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs and Center for Environmental Studies, Virginia Commonwealth University

Lisa McNeilly, Director, Baltimore Office of Sustainability

In 2021, extreme heat events have had dire health consequences in unlikely locations. West Coast cities like Portland and Seattle saw record-breaking temperatures early in the summer, with little respite for the elderly, unhoused, and other vulnerable populations. Studies have shown that in nearly every major city in the U.S., BIPOC communities are exposed to more extreme urban heat than White people. Expanses of concrete and reduced canopy cover lead to concentrated heat in urban centers, producing what is known as the “urban heat island effect.” Because of this phenomenon, cities can vary wildly in temperature on a block by block basis, with the burden of extreme heat falling upon low wealth communities and communities of color. In this session, panelists will discuss the unequal burden of urban heat for communities with environmental justice issues including the lack of salutogenic and climate resilient infrastructure and what actions can be taken to alleviate this burden. What adaptation strategies have been used to great effect within urban heat islands, and how have historical policies contributed to the health effects that are seen within American cities today.

Concurrent Sessions III | Day 1 - August 19

2:20pm - 3:30pm

1J: Special Invited Talks on Local Environmental Justice Issues

Speakers:

Jan-Michael Archer, CEEJH Doctoral Student (Moderator)

Roxana Amaya-Fuentes, Program Assistant, Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN)

Elizabeth Spike, Alternative School Teacher, AIM Program, Fairfax County Public Schools

Darya Minovi, Policy Analyst, Center for Progressive Reform

Several DMV stakeholders submitted proposals in our first ever UMD EJ Symposium Call for Talks on Local Environmental Justice. Unlike the discussion panel and demonstration sessions at this year's event, this session will feature the call's top three finalists as they provide in-depth presentations on their work. Roxana Amaya-Fuentes will present on how COVID-19 exacerbated an already-widening equity gap amongst childcare facilities and how the Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN) is working to uplift and educate underserved communities. Elizabeth Spike will present her reflections on teaching environmental justice in public schools, how her students have attempted to influence local policy, and share tips on how fellow educators can inject EJ into their own curricula. Finally, Darya Minovi will present on her Center for Progressive Reform (CPR) team's findings of elevated nitrate levels in private drinking water wells and public utilities from three lower Eastern Shore counties hosting dozens of poultry concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOS).

Concurrent Sessions III | Day 1 - August 19

2:20pm - 3:30pm

1K: Statewide Environmental Justice Commission Reportbacks: Virginia

Speakers:

Rachel Casteel, CEEJH/Namati Fellow, CEEJH (Moderator)

Janet Phoenix, Virginia Council on Environmental Justice

Mike Ellerbrock, Virginia Council on Environmental Justice

Meryem Karad, Assistant Secretary, Natural & Historic Resources, Office of Virginia

Faith Harris, Virginia Council on Environmental Justice

The Virginia Council on Environmental Justice became permanent in 2020 when Governor Ralph Northam signed a bill establishing it as an advisory council to the executive branch. The purpose of the Council is to provide overall recommendations regarding environmental justice principles intended to protect communities that are subject to disproportionate impacts of environmental harm. In part of a broader push to incorporate environmental justice principles into daily operations of the state, Virginia's Department of Environmental Quality has adopted environmental justice directives, and passed the Virginia Environmental Justice Act. Two bills in the 2021 session build on the VEJA to work towards stronger environmental justice policies in Virginia. The Virginia Council on Environmental Justice is currently working towards urging the Governor to issue a moratorium on new fossil fuel projects and permits within the state. To continue meaningful engagement, outcomes, and accountability, this reportback session will focus on what more the Council has been doing to advance environmental justice throughout Virginia. Attendees will be able to share with panelists their environmental justice concerns and what plans, initiatives, and legislation that should be enacted to address environmental injustice in the state of Virginia.

Concurrent Sessions III | Day 1 - August 19

2:20pm - 3:30pm

1L: Stormwater, Sewage Backups, and Environmental Justice

Speakers:

Anushi Garg, Staff Researcher, CEEJH (Moderator)

Marccus Hendricks, Director, Stormwater Infrastructure Resilience and Justice (SIRJ) Lab, University of Maryland School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation

Jennifer Kunze, Maryland Program Manager, Clean Water Action

Paul Leisnham, Professor in Environmental Science & Technology, University of Maryland College of Agriculture & Natural Resources

Chris Heaney, Associate Professor, Johns Hopkins Department of Environmental Health and Engineering

Monica Lewis-Patrick, President & CEO, We the People of Detroit

Water-infrastructure issues, including stormwater management, are environmental justice issues. In Washington, DC, the cumulative effects of stormwater runoff on water bodies are evident in Rock Creek, the Potomac River, and the Anacostia River. These waterways regularly receive untreated stormwater, which may include pollutants such as antifreeze, grease, oil, and heavy metals from cars; fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals from gardens, homes and businesses; bacteria from pet wastes and failing septic systems; and sediment from poor construction site practices. Because of this phenomena, these DC waterways suffer from poor water quality. Like many “rustbelt” cities, Baltimore is characterized by impervious surfaces, defunct industrial sites, and crumbling infrastructure. Baltimore’s failure to implement best practices for stormwater runoff management have had disastrous environmental and public health consequences for the Inner Harbor, the Jones Falls, the Gwynns Falls, and Baltimore residents. Similarly in Detroit, and many other places across the United States, water has become increasingly unaffordable. With poverty rates around 40%, many Detroiters must choose between their water payment and other necessary bills. With public health suffering due to lost access to water, it has long been time to establish truly equitable payment plans for affordable water services, and for water to be seen as a human right. The differential burden of water issues on low-wealth communities and communities of color is an under-addressed environmental justice issue in urban settings. Panelists will discuss their collaborative efforts to address flood management, sewage backups, water as a human right, accessibility, and the communities who face the brunt of these water infrastructure-related issues. Panelists will discuss research programs studying these issues, and describe community-based efforts to address these problems nationwide.

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Concurrent Sessions III | Day 1 - August 19

2:20pm - 3:30pm

1M: The Environmental Justice Scorecard: Holding Legislators Accountable

Speakers:

Joseph Galarraga, Staff Researcher, CEEJH (Moderator)

Rose Albert, Research Intern, CEEJH

Legislator scorecards have been successfully used by the NAACP, ACLU, and other organizations to hold legislators accountable to their constituencies. In recent years, groups like the California Environmental Justice Alliance have tracked state legislators' records on environmental justice legislation, and reviewed state agencies' commitment to environmental justice via similar mechanisms. The purpose of the Environmental Justice (EJ) Scorecard is to provide state and local-level policymakers with a roadmap for building healthier and more resilient communities. Scorecards are also useful tools for grassroots lobbying since they provide community members with a means of holding representatives accountable to community concerns. As the COVID-19 Syndemic has illuminated issues related to climate injustice, health disparities, and environmental racism, CEEJH has worked to adopt these tools within the state of Maryland as a way to work towards environmental justice. In this session, team members will explain the background of the CEEJH EJ Scorecard, methodologies, and how legislators and agencies are scored.

Afternoon Plenary | Day 1 - August 19

3:40pm - 5:00pm

Advancing Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) in Environmental Advocacy

Speakers:

Elise Tolbert, Founder and Executive Director, Next Step Up (Moderator)

Andrés Jimenez, Executive Director, Green 2.0

Kristi Pullen Fedinick, Chief Science Advisor, Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC)

Patrice Simms, Vice President, Healthy Communities, Earthjustice

Leslie Fields, National Director of Advocacy, Policy, and Legal, Sierra Club

Adrienne Hollis, Senior Climate Justice and Health Scientist, Union of Concerned Scientists

The State of Diversity in Environmental Organizations: Mainstream NGOs, Foundations & Government Agencies report surveyed 191 environmental non-profits, 74 government environmental agencies, and 28 leading environmental grant making foundations to investigate their gender and racial diversity composition. This report included confidential interviews of 21 environmental leaders from diverse backgrounds and experience. The findings? An overwhelmingly white “Green Insiders’ Club” that commodifies diversity as “value”. The JEDI principles of Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion serve as the path forward to true systemic change. How can various industries adopt this framework in their culture, consumer base, and communities? Panelists will discuss their experiences working in various “Big Green” scientific, advocacy, and legal organizations. Panelists will share personal stories on the challenges within these organizations; their successes in these environments; lessons learned; and best practices to promote the JEDI principles within these structures. They will also share how these organizations and other non-diverse environmental groups step up as allies to support communities with EJ issues in this important moment in time in the United States.

Day 1 - August 19

Closing Remarks

5:05pm - 5:10pm

Conference attendees will reconvene in the Main Zoom Webinar room for a debrief of the day's sessions, thank you to our sponsors, and a look ahead at Days 2 and 3.

Networking Tables

5:10pm - 5:40pm

This year, thanks to Whova's *Network Tables* feature, we can simulate a casual meet-and-greet space in the virtual world! Conference organizers will provide information on how to join in on the special break-out rooms at the end of the day.



Fri | Aug 20

10:00AM - 6:45PM

10:00AM Opening Remarks

10:10AM Morning Plenary: *10th Annual CEEJH Lecture*

Dr. Cecilia Martinez, Senior Director for Environmental Justice for the Council on Environmental Quality, Office of the United States President

11:20AM Concurrent Sessions I

12:30PM Lunch Break (30-Min)

1:00 PM Concurrent Sessions II

2:20 PM Concurrent Sessions III

3:40 PM Afternoon Plenary: *Getting EJ Funded 101*

5:10 PM Evening Feature: *Stories from Cancer Alley*

6:10 PM Closing Remarks

6:15 PM Networking Tables

Day 2 - August 20

Opening Remarks

10:00am - 10:10am

Dr. Sacoby Wilson, Director of the Center for Community Engagement, Environmental Justice & Health (CEEJH), will welcome all to the 7th UMD EJ Symposium, provide a land acknowledgment to honor our local indigenous communities, thank our event sponsors and coordinators, and give a brief overview of the coming sessions.

Plenary Session - 10th Annual CEEJH Lecture

10:15am - 10:50am

Dr. Cecilia Martinez is the Senior Director for Environmental Justice (EJ) at the Council for Environmental Quality (CEQ). In this role, she will be facilitating the coordination of the whole-of-government EJ agenda of the Biden administration. Previously she was the Executive Director of the Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy. Martinez also previously held positions as Associate Research Professor in the College of Earth, Ocean and Environment at the University of Delaware. She has led a variety of projects to address sustainable development at the local, state and federal level. Her work focuses on the development of energy and environmental strategies that promote equitable and sustainable policies. She received her B.S. from Stanford University, and MPA from New Mexico State University, and her Ph.D. from the University of Delaware's College of Urban Affairs and Public Policy.

Concurrent Sessions I | Day 2 - August 20

11:20am - 12:30pm

2A: Environmental Justice, Industrial Animal Agriculture, and Rural Communities

Speakers:

Rachel Casteel, CEEJH/Namati Fellow, CEEJH (Moderator)

Maria Payan, Senior Regional Representative, Socially Responsible Agriculture Project (SRAP)

Devon Hall, Sr, Co-Founder and Program Manager, Rural Empowerment Association for Community Health (REACH)

Monica Brooks, Co-Founder, Concerned Citizens Against Industrial CAFOs (CCAIC)

Sherri White-Williamson, Environmental Justice Policy Director, North Carolina Conservation Network

Jay Shooster, Associate and Senior Animal Welfare Legal Fellow, Richman Law & Policy

Mark Frondorf, Shenandoah Riverkeeper, Potomac Riverkeeper Network

In the poorest communities across rural America, residents are being stripped of their basic human rights to clean air and water by industrial animal agriculture including factory chicken and hog farming. These facilities known as concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) are sources of nitrates and other chemicals that can contaminate rivers and streams causing eutrophication and fish kills. Additionally, these factory farms emit toxic pollutants including particulate matter, hydrogen sulfide, ammonia and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and microbes like E. coli and Salmonella that can impact human health. The use of lagoons and spray fields in such operations pollute local air, water, and land. These sprayfields present a public health risk due to the amount of pathogens, heavy metals, and antibiotic resistant bacteria that have been found to leach into drinking water sources. Plume caused from sprayfields also causes respiratory issues, among other health concerns. In addition to CAFOs, meatpacking industries, in particular, are known for flagrantly jeopardizing public health. Many plants release their wastewater into rivers, streams, and other waterways that contaminate drinking water supplies of lower-income, rural, communities facing high vulnerability for exposure. Panelists will share their experiences with factory farming, detail its impact on public health and describe their fight for environmental justice.

Concurrent Sessions I | Day 2 - August 20

11:20am - 12:30pm

2B: Mid-Atlantic Environmental and Economic Justice Coalition (MAEEJC): Renew the People, Renew the Planet

Speakers:

Dr. Sacoby Wilson, Director, CEEJH (Moderator)

Vivek Maru, Chief Executive Officer, Namati

Kerri Harris, Organizing Specialist, Namati

Rhonda Hamilton, Co-Founder, Near Buzzard Point Resilient Action Committee (NeRAC)

Sunilda Frias, Communications and Marketing Specialist, Centro de Apoyo Familia (CAF)

Queen Zakia Shabazz, Coordinator, Virginia Environmental Justice Collaborative

The mid-Atlantic region of Delaware, Maryland, DC, and Virginia face grave, interconnected challenges, including unemployment, racial and economic inequality, environmental racism, and health inequities. The pandemic has made these problems worse. People of color and people without access to clean air are dying from COVID-19 disproportionately. The communities who bear the brunt of these problems have not had much of a say in what the solutions should look like. This has led to responses that are inadequate and, sometimes, exploitative. In these communities, science has also been exploitative and extractive.

The DC-Maryland-Virginia Environmental Justice (DMV EJ) Coalition was established in 2011 as a network of researchers, activists, non-profit organizations, policymakers and other community members working to advance the issues, rights, and welfare of underrepresented communities impacted by environmental justice issues throughout the DMV region. Now, CEEJH, Namati, and dozens of partners across the mid-Atlantic are coming together to create a 2nd generation of that coalition, a new grassroots coalition to achieve environmental and economic justice across DC, Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware. This coalition has three aims: 1) support local organizing to take on, and win against, threats to health, livelihoods, and the environment; 2) develop a grassroots-driven policy framework for advancing economic, racial, and environmental justice across the region; and 3) champion issue, legislative, and electoral campaigns to turn those policy ideas into law. Panelists in this session will describe the vision, goals, and objectives of the new coalition.

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Concurrent Sessions I | Day 2 - August 20

11:20am - 12:30pm

2C: Legislative Listening Session: Fenceline and Frontline Communities' Priorities

Speakers:

Fred Tutman, Patuxent Riverkeeper (Moderator)

David Fraser-Hidalgo, Delegate, Maryland House of Delegates

Lorig Charkoudian, Delegate, Maryland House of Delegates

Arthur Ellis, Senator and Assistant Deputy Majority Leader, Maryland Senate

Stephanie Smith, Delegate, Maryland House of Delegates

Sara Love, Delegate, Maryland House of Delegates

Sarah Elfreth, Senator, Maryland Senate

Many communities across Maryland face environmental justice concerns. Issues related to air pollution, proximity to legacy toxic sites, stormwater runoff, agricultural pollution, and sewage backups plague communities and threaten community and individual health. This session provides an avenue for frontline and fenceline communities to connect with their state and local representatives to discuss these and other environmental health concerns. Our panel of state delegates and senators will use this session to collect community comments and feedback on environmental justice concerns throughout Maryland. Panelists will also share their current EJ-informed and EJ-related work with focuses on public health, climate justice, and more.

Concurrent Sessions I | Day 2 - August 20

11:20am - 12:30pm

2D: Intersectional EJ: Environmental Justice, Racism, Stress, and Health Disparities

Speakers:

Jan-Michael Archer, Doctoral Student, CEEJH (Moderator)

Derek Griffith, Founder and Director, Center for Men's Health Equity, Georgetown University

Richard Rowe, Resident Consultant, Black Mental Health Alliance (BMHA)

Jennifer Roberts, Associate Professor of Kinesiology, University of Maryland School of Public Health

Chioma Nnaji, Program Director, Multicultural AIDS Coalition, Inc.

Like most disasters, the COVID-19 pandemic brought acute visibility to several “slow burn” crises existing in America today. From disproportionately high diabetes and asthma prevalence in Black and Latinx populations to excess air pollution exposure in low wealth urban communities to people of color making up the majority of the “essential worker” population, the coronavirus has illuminated (and exacerbated) practically all known health and economic disparities. We know what this has done to individuals and families, but what has it meant for communities?

This panel of public health experts, ranging widely in expertise and specialty, will dig deep into how the pandemic became a syndemic and how its impacts were felt throughout the various fields of public health. Panelists will discuss the mental health crisis facing frontline communities, how chronic and stigmatized illnesses intersect with environmental justice, and how stress impacts our resilience (or lack thereof).

Lunch Break | Day 2 - August 20

12:30pm - 1:00pm

Concurrent Sessions II | Day 2 - August 20

1:00pm - 2:10pm

2E: Fighting for Food Sovereignty in the DMV

Speakers:

Brittney Drakeford, Executive Team Member, The Capital Market

Aitalohi Amaize, Administrative Director, Ourspace World Inc

Emily Ranson, Maryland State Director, Clean Water Action

Aaron Turner, Admin Team, Ujamaa Cooperative Farming Alliance (UCFA)

Sydney Daigle, Director, Prince George's County Food Equity Council

Studies examining the food environment have found that low-income neighborhoods, urban neighborhoods, and/or neighborhoods that are predominately African-American have less access to supermarkets than wealthier neighborhoods, neighborhoods that are suburban, or predominately White. In many segregated and fragmented urban areas, the lack of access to health-promoting food resources creates a "food desert" or "food swamp" which is exacerbated by limited transportation opportunities for these populations. Unfortunately, food deserts and food swamps are only symptoms of a larger problem, a broken food system. Many Americans are dealing with food inequities due to the system of food Apartheid in this country. The lack of access to healthy food infrastructure contributes to the production of obesogenic environments and contributes to disparities in metabolic conditions including diabetes. During this session, speakers will share the latest information on the extent of food insecurity throughout DMV communities and how these issues disproportionately impact youth, young adults, seniors, and African American residents. Speakers will highlight actions that are being taken to address these problems, successes, challenges, and lessons learned. Speakers will discuss the future of food access in the region and the need for more investments in food sovereignty to eradicate food insecurity.

Concurrent Sessions II | Day 2 - August 20

1:00pm - 2:10pm

2F: Justice40: Positioning Communities for Climate Funding

Speakers:

Rebecca Rehr, Director, Climate for Health at ecoAmerica (Moderator)

Ana Baptista, Assistant Professor of Professional Practice, Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management Graduate Program at The New School University

Mildred McClain, Executive Director and Co-Founder, Harambee House/Citizens for Environmental Justice

Harold Mitchell, Founder and Executive Director, ReGenesis

Mustafa Santiago Ali, Vice President of Environmental Justice, Climate, and Community Revitalization, National Wildlife Federation (NWF)

During his first days in office, President Joe Biden issued an Executive order on climate change that created a government-wide Justice40 Initiative with the goal of delivering 40 percent of the overall benefits of relevant federal investments to disadvantaged communities, and tracking performance toward that goal through the establishment of an Environmental Justice Scorecard. The order initiates the development of a Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool, building off EPA's EJSCREEN, to identify disadvantaged communities, support the Justice40 Initiative, and inform equitable decision making across the federal government. How does the Justice40 initiative address the concerns that environmental justice advocates have been noting for decades? And what recommendations to advocates, activists, scholars, and community members have for the Justice40 program? In this session, panelists will discuss the Justice40 initiative: its successes, pitfalls, and recommendations to work towards a truly environmentally just country.

Concurrent Sessions II | Day 2 - August 20

1:00pm - 2:10pm

2G: Intersectional EJ: Environmental Racism, Incarceration, and Toxic Prisons in the US

Speakers:

Faith Taylor, Doctoral Student, Yale School of the Environment (Moderator)

David Pellow, Director, Global Environmental Justice Project, University of California–Santa Barbara

Terri Hill, Delegate, Maryland General Assembly

Jason Williams, Associate Professor of Justice Studies, Montclair State University

Paul Wright, Founder and Executive Director, Human Rights Defense Center

Mei Azzad, Core Organizer, Fight Toxic Prisons

The United States has the largest prison population in the world, and the highest per-capita incarceration rate. According to the NAACP, 32% of the US population is represented by African Americans and Hispanics, compared to 56% of the US incarcerated population being represented by African Americans and Hispanics. And while the 13th Amendment protects against cruel and unusual punishment, most prisons are at maximum capacity, feature inhumane conditions, and exploit labor. Additionally, prisons do not have proper measures in place to respond adequately during states of emergency. The COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare the injustices associated with the U.S. carceral system, with the five largest known clusters of COVID-19 virus being inside corrections institutions. Furthermore, many prisons are built on or near environmental hazards including landfills and contaminated waste sites and incarcerated individuals are exposed to chemical contaminants such as lead and microbial contaminants due to sewer issues. The panelists will discuss the connection between environmental justice, racism, and slavery and the modern U.S. carceral system. They will describe the role of racial capitalism, criminalization, and state-sanctioned violence as drivers of the US carceral system. In addition, they will discuss the impact of toxic prisons on the health and quality of life of incarcerated individuals. Finally, the panelists will discuss abolition ecology, the need to abolish this system, and alternatives that are more in line with environmental justice principles and human rights frameworks. The session will conclude with a Q&A related to environmental justice and incarceration.

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Concurrent Sessions II | Day 2 - August 20

1:00pm - 2:10pm

2H: The Environmental Justice Dynamics of Warehouses, Electrification, and Air Pollution

Speakers:

Sacoby Wilson, Director, CEEJH (Moderator)

Harold Rickenbacker, Clean Air and Innovation Manager, Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)

Laila Riazi, Former Mayor, Town of Cheverly, Maryland

Margaret Gordon, Co-Director, West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project

Shelley Francis, Co-Founder and Director, EVHybridNoire

The Environmental Defense Fund report, *Clean Trucks, Clean Air, American Jobs*, analyzes the effects of eliminating tailpipe pollution from buses, semis and other long-haul trucks, and the “last-mile” trucks that deliver packages to American homes. The report found that eliminating that pollution in freight trucks would prevent more than 57,000 premature deaths and eliminate more than 4.7 billion metric tons of climate pollution by 2050. Considering traffic-related air pollution (TRAP) disproportionately burdens communities of color and low wealth communities in a number of areas across the United States, TRAP reduction and the electrification of vehicles has bearing on the environmental justice landscape in the United States. Did the COVID-19 pandemic contribute to air pollution via a shift in traditional goods movement practices? How have corporations such as Amazon contributed to the number of long-haul trucks on the road and land used for warehousing? In this session, Harold Rickenbacker of the Environmental Defense Fund will discuss the changing dynamics of goods movement through an environmental justice lens. Laila Riazi, former mayor of Cheverly, MD will speak on the impacts of planned warehouses, a metal recycler, and highway and commuter traffic on the air quality in her community.

Concurrent Sessions III | Day 2 - August 20

2:20pm - 3:30pm

2I: My Block Counts: A Comprehensive Community Block Assessment Tool

Speakers:

Joseph Galarraga, Staff Researcher, CEEJH

Too often, the burden of proof lies on the backs of community members when it comes to addressing environmental injustice. Residents' claims about their lived experiences go unheeded unless there is a paper trail. The My Block Counts smartphone app aims to fill this gap and provide communities with a data-collection resource. Users will have the opportunity to document salutogenic (health-promoting) and pathogenic (health-restricting) features of the local built and social environments. This community science tool provides users with a step-by-step community block assessment guide where neighborhood features can be documented and shared with local officials, policymakers, and researchers. By taking stock of neighborhood block features, industrial uses, physical disorder, stores, housing, health, public services, and transportation, the tool also helps residents understand how health and well-being are impacted by public planning and policy. "My Block Counts" is accessible for all ages and a fundamental tool for community science and measuring health in environmental justice communities. This local level data can be useful for improving zoning, planning, and community development initiatives that can improve the health, sustainability, and quality of life of environmental justice communities.

Concurrent Sessions III | Day 2 - August 20

2:20pm - 3:30pm

2J: 30 Years On: Youth Leaders' Reflection on Being Raised in the EJ Movement

Speakers:

Jan-Michael Archer, CEEJH Doctoral Student (Moderator)

Lisa Ng, Doctoral Student, University of California-Berkeley Department of Ethnic Studies

Ayo Wilson, Director of Clean Energy & Climate Justice, West End Revitalization Association

Wawa Gatheru, Founder, Black Girl Environmentalist

Carlos Sanchez-Gonzalez, Youth Leader, Free Your Voice

This year marks 30 years since the 1991 First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit, which was integral to the environmental justice movement as we know it today. While this year's Symposium serves in part as a celebration of this historic event, we also must look forward to the future of the EJ movement and what it aims to achieve. In this session, youth leaders in the EJ movement reflect upon the legacy of environmental justice in the United States, the work and leaders that have preceded them, the impact of their work on advancing environmental justice, and their vision for the environmental justice movement into the 2020s and beyond. What lessons have been learned since the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit? How has the COVID-19 pandemic altered the environmental justice movement? What challenges and successes have they experienced as leaders in the EJ movement? What strategies and tools will be instrumental as environmental justice increasingly enters the public consciousness? Youth leaders will lead this reflection and provide perspective on the future of the EJ movement.

Concurrent Sessions III | Day 2 - August 20

2:20pm - 3:30pm

2K: NEJAC'S Renewed Role in the EPA's Regan Era

Speakers:

Sacoby Wilson, Director, CEEJH Center (Moderator)

Matthew Tejada, Director, Office of Environmental Justice, Environmental Protection Agency

Na'Taki Osborne Jelks, Vice-Chair, National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC)

Hermila Trevino-Sauceda, EPA Region 9 Member, National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC)

Mike Tilchin, Senior Consultant, Environment and Infrastructure at Jacobs Engineering Group Inc.

Cheryl Johnson, Executive Director, People for Community Recovery

April Baptiste, Professor of Environmental Studies and Africana and Latin American Studies, Colgate University

The National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) has provided leadership at the federal level on environmental justice since the Clinton Administration. These efforts have led to the development of environmental justice programming and initiatives within and across federal agencies including Health and Human Services, the Department of Transportation, and HUD. Many states have followed these models to develop their own environmental justice plans, commissions, and initiatives, and some state legislatures have even passed environmental justice legislation. During the previous administration, the panel's role was significantly diminished, stifling progress within the EJ movement. The new EPA Administrator Michael Regan has promised to give NEJAC a strong role in developing strategies for achieving an ambitious plan to significantly elevate environmental justice concerns in decision making at EPA and other agencies. NEJAC panelists will discuss their hopes for the federal government's renewed commitment to environmental justice, and recommendations for the EPA and other agencies to ensure that the federal charge for environmental justice is sustained past Regan's tenure.

Concurrent Sessions III | Day 2 - August 20

2:20pm - 3:30pm

2L: Equitable and Affordable Housing in the DMV

Speakers:

Anushi Garg, Staff Researcher, CEEJH (Moderator)

Daniel del Pielago, Organizing Director, Empower DC

Walkiria Pool, President and Founder, Centro de Apoyo Familiar (CAF)

Ruth Norton, President and CEO, Green & Healthy Homes Initiative

According to the Washington Post, the District only fulfilled 31 percent of its annual target for new housing for the “lowest” income households, and 52 percent for the “low” income category in 2020. Neighboring Fairfax and Montgomery Counties produced so few units within those categories, that they hardly even measurable. Like many metropolitan areas across the country, it is evident that the DMV is in the midst of an affordable housing crisis. In this session, panelists will discuss how a lack of affordable housing is impacting communities across the region in terms of health and livelihood. How can the surrounding suburbs meet the needs of low income residents? Panelists will review strategies and policies that should be considered in the siting of new units, including racial equity screening and rezoning.

Afternoon Plenary | Day 2 - August 20

3:40pm - 5:00pm

Donors of Color Network Presents: Getting EJ Funded 101

Speakers:

Sacoby Wilson, Director, CEEJH (Moderator)

Danielle Deane-Ryan, Climate Consultant, Donors of Color Network

Elizabeth Wang, Board Director, New York Women's Foundation

Colette Pichon-Battle, Executive Director, The Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy

A follow-up to last year's "Closing the Gap in Environmental Justice Funding" plenary session, this year, we welcome leaders of the Donors of Color Network--the first-ever cross-racial community of high net worth funders--to speak on how environmental justice work does (and does not) get funded. The Donors of Color Network's Climate Funders Justice Pledge "shifts the center of gravity in philanthropy towards racial and economic justice, challenging the nation's largest climate funders to commit publicly to greater transparency and give at least 30% of their climate funding to the BIPOC-led powerbuilding groups who are the most successful in fighting the climate crisis."

Hear from DOCN leaders working to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion in the philanthropy movement as they speak on funding work that centers BIPOC, frontline, and fence-line communities. Panelists will also discuss the many challenges to funding EJ research, action, and advocacy and how they believe we can overcome these challenges.

Evening Feature | Day 2 - August 20

5:10pm - 6:10pm

Voice From The Fenceline: Leadership and Resistance in Cancer Alley

Speakers:

Stiv Wilson, Co-Founder, Peak Plastic Foundation (Moderator)

Megan Ponder, Co-Founder, Peak Plastic Foundation (Moderator)

Barbara Washington, Inclusive Louisiana

Gail LeBoeuf, Inclusive Louisiana

Myrtle Felton, Inclusive Louisiana

Mary Hampton, Concerned Citizens of St. John

The Voices From The Fenceline session will explore and illuminate the grassroots leadership facing off against the massive petrochemical industry corridor between New Orleans and Baton Rouge, Louisiana known as Cancer Alley. Peak Plastic Foundation will share short films featuring residents in Cancer Alley working for justice around unchecked chemical and particulate emissions associated with refining of fossil fuels and the corruption and structural racism that perpetuates this pollution. Session attendees will have a chance in the second half of the session for a Q&A with four subjects from the films working for the basic human right to clean air, water and soil.

Day 2 - August 20

Closing Remarks

6:10pm - 6:15pm

Conference attendees will reconvene in the Main Zoom Webinar room for a debrief of the day's sessions, thank you to our sponsors, and a look ahead at Day 3.

Networking Tables

6:15pm - 6:45pm

This year, thanks to Whova's *Network Tables* feature, we can simulate a casual meet-and-greet space in the virtual world! Conference organizers will provide information on how to join in on the special break-out rooms at the end of the day.

2021

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

& HEALTH DISPARITIES

SYMPOSIUM

Sat | Aug 21

10:00AM - 5:40PM

10:00 AM Opening Remarks

10:10 AM Morning Plenary:

***EJ 30 Years Later: Reflecting on the
1991 First National People of Color
Environmental Leadership Summit***

11:20 AM Concurrent Sessions I

12:30 PM Lunch Break (30-Min)

1:00 PM Concurrent Sessions II

2:20 PM Concurrent Sessions III

3:40 PM Afternoon Plenary:

***A New Page: WHEJAC & President Biden's
Executive Order on Climate Change***

5:05 PM Closing Remarks

5:10 PM Networking Tables



Day 3 - August 21

Opening Remarks

10:00am - 10:10am

Sacoby Wilson, Director of the Center for Community Engagement, Environmental Justice & Health (CEEJH), will welcome all to the 7th UMD EJ Symposium, provide a land acknowledgment to honor our local indigenous communities, thank our event sponsors and coordinators, and give a brief overview of the coming sessions.

Morning Plenary Session - EJ 30 Years Later: Reflecting on the 1991 First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit

10:10am - 11:10am

Speakers:

Sacoby Wilson, Director, CEEJH Center (Moderator)

Charles Lee, Senior Policy Advisor, US Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Environmental Justice (EPA OEJ)

Donele Wilkins, President and CEO, Green Door Initiative

Richard Moore, Co-Coordinator, Environmental Justice Health Alliance

Tom Goldtooth, Executive Director, Indigenous Environmental Network

Vernice Miller-Travis, Executive Vice President, Metropolitan Group

30 years ago, delegates representing all environmental justice communities and causes from across the United States and across the world convened in Washington, DC for the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit. There was nothing like it before and there has been nothing like it since. The three-day event, from October 24-27, 1991, featured several landmark occurrences, not the least of which being the drafting and adoption of the 17 Principles of Environmental Justice. Panelists will share memories from the 1991 Summit and musings on where environmental justice came from and where we still must go.

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Concurrent Sessions I | Day 3 - August 21

11:20am - 12:30pm

3A: Visualizing Health Disparities: Maryland Environmental Public Health Tracking Tool Demo

Speakers:

Joseph Galarraga, Staff Researcher, CEEJH

Clifford Mitchell, Director, Environmental Health Bureau, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH)

How does the state of Maryland track environmental health indicators and outcomes, and how do state agencies share this information with the public? The Maryland Environmental Public Health Tracking program receives funding from the CDC to collect and display data and information on the environment, exposures, health effects and population characteristics. Many State and Local Tracking Programs also develop tools, applications, and products that go beyond data and inform public health action. As a follow up to his presentation during last year's Symposium, Clifford Mitchell, Director of the Environmental Health Bureau at the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, will introduce Maryland's Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT) updated data portal. Dr. Mitchell will discuss updates to EPHT's main data product, the indicators and outcomes tracked within, and the relevance of EPHT to environmental justice and health disparities.

Concurrent Sessions I | Day 3 - August 21

11:20am - 12:30pm

3B: Transportation Equity in Baltimore, Maryland

Speakers:

Megan Latshaw, Associate Scientist, Johns Hopkins University Department of Environmental Health & Engineering (Moderator)

Samuel Jordan, President, Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition

Sam Helmey, Housing Data and Policy Analyst, Baltimore Regional Housing Partnership

For many people of color and low-wealth, public transit access provides a literal vehicle to employment, food, healthcare, and a lower carbon footprint--at low cost. However, service interruptions, delays, limited route options, and other issues prevent many Baltimore transit riders from getting where they need to be on time. This has been more critical than ever during the COVID-19 pandemic which found many BIPOC and economically disadvantaged riders to be "essential workers".

Through a joint collaboration between Johns Hopkins University, the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition (BTEC), and Baltimore community members, researchers set out to investigate the relationship between Baltimore's public transit system, air pollution, and health impacts in the region. In this session, members of the study team will present the Transit Equity & Environmental Health In Baltimore City Report--a 36-page document with analyses and recommendations on which Baltimore communities would benefit most from investments to improve public transit. Panelists will speak on the project's history, approach, methodology, and next steps.

Concurrent Sessions I | Day 3 - August 21

11:20am - 12:30pm

3C: AAPI Voices on Environmental Justice

Speakers:

Rose Albert, Master of Public Health Candidate, University of Alabama
Birmingham

Hung-bin Ding, Vice-Chair, Maryland Commission on Asian Pacific American
Affairs

Ravi Rajan, Professor of Environmental Studies, University of California, Santa
Cruz

Kristy Drutman, Founder, Brown Girl Green

Phil Tajitsu Nash, Co-President, The Asian American Legal Defense and
Education Fund

In the past eighteen months, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, we saw a tragic and disheartening surge of violence, racism against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. For many, the last year and a half recalled painful memories of xenophobia during the mid-1900s. From the United States' annexation of Hawaii to Japanese internment camps, the U.S. has systematically disenfranchised AAPI communities—a history that has not received a full reckoning. And yet, members of this far-from-monolithic community have been a source of strength for—and provided generous contributions to—the struggle for justice, equal rights, and equal protection in America.

Panelists in this session will reflect on how their identities as Asian Americans and/or Pacific Islanders intersect with environmental and climate equity and how the movement can better highlight how AAPI communities both impact and are impacted by environmental injustice, violence, and related disparities.

Concurrent Sessions I | Day 3 - August 21

11:20am - 12:30pm

3D: Pro Bono Legal Services for Frontline and Fenceline Communities in the DMV

Speakers:

Jan-Michael Archer, Doctoral Student, CEEJH (Moderator)

Leah Kelly, Senior Attorney, Environmental Integrity Project

Rachel Stevens, Assistant Professor of Law and Staff Attorney, Environmental Justice Clinic, Vermont Law School

Seema Kakade, Professor of Law and Director, Environmental Law Clinic, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law

Scott Edwards, Counsel, Richman Law & Policy Group

A Presidential Memorandum submitted with Executive Order 12898 linked Title VI of the Civil Rights Act to ensuring that federal programs (especially environmental- and health-oriented programs) do not discriminate on the basis of race, color or national origin. For many overburdened communities, this was the first step to attaining legal protections from environmental injustice. Considering that many communities with EJ issues are disenfranchised and under-resourced, how can communities-in-need access legal counsel to assist with the filing of environmental justice complaints? Pro bono services provided by academic institutions and/or non-profit organizations represent a winning solution.

Panelists from various law clinics and firms will discuss how this model fills a wide gap between knowing injustice is happening and making sure something is done to correct it. Speakers will share examples of collaborations, cases, successes, challenges, and best practices for building legal partnerships with EJ stakeholders.

Concurrent Sessions I | Day 3 - August 21

11:20am - 12:30pm

3E: Unequal Response, Unequal Protection: The Government's Unequal Response to Toxic Chemical Exposure Leads to Unequal Protection of Communities' Health

Speakers:

Jose Aguayo Pozo, Senior Science Associate, Center for Health, Environment & Justice (CHEJ)

Public health risks like food contamination and infectious diseases trigger clear, proactive federal responses. However, the response for investigating health problems related to chemical exposure is poor, cumbersome and rarely leads to meaningful changes that protect people's health. The government's unequal response to toxic chemical exposure leads to unequal protection of communities' health.

CHEJ is tackling this problem by convening a working group of community leaders with firsthand experience and environmental professionals from around the country to work on a solution. The solution, which is still taking shape, will be centered around three principles – the federal response must have a clear and enforceable timeline, the data collection must be aimed at answering health questions, and the community's knowledge, concerns, and questions must drive the response.

Lunch Break | Day 3 - August 21

12:30pm - 1:00pm

Concurrent Sessions II | Day 2 - August 21

1:00pm - 2:10pm

3F: ...And Park Equity for All: Demo/Q&A Session with the Maryland Park Equity Mapper Development Team

Speakers:

Jan-Michael Archer, Doctoral Student, CEEJH (Moderator)

Sandra Olek, Senior Policy Advisor, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Chesapeake and Coastal Service

It has long been known that regular access to nature improves health outcomes (including symptoms from asthma and other respiratory diseases, cardiovascular disease, and mental illnesses). It has also been known that regular access to nature is not equally available to all members of society. Hoping to reconcile these two realities, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources developed the Maryland Park Equity Mapper, a GIS tool for exploring park-rich and park-poor areas throughout the state. CEEJH worked with MDNR and the UMD Center for Geospatial Information Science to explore barriers to park access--beyond simply measuring proximity to parks. The team also surveyed Marylanders to understand how residents perceived and reported their own access to park space.

In this session, panelists will perform a demonstration of the Park Equity mapper with attendees, discuss how the tool has been used by DNR as a decision support tool, possible applications for other stakeholder groups, share results of the park equity survey, and solicit feedback from attendees to improve the functionality, usability, and impact of the tool.

Concurrent Sessions II | Day 3 - August 21

1:00pm - 2:10pm

3G: Intersectional EJ: Indigenous Perspectives on Environmental Justice

Speakers:

Rabiah Nur, Medicine Woman (Moderator)

Deborah McGregor, Associate Professor & Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Environmental Justice, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University

Ann Marie Chischilly, Executive Director, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP)

Dali Carmichael, Research Assistant and Producer, Indigenous Environmental Justice Project

Ora Marek-Martinez, Executive Director, NAUs Native American Cultural Center

Chanda Robinson Banks, Acting Executive Director, Ujamaa Cooperative Farming Alliance

Cultural erasure, political disenfranchisement, economic divestment, and an ever-growing climate crisis have culminated in many Indigenous communities facing dire environmental injustices and health disparities. Recent events such as the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline through the land of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe have brought wider attention to these issues, but the vast majority of mining, industrial, and military development on and near Indigenous lands still goes unnoticed by much of the American public. Tribes do not reap the full benefits of these activities--they bear the burden of the associated pollution.

Panelists will discuss their views on the present environmental justice movement, their current work to advance justice and equity for Indigenous communities, the daily challenges they face, and the opportunities presented by a new presidential administration that has elevated tribal leaders to positions in the the Departments of Interior, Energy and the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Concurrent Sessions II | Day 3 - August 21

1:00pm - 2:10pm

3H: Regional Look at Environmental Public Health Tracking

Speakers:

Joseph Galarraga, Staff Researcher, CEEJH (Moderator)

Clifford Mitchell, Director, Environmental Health Bureau, Maryland
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH)

Matthew Montesano, Data Communication Specialist, NYC Department of
Health and Mental Hygiene

The CDC's Environmental Public Health Tracking program provides the public with unique data related to a number of environmental hazards and health effects that burden environmental justice communities. There is power within data, and EPHT data related to asthma, lead, air pollution, and climate change can be used to tell community stories in order to inspire action and change. The Regional Look at Environmental Public Health Tracking session aims to do just that. Maryland Tracking and New York City Tracking will demonstrate how upstream policies such as redlining and housing segregation have led to environmental health disparities with regards to asthma and elevated blood lead levels. CEEJH staff will present alongside partners from the Maryland Department of Health and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to show how current health and environmental data demonstrate the effects of decades of racist policy within Baltimore and New York City.

Concurrent Sessions II | Day 3 - August 21

1:00pm - 2:10pm

3I: State of the Air: Reportbacks from DC, MD, VA, and DE Officials

Speakers:

Sacoby Wilson, Director, CEEJH (Moderator)

Angela Marconi, Division Director, Division of Air Quality, Delaware
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control

Kelly Crawford, Associate Director, Air Quality Division, DC Department of
Energy and Environment

Tad Aburn, Director, Air & Radiation Management, Maryland Department of
the Environment

Jeffery Steers, Director of Central Office Program Operations, Virginia
Department of Environmental Quality

Air pollution has long been known to disproportionately burden communities of color and low wealth populations across the United States. Public health practitioners and environmental authorities alike agree that current national standards for ambient air pollution—including those meant to limit particulate matter, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), nitrogen dioxide, and other harmful pollutants—are not protective enough to keep citizens safe and healthy. As a result, state (and district) legislators and regulators must go beyond federal mandates to safeguard their populations from toxic air. This is especially true in communities with EJ issues, where air quality monitoring is sparse but permitted facilities, heavily trafficked roadways and other environmental hazards abound. Panelists will each discuss regional and local improvements to air quality in Washington, DC, Maryland, Virginia, and Delaware, as well as their roles in air quality management including detecting and managing air pollution hotspots, how the current regulatory framework including the NAAQS are not protective of communities with EJ issues, concerns about cumulative impacts, the role of equity in their enforcement, permitting, and compliance actions, and what the future holds for air in our region in light of new initiative and policies from the Biden Administration.

Concurrent Sessions III | Day 3 - August 21

2:20pm - 3:30pm

3J: Intersectional EJ: Beyond the Binary – Gender, Ecofeminism, and Environmental Health

Speakers:

Faith Taylor, Doctoral Student, Yale School of the Environment (Moderator)

Aletta Brady, Founder & Visioning Director, Our Climate Voices

Livia Charles, Researcher, Women's Earth & Climate Action Network

Leo Goldsmith, Climate and Health Specialist at ICF

Vanessa Raditz, Graduate Student Instructor, University of Georgia

Department of Geography

Anna Bedford, Teaching and Learning Fellow, Center for Inclusive Teaching and Learning at St. Mary's College of Maryland

Ecofeminism ties the capitalist exploitation of natural resources to the patriarchal domination of women. Historically, the environmental justice movement has not highlighted the gendered dynamics of environmental hazard patterning. However, a large body of research—from planning to sociology to public health to economics to environmental science and beyond—has illustrated that elevating women's safety, health, education and prosperity, is correlated with better environmental management and equity. Additionally, erasure of women's power and self-determination in the environmental space also disenfranchises LGBTQIA folx. Failure to INpower these identities has led to disproportionate disadvantages and policies that do not serve whole communities.

Panelists will explore how environmental and climate justice intersect with gender and queerness to disproportionately burden women and LGBTQIA folx. The panel will also speak to solutions and recommendations for uplifting these groups and creating environments that support all people, allowing everyone to reach their highest potential.

Concurrent Sessions III | Day 3 - August 21

2:20pm - 3:30pm

3K: Environmental Justice Highlights from the National Wildlife Federation

Speakers:

Sacoby Wilson, Director, CEEJH (Moderator)

Jessica Arriens, Program Manager, Climate and Energy Policy, National Wildlife Federation

Samantha Lockhart, Eastern Regional Field Director, National Wildlife Federation

Nizhooni Hurd, Coordinator, Tribal Program Partnerships, National Wildlife Federation

Crystal Jennings, Senior Manager, Youth Leadership Program, National Wildlife Federation

Rebeca Villegas, Senior Program Manager, Environmental Justice, National Wildlife Federation

The National Wildlife Federation has undertaken a number of projects to serve environmental justice communities. This work strives to address the urgent and pertinent issues impacting these communities by centering the voices of those most impacted, sharing resources, and co-developing recommendations to inform our federal policy advocacy efforts. Panelists will provide an overview of NWF's environmental justice work, including discussions regarding the impacts of COVID-19 and building an equitable clean economy, recommendations on mapping environmental justice using GIS technologies, partnerships with sovereign tribal nations, and voting rights and pro-Democracy advocacy. Panelists will also discuss how this work connects to President Biden's Justice40 initiative, and how "Big Greens" should be engaging with that work.

Concurrent Sessions III | Day 3 - August 21

2:20pm - 3:30pm

3L: A Rising Threat: Climate Inequity in Coastal Communities

Speakers:

Joseph Galarraga, Staff Researcher, CEEJH

Andrea Miralles-Barboza, Graduate Student, University of Maryland Marine Estuarine Environmental Sciences (MEES) Program

Elizabeth Van Dolah, Project Manager, The Nature Conservancy

Robert Musil, President and CEO, Rachel Carson Council

Dean Hardy, Assistant Professor, University of South Carolina School of the Earth, Ocean & Environment

Coastal communities face unique threats with regards to climate change. Rising sea levels and flooding have become an everyday reality for a number of coastal populations. While the threats of tropical storms and hurricanes present a number of environmental health risks. Additionally, many coastal communities across the United States are under-resourced and feature low wealth and BIPOC populations. The confluence of such conditions within communities that have historically been neglected produce climate inequities, unique vulnerabilities, and contribute to the legacy of environmental injustice in the United States.

In this session, panelists will discuss climate inequity in coastal communities, the health repercussions associated with climate change, how climate change exacerbates health disparities in coastal communities, and what mitigation and adaptation strategies can be utilized to promote climate equity in coastal settings. The panelists will discuss the need for programs, initiatives, and policies that enhance equity in preparedness, response, and recovery for coastal populations and opportunities to improve resiliency in these areas.

Concurrent Sessions III | Day 3 - August 21

2:20pm - 3:30pm

3M: The Promise (and Pitfalls) of Mapping Environmental and Climate Injustice

Speakers:

Jan-Michael Archer, Doctoral Student, CEEJH (Moderator)

John Faust, Branch Chief, Community and Environmental Epidemiology Research Branch, California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

Matthew Lee, EJSCREEN Specialist, U.S. EPA Office of Environmental Justice

Crystal Upperman, Senior Scientist, Aclima

Fern Uennatornwarangoon, Air Quality Policy Manager, Environmental Defense Fund

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technologies have created an immense opportunity for visualizing the spatial patterning and cumulative impacts of environmental and climate injustice. The United States Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice Screening Tool (US EPA EJSCREEN) is perhaps the most well-known tool for EJ mapping but several others—from the private, non-profit, and public sectors—have appeared in recent years. From highly technical climate modelers to simple and intuitive storymaps, the wide variety of available GIS tools matches the growing diversity of GIS users. Recently, President Biden specifically commissioned the development of a new national Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool. Whether at the national, state, or local scales, mapping tools are changing the way we view, interpret, and address environmental and climate justice issues. These GIS visualization tools are seen as important decision support tools in permitting, compliance, and enforcement actions, zoning, and microtargeting of communities with investments and new infrastructure. But what are the limitations of these technologies? What assumptions are being made in their use? And what are the consequences of misinterpreted maps?

Panelists will review the pros and cons of EJ and climate mapping tools, sharing where they excel and where they fall short.

Afternoon Plenary | Day 3 - August 21

3:40pm - 5:00pm

A New Page: WHEJAC & President Biden's Executive Order on Climate Change

Speakers:

Sacoby Wilson, Director, CEEJH Center (Moderator)

Jerome Foster II, Executive Director & Founder, One Million of Us

Peggy Shephard, Co-Founder and Executive Director, WeACT for Environmental Justice

Ruth Santiago, Board Member, Earthjustice

Angelo Logan, Campaign Director, Moving Forward Network

On January 27, 2021, exactly one week after his inauguration as the 46th President of the United States, Joseph R. Biden signed Executive Order 14008: Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad. The Order emphasizes the need for national security and foreign policy strategies that take aggressive climate action. E.O. 14008 also established the White House Environmental Justice Council, the first-ever advisory council dedicated to addressing current and historic environmental injustices. The Biden Administration has allocated funding and personnel towards environmental justice in a way that the United States has never before seen. On May 21, the members of WHEJAC submitted its first report on recommendations for EJ policy. The report included recommendations Justice40, the Climate and Economic Justice Screening tool, and revisions to Executive Order 12898—the landmark Clinton Era order directing federal agencies to identify and address environmental injustices. In this session, WHEJAC members will discuss the state of Environmental Justice in America, President's Executive Order on Climate Change, WHEJAC's work related to the Administration's agenda including ensuring accountability, and successes and challenges so far.

Our WHEJAC panelists will discuss the Council's role, the May report, as well as their expectations for the Biden Administration, environmental and climate equity, and restorative justice for disenfranchised communities—both at home and abroad.

Day 3 - August 21

Closing Remarks

5:05pm - 5:10pm

Sacoby Wilson will provide final closing remarks and adjourn the 7th Annual University of Maryland Environmental Justice Symposium.

All participants are encouraged to fill out the conference evaluation form and join the CEEJH Listserv.

We thank you for your participation and your continued support of our event. See you next year!

Networking Tables

5:10pm - 5:40pm

This year, thanks to Whova's *Network Tables* feature, we can simulate a casual meet-and-greet space in the virtual world! Conference organizers will provide information on how to join in on the special break-out rooms at the end of the day.

We are grateful for our event sponsors, without whom the 7th UMD EJ Symposium would not be possible.

Diamond Tier



**MARYLAND LEAGUE
OF CONSERVATION VOTERS**

Maryland League of Conservation Voters (Maryland LCV) is a state-wide, nonpartisan organization that uses political action and education to protect our air, land, water, and communities. Maryland LCV endorses and elects pro-conservation candidates and holds elected officials accountable through legislative scorecards and advocacy.
<https://www.mdlcv.org/>



**SIERRA
CLUB**

The Sierra Club is the most enduring and influential grassroots environmental organization in the United States. We amplify the power of our 3.8 million members and supporters to defend everyone's right to a healthy world.
<https://www.sierraclub.org/>



EARTHJUSTICE

Earthjustice is the premier nonprofit public interest environmental law organization. We wield the power of law and the strength of partnership to protect people's health, to preserve magnificent places and wildlife, to advance clean energy, and to combat climate change.

<https://earthjustice.org/>

**Union of
Concerned
Scientists**

Our mission: to use rigorous, independent science to solve our planet's most pressing problems. Joining with people across the country, we combine technical analysis and effective advocacy to create innovative, practical solutions for a healthy, safe, and sustainable future.

<https://www.ucsusa.org/>

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Gold Tier



THE BAHÁ'Í CHAIR FOR WORLD PEACE

The Bahá'í Chair for World Peace at the University of Maryland is an endowed academic program that advances interdisciplinary examination and discourse on global peace. While drawing certain initial insights from religion, the program aims to develop a sound scientific basis for knowledge and strategies that lead to the creation of a better world. Viewing humanity as a collective and organic whole, the Chair's incumbent, Professor Hoda Mahmoudi, and the program's faculty explore the role that social actors and structures play in removing obstacles and creating paths to peace.

<http://www.bahaichair.umd.edu/>



Choose Clean Water COALITION

Since 2010, the Choose Clean Water Coalition has harnessed the collective power of more than 250 groups to advocate for clean rivers and streams in all communities in the Chesapeake Bay region. By coordinating policy, messaging, action, and accountability, the Coalition speaks louder with one voice toward our collective goal—clean water.

<https://www.choosecleanwater.org/>

Green 2.0

Green 2.0 is a non-profit organization that leads the charge to increase racial and ethnic diversity in the environmental movement. Given that people of color are the most impacted by environmental problems and the least represented in positions of power, the movement should be transformed to be accessible, welcoming, and open to them at every level. In the 21st century, the success of environmental causes will be based on the ability of organizations and leaders of the movement to be diverse, equity-driven, inclusive, and culturally relevant.

www.diversegreen.org

We are grateful for our event sponsors, without whom the 7th UMD EJ Symposium would not be possible.

Silver Tier



The Center for Health, Environment & Justice helps build healthy communities nationwide. Since its founding in 1981, CHEJ has grown into the nation's leading resource for grassroots environmental activism, a ground-breaking, progressive organization with a vision for clean, green neighborhoods built from hard-won experience fighting for environmental justice.

<http://chej.org/>



Namati and our partners train and deploy community paralegals to take on some of the greatest injustices of our times. These paralegals are trained in basic law and in skills like mediation, organizing, education, and advocacy. They form a dynamic, creative frontline that can squeeze justice out of even broken systems.

<https://namati.org/>



The Department of Environmental Health and Engineering (EHE) is a collaborative hybrid uniquely designed to lead pioneering research and promote technology translation as it prepares the next generation of scholars to solve critical and complex issues at the interface of public health and engineering.

<https://ehe.jhu.edu/>



The Rachel Carson Council, founded in 1965, is the national environmental organization envisioned by Rachel Carson to carry on her work after her death. We promote Carson's ecological ethic that combines scientific concern for the environment and human health with a sense of wonder and reverence for all forms of life in order to build a more sustainable, just, and peaceful future.

<https://rachelcarsoncouncil.org/>

We are grateful for our event sponsors, without whom the 7th UMD EJ Symposium would not be possible.

Silver Tier



SRAP
Socially Responsible
Agriculture Project

For more than 20 years, Socially Responsible Agriculture Project (SRAP) has served as a mobilizing force to empower communities to protect themselves from the damages caused by industrial livestock operations and to advocate for a food system built on regenerative practices, justice, democracy, and resilience. Our team includes technical experts, independent family farmers, and rural residents who have faced the threats of factory farms in their communities. When asked for help, SRAP offers free support, providing communities with the knowledge and skills to protect their right to clean water and air, and to a healthy, just, and vibrant future.

<https://sraproject.org/>



The University of Maryland School of Public Health was established in 2007 to advance a better state of health for the diverse populations of Maryland and beyond. Our school builds upon a foundation of disciplines that originated over 150 years ago when our land grant university was established. We are proud to offer more than 25 academic programs and to be accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health.

And a most special thanks to the following individuals for their generous contributions:
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