



# Let's Talk About It: A Conversation with Tribes about Environmental Justice

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# WELCOME! BEFORE WE GET STARTED...

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- Today's discussion is scheduled to last one hour.
- Submit questions/comments via the Chat or to speak, click on the "Raise Your Hand" icon located in the menu bar at the bottom of your screen.
- A link to download a copy of the presentation is available in the Chat box. If you have issues downloading the material, please email [katonica.kim@epa.gov](mailto:katonica.kim@epa.gov).

Please contact Zachary Armand ([Zachary.Armand@erg.com](mailto:Zachary.Armand@erg.com)) if you are having technical issues with the webinar.





# Agenda

- Update on your previous input
- Environmental Justice (EJ) Priorities at EPA
- Addressing Justice and Equity in Grants
- What EJ means to you – participants share their tribal perspective



# Objectives

- Expand the conversation on EJ
- Align EJ priorities with tribal waste management program needs
- Compile input for EJ considerations in future grant programs



# Your Input Matters: Actions Since We Last Met

## Training & Funding

- Federal Agency Training Initiative
- Increase in HW grant funding
- NEW Solid Waste Grants

## National Program Guidance

- You provided early engagement comments that informed the draft guidance
- The Draft National Program Guidance will be posted on the web this month for an external comment period that runs through June 10th.



# EJ Priorities at EPA



Executive  
Orders

Justice40

EJSCREEN 2.0



# Justice40 Interim Guidance:

- *OMB guidance to agencies on disadvantaged communities for the purpose of Justice 40 is pending. Interim guidance suggests:*
  - **Community:**

Either a group of individuals living in geographic proximity to one another, or a geographically dispersed set of individuals...where either type of group experiences common conditions.
  - **Disadvantaged:**

Identified using data, indices, or screening tools including, but not limited to, any combination of socio-economic, demographic variables.

This explicitly includes “geographic areas within Tribal jurisdictions”.



# EJSCREEN 2.0 and Alternative Indexes

## **The Primary Demographic Index**

Used in prior versions of EJScreen, and available for analysis in EJScreen 2.0 is based on the average of two demographic indicators:

1. percent people of color (race/ethnicity)
2. percent low-income.

## **The Alternative Demographic Index**

Is recommended for use in decision-making such as resource allocation and is based on the average of five demographic indicators:

- percent low-income
- percent linguistically isolated
- percent less than high school education
- percent unemployed
- low life expectancy





## Defining Conditions vs Labeling Communities

### Injustices could include:

- Subsistence fishing, farming, or hunting at risk due to pollution
- Noise/Odor from Facilities/Operations
- Illegal Dumping on Tribal Lands
- Proximity to Superfund Sites
- Excessive Truck Traffic





## What Waste Management Challenges linked to environmental justice concepts do you experience? (choose top 3)

- a) Industrial pollution impacting subsistence, fishing, farming, or hunting
- b) Illegal dumping
- c) Lack of access to markets/long haul costs for disposal
- d) Inadequate infrastructure (facilities for operations)
- e) Lack of equipment and proper protective gear
- f) Population density insufficient to run cost effective diversion programs (recycling, composting, etc).
- g) Other (write in the chat)





# Waste Grant Programs: The Importance of Inclusion

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EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM) has directed each program office, including ORCR, to use our grant programs to support EJ communities.



# ORCR Grant Programs:

## **FY 2022 Hazardous Waste Management Grant Program for Tribes**

Provides financial assistance to tribal governments and tribal consortia for the development and implementation of hazardous waste programs.

- Funding Allocation: \$500-700 K
- Date Posted on Grants.gov: March 28, 2022
- Deadline for Submittal of Application: May 12, 2022
- Estimated Number of Awards: 5-8

ORCR is currently exploring options for inclusion of EJ Considerations in the 2023 Grant Cycle

## **FY 2021 Supporting Anaerobic Digestion in Communities**

Grants awarded will accelerate the development of new or enhance/increase existing anaerobic digestion capacity and in doing so, help divert food waste from landfills.

- Funding Allocation: \$2 M
- 11 grants were announced in February 2022
- Five out of the 11 grants qualified for the set-aside by being located in either US territories, tribes, or in a persistent poverty county (all projects were evaluated using an EJ criterion).

# ORCR New Grant Programs: FY 2022 Tribal Solid Waste Grant

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- This grant will assist tribes in conducting solid waste management activities that reduce threats to human health and the environment and assist with establishing sustainable waste management programs.
- Funding Allocation: ~\$700K
- Estimated Posting on Grants.gov: May/June 2022
- Estimated Number of Awards: ~7-10

**RFA in 2022 does not include special EJ language, however it will be explored in future years, if funding continues to be available.**





# New Grant Programs: Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

	Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants (SWIFR)	Education and Outreach Grants (E&O)
Goal	Support recycling programs, post-consumer materials management, and waste management infrastructure.	Support consumer education and outreach on recycling and waste prevention, including information to increase collection rates and decrease contamination in recycling
Allocation	\$55M/per year for five years	\$15M/per year for five years
Eligibility	States/municipalities, tribes, intertribal consortia, former Indian reservations in Oklahoma and Alaskan Native Villages	State and local government, an Indian Tribe, a Native Hawaiian Organization, the Department of Hawaiian Homelands, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, a non-profit organization, or a public-private partnership.
EJ Component	As a “covered program” under Justice40, EPA has set a goal of 40% of the investment for “disadvantaged” communities	Not less than 20 percent shall be allocated to: (A) low-income communities; (B) rural communities; and (C) communities identified as Native American pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act

Would you consider applying for a grant as a community with EJ concerns to address an environmental issue?

- a) Definitely
- b) Probably
- c) Would have to consider closely
- d) Probably not
- e) Definitely not





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What suggestions do you have for incorporating justice and equity into grant programs for waste management?





What solid and hazardous waste projects would you pursue if funding and human resources were available?





# Contact Us

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