In 2020, the BEA-I collaborated with the Tishman Environment and Design Center at The New School to conduct an assessment of the misalignment between the environmental justice (EJ) and philanthropic sectors in the Gulf South and Midwest regions. The study also identified areas of opportunity to build greater alignment over time.

The study found that while there is a great deal of diversity in the issues that environmental grantmakers and EJ leaders prioritize, there is significant overlap. Ten out of 24 (42%) priority issue areas were named by both sectors. Nevertheless, the relative priority, the understanding of and approaches to these issues can diverge significantly.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Environmental justice organizations and grantmakers can better align their efforts by increasing opportunities to share their perspectives on the key problems and strategies to tackle priority issues. This dialogue can build a shared understanding of the issues, and an explicit theory of change that better aligns the work and funding.