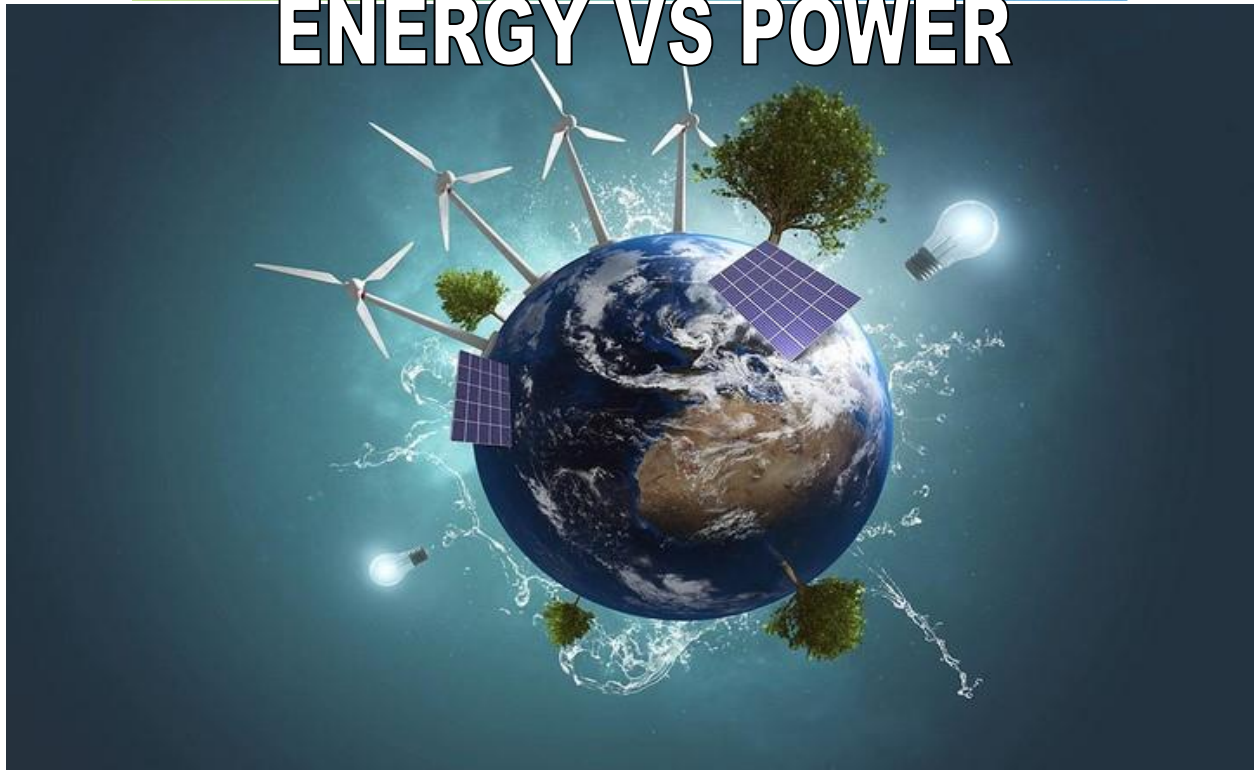


2022

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE  
& HEALTH DISPARITIES

SYMPOSIUM

ENERGY VS POWER



THE 8<sup>TH</sup> SYMPOSIUM ON ENVIRONMENTAL  
JUSTICE AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH  
DISPARITIES

AUGUST 11-13, 2022

Organized By:



SCHOOL OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH  
MARYLAND INSTITUTE FOR  
APPLIED ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT,  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
JUSTICE, &  
HEALTH



2022

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

**& HEALTH DISPARITIES**

**SYMPOSIUM**

***DAY 1 | THURSDAY | AUGUST 11***

***10:00AM – 6:00PM***

***SESSIONS***

- P1: Morning Keynote Speaker: Jalonne White-Newsome**
- 1A: Hurricane Maria and Climate Justice**
- 1B: Environmental Justice Scorecard and Accountability**
- 1C: Civil Right, Title VI, and Environmental Justice**
- 1D: The United States EPA and the Justice40 Initiative**
- 1E: Environmental Justice, Redlining, and Urban Heat Islands**
- 1F: NWF: Environmental, Climate, and Energy Justice**
- P2: Lunchtime Keynote Speaker: Sharunda Buchanan**
- 2A: Toxic Prisons: Environmental Racism and Incarceration**
- 2B: Black Lives Matter and Environmental Justice**
- 2C: Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tools**
- 2D: Namati I- Frontline Voices for Community Sovereignty**
- 3A: Indigenous Perspectives on Environmental Justice Issues**
- 3B: NEPA and Environmental Justice**
- 3C: Building Community Power to Advance Climate Justice**
- 3D: The Fight for Energy Justice**
- 3E: Aclima and WOEIP: Advancements in Air Monitoring**
- P3: Fireside Chat: Corporate Action on Environmental Justice**

2022

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

**& HEALTH DISPARITIES**

**SYMPOSIUM**

***DAY 2 | FRIDAY | AUGUST 12***

***10:00AM – 5:30 PM***

***SESSIONS***

- P1: Funding the Environmental Justice Movement**
- 1A: Justice40 and How to Energize Your Community**
- 1B: Electrification, Electric Vehicles, and Energy Efficiency**
- 1C: EcoDistricts and the Justice40 Initiative**
- 1D: Housing (In)Equity: Access, Affordability, and Energy**
- 1E: Namati II- Join the Global EJ Movement**
- 2A: EJ and Environmental Health Disparities**
- 2B: EJ and Hyperlocal Air Quality Monitoring**
- 2C: Legislative Efforts to Advance Environmental Justice**
- 2D: State of the Air Regional Report Back in the Mid-Atlantic**
- 2E: MyBlockCounts Workshop**
- 3A: Community-Engaged Research on EJ Issues**
- 3B: Climate Change, Disasters, and Environmental Justice**
- 3C: Environmental Justice and Liberation Science**
- 3D: EJ, Hurricane Harvey, and the Gulf Coast 5 Years Later**
- P2: Old Energy vs New Energy: Ensuring Just Transitions**

2022

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE  
& HEALTH DISPARITIES  
SYMPOSIUM**

***DAY 3 | SATURDAY | AUGUST 13***

***9:00AM –6:00PM***

***SESSIONS***

**P1: 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Warren County PCB Landfill Fight**

**1A: Environmental Justice and Green Workforce**

**1B: EJ and Health Issues in South Baltimore, Maryland**

**1C: EJ Report Back from Environmental Agencies**

**1D: Faith-Based Engagement on EJ Issues in the DMV**

**1E: Agriculture, CAFOs, and Biogas Facilities**

**P2A: 11<sup>th</sup> CEEJH Lecture- Reverend Lennox Yearwood, Jr**

**P2B: Special Presentation from the Sierra Club**

**P2C: Student Poster Presentations**

**2A: Food Sovereignty in the DMV**

**2B: The Justice40 Initiative and Community Action**

**2C: The Cheverly Air Quality Monitoring Project**

**2D: Maryland EJSCREEN Workshop**

**2E: Segregation, Housing, and Transportation Equity**

**3A: EJ, Wastewater, and Stormwater Issues in MAJC States**

**3B: EJ Issues and Latino/x Populations in the DMV**

**3C: EFC Workshop on Getting Infrastructure Dollars**

**3D: Social Impact Entrepreneurship with Meta and Envolve**

**3E: EJ Priorities for Mid-Atlantic States**

**P3: We Need More Power: Opportunities for Clean Energy**

**P4: Post-Symposium Celebration**

**2022**

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE  
& HEALTH DISPARITIES**

**SYMPOSIUM**

***THURSDAY | AUGUST 11***

***10:00AM – 6:00PM***

**10:00 AM Opening Remarks**

**10:15 AM Morning Plenary: Keynote Lecture on Energy vs Power**

**Dr. Jalonne White-Newsome, Senior Director for Environmental Justice, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)**

**11:10 AM Concurrent Sessions I**

**12:40 PM Lunchtime Plenary: Keynote on Environmental Justice and Health**

**Dr. Sharunda Buchanan, Interim Director, Office of Environmental Justice, Health and Human Services**

**1:35 PM Concurrent Sessions II**

**3:05 PM Concurrent Sessions III**

**4:35 PM Closing Plenary: Fireside Chat: Corporate Action on Environmental Justice and Climate Change**

**5:50 PM Closing Remarks**

# DAY 1- AUGUST 11

## Opening Remarks

**10:00AM – 10:15AM**

*Dr. Sacoby Wilson, Director of the Center for Community Engagement, Environmental Justice & Health (CEEJH), will welcome all to the 8th annual University of Maryland Environmental Justice and Health Disparities Symposium. In his opening comments, he will introduce the opening plenary speaker, Dr. Jalonne White-Newsome, thank the symposium's event sponsors and coordinators, and give a brief overview of the symposium sessions to come.*

## Opening Plenary and Keynote

**10:15AM - 11:00AM**

### **ENERGY VS POWER: VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE**

*Dr. Jalonne White-Newsome, Senior Director for Environmental Justice, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), will give a keynote speech on the theme of the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual EJ and Health Disparities Symposium. She will share her views on issues of energy equity and justice, the role of CEQ in helping to advance environmental justice, provide a progress report on CEQ's implementation of the Justice 40 Initiative, and discuss her visions for the future and share her thoughts about our collective vision for a just and equitable clean energy future.*



# ***Concurrent Sessions I | Day 1 - August 11***

## ***11:10am - 12:30pm***

### **1A HURRICANE MARIA AND CLIMATE JUSTICE: WHERE ARE WE FIVE YEARS LATER?**

#### *Speakers:*

*Ruth Santiago, Board Member, Earthjustice and Member, White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC)*

*Adriana Gonzalez, Environmental Justice Organizer (Puerto Rico), Sierra Club*

*Jennifer Valiulis, Executive Director, St. Croix Environmental Association*

*Eduardo Bhatia, Former Senate President, Puerto Rico and Visiting Professor, Princeton University*

*Adrian Gardner, Chief Executive Officer, SmarTech Nexus and TheChainBlockCompany, LLC*

*Jayson Velazquez, Master's Candidate, School of the Environment, Yale University (Moderator)*

In September 2017, Hurricane Maria, a category 5 hurricane, devastated the Caribbean especially the islands of Dominica, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The hurricane crippled Puerto Rico's electric grid and left many throughout the Caribbean homeless as well as causing many casualties. It was the third costliest tropical storm on record. Climate change stands out in all of this since greenhouse gas emissions, rising temperatures, and greater precipitation in these areas make hurricanes more intense and more damaging than ever before. In this session, panelists will discuss the impacts of Hurricane Maria on Caribbean populations including health, economic, and social impacts. In addition, panelists will discuss response and recovery efforts and what changes have occurred in the past five years related to these efforts. Panelists will also describe what policies, initiatives, programs have been implemented or should be implemented to increase community resilience and improve infrastructure to prevent future hurricanes from having similar devastating impacts that residents experienced due to Hurricane Maria and climate injustice.

# ***Concurrent Sessions I | Day 1 - August 11***

## ***11:10am - 12:30pm***

### **1B ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SCORECARD AND LEGISLATOR AND AGENCY ACCOUNTABILITY**

#### *Speakers:*

*Vivek Ravichandran, CEEJH and PhD Student, Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health*

*Raya Salter, Founder, Energy Justice Law and Policy Center*

*Nicky Sheats, Director, Center for the Urban Environment, John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy, Thomas Edison State College*

*Kristen Harbeson, Political Director, Maryland League of Conservation Voters*

*Marva King, Retired, US Environmental Protection Agency (Moderator)*

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. In this session, advocates from the state of Maryland will discuss their use of scorecards to hold legislators and agencies accountable including the development and implementation of the nation's second state level scorecard for agencies and legislators focused primarily on environmental justice. In addition, advocates from New York and New Jersey will discuss their work to advance environmental and climate injustice through recent legislation and their efforts to hold both agencies and legislators in their states accountable in advancing environmental and climate justice. The panelists will discuss the benefits of these scorecards but also challenges and limitations. They will share best practices that can be implemented so others in states without scorecards or other accountability mechanisms can also hold their legislators and agencies accountable in advancing environmental and climate justice.



# ***Concurrent Sessions I | Day 1 - August 11***

## ***11:10am - 12:30pm***

### **1C CIVIL RIGHTS, TITLE VI, AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

#### *Speakers:*

*Anhthu Hoang, Attorney, Region II Air Program, US Environmental Protection Agency*

*Patrice L. Simms, Vice President, Litigation for Healthy Communities, Earthjustice*

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

*Daria E. Neal, Deputy Chief, Federal Coordination and Compliance Section, Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice (DOJ)*

*Amy Cahn, Visiting Professor, Legal Director, Taproot Earth*

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

Title VI is a federal statute enacted as part of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits intentional discrimination and forbids funded or approved entities from enacting practices that have the effect of discriminating on the basis of race, color, or national origin. Title VI requires federal agencies to monitor their recipients and ensure their compliance. On February 11, 1994, Executive Order 12898 was signed by then-President Bill Clinton, directing all federal agencies to make environmental justice part of their missions. A Memorandum to the Executive Order directed all department and agency heads to ensure that all programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance complied with Title VI. Unfortunately, this Executive Order was not the law and subsequent Executive Orders from President Obama on environmental justice did little to ensure that Federal agencies complied with Title VI and other components of the Civil Rights Act to address environmental discrimination. Recently, the Department of Justice developed a comprehensive environmental justice strategy including establishing an Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ). In addition, the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) announced for the first time that

***Concurrent Sessions I | Day 1 - August 11***  
***11:10am - 12:30pm***

it will exercise “affirmative authority” to ensure that EPA funding recipients comply with Title VI.

In this session, experts in civil rights law and environmental justice will discuss DOJ’s comprehensive environmental justice strategy, the potential impact of the new OEJ in addressing environmental discrimination in overburdened and underserved communities of color, low-income communities, indigenous communities, and tribal communities including improving interagency coordination of civil rights enforcement. The panelists will discuss the impact of recent Supreme Court decisions on environmental cases on communities with environmental justice issues. The panelists will describe how their agency or organization is using the Civil Rights Act including Title VI or other components of the Civil Rights Act in their work. In addition, the panelists will discuss recent victories related to Title VI and environmental justice that can be used across the country. Finally, the panelists will share with the audience the challenges that advocates and legal professionals will face in ensuring compliance with Title VI by federal agencies and state agencies including environmental justice accountability related to the Justice40 Initiative, the Bipartisan Infrastructure bill, and other Biden-era initiatives.

# **Concurrent Sessions I | Day 1 - August 11**

## **11:10am - 12:30pm**

### **1D THE UNITED STATES EPA AND THE JUSTICE40 INITIATIVE**

#### *Speakers:*

*Daniel Blackman, Regional Administrator, Region IV, US Environmental Protection Agency*

*Lisa Garcia, Regional Administrator, Region II, US Environmental Protection Agency*

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

*Earthea Nance, Regional Administrator, Region VI, US Environmental Protection Agency*

*Adam Ortiz, Regional Administrator, Region III, US Environmental Protection Agency*

*Sacoby Wilson, Director, CEEJH and Professor, UMD School of Public Health (Moderator)*

During his first days in office, President Biden signed Executive Order (EO) 14008, *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad* 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. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) is viewed as the bellwether for Justice40 implementation because of its long history of supporting environmental justice initiatives and the work of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC). Additionally, with a greater focus on environmental justice in the

## ***Concurrent Sessions I | Day 1 - August 11***

### ***11:10am - 12:30pm***

new strategic plan, the US EPA is primed to act as a leading federal agency in the implementation of this groundbreaking Initiative.

In this session, Regional Administrators from US EPA Regions II, III, IV, and VI, and the Director of EPA's Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) will describe their plans for implementing the Justice40 Initiative. The regional administrators and the OEJ director will discuss their priority communities and projects that will benefit from the Justice40 Initiative. They will discuss how they are implementing Justice40 through EPA statutes, programs, and initiatives including the brownfields program, Clean Air Act program, the Superfund program, diesel emissions reduction, and water revolving fund to name a few. They will describe how they are integrating stakeholder engagement and feedback in their Justice40 efforts particularly feedback from communities in their regions known to experience the cumulative impacts of environmental, climate, and energy injustices. The panelists will also share updates on successes, impacts, and challenges related to their implementation of the Justice40 Initiative. Additionally, the panelists will share future plans to make sure investments get to frontline and fenceline communities in their regions or that their offices serve. Finally, these leaders will discuss strategies that have or plan to employ to ensure that there is accountability through the tracking of robust performance metrics and that their efforts can be scaled and replicated throughout their regions and other parts of the country.

# **Concurrent Sessions I | Day 1 - August 11**

## **11:10am - 12:30pm**

### **1E ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, REDLINING, AND URBAN HEAT ISLANDS**

#### *Speakers:*

*Justin Madron, Associate Director, Digital Scholarship Lab, University of Richmond*

*Christian V. Braneon, Climate Scientist, Co-Leader of Climate Impacts Group, Goddard Institute for Space Studies, NASA*

*C.N.E. Corbin, Assistant Professor, Urban Studies & Planning, Portland State*

*J. Marshall Shepherd, Director, Atmospheric Sciences and Professor, Department of Geography, University of Georgia*

*Astrid Caldas, Senior Climate Scientist, Union of Concerned Scientists (Moderator)*

The year 2022 is predicted to be the hottest year on record, and extreme heat events have had dire health consequences in unlikely locations. Cities across the nation have experienced 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, and the concept of segregated housing stock, cities can vary wildly in temperature on a block by block basis, with the burden of extreme heat falling upon vulnerable communities.

In this session, panelists will discuss how decades of racist and discriminatory practices and development inequities including redlining have left neighborhoods of color and low-income communities vulnerable to heat and rising temperatures. Panelists will also discuss the unequal burden

## ***Concurrent Sessions I | Day 1 - August 11*** ***11:10am - 12:30pm***

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. In addition, panelists will discuss what adaptation and mitigation strategies have been used to address the impacts of and transform urban heat islands. They also will discuss some of the best practices that cities and metropolitan regions across the country have used to increase the resilience of populations at risk from heat-related morbidity and mortality.

### **1F NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION (NWF): ENVIRONMENTAL, CLIMATE, AND ENERGY JUSTICE AND THE IMPORTANCE OF POLITICAL ADVOCACY IN THE MOMENT**

*Speakers:*

*Simone Stewart, Industrial Policy Specialist, Climate & Energy Policy, NWF*

*Jessica Arriens, Program Manager, Climate & Energy Policy, NWF*

*Tatiana Eaves, Environmental and Climate Justice Policy Specialist, Environmental Justice, Climate and Community Revitalization Program (EJCCRP), NWF*

*Rebeca Villegas, Sr. Program Manager, Environmental Justice, Climate and Community Revitalization Program (EJCCRP), NWF (Moderator)*

The climate-crisis demands immediate action to address the pertinent and urgent issues impacting frontline and fence-line communities. Over the course of 2021 and 2022, intraparty policy disagreements and competing legislative priorities shrunk both the size and scope of a Build Back Better bill, however many clean energy and climate solution provisions are now included in the potential reconciliation package in the Senate. We have a historic opportunity, and now more than ever we need our leaders to work together to reduce emissions, lower costs, and strengthen community resilience. Our session will discuss the importance of this moment, the work



***Concurrent Sessions I | Day 1 - August 11***  
***11:10am - 12:30pm***

we are doing at the National Wildlife Federation, and our commitment to collaborating and consulting and with environmental justice leaders, impacted communities, and partners (including local, state, and federal government agencies and officials) on programs and policy advocacy to address environmental, climate, and energy injustices. Panelists will provide an overview of NWF's environmental justice work, including NWF's Environmental Justice, Climate, and Community Revitalization Program (EJCCRP), equitable clean economy, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Civilian Conservation Corps, environmental justice screening and mapping tools, the Bipartisan Infrastructure bill, and Justice40. The panelists will share challenges, lessons learned, and best practices related to the organization's work on racial, economic, and environmental justice with attendees.

# Day 1- August 11

## Lunch Plenary and Keynote

**12:40PM – 1:25PM**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND HEALTH: THE TIME IS NOW**

*Dr. Sharunda Buchanan, Interim Director, Office of Environmental Justice and Senior Advisor, Climate Change and Health Equity, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will give a keynote speech on the connection between environmental justice and public health. She will discuss her experience working on these intertwined topics. She will then describe the new Office of Environmental Justice within HHS, the role of the Office in HHS, and how the Office and HHS can play a bigger role in addressing environmental injustice and environmental health disparities. She will discuss why the time is now for the field of public health to have a bigger role in the Environmental, Climate, and Energy Justice Movements.*

## ***Concurrent Sessions II | Day 1 - August 11*** ***1:35pm - 2:55pm***

### **2A TOXIC PRISONS, ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM, AND INCARCERATION**

#### *Speakers:*

*David N. Pellow, Director, Global Environmental Justice Project, University of California, Santa Barbara*

*Mei Azaad, Grassroots Community Organizer, Campaign to Fight Toxic Prisons (FTP)*

*Ufuoma Ovienmhada, PhD Student, Space Enabled Research Group, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Media Lab*

*Autumn Redcross, Director, Abolitionist Law Center (ALC)*

*BP Lyles, Lead Organizer, Toxic Prisons Campaign of the Human Rights Coalition*

*Faith Taylor, PhD Student, School of the Environment, Yale University (Moderator)*

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 contaminated waste sites and incarcerated individuals are exposed to chemical contaminants due to sewer issues. In this session, panelists will discuss the connection between environmental justice, and racism in the modern U.S. carceral system. They

## ***Concurrent Sessions II | Day 1 - August 11***

***1:35pm - 2:55pm***

will discuss the impact of toxic prisons on the health and quality of life of incarcerated individuals. Finally, the panelists will discuss the movement against toxic prisons and alternatives that are more in line with environmental justice principles and human rights frameworks.

### **2B BLACK LIVES MATTER AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

*Speakers:*

*Camila Alvarez, Assistant Professor, Sociology, University of California - Merced*

*Benika Dixon, Assistant Professor, Texas A&M University, School of Public Health*

*Erica Morrell, Assistant Professor, Sociology, St. Lawrence University*

*Michael Lengsfeld, Assistant Professor, Sociology, Bemidji State University*

*Adrienne Hollis, Vice President, Environmental Justice, Health, and Community Revitalization, National Wildlife Federation (Moderator)*

The scourge of anti-Black racism and White supremacy in the United States and around the globe demand our attention, focus, and action. The reality of state-sanctioned violence against peoples of African descent is on full display for the world to see, recoil at, and respond to. Scholars have explored the economic, cultural, political, and psychological dimensions of anti-Black racism and our responses to this deadly phenomenon. However, we urgently need a deeper grasp of the environmental or ecological dimensions of this challenge in order to comprehend the driving forces more fully behind it and to develop more effective scholarly and policy frameworks for confronting and transcending it. In this session, authors from the Special Issue on the Black Lives Matter Movement in the journal *Environmental Justice* will reframe the topics of Black Lives Matter and anti-

## ***Concurrent Sessions II | Day 1 - August 11***

***1:35pm - 2:55pm***

Black racism through the lens of environmental justice theory, methods, and politics. They will discuss their work which includes dual impacts of police brutality and toxic prisons, the role of social workers in engaging Black communities in the fight against systemic environmental racism, and the military as a potentially significant contributor to environmental injustice.

### **2C ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SCREENING AND MAPPING: TOOLS FOR ACTION (OR INACTION)?**

*Speakers:*

*Tai Lung, Project Lead, EJSCREEN, Office of Environmental Justice, US EPA*

*David Padgett, Associate Professor, Geography, Director, Geographic and Information Sciences Laboratory, Tennessee State University*

*Ana Baptista, Associate Professor, Professional Practice, Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management, The New School,*

*Sacoby Wilson, Director, CEEJH and Professor, UMD School of Public Health*

*Anushi Garg, Faculty Assistant, CEEJH (Moderator)*

Geospatial technologies including geographic information systems (GIS) 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 story maps, 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 to help facilitate efforts under the Justice40 Initiative

## ***Concurrent Sessions II | Day 1 - August 11***

***1:35pm - 2:55pm***

and the implementation of the recently passed infrastructure bill.

Whether at the national, state, or local scales, environmental justice screening and mapping (EJSM) tools are changing the way we view, interpret, and address environmental and climate justice issues. These geospatial 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? Panelists will consider these questions in relation to environmental justice, as well as how to make mapping tools more accessible, applied, community friendly, and used for action and not inaction.

### **2D NAMATI I: FRONTLINE VOICES FOR COMMUNITY SOVEREIGNTY FROM AROUND THE WORLD**

*Speakers:*

*Sonkita Conteh, Co-Founder and Director, Namati, Sierra Leone*

*Lautaro Costantini, Coordinator, ProDESC, Mexico*

*Cesar Gamboa, Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (DAR), Perú*

*Sor Ratanamanee Polkla, Community Resource Center Foundation (CRC), Thailand*

*Ash-lee Woodard Henderson, Co-Executive Director, Highlander Education and Research Center*

*Vivek Maru, Founder and CEO, Namati (Moderator)*

From the coast of Gujarat, India to the Gola Forest of Sierra Leone, communities have been able to bravely use the law to fight off air



## ***Concurrent Sessions II | Day 1 - August 11***

***1:35pm - 2:55pm***

pollution, protect forests, and choose development options that are more sustainable. As the world teeters towards devastating climate impacts, communities are advocating for their own land and environmental justice. In this two-part session we will illustrate how communities are individually creating pockets of justice around the globe and create a space for a discussion about what a global movement might look like that responds to that injustice together. In the first session, we will hear from speakers from Sierra Leone, Thailand, Mexico, Peru, and the US who have been creating solutions to environmental injustice within their own community. Attendees will hear how the activists organized within their communities to seek new avenues for environmental justice, including national legislation, transnational litigation, local adaptation, impact litigation, and intersectional campaigns. They will also discuss challenges, lessons learned, and best practices that can be shared with others seeking sovereignty and environmental, climate, land and energy justice in other parts of the world.

## ***Concurrent Sessions III | Day 1 - August 11***

***3:05pm – 4:25pm***

### **3A INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES ON ENVIRONMENTAL, CLIMATE, AND ENERGY JUSTICE ISSUES**

*Speakers:*

*Jacqueline D. Shirley, Tribal member, Native Village of Hooper Bay on the Bering Sea Coast, Member, US EPA National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC)*

*Scott Clow, Environmental Programs Director, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and Member, US EPA National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC)*

*Deborah McGregor, Anishinaabe from Whitefish River First Nation, Associate Professor, Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Environmental Justice, Law School, York University*

*Chelsea Chee, Member, Navajo Nation, Customer Care Lead, Native Renewables*

*Brandon Hunter, Fellow, Center for Rural Enterprise and Environmental Justice (Moderator)*

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 a disproportionate burden of the environmental, social, health, and economic costs.

In this session, panelists belonging to diverse tribes with backgrounds such as advocacy and academia will discuss their views on the present environmental, energy, and climate justice movements, their current work

## ***Concurrent Sessions III | Day 1 - August 11***

***3:05pm – 4:25pm***

to advance justice and equity for Indigenous communities, the daily challenges they face, some successes they've had (such as the termination of the Keystone XL Pipeline project), and the historic opportunities presented by a new presidential administration that has elevated tribal leaders to positions in the Departments of Interior, Energy and the US EPA. Panelists will also discuss climate justice challenges unique to their geographical regions, and how indigenous perspectives can provide new approaches to climate justice, solutions and strategies that can help indigenous peoples address environmental historic, contemporary, and emerging environmental, climate, and energy justice issues.

### **3B THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

*Speakers:*

*Jill Heaps, Senior Attorney, EarthJustice*

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

*Vernice Miller-Travis, Vice-President, The Metropolitan Group*

*Debbie Chizewer, Attorney, EarthJustice*

*Millie Piazza, Environmental Justice Senior Adviser, Washington Department of Ecology, and Member, US EPA National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC)*

*Crystal Upperman, Senior Manager, Deloitte (Moderator)*

In 1970, the passage of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) marked a new day for environmental management in the United States. 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.

## ***Concurrent Sessions III | Day 1 - August 11***

***3:05pm – 4:25pm***

However, for many communities, NEPA has not been effective because reviews did not include cumulative impacts or take into account health disparities. Additionally, during the Trump Administration, this landmark piece of legislation was weakened to streamline review processes for development projects.

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 fenceline environmental justice communities. Panelists will discuss how NEPA can be improved at the federal level, so it is more effective in advancing environmental, climate, and energy justice. Panelists will also describe what states are or can do to implement state-level NEPA processes that advance justice and protect public health and quality of life of residents who live in frontline and fenceline communities.

### **3C BUILDING COMMUNITY POWER TO ADVANCE CLIMATE JUSTICE, EQUITY, AND HEALTH**

*Speakers:*

*Taren Evans, Environmental Justice Director, Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC)*

*Carolina Martinez, Climate Justice Director, Environmental Health Coalition*

*Samantha Hamilton, Manager, Live Well Springfield, Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts*

*Ash-lee Woodard Henderson, Co-Executive Director, Highlander Education and Research Center (Moderator)*

## ***Concurrent Sessions III | Day 1 - August 11***

***3:05pm – 4:25pm***

The Kresge Foundation is a private, national foundation that works to expand opportunities in America's cities through grantmaking and social investing in various sectors including health, the environment, and climate change. In early 2019, the Climate Change, Health and Equity (CCHE) division was launched to mobilize equitable climate action, improve climate resiliency of healthcare institutions, and address the climate justice needs of low-income communities in America's cities. The CCHE initiative includes three strategies that are designed to reinforce each other. These three strategies include: (1) Building the capacity of health institutions, (2) Transforming public health and health practice and (3) Strengthening community-based leadership. Through years of collaboration at the intersection of climate change, health, and equity, Kresge's Environment and Health programs have partnered in accelerating climate action and reducing health disparities. These investments grow from and reinforce the belief that climate change is a threat multiplier that affects everything in our lives.

During this session, representatives from the LiveWell Springfield Coalition of the Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts (PHIWM), Coalition of Communities of Color's Environmental Justice, and the Environmental Health Coalition will discuss their participation in the CCHE initiative. They will discuss how they have applied an equity and justice lens to their work including how they have addressed the role of structural and environmental racism in creating differential climate impacts. In addition, they will describe how they have promoted health equity and integrated social determinants of health into their climate action plans, sustainability efforts, policymaking processes, and systems change work. They will share the successes and impacts of peer learning activities, technical assistance, evaluation, and communications support in the development and implementation of their CCHE project. Finally, they will discuss challenges, lessons learned and best

## ***Concurrent Sessions III | Day 1 - August 11***

***3:05pm – 4:25pm***

practices that can be instructive for peer agencies and grassroots organizations working to address climate injustice and advance health equity in other parts of the country.

### **3D THE FIGHT FOR ENERGY JUSTICE: BATTLES WON, BATTLES LOST, AND WHAT WE CAN DO TO WIN THE WAR**

*Speakers:*

*Yvette Arellano, Founder, Fenceline Watch*

*Ian McDonald, Member, Not Another Power Plant*

*Thomas Helme, Coordinator, California Environmental Justice Coalition (CEJC), and Co-Founder, Valley Improvement Projects (VIP)*

*Phaethon Keeney, Activist, Pepeekeo on Big Island, Hawaii*

*M. Kalani Souza, Founding Director, Olohana Foundation*

*Kearni Warren, Organizer, Energy Justice Network*

*Mike Ewall, Director, Energy Justice Network (Moderator)*

Energy injustice not only profoundly affects health but contributes to other environmental issues including waste problems and air pollution. Additionally, low-wealth communities, communities of color, indigenous groups, and under-resourced communities, are differentially impacted by fossil fuels across their life cycles. Communities experiencing energy injustice also receive less benefits from energy production. Energy justice is a grassroots energy agenda, supporting communities threatened by dirty energy and waste technologies. It advocates for transitioning away from fossil fuels to renewable energy over the next two decades and moving towards a low-carbon regenerative economy that will remedy the injustices of the fossil-fuel energy system and extractive economy across multiple sectors.



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In this session, grassroots organizers and activists, as well as environmental justice leaders will discuss their motivations for joining the Energy Justice Movement. They will talk about the disproportionate and adverse health impacts of fossil fuels on underserved and low-income populations and how these disparities might be addressed. Panelists will discuss the need to prioritize environmental and energy justice principles to ensure that frontline and fence-line communities are the primary beneficiaries of technological advancements in the clean energy sector and delve deeper into how this might be achieved through community engagement. In addition, they will share their experiences fighting against the fossil fuel industry, wins, challenges, and lessons learned. Finally, they will discuss their vision for a just transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources.

### **3E ACLIMA AND WOEIP: ADVANCEMENTS IN HYPERLOCAL AIR QUALITY MONITORING AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

*Speakers:*

*Margaret Gordon, Co-founder and Co-director, West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project (WOEIP)*

*David Herzl, Co-Founder & CEO, Aclima Inc.*

*Scott Andrews, Director of Community Impact, Aclima Inc.*

*Vivek Ravichandran, CEEJH and PhD Student, Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health (Moderator)*

Air pollution exposure can differ substantially at the city block resolution, emphasizing a critical need for hyperlocal air monitoring. Under long-time and ongoing guidance from local experts at the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project (WOEIP), Aclima recently unveiled detailed air pollution maps and hyperlocal air quality insights for every block of every

## ***Concurrent Sessions III | Day 1 - August 11***

***3:05pm - 4:25pm***

public street in all nine San Francisco Bay Area counties (101 cities). This online tool (found at [www.air.health](http://www.air.health)) is the latest outcome of our work in partnership with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and community leaders like the WOEIP to collect and analyze block-level air pollution and greenhouse gas data. Together, we're measuring and mapping what's in our air to help drive action on climate, public health, environmental justice, mobility, urban greening, and more. The "air.health" site currently includes data from the first year of Bay Area-wide monitoring and will be updated as new datasets are available. Aclima created similar interactive reports for several California-designated environmental justice communities (San Bernardino and East LA) that were also created with substantial Air District and community input and found that communities of color are exposed to substantially more nitrogen dioxide than majority-White communities.

In this session, Aclima leaders will discuss their innovative mobile-based monitoring technology and show how their data could help advance our understanding and reduction of environmental injustice, and how citizens can understand and share typical pollution levels on their block and collaborate to reduce emissions and protect public health using tools like air.health. In addition, panelists will discuss how the data, combined with substantial local knowledge and experience by experts like Ms. Margaret, is being used by regulators in West Oakland and elsewhere. Panelists will also discuss how Aclima's work can help with community investment and revitalization related to the Justice40 Initiative and describe future plans to scale and expand monitoring across the country.

# Day 1- August 11

## Closing Plenary

4:35PM - 5:50PM

### FIRESIDE CHAT: CORPORATE ACTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

#### *Speakers:*

*Andres Jimenez, Executive Director, Green 2.0*

*Brent Harris, Vice President, Governance, Meta*

*Adrienne Hollis, Vice President, Environmental Justice, Health, and Community Revitalization, National Wildlife Federation*

*Erik Antokal, Manager, Workforce Development, Orsted*

*Jamal Watkins, Senior Vice President, Strategy and Advancement, NAACP*

*Sacoby Wilson, Director, CEEJH and Professor, UMD School of Public Health (Moderator)*

Carbon Majors, one of the most comprehensive dataset of historic company greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, recently published a report which focuses on fossil fuel producers, and highlights the role companies and their investors could play in tackling climate change. The report found that more than half of global industrial emissions since 1988 – the year the IPCC was established – can be traced to just 25 corporate and state-owned entities. According to the US EPA, 24% of greenhouse gas emissions comes from industry and additional greenhouse gas emissions can be attributed to transportation, agricultural, and the commercial sector. This means that the activity of corporations is a major driver of greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change and other emissions that lead to climate and environmental injustice and health disparities. These corporations should have a greater sense of responsibility when it comes to addressing climate change and environmental justice issues. This applies not only to changing their missions and investments, but also making changes in their leadership

and workforce to help society transition to a just and clean energy economy. Due to shareholder and board pressure, many of these companies have started to alter their business models to move from dirty energy to clean energy. No longer is business as usual, actually good business, not good for the planet or public health. But there is hope for positive change.

In this session, a diverse group of panelists representing large corporations and non-profit organizations, will discuss corporate responsibility and actions that should be taken on climate change and environmental justice. Corporate representatives will discuss their company's efforts to reduce their carbon footprint, thoughts on greenwashing, current programs, lessons learned as well as challenges they have faced. In addition, panelists will discuss the roles and responsibilities of social media platforms in advancing environmental and climate justice and some examples of successful programs in that space. Panelists will also reflect on diversity and inclusion (DEI) in the corporate sector and why it's important to implement DEI principles to ensure a just transition to clean energy. Additionally, panelists will provide their thoughts on the ESG framework, its pitfalls, successes and roadblocks to implementation. Attendees will learn about a successful case of clean energy transition, and some lessons learned, motivations, benefits and challenges. Finally, the panelists will discuss what role if any should corporations play in the implementation of the Justice40 Initiative. They will share insight on how corporations can contribute in a positive way in supporting a just economy for frontline and fenceline communities who suffer from dirty energy infrastructure, climate change, and environmental injustice and related health impacts.

2022

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE  
& HEALTH DISPARITIES  
SYMPOSIUM**

***FRIDAY | AUGUST 12***

***10:00AM – 5:30PM***

**10:00 AM Opening Remarks**

**10:05 AM Opening Plenary: Funding the Environmental Justice Movement**

**11:10 AM Concurrent Sessions I**

**12:30 PM Lunch Break**

**1:00 PM Concurrent Sessions II**

**2:30 PM Concurrent Sessions III**

**4:00 PM Closing Plenary: Old Energy vs New Energy-  
Ensuring Just Energy Transitions**

**5:20 PM Closing Remarks**

# Day 2- August 12

## Opening Plenary

10:05AM to 11:05AM

## FUNDING THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT

### Speakers:

Robert Bullard, Director, Robert D. Bullard Center for Environmental and Climate Justice, Professor, Urban Planning and Environmental Policy, Texas Southern University and Member, White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC)

Beverly Wright, Executive Director, Deep South Center for Environmental Justice and Member, White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC)

Peggy Shepard, Co-Founder, Executive Director, WE ACT for Environmental Justice, and Member, White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC)

Sacoby Wilson, Director, CEEJH and Professor, UMD School of Public Health (Moderator)

*For decades, communities impacted by environmental injustices, grassroots organizations that represent them, and other partners who provided research and other technical support to them struggled to secure resources to help address these issues. From limited and inconsistent funding from federal agencies to a lack of any funding from foundations except for a select few, the environmental justice movement was severely underfunded compared to other social movements. Now, after years of pressure on philanthropy, progressive action from organizations like the Donors of Color Network, expansion of work from foundations like the Kresge Foundation and Packard in the climate justice space, and a huge shift in funding from*

*Bezos Earth Fund, there are more dollars available for activists and advocates to their work. Coupled with the Biden Administration's commitment to address climate change and environmental justice through mandates such as the Justice40 Initiative and recent legislation like the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill and the recently passed Inflation Reduction Act, historic amounts of money are available to address environmental, climate, and energy injustices. But is this enough? Are the structures in place to make sure that the environmental racism that led to these injustices does not lead to additional problems for frontline and fence-line communities like funding inequities and climate redlining.*

*In this session, three environmental justice icons will discuss the change in the funding landscape for the environmental justice movement. They will discuss the impact of the Bezos Earth Fund, Google Environmental Justice Fund, and funding initiatives from other philanthropic groups on climate change and environmental justice. They will describe the opportunities with these new funding initiatives, challenges, and gaps. In addition, they will discuss Justice40 implementation, how to make sure that it is properly funded and how to ensure that EJ communities receive at least 40 percent of the benefits. They will also provide their perspectives on the Bipartisan Infrastructure bill and the Inflation Reduction Act. Do they see these as groundbreaking opportunities or just small steps forward for frontline and fence-line communities. They will discuss challenges in making sure that these dollars get to frontline and fence-line communities. Furthermore, the panelists will discuss the role of corporations, accelerators, and pass through organizations in providing resource support for advocates and activists working on environmental, climate, and energy justice issues. Finally, they will share their visions for the future landscape of funding for the environmental justice movement.*



# ***Concurrent Sessions I | Day 2 - August 12***

## ***11:10am – 12:30pm***

### **1A JUSTICE40 FUNDING AND HOW TO ENERGIZE YOUR COMMUNITY**

*Speakers:*

*Mark Magana, Founding President, CEO, GreenLatinos*

*Daniel Coffee, Project Manager, Luskin Center for Innovation, UCLA*

*Surabhi Shah, Acting Director, Office Community Revitalization, US  
Environmental Protection Agency*

*Jacqueline Patterson, Founder, Executive Director, The Chisholm Legacy  
Project*

*Sacoby Wilson, Director, CEEJH and Professor, UMD School of Public Health  
(Moderator)*

On January 27, 2021, President Biden signed Executive Order (EO) 14008, *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad*, creating the 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 towards 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.

In this session, panelists will discuss the Justice40 initiative and what communities with environmental justice and health issues can do to ensure that they receive Justice40 benefits as outlined in Executive Order 14008. They will also discuss the development of the Initiative, gaps, flaws, and concerns about its implementation. Panelists will also discuss challenges that communities may have in accessing Justice40 benefits due to capacity issues, grant processes, and systemic problems at the state level. Panelists will also describe strategies that can be implemented to durability

## **Concurrent Sessions I | Day 2 - August 12**

**11:10am – 12:30pm**

and sustainability of Justice40 beyond the current Administration. Additionally, Mr. Magana will talk about his work on Justice40 and any successes and positive impacts he has seen for the Latinx populations that he serves. Mr. Coffee will dig deep into how screening tools can be useful in the implementation of Justice40 and what states are already doing and can do to ensure that both investments and benefits go to priority frontline and fenceline communities. Ms. Shah will detail how Justice40 can be helpful in community revitalization efforts and what support her agency is providing internally to help the US EPA implement the Justice40 Initiative and how she is working with communities and states to help with accountability and tracking investments. Jacqueline Patterson will talk about the innovative work that she is doing with the Chisholm Legacy Project to implement elements of Justice40 via the just transition framework. All panelists will share their lessons learned and best practices and how their work can be replicated and scaled by other groups.

### **1B ELECTRIFICATION, ELECTRIC VEHICLES, AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

*Speakers:*

*Shelley Francis, Co-Founder, Managing Partner, EVNoire*

*Tony Reames, Senior Advisor, U.S. Department of Energy, Professor, University of Michigan*

*Marilynn-Marsh Robinson, Senior Manager, Partnerships & Outreach, Environmental Defense Fund*

*Boris Lukanov, Senior Scientist, Physicians, Scientists, and Engineers for Healthy Energy (PSE Healthy Energy)*

*Brandon Lewis, PhD Student, School of the Environment, Yale University (Moderator)*

## ***Concurrent Sessions I | Day 2 - August 12***

***11:10am – 12:30pm***

Energy equity, the sharing of burdens and benefits of energy production and consumption, is at the forefront of conversations on energy justice. Due to the inequitable distribution and use of dirty fossil fuels from highway corridors, goods movement activities, and coal- and gas-fired power plants, many communities of color, low-wealth residents, immigrant communities, and indigenous groups are disproportionately impacted by externalities related to the consumption of fossil fuels. While homeowners in America stand to benefit greatly from new clean energy and energy efficiency technologies (e.g., solar, weatherization, and energy storage), low-wealth residents and renters in multifamily housing have limited access to these money-saving options. These populations tend to spend a larger share of their monthly income on utilities compared to other populations. Furthermore, electric vehicles (EVs) have been touted as a way to move us away from dirty fossil fuels to clean energy infrastructure, but many communities due to unfair policies and economic inequality cannot access these vehicles.

Acknowledging the inequities in the impact of dirty fossil fuels across their life cycle and inequitable access to clean energy infrastructure for some communities with energy justice issues, panelists will share their perspectives on how to address energy injustice in the United States. Panelists will discuss potential solutions posed by community cost-sharing models of electrification, increasing equitable access to electric vehicles, and share examples of success stories in addressing the energy equity divide. Panelists will talk about tools, programs, initiatives, partnerships, and policies that can eliminate energy inequity and put the country on a path to energy democracy and energy sovereignty. In addition, they will discuss their work related to the Justice40 Initiative and opportunities for a clean energy future for frontline and fenceline

## ***Concurrent Sessions I | Day 2 - August 12***

***11:10am – 12:30pm***

communities impacted by environmental, climate, and energy injustices through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill and the Inflation Reduction Act.

### **1C ECODISTRICTS AND THE JUSTICE40 INITIATIVE**

*Speakers:*

*Michael Malcom, Executive Director, The People's Justice Council*

*Donna Moodie, Executive Vice President, Community Roots Housing and Executive Director, Capitol Hill EcoDistrict*

*Erica Holloman-Hill, Ayika Solutions Inc.*

*Dana Clare Redden, LEED AP, Solar Stewards*

*Suzanne Burnes, Director, Just Growth Portfolio, Partnership for Southern Equity (Moderator)*

The Justice40 Initiative outlined in Executive Order 14008 is unlike any commitment we have ever seen from the federal government with regards to addressing environmental and climate justice issues that impact frontline and fenceline communities. The Initiative has the goal of delivering 40 percent of the overall benefits of relevant federal investments to disadvantaged communities and tracks performance toward that goal through the establishment of an Environmental Justice Scorecard. One way to implement Justice40 is through EcoDistricts. Founded in 2013, EcoDistricts is a multi-disciplinary non-government organization working exclusively at the district and neighborhood level to achieve real impact in equity and sustainability. In December 2021, the Partnership for Southern Equity (PSE) acquired EcoDistricts to expand PSE's investment to promote "Just Growth" throughout the American South and beyond with a goal to cultivate a large and diverse ecosystem of community members, industry professionals, and policy makers to influence equity, resiliency, and

## ***Concurrent Sessions I | Day 2 - August 12***

***11:10am – 12:30pm***

environmental justice at the community level. Beyond this effort, there is a critical need to use EcoDistricts to implement the Justice40 initiative.

In this session, leaders from the West Georgia Farmers' Cooperatives, the People's Justice Council, the Green Door Initiative, and Ayika Solutions, will discuss their visions, goals, and mission; they will detail how they are using community science and building community power for economic empowerment, food justice, and energy solutions. In addition, panelists will discuss the benefits of EcoDistricts; how their work, practices, and initiatives are positive examples of EcoDistricts; and detail major challenges, successes, and impacts they have experienced in implementing the EcoDistrict concept in their community. Additionally, they will discuss how their work can be used to implement President Biden's Justice 40 Initiative at the community level and the need for Justice40 accelerators to invest resources in frontline and fenceline communities experiencing environmental, climate, and energy injustices.

### **1D HOUSING (IN)EQUITY: ACCESS, AFFORDABILITY, AND ENERGY**

*Speakers:*

*Daniel del Pielago, Organizing Director, Empower DC*

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

*Ruth Ann Norton, President, CEO, Green and Healthy Homes Initiative*

*Mary Washington, Maryland State Senate, 43rd District*

*Astrid Caldas, Senior Climate Scientist, Union of Concerned Scientists*

*(Moderator)*

Affordable, safe, and energy-efficient housing is essential to the livelihood of all populations and is particularly important for low-wealth and underserved populations. Housing insecurity undermines employment, health, education, and other crucial elements of a sustainable path out of poverty. Even before

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the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the United States grappled with a housing crisis that left too many low-wealth populations without adequate access to housing infrastructure. Since 2013, more than 80% percent of the country's most populous regions have become less affordable renters, a trend that has disproportionately affected communities with EJ issues. The current pandemic has worsened the systemic inequities underlying the country's ongoing housing crisis. Several efforts have been attempted to address the challenge. For example, the Department of Energy's (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), whose main aim is to increase the energy efficiency of low-income homes while ensuring their health and safety. Also, various federal initiatives in the United States have taken steps to improve the energy efficiency of housing for residents, but such policies often miss low-income households, who usually lack the resources needed to take advantage of these programs.

In this session, panelists from the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative, Maryland House of Delegates, Empower DC, and Centro De Apoyo Familiar will discuss how housing inequities impact communities of color, immigrant communities, and low-wealth populations in Washington, DC, the state of Maryland, and across the country. They will discuss how limited access to affordable, safe, and healthy housing is an environmental justice issue and determinant of neighborhood health. Additionally, panelists will describe how populations suffering housing inequality also suffer from energy inequity- from the high costs of energy, lack of access to clean, renewable energy, and how these energy inequities increase their risk of negative climate-related impacts. They will share challenges and successes in their work to address housing inequities. Finally, they will share with the audience lessons learned, best practices, and strategies that they can use to fight for housing equity and environmental justice in the communities that they live in and/or serve.

# **Concurrent Sessions I | Day 2 - August 12**

## **11:10am – 12:30pm**

### **1E NAMATI II: JOIN THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT**

*Speakers:*

*Sonkita Conteh*, *Co-Founder and Director, Namati, Sierra Leone*

*Lautaro Costantini*, *Coordinator, ProDESC, Mexico*

*Cesar Gamboa*, *Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (DAR), Perú*

*Sor Ratanamanee Polkla*, *Community Resource Center Foundation (CRC), Thailand*

*Ash-lee Woodard Henderson*, *Co-Executive Director, Highlander Education and Research Center*

*Rebecca Iwerks*, *Learning and Policy Advisor, Global Environmental Justice Corps, Namati (Moderator)*

Across the world, communities historically bearing the brunt of environmental harms are asking to be able to shape what happens on the land that they own and use, including the power to say no to projects they deem harmful, the power to take part in enforcement of environmental regulation, and the opportunity to lead necessary transitions on communities' own terms, according to their informed consent. In this second session, speakers will share why they are combining efforts to create a global movement across impacted communities and hold space for others to consider how their current environmental injustice struggles might connect with this global movement. It will be an opportunity to build solidarity across experiences of local injustice and imagine what it might look like to harness community power on a global scale. The speakers will talk about challenges, successes, and impacts of building a global environmental justice movement and next steps to help others move their environmental justice work from local to global.

## ***Concurrent Sessions II | Day 2 - August 12***

***1:00pm – 2:20pm***

### **2A ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DISPARITIES**

*Speakers:*

*Ami Zota, Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Health Sciences, Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health*

*Adrienne Hollis, Vice President, Environmental Justice, Health, and Community Revitalization, National Wildlife Federation*

*Uloma Uche, Environmental Health Science Fellow, Environmental Working Group (EWG)*

*Nsedu Witherspoon, Executive Director, Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN)*

*Sara Grineski, Professor, University of Utah*

*Rianna Murray, Assistant Research Professor, Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health (Moderator)*

Environmental justice (EJ) communities are marginalized racial/ethnic, low-income, rural, immigrant, and indigenous populations that live in areas disproportionately burdened by environmental hazards, unhealthy land uses, psychosocial stressors, and historical traumas. Race is the strongest indicator of the location of environmental hazards in these communities, with children being particularly vulnerable due to their physiology and interactions with the environment. Environmental injustice can lead to disparities in exposure to pollutants including lead, particulate matter, and mercury; physical stressors like heat, and personal care products containing dangerous chemicals. 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, environmental injustice has disproportionate impacts on health. Environmental



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***1:00pm – 2:20pm***

injustice is definitively a human rights issue as it impedes growth, stability, and the long-term well-being of families living in underserved and marginalized neighborhoods in both rural and urban settings.

In this session, panelists will dig deep into the connections between environmental injustice and environmental health disparities. Panelists will discuss the environmental health crisis facing frontline communities including climate-related hazards and water contamination, how chronic and stigmatized illnesses intersect with environmental and reproductive justice, and the role health professionals can play in mitigating environmental injustice and environmental health disparities. Panelists will also discuss the latest initiatives taken by the Biden administration to address health disparities, as well as EJ efforts that may be taken to support and protect children's health. Finally, the experts will reflect on the COVID-19 pandemic and its connections with environmental justice, and health of the populations they support in their work.

### **2B ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND HYPERLOCAL AIR QUALITY MONITORING**

*Speakers:*

*Alan Smith, Manager, Community Leadership, Consumer Reports*

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

*Rachel C. White, Epidemiologist, University of Texas Health Center at Houston*

*Kim Gaddy, National Environmental Justice Director, Clean Water Action*

*Shizuka Hsieh, Chair, Chemistry, Trinity University*

*Brandon Lewis, PhD Student, School of the Environment, Yale University (Moderator)*

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***1:00pm – 2:20pm***

Goods movement, the transport of goods from manufacturers through coastal ports, river ports, airports, via trains and large trucks to warehouses and point of sale locations has enormous carbon and air pollution footprints--these footprints differentially burden and impact communities of color and low-wealth areas. In Charleston, SC, the planned expansion of the Port of Charleston will add to the cumulative impact of environmental pollution in communities already overburdened by current goods movement, traffic-related air pollution (TRAP), and other hazards. The South Ward neighborhood of Newark is disproportionately burdened with cumulative impacts of pollution associated with the Newark Airport, a Superfund site, the largest metal recycling facility in the world, and TRAP. In the Greater Houston area, communities of color particularly Hispanic and African-American residents are differentially impacted by goods movement and petrochemical facilities particularly in the Houston Ship Channel. And in overburdened communities in Washington, DC like Buzzard Point and Ivy City, residents are experiencing differential exposure and health risks due to traffic-related air pollution and other local hazards. Fortunately, low-cost air quality monitors are revolutionizing--and democratizing--how data is collected and how research is transformed into action.

In this session, a researcher from Consumer Reports will discuss the differential burden of goods movement, particularly warehouses known as dry ports on communities of color, immigrant communities, and low-wealth populations across the United States. Community leaders and researchers working in Charleston, Newark, Houston, and DC will demystify the term “hyper-local air quality monitoring”, describe the development of community-based air quality monitoring networks in their respective communities, and explain how community-based networks can put information and power back into community hands. They will discuss successes, impacts, challenges, lessons learned, and best practices associated with their work and visions for sustainability and future efforts.

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### ***1:00pm – 2:20pm***

#### **2C LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS TO ADVANCE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AT THE FEDERAL AND STATE LEVEL**

*Speakers:*

*David Fraser-Hidalgo, Representative, and Chair, Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus*

*Lorig Charkoudian, Delegate, District 20, State of Maryland*

*Larry Lambert, Representative, District 7, State of Delaware*

*Stephanie Maddin Smith, Delegate, District 45, State of Maryland*

*Paul Pinsky, Senator, State of Maryland*

*Faith Taylor, PhD Student, School of the Environment, Yale University  
(Moderator)*

Across the United States, many communities of color, low-income communities, immigrant communities, and indigenous communities experience environmental, climate, and energy injustices due to structural racism, extractive capitalism, segregation, poor regulatory enforcement, and other factors. Recently, federal legislators have recognized the importance of developing and advocating for new legislation to address these injustices. Representatives McEachin and Grijalva, and Senator Booker have sponsored versions of the EJ for All Act, an Act if passed would codify Executive Order 12898 and serve as a blueprint for reversing, and preventing further environmental racism in communities of color, low-income communities, or tribal and indigenous communities. Representative McEachin introduced the Technology Assessment for Air Quality Management Act to improve air quality nationwide by updating and implementing the best available technologies and data in the Technology Assessment for Air Quality Management Act. The recently announced Inflation Reduction Act includes nearly \$400 billion dollars to help with

## ***Concurrent Sessions II | Day 2 - August 12***

***1:00pm – 2:20pm***

climate change, the country's clean energy transition, and environmental injustice. Additionally, states across the country including California, Washington, Illinois, and New York have passed progressive climate change legislation. In 2022, Maryland passed the Climate Solutions Now Act, one of the most progressive bills in the country focused on greenhouse gas emissions reduction and addressing climate justice issues.

In this session, legislators from Maryland and Delaware and US Congress will discuss their legislative efforts to address environmental, climate, and energy justice issues including successes, challenges, and lessons learned. Legislators from Maryland will discuss their efforts to pass legislation that can help address environmental, climate, and energy justice issues including the Climate Solutions Now Act, Clean Cars Act, Maryland Justice40 bill, and other related bills. All panelists will discuss President Biden's Justice 40 Initiative and how they are developing legislation to increase the positive impact of this Initiative for disadvantaged communities. Federal legislators will discuss the importance of the EJ for All Act as a mechanism for implementing the Justice40 Initiative. Additionally, Delegate Lambert will detail his work to implement a Justice40 Initiative in the state of Delaware. Furthermore, all panelists will discuss how the recently passed Infrastructure bill and recently proposed Inflation Reduction Act can help address environmental, climate, and energy justice issues. The panelists will discuss the importance of states across the country including those in the Mid-Atlantic region replicating federal efforts like the EJ for All Act and the Inflation Reduction Act to help avoid federal pitfalls and ensure the sustainability of proposed measures found in federal legislation. Finally, the session will also allow for frontline and fenceline communities to connect with the panelists to discuss their environmental justice concerns and legislative priorities.

## ***Concurrent Sessions II | Day 2 - August 12***

### ***1:00pm – 2:20pm***

#### **2D STATE OF THE AIR REPORT BACK IN THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION**

*Speakers:*

*Kelly Crawford, Manager, Air Quality Division, DC Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE)*

*Angela Macroni, Delaware Department of Natural Resources*

*Tad Aburn, Director, Air and Radiation Administration (ARA), Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)*

*Vivek Ravichandran, CEEJH and PhD Student, Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health (Moderator)*

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 like black carbon—are not protective enough to keep citizens safe and healthy. This is especially true in communities with environmental, climate, and energy justice issues, where air quality monitoring is sparse but permitted facilities, heavily trafficked roads and other environmental hazards abound. Panelists will each discuss regional and local improvements to air quality in Washington, DC, Maryland, 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 National Ambient Air Quality Standards) is 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 initiatives and policies from the Biden Administration including the Justice40 initiative and proposed air quality management legislation from Congress.

## ***Concurrent Sessions II | Day 2 - August 12***

***1:00pm – 2:20pm***

### **2E MYBLOCKCOUNTS WORKSHOP**

*Workshop Leads:*

*Arielle Wharton, Faculty Assistant, CEEJH*

*Eli Straussman, GIS Analyst, CEEJH*

In the context of addressing environmental injustice, community members are often tasked with providing proof. 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. In this workshop, attendees will receive a tutorial on how to use My Block Counts. Attendees will have the opportunity to use the tool and receive feedback on their results and how they can use the information in local environmental decision-making.

## **Concurrent Sessions III | Day 2 - August 12**

### **2:30pm – 3:50pm**

#### **3A COMMUNITY-ENGAGED RESEARCH ON ENVIRONMENTAL, CLIMATE, AND ENERGY JUSTICE ISSUES**

*Speakers:*

*Ora Marek-Martinez, Executive Director, Native American Cultural Center,  
Northern Arizona University*

*Na'Taki Osborne, Co-Founder, West Atlanta Watershed Alliance, and US EPA  
National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC)*

*Jill Johnston, Associate Professor, Division of Environmental Health,  
University of Southern California*

*Grace Tee Lewis, Environmental Epidemiologist, Environmental Defense  
Fund*

*Jose Acosta Cordova, Environmental Planning and Research Organizer, Little  
Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO)*

*Raj Pandya, Vice President, Thriving Earth Exchange, American Geophysical  
Union*

*Margot Brown, Vice President, Environmental Justice and Equity Initiatives,  
Environmental Defense Fund (Moderator)*

Community-engaged research has been used to understand the impact of environmental justice issues- from urban air pollution, water contamination, transportation inequity, energy injustice, to climate-related disparities on the health and quality of life on communities of color, under resourced populations, and groups that have been historically marginalized in the United States. The community-engaged research continuum includes community-based participatory research (CBPR) and community-driven research that leverages community science principles. These approaches emphasize that impacted residents should be engaged in all stages of the research process while highlighting the value of community and cultural knowledge systems in the research enterprise.

## ***Concurrent Sessions III | Day 2 - August 12***

***2:30pm – 3:50pm***

Community-engaged research, if meaningful and authentic, can build trust and tend to power inequities, and lead to action, solutions, and positive social change.

In this session, we will hear from a panelist on their community-engaged work on environmental and climate issues facing Native and Indigenous communities in Arizona. We will also hear about the West Atlanta Watershed Alliance's community-engaged efforts to preserve green space from development and fight for water justice in Southwest Atlanta and fight for water justice. Furthermore, we will hear from Jill Johnson and Grace Tee Lewis on their partnership work with communities impacted by oil and gas infrastructure, air pollution and other hazards in California and Houston, Texas. Additionally, Raj Pandya will describe how the Thriving Earth Exchange is working to build community-scientist partnerships to support environmental justice work around the country. Jose Cordova from the Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO) will detail community-driven research efforts that led to EJ victories in Chicago. Finally, each panelist will share lessons learned, best practices, and strategies that others can employ to ensure that their community-engaged research is transformative and impactful for communities impacted by environmental, climate, and energy injustices.



## ***Concurrent Sessions III | Day 2 - August 12***

### ***2:30pm – 3:50pm***

#### **3B CLIMATE CHANGE, DISASTERS, AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

*Speakers:*

*Reginald McKinley, Principal, McKinley Consulting Group*

*Mark Barnes, Co-Chair, Geospatial Collaborative, Faculty, Morgan State University*

*Terri Adams, Deputy Director, NOAA Cooperative Science Center for Atmospheric Sciences and Meteorology (NCAS-M), Professor, Department of Sociology and Criminology, and Associate Dean for Research, Howard University*

*Ceeon Smith, Cleo Endowed Professor and Chair, Department of Mass Communication, Grambling State University*

*Brandon Hunter, Fellow, Center for Rural Enterprise and Environmental Justice (Moderator)*

With the upcoming 17-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, there is still so much to learn about disaster preparedness and community resilience. Research from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) suggests that climate change is fueling the power of hurricanes, making them more destructive than ever. Hurricanes such as Ida, Maria, Harvey, Florence, Sandy, Laura, and Sally have had devastating impacts on communities of color and low-wealth populations. Additionally, climate change may be causing increased frequency and intensity of forest fires, flooding events, and heat waves which tend to disproportionately impact communities of color and low-wealth populations. The panel will discuss natural disasters and environmental justice and discuss how a focus on resilience is not enough. Panelists will discuss their work in climate justice and equity and share successes and best practices for making communities of color and low-wealth communities more prepared for climate-related disasters. They will share what current or new policies and initiatives should

## ***Concurrent Sessions III | Day 2 - August 12***

***2:30pm – 3:50pm***

be implemented to improve equity in climate mitigation and adaptation in frontline and fenceline communities.

### **3C ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND LIBERATION SCIENCE**

*Speakers:*

*Nathalie Hernandez Barahona*, *Organizer, Yuma County Abolition (YCA)*

*Karla Sanchez*, *Organizer, Yuma County Abolition (YCA)*

*Kendra Krueger*, *STEM Outreach and Education Manager, City University of New York's (CUNY) Advanced Science Research Center, Founder, Community Sensor Lab*

*Jessica Hernandez*, *Founder, Piña Soul*

*Jorge Moreno*, *People of the Global Majority in the Outdoors, Nature, & the Environment (PGM ONE)*

*Luz Guel*, *Director, Community Engagement and Environmental Justice, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine (Moderator)*

Liberation Science challenges the traditional anti-Black, imperialistic, capitalistic, patriarchal, and White supremacist approaches to science in order to solve environmental, climate, and energy injustices. This commitment is central to the need to expose and understand how systems of domination inform our current environmental, climate, and energy justice struggles and thus, develop alternative paths of resistance rooted in liberation. "Liberation" is a daily practice and a commitment to the radical transformation of ourselves, our community, structures, systems, and to justice and love. The panelists for this session are environmental justice activists, facilitators, scientists, and mutual aid organizers. They will share approaches, strategies, stories, perspectives, and visions for how we can organize within and outside of academia to address the root causes of environmental, climate, and energy injustices and build toward collective

## ***Concurrent Sessions III | Day 2 - August 12***

***2:30pm – 3:50pm***

liberation. They will discuss lessons learned and best practices that can be implemented and scaled to transform the research enterprise, so it is more applied, community-driven, justice-focused, and action oriented.

### **3D ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, HURRICANE HARVEY, AND THE GULF COAST: WHERE ARE WE FIVE YEARS LATER?**

*Speakers:*

*Hilton Kelley, Founder and Director, Community In-Power and Development Association Incorporated (CIDA)*

*Stephen Costello, Chief Recovery Officer, City of Houston, Texas*

*Tracy Stephens, President, Sunnyside Civic Club, Achieving Community Tasks Successfully (ACTS)*

*Chrishelle Palay, Director, Houston Organizing Movement for Equity (HOME) Coalition*

*Sacoby Wilson, Director, CEEJH and Professor, UMD School of Public Health (Moderator)*

Throughout the Gulf Coast including metropolitan Houston and other parts of Texas like Port Arthur, there are significant racial/ethnic and socioeconomic disparities in the burden of environmental hazards, exposure to pollution, and health risks in the region. Many of these communities are host to oil and gas infrastructure including refineries. The Houston Ship Channel is the largest petrochemical corridor in North America and a source of numerous air pollutants that can impact human health. Unfortunately, communities of color including African-American and Latino/x and poor populations are disproportionately burdened by this infrastructure. Additionally, these communities tend to host other hazards including Superfund sites, landfills, incinerators, and major transportation corridors. Additionally, due to climate change, the Gulf Coast is

## ***Concurrent Sessions III | Day 2 - August 12***

***2:30pm – 3:50pm***

experiencing more frequent, intense, and destructive hurricanes. In 2017, Hurricane Harvey dumped trillions of gallons of rain in Houston and other parts of Texas leading to intense flooding, chemical and bacterial contamination, and releases of air pollution including harmful volatile organic compounds (VOCs) to the air. The hurricane worsened conditions on the ground for communities and populations that were already experiencing environmental injustice.

In this session, panelists will discuss how Hurricane Harvey impacted their lives and their communities and what's happened in the past five years. They will discuss their work to rebuild their community and make them more climate resilient and share challenges, successes, lessons learned, and best practices. In addition, they will describe strategies that they have or plan to implement to integrate equity into hurricane preparedness, response and recovery and climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives in the community(ies) that they serve to prevent future climate injustices.

# Day 2- August 12

## Closing Plenary

4:00PM – 5:20PM

## OLD ENERGY VS NEW ENERGY: ENSURING JUST ENERGY TRANSITIONS

Speakers:

Leticia Colon de Mejias, Founder and CEO, Energy Efficiencies Solutions (EES), and US EPA National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC)

Jose Bravo, Executive Director, Just Transition Alliance

Yinka Bode-George, Senior Manager, Environmental Justice and Community Impact, Volt Energy

Saniya LeBlanc, Associate Professor, George Washington University

Colette Pichon-Battle, Founder and Executive Director, Gulf Coast Center for Law and Policy

Sacoby Wilson, Director, CEEJH and Professor, UMD School of Public Health

Low-wealth communities, communities of color, under-resourced communities, and those in vulnerable life stages are disproportionately impacted by a number of energy-related stressors that contribute to their overall health burden. The pace and trajectories of current energy transitions, while instrumental towards mitigating climate change-induced effects and greenhouse gas emissions, have provided challenges to reducing the inequities prevalent in current energy and transportation systems. The sole majority of the world's economy is rooted in fossil fuels. Whether that be oil, natural gas, coal or nuclear energy, there has been limited progress in any form of energy transition. Energy transitions have co-benefits, such as improved air quality and heat stress reduction, and could provide multi-faceted public health benefits to communities.

In this panel discussion, speakers will detail the importance of a shift from dirty fossil fuels to clean energy in our society. They will share their

experiences in pushing for a just transition from old energy sources to new energy sources including wind, solar, and geothermal. They will also discuss the need to prioritize environmental and energy justice principles to ensure that frontline and fenceline communities that have been differentially impacted by the life cycle of dirty energy infrastructure receive benefits from technological advancements in the clean energy sector at the household level, neighborhood level, and opportunities for employment and economic opportunity in the clean energy sector. They will discuss strategies, solutions, and policies that should be implemented and scaled to ensure a just transition for communities experiencing energy injustices.

2022

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE  
& HEALTH DISPARITIES  
SYMPOSIUM**

***SATURDAY | AUGUST 13***

***9:00AM – 6:00PM***

**9:00 AM Opening Remarks**

**9:15 AM Opening Plenary: Remembering the 40<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary of the Warren County PCB Landfill Fight**

**10:30 AM Concurrent Sessions I**

**12:00 PM Lunch Plenary: 11<sup>th</sup> Annual CEEJH Lecture and  
Keynote Address, Reverend Lennox Yearwood, Jr,  
President and CEO, Hip Hop Caucus**

**1:30 PM Concurrent Sessions II**

**3:00 PM Concurrent Sessions III**

**4:30 PM Closing Plenary: We Need More Power-  
Opportunities for Equity in Access to Clean Energy**

**5:45 PM Closing Remarks**

**6:00 PM Post-Event Celebration with Food and Music**

**9:00 PM End of the Road/Attendees Depart the Building**

# Day 3- August 13

## Opening Plenary

9:15AM - 10:15AM

### REMEMBERING THE 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE WARREN COUNTY PCB LANDFILL FIGHT

*Speakers:*

*Benjamin Chavis, Jr., President, National Newspaper Publishers Association, Civil Rights Leader*

*Dollie Burwell, Community Activist, "Mother of Environmental Justice"*

*Charles Lee, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Environmental Justice, US Environmental Protection Agency*

*Sacoby Wilson, Director, CEEJH and Professor, UMD School of Public Health*

The birth of the environmental justice movement began with a fight against a PCB landfill being sited in Afton, North Carolina, a small, rural, poor, primarily Black community in Warren County, North Carolina. A group of residents formed the Warren County Citizens Concerned (WCCC) to protest the state's decision to site a landfill in their county for the disposal of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), a toxic chemical substance whose production was banned by congress in 1979. Residents like Dollie Burwell, and the Rev. Leon White, and civil rights leaders like the Rev. Dr. Benjamin Chavis, Jr., with the UCC's Commission for Racial Justice, were major figures in the protest that would transform a community and ignite the environmental justice movement.

With the upcoming 40th Anniversary of the protest in September 2022, we use this session as an opportunity to celebrate this groundbreaking event and leaders who started the contemporary environmental justice movement. The panelists will discuss their role in the protest and impacts on Warren County then and 40 years later. In addition, the panelists will share their thoughts about how the environmental justice movement has



grown and the ripples of the protest in today's environmental justice movement. The panelists will share their hopes and dreams for the movement and share a call to action with the next generation of environmental justice activists and advocates.

## **Concurrent Sessions I | Day 3 - August 13**

**10:30am – 11:45am**

### **1A ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND GREEN WORKFORCE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES (PRINCE GEORGE'S)**

*Speakers:*

*Alex Smith, Founder, Division Street Landscaping, Baltimore, MD*

*BeKura Shabazz, Chairwoman, Virginia Green New Deal, Internal Policy Committee, the Virginia Environmental Justice Collaborative (VEJC)*

*Jerome Shabazz, Founder, and Executive Director, JASTECH Development Services, Overbrook Environmental Education Center, and Member, US EPA National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC)*

*Donele Wilkins, Founder and CEO, The Green Door Initiative*

*Sacoby Wilson, Director, CEEJH and Professor, UMD School of Public Health (Moderator)*

The emerging Green Workforce sector refers to careers that are directly moving society and the surrounding environment towards a more sustainable and resource independent world. In the modern-day, this manifests in existing jobs that alter skill requirements to meet a higher level of sustainability, and in the creation of jobs that work to fill the green sector. Building construction, maintenance, and commissioning are high priority in this role. President Obama made it clear that the most effective response to the twin challenges of restoring the economy and responding to our climate and energy crisis was a green recovery. A recent “Green Recovery” report published by CAP also stated that targeted investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy will produce approximately four times more jobs than spending the same amount of money on mature energy industries such as oil and gas. A United States Conference of Mayors report indicates that green jobs could contribute as much as 10% of all new job growth over the next 30 years.

## ***Concurrent Sessions I | Day 3 - August 13***

***10:30am – 11:45am***

However, what does DEI look like for these green and clean energy jobs? Will they be equitably distributed? How can we ensure a just transition for frontline and fenceline communities? Currently, few people of color are employed in the clean energy sector compared to their White counterparts. In this session, panelists will discuss – the significance of a Green Workforce, the implications of the Justice40 initiative and infrastructure bill for green jobs as well as best approaches for a just transition. Panelists include speakers working in reform, policy and advocacy, and will also share some model green workforce programs, challenges they face in their everyday work, and successes and impacts of these programs. Panelists will also describe the best way states can support them to sustain these programs and scale and replicate them in other frontline and fenceline communities.

### **1B ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND HEALTH ISSUES IN SOUTH BALTIMORE, MARYLAND (CHARLES CARROLL)**

*Speakers:*

*Shashawnda Campbell, Environmental Justice Coordinator, South Baltimore Community Land Trust (SBCLT), and Co-Founder, “Free Your Voice”*

*Chris Heaney, Associate Professor, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University*

*Greg Sawtell, Director, South Baltimore Community Land Trust (SBCLT)*

*Vivek Ravichandran, CEEJH and PhD Student, Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health (Moderator)*

South Baltimore is home to a number of communities including Curtis Bay, Brooklyn, and Cherry Hill that experience the daily impacts of environmental, climate, and energy injustice. Due to redlining, disinvestment, and inequities in planning and development, these South Baltimore neighborhoods have been used

## ***Concurrent Sessions I | Day 3 - August 13***

***10:30am – 11:45am***

as sacrifice zones for industrial corridors, goods movement, dirty energy production, and waste management. Some of the environmental hazards in South Baltimore include a trash-to-energy incinerator, a medical waste incinerator, numerous oil, gas, and coal processing facilities, one of the largest coal exporting ports in the United States, and many more significant mobile, line, and stationary sources of pollution. In addition to these threats, a recent explosion at the CSX Transportation coal export terminal on December 30th, 2021, highlighted the dangers from chemical disasters that the South Baltimore community faces daily. Fortunately, local grassroots organizations have formed to fight against environmental racism and injustice in South Baltimore while pushing for fair development and clean energy solutions. In this session, panelists from community-based organizations including the South Baltimore Community Land Trust (SBCLT) and CASA will discuss environmental justice and health issues that impact local neighborhoods. Panelists will describe partnerships with local researchers to understand exposure issues and health impacts associated with environmental injustice in South Baltimore. In addition, panelists will discuss their fight for equity and justice for impacted residents and discuss community-centered strategies and solutions that should be implemented to transform South Baltimore into a healthier, greener, and more just community.

## ***Concurrent Sessions I | Day 3 - August 13***

***10:30am – 11:45am***

### **1C REPORT BACK ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ISSUES IN THE MID-ATLANTIC (BANNEKER)**

*Speakers:*

*Amber Hewitt, Chief Equity Officer, Office of Racial Equity, Washington, DC*

*Karen Campblin, Member, Virginia Council on Environmental Justice*

*Camille Burke, Chair, Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities, Director, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention, Baltimore City Health Department*

*Larry Lambert, Delegate, District 7, State of Delaware*

*Adam Cutler, Chair, EJ Advisory Board, State of Pennsylvania*

*Leslie Fields, National Director of Policy, Advocacy, and Legal, Sierra Club  
(Moderator)*

The Mid-Atlantic region specifically Delaware, Maryland, Washington, DC, Virginia, and Pennsylvania face grave, interconnected challenges, including unemployment, racial and economic inequality, environmental racism, and health inequities. 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, extractive and exploitative. Therefore, it is hard to overstate the importance of appointed and elected officials engaging in open dialogue with community members--particularly when we are talking about environmental, social, and economic justice issues. Such has been the case with the Office of Racial Equity in Washington DC, the Virginia Council on Environmental Justice, the Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities, the Pennsylvania Environmental Justice Advisory Board, just to name a few. In this session, panelists will discuss the work of their office, council, board, or commission to advance environmental, climate, and energy justice in

## **Concurrent Sessions I | Day 3 - August 13**

**10:30am – 11:45am**

their home states. They will describe their strategic plans including vision, goals, and objectives. In addition, panelists will provide a report back on actions, policies, and initiatives to advance environmental, climate, and energy justice and racial and health equity that they have recommended or implemented over the past year. Furthermore, panelists will describe challenges and successes in implementing recommendations at the state level and explain lessons learned and best practices for navigating politics, the policymaking process, and “EJ Antagonists” and anti-health organizations in their home states. Finally, they will share future plans and strategies to sustain progress and scale positive impacts across their state and the Mid-Atlantic region.

### **1D FAITH-BASED ENGAGEMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ISSUES IN THE DMV AND BEYOND (JUAN JIMENEZ)**

*Speakers:*

*Mark Whitlock, Pastor, Reid Temple AME Church (RTAME)*

*Robin Lewis, Outreach and Social Justice Coordinator, Beloved Community Church, Prince George’s County, Maryland, and Director, Climate Equity, Interfaith Power & Light DMV*

*Faith Harris, Co-Director, Virginia Interfaith Power & Light*

*Ambrose Carroll, Founder, Green the Church and US EPA National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC)*

*Rica Wilson, Founder and Executive Director, Brown Girl Wellness, Inc (Moderator)*

Faith-Based Groups have historically played crucial roles in promoting the fight for social justice. They are inspired by religious beliefs and have been recognized as important players in protecting the environment and human health. From the civil rights movement of the 1960s when Dr. King worked

## ***Concurrent Sessions I | Day 3 - August 13***

***10:30am – 11:45am***

on the sanitation workers' strike in Memphis, TN, to the work of the United Church of Christ in supporting activists fighting against a PCB landfill in Warren County, NC, the birthplace of the EJ Movement, to the Pope's Encyclical on climate change, faith groups have been at the forefront of social movements like the environmental justice and climate justice movements. Their focus on the underserved and protecting the most vulnerable, civic engagement, peaceful demonstration, and using the power of love, hope, and faith for action and social change is very much needed to help communities suffering from environmental racism, and climate and health inequities.

In this session, panelists from the United Church of Christ (UCC), Interfaith Power & Light Church (IPL), A.M.E. Church, and Green the Church movement will talk about their work as EJ advocates through a religious lens. They will share their experiences building sustainable church programs, eco-theology, fundraising, community justice and work on environmental legislation. The panelists will discuss their partnerships with other faith groups to advance environmental, climate, and energy justice. Panelists from the AME Church and the UCC will discuss their work with the new Data Justice Collaborative to expand air quality monitoring to address cumulative impacts of air pollution in overburdened communities in the Mid-Atlantic. Additionally, panelists will discuss challenges that have experienced sharing the good gospel about environmental justice and lessons learned and best practices that attendees can use in their efforts to advance environmental, climate, and energy justice through partnerships and collaborations with faith groups in the region.

## **Concurrent Sessions I | Day 3 - August 13**

**10:30am – 11:45am**

### **1E AGRICULTURE, CAFOS, AND BIOGAS FACILITIES IN RURAL COMMUNITIES (MARGARET BRENT)**

*Speakers:*

*Tyler Lobdell, Staff Attorney, Food & Water Watch*

*Sherri White-Williamson, Director, Environmental Justice Community Action Network (EJCAN), and Member, Environmental Justice Board, NC Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)*

*Maria Payan, Educator and Advocate, Socially Responsible Agriculture Project (SRAP)*

*Gabby Ross, the Assateague Coastkeeper, and Co-Founder, Concerned Citizens Against Industrial CAFOs (CCAIC)*

*Leila Borrero Krouse, Organizer, Comite de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agricolas (CATA), State of Maryland*

*Mike Payan, Co-Founder, Sentinels of Eastern Shore Health (SESH) (Moderator)*

In communities across rural America, residents are being stripped of their basic human rights to clean air and water by industrial animal agriculture including confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs) and related facilities (i.e., biogas plants). Industrial chicken farms (in Maryland and Delaware) and industrial hog farms (in North Carolina) operations 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. These factory farms tend to be disproportionately sited in communities of color, low-income areas, and neighborhoods with limited power. In addition to factory farms, biogas plants have been touted as false climate change solutions to capture methane gas associated with industrial animal agriculture. In this session,



## ***Concurrent Sessions I | Day 3 - August 13***

***10:30am – 11:45am***

panelists will discuss the negative social, environmental, health, and economic impacts of industrial animal agriculture and biogas plants. They will describe their efforts to fight against factory farming and biogas plants in Maryland, Delaware, and North Carolina. Panelists will share lessons learned and best practices that attendees can use to fight against these unhealthy agricultural practices in their community. Panelists will also discuss just and sustainable climate smart agricultural policy and practices that can benefit communities differentially impacted by industrial animal agriculture and biogas plants.

# Day 3- August 13

## **LUNCH (GRAND BALLROOM)**

**12:00PM – 1:15PM**

## **SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY THE SIERRA CLUB**

**12:00PM – 12:15PM**

## **11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CEEJH LECTURE AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS: BUILDING COMMUNITY POWER TO ENERGIZE THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT**

**12:30PM - 1:15PM**

Speaker: Reverend Lennox Yearwood Jr, *President and CEO, Hip Hop Caucus*  
In this 11th Annual CEEJH lecture, Reverend Yearwood will discuss how we can build, tap into, and expand the power of communities impacted by environmental injustices. He will provide examples through his work with the Hip Hop Caucus. He will share strategies, lessons, and best practices for energizing populations who live in frontline and fenceline communities impacted by environmental racism and structural poverty. He will describe his vision for energizing and revolutionizing the Environmental Justice Movement by engaging diverse stakeholders, leveraging cultural influencers, and tapping into sectors who have traditionally not been participatory as positive contributors to the efforts of activists and advocates to advance environmental justice.

## **CEEJH STUDENT POSTER SESSION**

**12:00PM - 1:15PM**

## ***Concurrent Sessions II | Day 3 - August 13***

***1:30pm – 2:45PM***

### **2A FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IN THE DMV (CHARLES CARROLL)**

*Speakers:*

*Duron Chavis, Founder, Happily Natural Day Festival*

*Bonnetta Adeeb, President and Founder, STEAM Onward, and President, Ujamaa Farms*

*Farmer Dominic Nell, Founder and Owner, City Weeds*

*Eric Jackson, Servant Director, Black Yield Institute*

*Arielle Wharton, Faculty Assistant, CEEJH (Moderator)*

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, African American residents, and other vulnerable groups. 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 3 - August 13***

***1:30pm – 2:45pm***

### **2B THE JUSTICE 40 INITIATIVE AND COMMUNITY ACTION (JUAN JIMENEZ)**

#### *Speakers:*

*Sacoby Wilson, Director, CEEJH, and Professor, UMD School of Public Health*

*Kerri Harris, Organizing Specialist, Namati*

*Jerome Shabazz, Founder, and Executive Director, JASTECH Development Services, Overbrook Environmental Education Center, and Member, US EPA National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC)*

*Harold Mitchell, Executive Director, ReGenesis Community Development Corporation, and White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC)*

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

During his first days in office, President Joe Biden signed Executive Order (EO) 14008, *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad* 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. The Justice40 Initiative is unlike any commitment we have ever seen from the federal government with regards to funding allocated in an attempt to address environmental racism. Many federal and state agencies have since provided a list of covered programs under this monumental initiative. Despite this groundbreaking commitment, it's fair to say that Justice40 has its flaws. Notably, the Justice40 initiative describes benefits, not direct investments for communities with environmental justice issues, and this vague language could prevent needed services and resources from reaching the intended recipients.

In this session, our speakers will discuss state- and community-level implementation of Justice40, challenges and flaws with the current

## ***Concurrent Sessions II | Day 3 - August 13***

***1:30pm – 2:45pm***

framework, and how frontline and fence-line communities can receive the full benefits. Dr. Wilson will talk about his work on Justice40 as member of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) Justice40 Workgroup, and his work with the Mid-Atlantic Justice Coalition (MAJC) in providing support for development of a Justice40 Initiative in Maryland and how communities can access Justice40 benefits. Ms. Kerri Harris will discuss her MAJC NOW, a J40 pilot program based in Dover, Delaware, including challenges and impacts, and the scalability of this program across Delaware and the entire Mid-Atlantic region. Mr. Jerome Shabazz will discuss his work in Philadelphia and provide his perspective on the EPA's role in providing support to communities to access infrastructure dollars, through his involvement on NEJAC's Justice40 and Finance Workgroup. Lastly, Mr. Harold Michell, as a founding member of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC), will discuss challenges with implementing Justice40 at the national level, and how his work with ReGenesis can be replicated nationwide and serve as a model for community investments and transformations.

## ***Concurrent Sessions II | Day 3 - August 13***

***1:30pm – 2:45pm***

### **2C CHEVERLY AIR QUALITY MONITORING PROJECT: A COMMUNITY-UNIVERSITY-GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP (PRINCE GEORGE'S)**

*Speakers:*

*Vivek Ravichandran, CEEJH and PhD Student, Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health*

*Tad Aburn, Director, Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) Air & Radiation Administration (ARA)*

*Jolene Ivy, Councilwoman, Prince George's County, Vice-Chair, Health, Human Services, and Public Safety Committee*

*Karen Moe, Air Quality Monitoring Liaison, University of Maryland School of Public Health, Member, Cheverly Green Infrastructure Committee*

*Crystal Upperman, Senior Manager, Deloitte (Moderator)*

The Town of Cheverly is located within the Capital Beltway and hosts several sources of air pollution including metal and e-waste recycling facilities, concrete block plants, and a confluence of heavily trafficked roads. Seventy-five percent of the population includes people of color, 25% of the population are listed as low-income, and 14% of the population have less than a high school education which were higher compared to state averages. CEEJH established a community-university-government partnership with the Town of Cheverly and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to develop a low-cost real-time air quality monitoring network to measure particulate matter near sources of concern in the community.

In this session, panelists will describe the community-university-government partnership. They will discuss how the community-based participatory research (CBPR) framework and citizen science (CS) principles were used to build relationships, trust, and collaborative decision-making between the

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Town of Cheverly, CEEJH, and MDE. In addition, panelists will discuss the development of a community advisory board (CAB), community-based air quality monitoring plan, quality assurance performance plan (QAPP), and MOUs to help facilitate the development of the hyperlocal air quality monitoring network and maintenance of the network to produce actionable data that could be used to inform health and policy interventions. MDE will discuss its targeted inspection initiative in and around Cheverly that supplemented the air quality monitoring efforts. The team will also discuss challenges, limitations, lessons learned and best practices and sustainability efforts.

### **2D MARYLAND EJSCREEN WORKSHOP (BANNEKER)**

*Workshop Leads:*

*Anushi Garg, Faculty Assistant, CEEJH*

*Eli Straussman, GIS Analyst, CEEJH*

The Maryland Environmental Justice Screen Tool (MD EJSCREEN) was originally developed in 2017 to allow users to explore layers of environmental justice concern, determine the overall ‘EJ Score’ for census tracts in the state, and view additional context layers relevant to their area of concern or story they would like to tell. MD EJSCREEN was initiated by Drs. Sacoby Wilson (MIAEH), Devon Payne-Sturges (MIAEH), and Gerrit Knapp (NCSG) with funding from the Town Creek Foundation in collaboration with the Maryland Environmental Health Network. The team held a series of outreach meetings with community stakeholders to obtain feedback that led to the development of MD EJSCREEN 1.0. In 2018, CEEJH also collaborated with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to update and improve the tool, implementing new analysis functions, data layers, and a new platform.

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The CEEJH team is currently working on developing MD EJSCREEN 3.0, an updated version of the tool. In the new version, the team is adding new indicators of environmental justice including indicators that focus on rural areas, agriculture, and children; segregation, real-time air quality data, and sociodemographic indicators including unincorporated areas. A major expansion of the health disparities as well as the climate change domains is also underway, which will include critical datasets from the CDC, EPA, NOAA, etc. In this workshop-style session, the CEEJH team will present the details about the updates being made to the tool, the plans for releasing the tool, and ideas for improving visualization and user experience. Additionally, an in-depth demonstration of the new version of the tool will be provided.

### **2E SEGREGATION, HOUSING, AND TRANSPORTATION EQUITY IN MAJC STATES (MARGARET BRENT)**

#### *Speakers:*

*Linda Loubert, Associate Professor, Economics, Morgan State University*

*Samuel Jordan, President, Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition (BTEC)*

*Queen Shabazz, Executive Director, United Parents Against Lead (UPAL), CEO, Virginia Environmental Justice Collaborative (VEJC), Member, Lead Service Line Replacement Collaborative*

*Sheila Somashekar, Director, Purple Line Corridor Coalition, National Center for Smart Growth, University of Maryland*

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

*Tenyo Pearl, Director, Nonprofit Leadership Alliance, Program Coordinator, Nonprofit Leadership Program, Political Science, Coppin State University (Moderator)*



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In the Mid-Atlantic, many communities of color and low-wealth communities are experiencing housing and transportation inequities due to discriminatory policies that led to racial and economic segregation that still persist to this day. The long-term effects of segregation can be seen in the social patterning of access to affordable, safe, and healthy housing for populations of color and low-wealth individuals. In many instances, these populations reside in housing infrastructure that is unhealthy leading to high and chronic exposure to chemical, physical, and biological stressors indoors while also exposed to urban heat islands and air pollution due to the proximity of this housing infrastructure to multiple mobile and stationary pollution sources. Additionally, racist policies like the National Highway Defense Act of 1956 and other efforts to expand highway corridors have disproportionately impacted these communities of color and low-wealth residents in cities like Baltimore, Maryland, Washington, DC, and Richmond, Virginia. Low-wealth residents spend a significant amount of their income on transportation costs in areas that lack public transit. When there is public transit, many low-wealth residents are forced to rely on bus services while rail services which can provide opportunities for access to a wider variety of employment opportunities caters more often to higher income riders.

In this session, panelists will discuss the repercussions of redlining, prioritizing highway development over public transit for housing, and consequently, unaffordability, inequality, and segregation. Panelists will discuss how to achieve transit equity through the development of new light rail infrastructure and the implications for public health and achieving health equity. Panelists will reflect on systemic discrimination in the housing sector, the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on evictions and the housing crisis, health impacts including asthma and lead contamination, and potential solutions. Finally, this session will include a discussion of the panelists' roles in policy analysis, social justice advocacy, their successes and ongoing

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challenges in addressing housing, transportation, and health issues and a path forward.

### **3A ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND WASTEWATER AND STORMWATER ISSUES IN MAJC STATES (JUAN JIMENEZ)**

*Speakers:*

*Kimberly Jones, Chair, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Howard University*

*Jennifer Kunze, Maryland Program Manager, Clean Water Action*

*Fred Tutman, CEO, Head Riverkeeper, Patuxent Riverkeeper*

*Marccus Hendrick, Associate Professor, School of Architecture, and Director, Stormwater Infrastructure Resilience and Justice (UMD)*

*Crystal Upperman, Senior Manager, Deloitte (Moderator)*

Water infrastructure issues, including stormwater and wastewater management, are environmental justice issues. In the Washington, DC region, the cumulative effects of polluted runoff on water bodies are evident in the Potomac River, the Anacostia River, and the Patuxent 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, various 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 and mismanagement of the city’s sewage treatment plant have had disastrous public health consequences for local residents and environmental consequences for local waterways. The differential burden of storm/wastewater runoff and sewage

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backups on low-wealth communities and communities of color is an under-addressed environmental justice issue in urban settings.

Panelists will discuss community-driven efforts to understand water infrastructure problems in Washington, DC and the state of Maryland. They will discuss their efforts to address flood management, sewer overflows, basement backups, and help communities who face the brunt of these water infrastructure-related issues. Panelists will also discuss challenges they have experienced in addressing these issues including political challenges and opportunities to improve stormwater and wastewater management through new policies and initiatives including Justice40 and infrastructure bill funding.

### **3B ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ISSUES AND LATINO/X POPULATIONS IN THE DMV (SPANISH LANGUAGE)(BANNEKER)**

*Speakers:*

*Gabriela Lemus, Executive Director, Maryland Latinos Unidos and CEO, Revolution Strategy*

*Abel Olivo, Executive Director, Defensores de la Cuenca (Watershed Defenders)*

*Johana Vicente, National Director, Chispa, League of Conservation Voters*

*Sandra Lovo, Resident, Brooklyn Neighborhood, South Baltimore*

*Julie Jimenez, PhD Student, California State University (Moderator)*

Latino populations in the Mid-Atlantic including the DMV region face a greater number of environmental challenges than their White counterparts. These populations are overrepresented in neighborhoods with industrial pollution, heavily trafficked roadways, poor housing infrastructure, limited access to greenspace, urban heat islands, impaired waterways, etc. The

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differential burden of environmental hazards and locally unwanted land uses (LULUs), inequities in built and natural infrastructure, and disparities in exposure to stressors can be linked to systemic racism in the form of environmental racism. These issues, on top of many other unique challenges, present unimaginable hardships that affect health, quality of life, and educational and economic opportunity.

In this session, panelists will discuss the history of environmental, climate, and energy justice issues that have affected Latino populations, as well as recent issues that affect Latino populations in the DMV. In addition, they will share their experience and expertise as advocates and activists on these issues and discuss challenges, impacts, lessons learned, and best practices. In addition, they will describe strategies that can be employed to increase the participation of Latino residents in the environmental justice movement in the DMV and propose effective solutions that can be implemented to address environmental, climate, and energy justice issues that Latinos experience in the DMV, Mid-Atlantic, and beyond.

### **3C WORKSHOP ON GETTING INFRASTRUCTURE DOLLARS INTO COMMUNITIES IMPACTED BY ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE JUSTICE ISSUES (CHARLES CARROLL)**

*Workshop Lead:*

*Jennifer Egan, Program Manager, UMD Environmental Finance Center, and Professor, University of Delaware*

The University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center (EFC) has a thirty-year proven track record of engaging, building the knowledge, and enhancing the capacity of communities to address environmental challenges including resource protection, restoration, climate change, and stormwater management through funding from federal and state sources including the

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US EPA. The EFC has built an extensive network of technical assistance partners throughout the region who have the specific knowledge and cultural competencies, and language skills required to engage underserved communities and facilitate project implementation.

Economically underserved communities, disproportionately of color, bear the brunt of pollution impacts and environmental degradation. The Biden Administration has laid the foundation for an ambitious environmental justice agenda, with a growing US Environmental Protection Agency budget for environmental justice as well as federal programs that are accounting for billions of dollars in renewed investment (to maximize benefits) to frontline/fenceline communities. However, frontline/fenceline communities often lack the technical expertise and knowledge they need to access these funds. This workshop is meant to help communities overcome this gap to address their environmental and financial resource needs. In the session, the EFC team will provide communities with the tools and resources they can use to address environmental justice issues. Topics covered will include—strategic planning, project development, funding and financing particularly related to Justice40 and the 2022 infrastructure bill, drafting and submitting funding applications, and content related to building climate resilient and environmental just infrastructure. Through participation in this session, attendees will enhance their knowledge about funding opportunities and financing mechanisms from federal and state sources, how to apply and secure funding, how to develop and finance projects, and how to maximize infrastructure dollars to receive social, economic, health, and environmental benefits for frontline/fenceline communities.

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### **3D SOCIAL IMPACT ENTREPRENEURSHIP WITH META AND ENVOLVE (PRINCE GEORGE'S)**

*Speakers:*

*Marcellis Counts, Founder, Apiary in the Sky*

*Joe James, Founder and President, Agri-tech productions*

*Christopher Upperman, Head, Governance Partnerships, Meta*

*Angeline Apostolou, Acting Executive Director, Envolve Entrepreneurship  
(Moderator)*

Many communities of color and low wealth areas are experiencing environmental, climate, and energy injustice due to segregation, inequities in planning and zoning, and disinvestment. Many urban centers, once known as "legacy cities" were booming centers of commerce, only to have been exploited, polluted, and neglected. It is critical for businesses to create solutions to environmental, climate, and energy injustices and embrace green business practices without overburdening already under resourced communities. Social entrepreneurs are developing novel businesses to tackle community-based problems and social issues like environmental justice. It is important that business incubators support green businesses run by BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) entrepreneurs from communities experiencing environmental injustices. In this session, panelists will discuss a new partnership between CEEJH, Meta, and Envolve to support social impact entrepreneurship. As part of this social impact entrepreneurship program, CEEJH is funding cohorts of founders who will establish green businesses that will help provide tech-related solutions to environmental, climate, and energy injustices that overburdened and underserved communities are experiencing in the DC area and Mid-Atlantic. In this session, the Founders of Apiary in the Sky, Loop Closing, and Agri-Tech Productions will discuss their individual experiences with environmental (in)justice, the issues that they are seeking to address

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through social impact entrepreneurship, and the technologies and business models they have created in attempting to address these issues. The panelist from Meta will discuss the importance of this work in advancing environmental justice in frontline and fence-line communities and describe how Meta is supporting founders as they launch their businesses as models of innovation, entrepreneurship, and environmental justice solutions.

### **3E PRIORITIES FOR MID-ATLANTIC STATES: CENTERING COMMUNITIES TO ADVANCE ENVIRONMENTAL, CLIMATE, AND ENERGY JUSTICE- ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION (GRAND BALLROOM)**

*Roundtable Moderators:*

*Jay Monteverde, Director, US Environmental Justice Program, Namati*

*Kerri Harris, Organizing Specialist, Namati*

*Queen Shabazz, Executive Director, United Parents Against Lead (UPAL), CEO, Virginia Environmental Justice Collaborative (VEJC), Member, Lead Service Line Replacement Collaborative*

Communities of color and low-wealth populations in the Mid-Atlantic region (Delaware, Maryland, DC, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey) face numerous social, health, and economic challenges due to historic and contemporary structural racism in the form of redlining and segregation. This racism including environmental racism has contributed to the disproportionate burden of traffic-related air pollution (TRAP), goods movement, brownfields, urban heat islands, landfills, incinerators, power plants, sewage backups, and stormwater runoff in communities of color throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. This differential burden of environmental hazards and locally

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unwanted land uses (LULUs) leads to exposure, risk and health disparities for residents who live in frontline/fenceline communities in this region. For example, in Washington, DC we have observed higher levels of air pollution and related disparities in Wards 7 and 8 (greater proportion of people of color) compared to other wards. Baltimore, a majority Black city, has more heat-related morbidity deaths between 2012-2018 than any other city in the state. Studies have found burden and exposure disparities for communities of color in North Delaware and disparities in the burden of industrial chicken farming in Southern Delaware. We see major disparities in air pollution, heat, and health have also been found in cities throughout Virginia including Richmond. New Jersey has more Superfund sites than any other state in the country with cities like Newark and Camden suffering from years of industrial development, environmental pollution, and disinvestment.

In this session, attendees will participate in a roundtable style discussion to discuss environmental, climate, and energy justice issues in their home state. Each table will have a lead or co-leads to moderate discussions for their Mid-Atlantic state. Attendees will share the EJ challenges they face and any current or future opportunities to collaborate and synergize within and across communities, networks, alliances, and coalitions including the Mid-Atlantic Justice Coalition. The roundtable portion of the discussion will last 45 minutes and then the moderated report back and Q and A portion of the discussion will last 30 minutes.



# Day 3- August 13

## Closing Plenary

4:30PM – 5:45PM

## WE NEED MORE POWER: OPPORTUNITIES FOR EQUITY IN ACCESS TO CLEAN ENERGY (GRAND BALLROOM)

### *Speakers:*

*Tom Cormons, Executive Director, Appalachian Voices, and White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC)*

*Paula Glover, President, Alliance to Save Energy*

*Mustafa Santiago Ali, Executive Vice President, National Wildlife Federation*

*Gilbert Campbell, Co-Founder, Volt Energy*

*Sacoby Wilson, Director, CEEJH and Professor, UMD School of Public Health*

Historically disadvantaged communities are often overburdened by petroleum, natural gas, and coal based energy production on top of numerous other environmental hazards and stressors. A just transition towards clean renewable energy provides a unique opportunity to promote environmental justice and build equity in these communities in a variety of ways. But there are concerns about what safeguards are in place to make clean energy equitable and accessible, as well how communities impacted by the transition away from dirty energy sources would see benefits or incentives. Additionally, without a focus on building the power of those groups who tend to experience more energy injustices including communities of color, low-income communities, indigenous and tribal communities, can we truly have a just and equitable clean energy future?

These issues, concerns, and calls for action are central to the work of Appalachian Voices, Alliance to Save Energy, the National Wildlife Federation, and Volt Energy. All of these organizations will be represented on the panel for this session. In this panel discussion, speakers will share their experiences in pushing for energy equity and a just transition from old

energy sources to new energy sources including wind, solar, and geothermal and infrastructure in the Mid-Atlantic region. They will also discuss the need to prioritize environmental and energy justice principles to ensure that voices of frontline and fence-line communities that have been differentially impacted by the life cycle of dirty energy are heard in the transition to clean and renewable energy and shift to more energy efficient technologies. They will discuss their work to help impacted residents to secure employment and economic opportunity in the clean energy sector through a focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion. We will tap into the panelists' expertise working with coalitions of stakeholders to find lasting, consensus-based solutions to create opportunities for energy equity and justice. Finally, panelists will share their visions for a just and equitable clean energy future for the Mid-Atlantic region and how the Infrastructure bill, Justice40, and the Inflation Reduction Act can help make their visions a reality.

# Day 3- August 13

## Closing Remarks (Grand Ballroom)

**5:45pm – 6:00pm**

**Dr. Sacoby Wilson will provide final closing remarks, thank sponsors, and staff, and adjourn the business part of the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Environmental Justice and Health Disparities Symposium.**

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

## Post-Event Celebration (Colony Ballroom)

**6:00pm – 9:00pm**

**We will provide food and music for attendees interested who want to continue with fellow attendees after the symposium. Food and beverages will be available in the Colony Ballroom.**