



**ARRAY101**  
Never Stop Learning

# ORIGIN

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACTION PLAN

WORKSHEET AND ACTIVITY

# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACTION PLAN IN YOUR COMMUNITY

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was established in December of 1970 to address mounting environmental issues concerning chemical contamination in U.S. air, water and on land, due to disasters such as chemical explosions and spills. The agency later adopted criteria and formed legislation to address the contamination of existing industrial sites, create environmental standards for industries and lead federally funded research.

## **We all hold the unique position of being experts on the places where we live.**

Some of us are historical community members who have inherited the knowledge our ancestors have imprinted on the land. Some of us are relatively new to an area and are beginning to understand what communities we want to belong to. As advocates and stewards of our land and our environments, it is our responsibility to be witnesses and address harms within our communities.

Through local organizing, community members can create action plans to ensure agencies stay committed to environmental justice and meet the needs of the most vulnerable populations.

**[CLICK HERE to view the EPA's Equity Action Plan.](#)**



ACTIVITY:

## **LET'S MAKE A PLAN**

**Do you or your community have an environmental justice concern?**

Develop a community outreach proposal that addresses environmental concerns while becoming familiar with the community activists in your area who are getting into good trouble!



# PROCEDURE

1

## Identify Your Target Audience

**Find members of your community** that are affected by environmental hazards. Begin to ask questions at local community meetings, your place of worship or online in social media groups. Eventually, you will find like-minded people in your neighborhood.



2

## Start Your Outreach

**Design a plan of action** for how you will reach out to the community.

How accessible is your targeted audience? Does everyone live in the same neighborhood, or is the community spread out? Is there a public space that receives foot traffic? Can you partner with a local business or join online groups to announce your meeting? Be sure to stay organized. There are free services that can allow you to create online sign-up forms and surveys.



# PROCEDURE

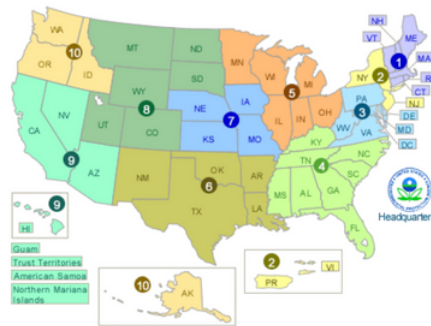
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Visit the [“Environmental Protection Agency’s Environmental Justice in Your Community” Page](#)

Once your community is interested and you’re building momentum, that is the time to **reach out to local organizations**, city council members and other environmental organizations for a visit to your community. Locate groups or community activists that may be interested in lending resources or in joining the conversation.

## Environmental Justice in Your Community

[Environmental Justice Showcase Communities by Region](#)



- [Region 1](#)
- [Region 2](#)
- [Region 3](#)
- [Region 4](#)
- [Region 5](#)
- [Region 6](#)
- [Region 7](#)
- [Region 8](#)
- [Region 9](#)
- [Region 10](#)

4

Meet and Take Action

- Once you have people interested in making a change, **find a safe place to meet and discuss issues** that are facing your community. Library spaces, churches, public outdoor spaces, neighborhood homes are possibilities.
- What type of information will you provide? Are you providing handouts, presenting a slideshow, hosting a guest speaker or simply meeting to get to know one another? Whichever you decide, keep in mind your mission is to educate and galvanize action.



# BRAINSTORMING



## Target Communities

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## Questions to Ask

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## Outreach Plan

*Use the space below to brainstorm:*

## List of Local Organizations

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## List of Community Spaces

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