



Environmental Justice (EJ)

Alaska State & Tribal Response Program

Brownfield Workshop

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US EPA, R10
12/12/2012

Today's Discussion

- Definition
- History
- Environmental Justice at the EPA
- Current Projects
- Your Examples?

Environmental Justice (EJ)

- “Environmental /Toxic Racism”
- “Environmental Equity”
- Ecoracism
- “Environmental Discrimination”
- Climate Justice

EJ Defined - EPA

“Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.”

EJ Defined - EPA

“Environmental Justice is the **fair treatment** and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.”

Fair treatment means that no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental and commercial operations or policies

EJ Defined - EPA

“Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and **meaningful involvement** of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.”

Meaningful involvement means that:

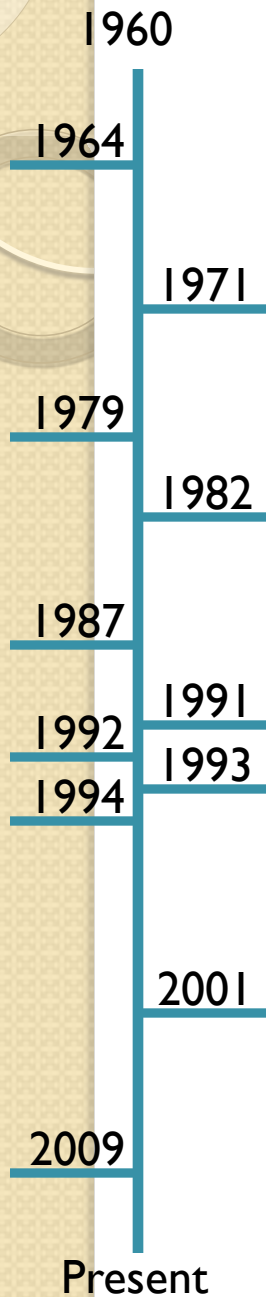
1. people have an opportunity to participate in decisions about activities that may affect their environment and/or health
2. the public's contribution can influence the regulatory agency's decision
3. their concerns will be considered in the decision making process
4. the decision makers seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.

EJ Defined – Dept. of Transportation

Three key principles of Environmental Justice:

1. To avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects, including social and economic effects, on minority populations and low-income populations
2. To ensure the full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities in the transportation decision-making process.
3. To prevent the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits by minority and low-income populations.

History of EJ: 1964-Present



History of EJ: 1964-Present

1960

1964

1971

1979

1982

1987

1991

1992

1993

1994

2001

2009

Present

1964—Civil Rights Act

- Outlawed major forms of discrimination against racial, ethnic, national and religious minorities, and women.



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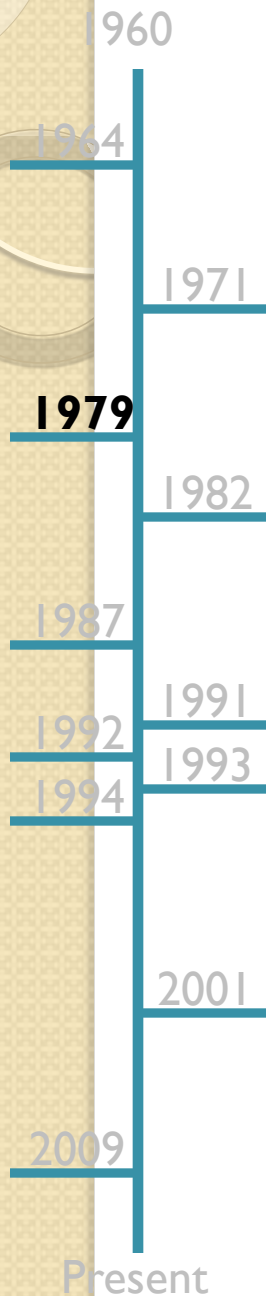
Present

1971—President's CEQ Finding

- Acknowledged in their annual report that racial discrimination adversely impacted poor urban populations.



History of EJ: 1964-Present



1979—*Bean v. Southwestern Waste Management Inc.*

- First lawsuit to use civil rights laws to charge environmental discrimination in waste facility siting.



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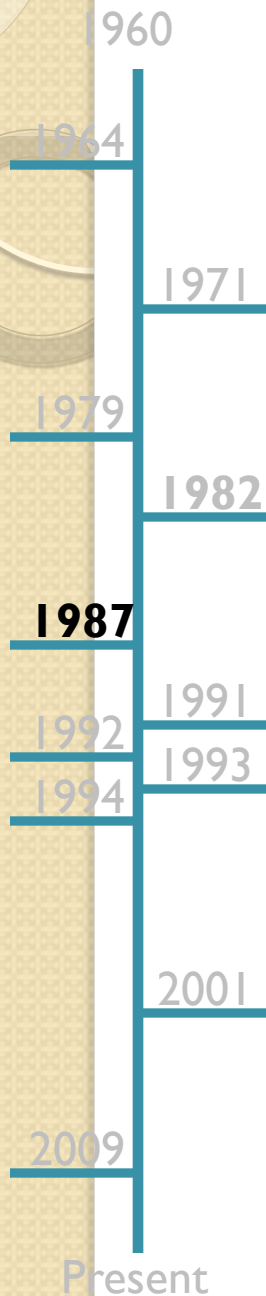
Present

1982—Warren County, NC

- “Birthplace of Environmental Justice Movement”

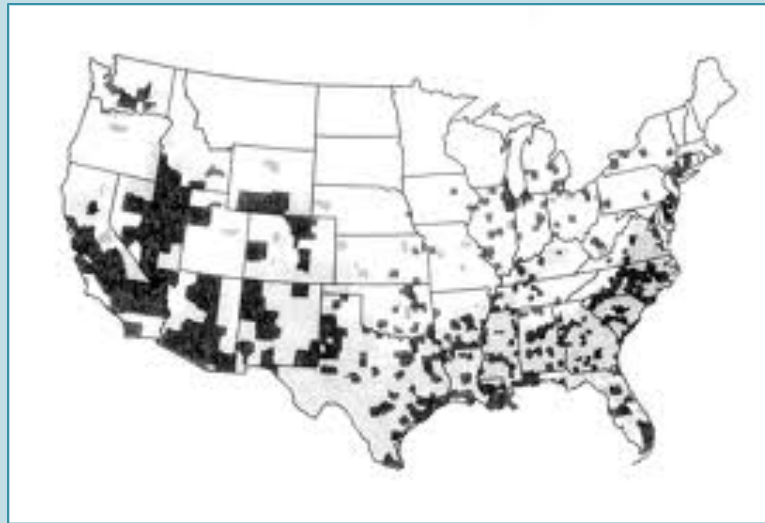


History of EJ: 1964-Present

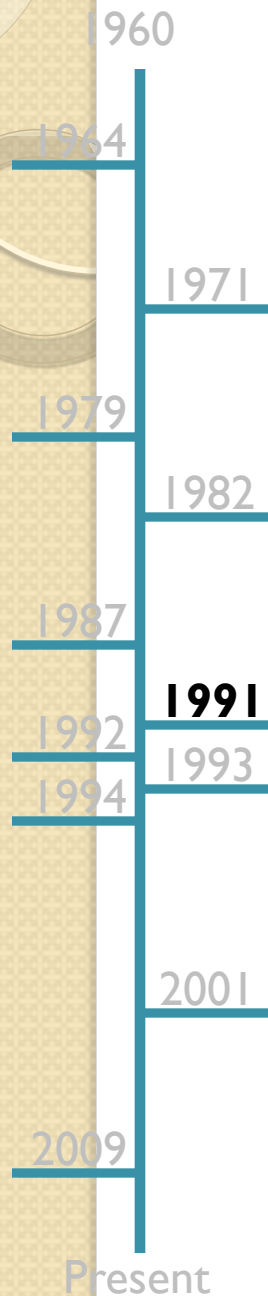


1987—“Toxic Wastes and Race in America”

- A national report on the racial and socio-economic characteristics of communities with hazardous waste sites



History of EJ: 1964-Present



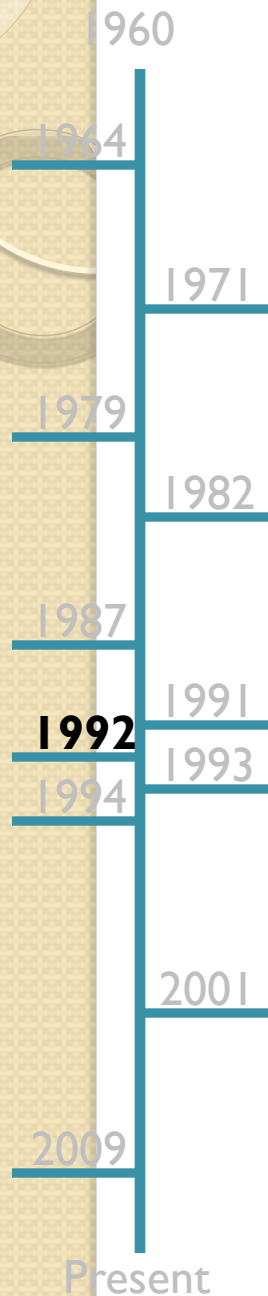
1991—First People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit

- Connected grassroots EJ struggles and expanded scope of EJ

PREAMBLE:

WE, THE PEOPLE OF COLOR, gathered together at this multinational People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit, to begin to build a national and international movement of all peoples of color to fight the destruction and taking of our lands and communities, do hereby re-establish our spiritual interdependence to the sacredness of our Mother Earth...

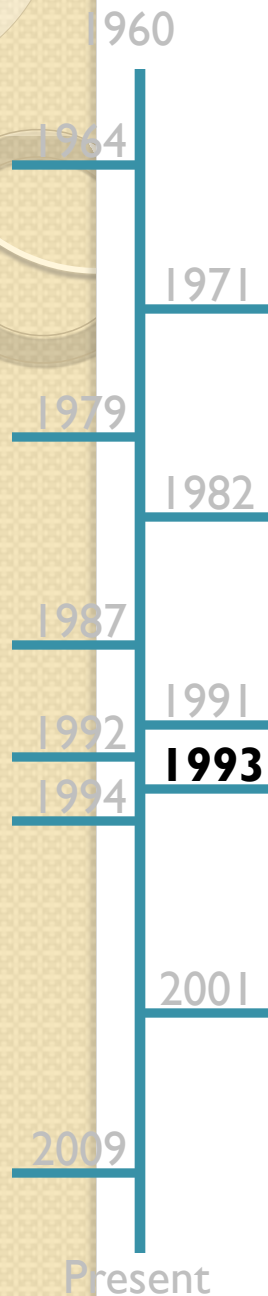
History of EJ: 1964-Present



1992—Office of Environmental Equity

- Is now the Office of Environmental Justice

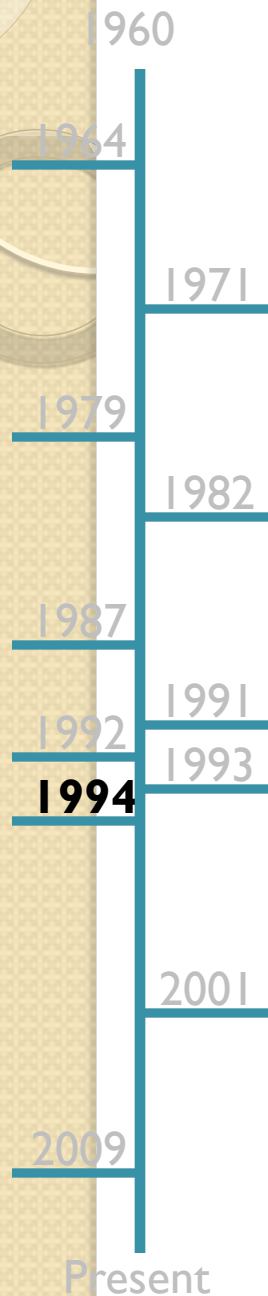
History of EJ: 1964-Present



1993—National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC)

- Federal Advisory Committee providing EJ recommendations to the Administrator

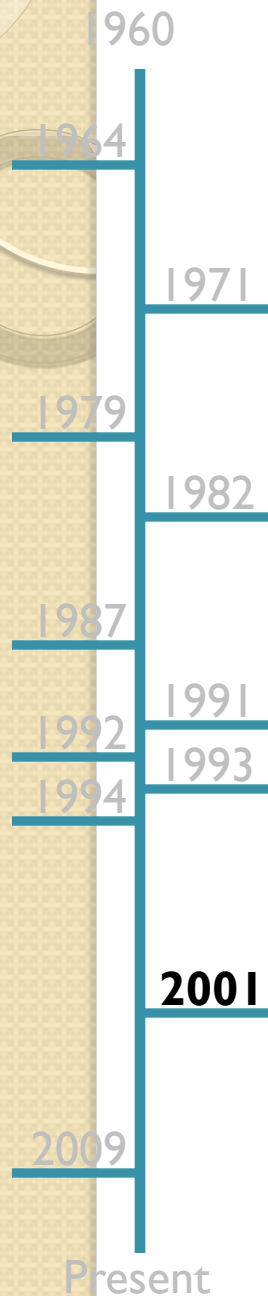
History of EJ: 1964-Present



1994—Executive Order 12898

- “Federal Actions To Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations”
- *Agency Responsibilities*
- *Creation of an Interagency Working Group on EJ*
- *Development of Agency Strategies*
- *Consumption Patterns*
- *Public Participation and Access to Information*

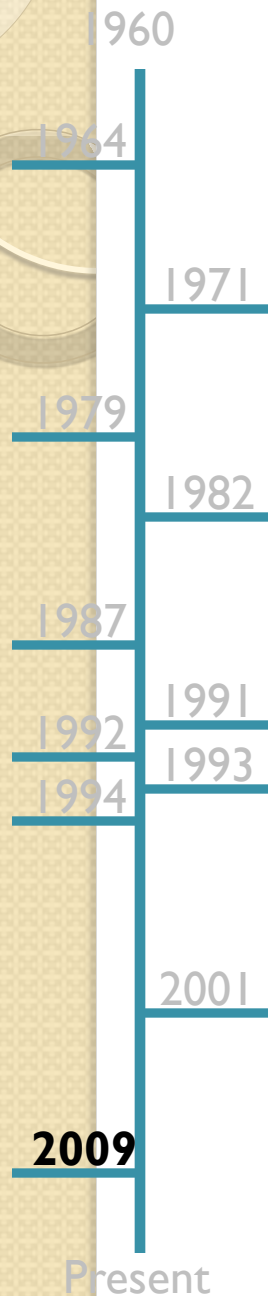
History of EJ: 1964-Present



2001—EPA's Administrative Memorandum

- EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman

History of EJ: 1964-Present



2009—Environmental Justice Listed as 1 of 7 Agency Priorities



- EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson
- “Expanding the Conversation on Environmentalism and Working for Environmental Justice”

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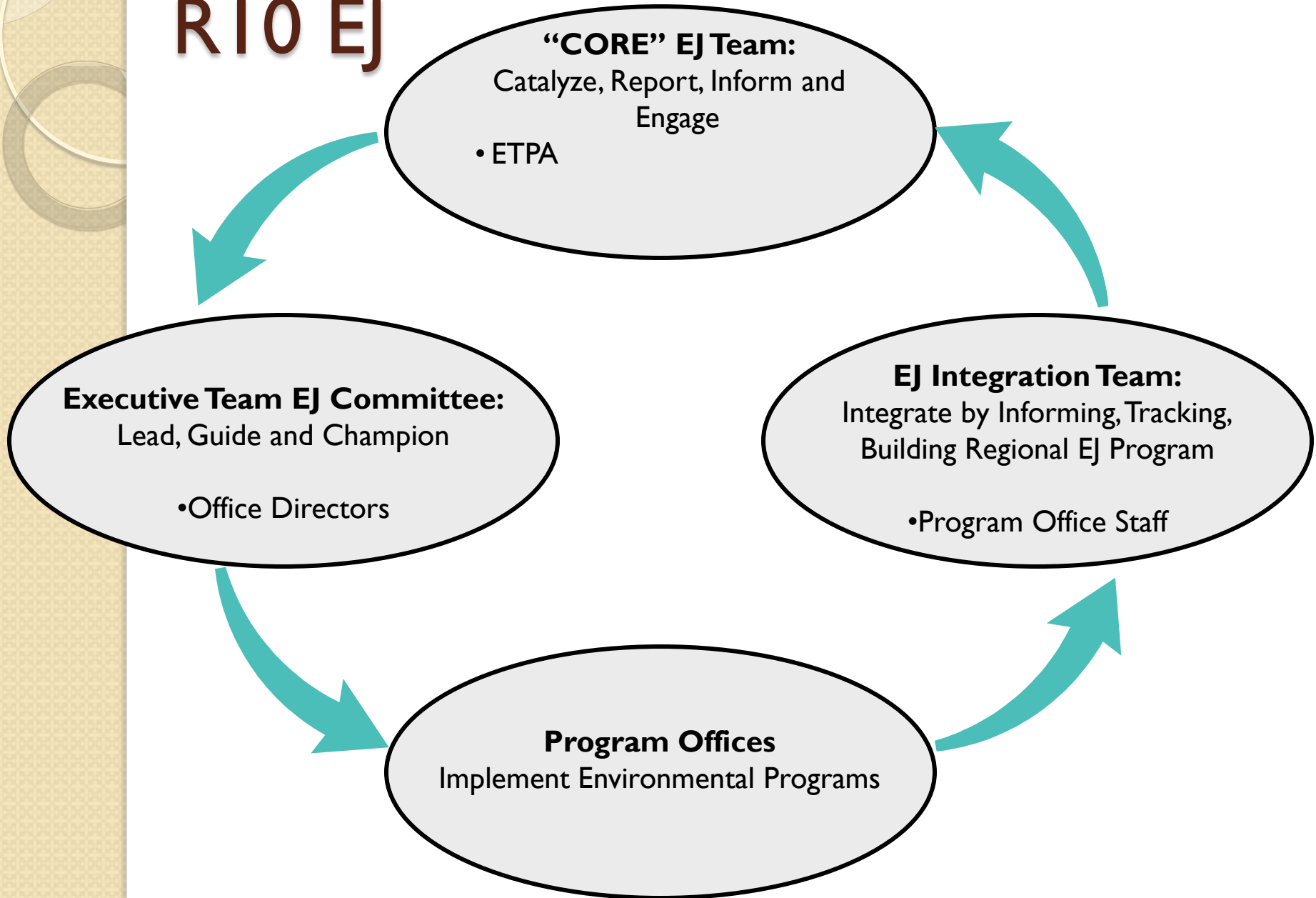
Goals of Plan EJ 2014

- Protect health in communities over-burdened by pollution
- Empower communities to take action to improve their health and environment
- Establish partnerships with local, state, tribal and federal organizations to achieve healthy and sustainable communities.

EJ at EPA

- Office of Environmental Justice--Housed within Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA)
- Office of Ecosystems, Tribal, and Public Affairs (R10)

RIO EJ





Current EJ Efforts...

EJ and Brownfields



EJ Small Grants

- Well and Septic Inventory on the Red Lake Reservation (MN)
- Let's Build Cully Park! (OR)
- Alaska Tribal EJ Summit on Solid Waste
- Investigating Extent of Dioxin Impacts to Subsistence Resources (AK)

EJ Small Grants

- \$25,000 for community EJ projects
- January 7, submission deadline
- Information call: Thurs, 12/13/12
 - 7:00-8:30pm EST
 - 1-866-299-3188, code 202-564-1771

Alaska Housing, Air Quality, & Children's Health

Lack of piped water
(infections, infectious
diseases)



**Respiratory
Disease in
Alaska**

Inadequate housing
(overcrowded
conditions, poor
ventilation)

Poor indoor
air quality
(secondhand smoke & wood
smoke)

Alaska Healthy Homes Workgroup Activities

- Developed a template GAP work plan to address home environmental health issues
- International funding to ANTHC for healthy homes interventions to address respiratory illness in children in YK Delta Region
- Funded training for Tlingit Haida Housing Authority Staff to conduct 400+ healthy homes and energy assessments in SE Alaska



EPA's EJ Quarterly Call

- The purpose of these calls is to provide information to participants about the Agency's EJ activities and maintain an open dialogue with EJ advocates. As EPA continues to advance [Plan EJ 2014](#), the Agency hopes these calls will better inform the public about EPA's EJ work and enhance opportunities to take advantage of federal activities.
- **Upcoming Call**
- **January 17, 2012 Teleconference**
- **Time:** 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. Eastern time
- **Phone Number:** TBD
- **Access Code:** TBD



Questions? Examples? Stories?