

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide. It features a large, light green circle at the top left, a smaller solid green circle at the top center, and three leaf-shaped segments arranged in a fan-like pattern. Each leaf segment contains an aerial photograph of a lush green landscape with terraced fields and palm trees. The background is white.

Environmental Justice

By the Education and Research Subcommittee

ECO Agency supports the
right to a clean and
healthful environment for
all people.



What is Environmental Justice



Environmental justice is an intersectional social justice movement that calls for mass education and awareness about environmental injustices and fair treatment of all people in respect to implementation and enforcement of environmental laws and practices. This movement supports a world where all people, regardless of race, feel that the environment they live in is safe and protected.



What is Environmental Racism

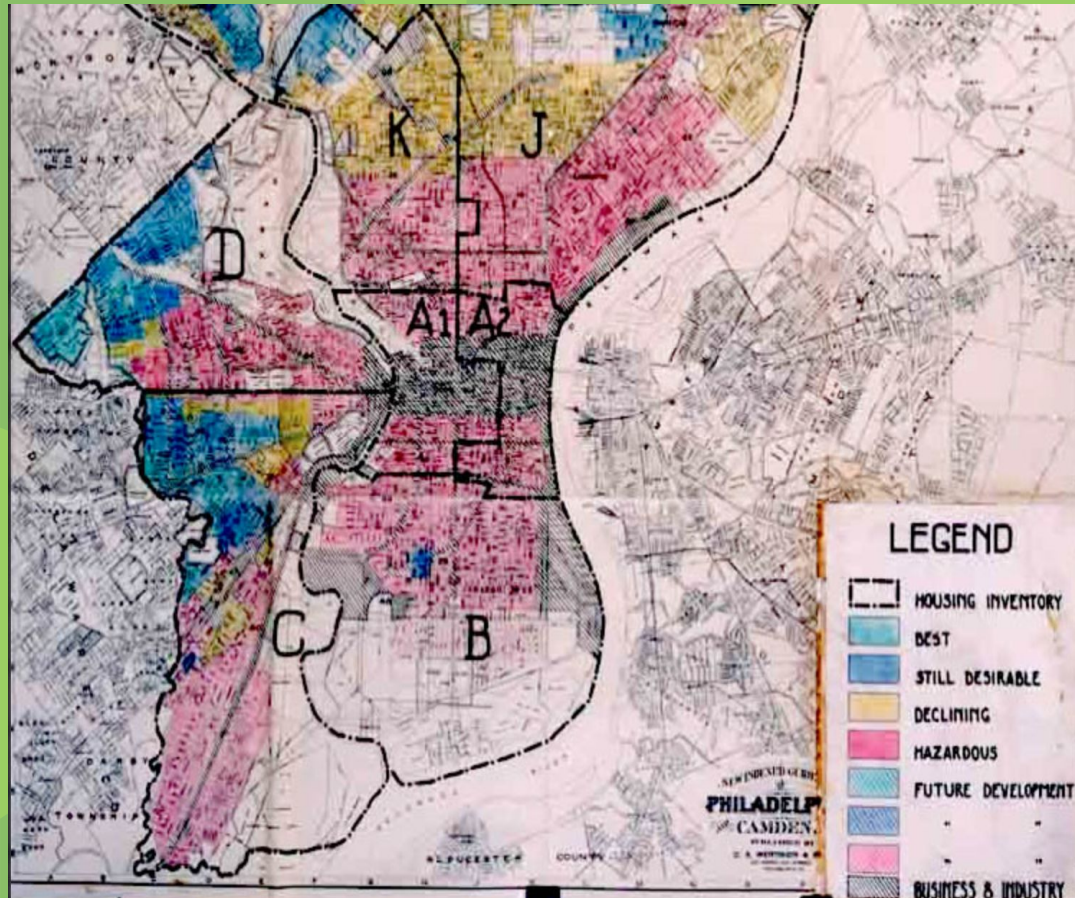
Environmental racism refers to the tendency of minority communities to be targeted to host industries that have the potential to cause incredible environmental hazard. This increased risk of environmental hazard on people of color is rooted in decades of racism.

79% of all municipal solid waste incinerators in the US are located in predominantly black and brown communities and these facilities emit toxins that pose human health risks.

More than 35 Native American reservations were targeted for landfills, incinerators, and radioactive waste facilities in the early 1990s.

Environmental Racism Started with Redlining


Environmental racism is rooted in housing patterns in America. Redlining in the 1960's continued segregation and placed Black people in neighborhoods labeled "hazardous". Additionally, many Black Americans were denied mortgages in "desirable" neighborhoods.



The Dawn of the Environmental Justice Movement



The Environmental Justice movement began in 1982 in Warren County, North Carolina when the state announced plans to move contaminated soil to the majority Black county. This sparked research into environmental and health issues in Black and Brown communities. The *Toxic Waste and Race* report by the Commission of Racial Justice came out in 1987 and confirmed that hazardous waste sites disproportionately located in primarily black areas. This led to many people being outraged and the true beginning of the movement.



Common Examples of Environmental Injustice

Flint, Michigan Water Crisis

Flint is a majority poor, Black city disproportionately exposed to environmental harms and risks as a result of the disposal practices of the auto industry over decades.

South Bronx's Asthma Alley

The neighborhood is nicknamed “Asthma Alley” because its residents— predominantly low-income families and families of color— suffer some of the highest rates of death and hospitalization from asthma in the country due to warehouses and exhaust.

Environmental Injustice in Miami

West Coconut Grove Bahamian Neighborhood Incinerator

Between the years 1925 and 1970, there was a trash incinerator in West Coconut Grove known as “Old Smokey” that blew ash into the air whenever it was running. This community has been predominantly Bahamian immigrants since the 1880’s and throughout history this neighborhood has faced racism through redlining practices, the presence of the KKK, Jim Crow practices, and tension with police. Water samples taken within the past decade showed contamination from carcinogens such as arsenic, lead, barium, and cadmium. For two years, the presence of contamination was kept from residents who continued to frequent parks and various green spaces, unaware of the possible effect that it could have on them. The community has since been told that the contaminants are at a safe level for those living there, but a group of University of Miami cancer researchers found a cluster of pancreatic cancer cases in the neighborhood that they have been able to link to drinking water wells that were contaminated with arsenic.



Why should you care?

It is a massive ethical issue when certain groups of people are subjected to increased environmental hazards than other groups. Environmental Justice links the fight for human rights with the fight for a more sustainable world. The toxins that people of color are disproportionately subjected to are the same pollutants driving climate change. The health of our planet is declining at an alarming rate and we cannot heal Earth without acknowledging environmental racism and advocating for communities that bear the burden of the problem.

Stand with the planet and stand with equality.



Want to learn more? Here's a reading list

[The Wrong Complexion for Protection](#) – Robert D. Bullard and Beverly Wright

[Disposable City](#) – Mario Alejandro Ariza

[Climate Futures: Reimagining Global Climate Justice](#) – John Foran

[A Terrible Thing to Waste: Environmental Racism and Its Assault on the American Mind](#) – Harriet A. Washington

[Indigenous Environmental Justice](#) – Karen Jarratt-Snider and Marianne O. Nielsen

[Clean and White: A History of Environmental Racism](#) – Carl A. Zimring



Organizations Fighting for Environmental Justice

Miami Climate Alliance

<https://miamiclimetealliance.org/>

One Percent for the Planet

<https://www.onepercentfortheplanet.org/stories/nonprofits-fighting-for-social-environmental-justice>

Environmental Justice Foundation

<https://ejfoundation.org/>

Global Greengrants Fund

<https://www.greengrants.org/>

Indigenous Environmental Network

<https://www.ienearth.org>

Sierra Club

<https://www.sierraclub.org/florida/justice>

Sources

- <https://18tweed.wixsite.com/westgrove/discrimination>
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/23/us/old-smokey-is-long-gone-from-miami-but-its-toxic-legacy-lingers.html>
- <https://www.climaterealityproject.org/blog/environmental-racism-what-it-and-how-you-can-fight-it>
- <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/how-unite-fight-racial-equity-and-environmental-action>
- <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/07/what-is-environmental-racism-pollution-covid-systemic/>
- <https://greenaction.org/what-is-environmental-justice/>
- <http://blogs.colgate.edu/sustainability/2014/04/23/what-is-environmental-justice-and-why-should-we-care/>
- <https://www.colorado.edu/coloradan/2019/10/01/environmental-justice-all>
- <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-56941979>
- <https://projects.propublica.org/black-snow/#:~:text=Nearly%20every%20day%20during%20the,their%20community%20%E2%80%9Cblack%20snow.%E2%80%9D>
- <https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/places-african-american-history/2-pahokee-florida-1909/>
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/02/climate/miami-sea-level-rise.html>
- <https://bullsugar.org/florida-fights-glades-sugarcane-burning/>
- <https://www.propublica.org/article/they-deserve-to-be-safe-candidates-call-on-florida-to-investigate-the-health-effects-of-sugar-cane-burning>
- <https://bencrump.com/environmental-justice-lawyer/what-are-some-examples-of-environmental-injustice/>
- <https://www.insider.com/environmental-racism-examples-united-states-2020-8#houston-texas-7>