

January 2023 NSBEAP EJ Workgroup

January 11, 2023 2pm – 3pm (Eastern)

Mission: Explore how SBEAPs can address environmental justice (EJ) concerns in their states through small business assistance.

❖ Roll Call –

- Chair: Lisa Ashenbrenner Hunt (WI)
- Region 1: Sara Johnson (NH)
- Region 2: Maxwell Graham (NJ)
- Region 3:
- Region 4: Tony Pendola (NC), Donovan Grimwood (TN)
- Region 5: Renee Bashel (WI), Jenifer Dixon (MI)
- Region 6:
- Region 7: Nancy Larson (KS), Mary Yesko (KS), Cris Brazil (KS)
- Region 8:
- Region 9: Sydney Boogaard (AZ), Kat Olson (NV)
- Region 10:
- EPA: Paula Hoag, Mari Grover, Elnora Thompson

❖ Agenda repair

❖ December minutes - Approved

❖ New subcommittee members – welcome and introduction

- Mari Grover (EPA OSDBU)
- Mary Yesko (KS)
- Cris Brazil (KS)

❖ NEJAC vacancies

- 10 vacancies to be filled on EPA's National Environmental Justice Advisory Committee.
- Jenifer Dixon (MI) still interested in nomination.
- Anyone else interested in being nominated let Donovan and Lisa know.
- NSC will provide letter of recommendation (part of application process).
- Nomination deadline March 17.

❖ Annual Training

- Paula reaching out to EPA Region 9 for speaker, but some confusion about what SBEAPs do.
- Potential presentation on MOU between CAL EPA and Region 9 on EJ enforcement, action plan. Example of federal and state collaboration affecting facilities and enforcement.
- Maxwell looking to speak. Will help with intro to EJ Subcommittee.

❖ EJ web page

- Reviewed list of EJ links for web page.
- Group into categories. Nancy Larson will take stab at organizing them. Will use headers as outlined in SOP.
- Could add resources to left sidebar.

- Remove case studies, because we don't have any yet.
- Should spell out full web address instead of just link to help with accessibility. Same with email addresses.
- Suggestion to develop flyer or other marketing materials for small businesses on what EJ is, how it may impact them (i.e. enforcement initiatives) and how SBEAPs can assist them.

❖ **Annual report EJ questions**

- Interest in knowing if SBEAPs are tracking assistance in areas of EJ concern. If yes, how are they defining EJ areas?
- If going to track EJ outreach activities through annual report, need consistency of definition.
- Subcommittee could provide guidance on how EJ activities could be measured.
- Going to replace existing EJ question asking if SBEAPs are doing anything to address EJ. Most answered "no" last year.
- Could also ask questions at Annual Training about what EJ topics SBEAPs would like training on. Possible webinar(s).
- Nancy Larson will send draft language for questions. Lisa, Jenifer, Sara will help wordsmith.
- For 2024, ask SBEAPs how they're incorporating their EJ knowledge.

❖ **Business toolkit (MI)**

- Didn't have time to discuss.

❖ **Next subcommittee call (monthly) – Wednesday, February 8, 2:00-3:00 Eastern**

❖ **Next Steps**

- **Lisa/Chris/Paula – Continue working on finding speaker for Annual Training**
- **Nancy – take stab at grouping web links for EJ page.**
- **All – develop flyer or other marketing material for small businesses on what EJ is, how it may impact them and how SBEAPs can help.**
- **Nancy, Lisa, Jenifer, Sara – work on wording for EJ questions for Annual Report.**

February 2023 NSBEAP EJ Workgroup

February 8, 2023 2pm – 3pm (Eastern)

Mission: Explore how SBEAPs can address environmental justice (EJ) concerns in their states through small business assistance.

❖ Roll Call –

- Chair: Lisa Ashenbrenner Hunt (WI)
- Region 1:
- Region 2: Maxwell Graham (NJ)
- Region 3: Samantha Harmon (PA)
- Region 4: Tony Pendola (NC), Donovan Grimwood (TN)
- Region 5: Jenifer Dixon (MI), Dan Sowry (OH), Todd Nein (OH), Emilie Eskridge (OH)
- Region 6:
- Region 7: Nancy Larson (KS), Mary Yesko (KS)
- Region 8:
- Region 9: Kat Olson (NV)
- Region 10:
- EPA: Mari Grover, Elnora Thompson

❖ Agenda repair

❖ January minutes - Approved

❖ NEJAC vacancies

- No one has expressed interest in nomination other than Jenifer.

❖ Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool – recap from Donovan

- Donovan will share webinar slides when available.
- Combines info from existing screening tools from federal agencies into single tool.
- Decisive tool that defines which communities are disadvantaged.
- All agencies to begin using by October of this year.
- Agency-specific tools may still be used with adequate justification.

❖ Annual Training

- Still looking for local/regional speaker.
- Paula talked with EPA Region 9 EJ staff. They don't see link with SBEAPs.
- Jenifer talked to an EPA Region 5 contact who provided an EJ contact in Region 9 who she will reach out to.
- Other thoughts
 - New head of EJ spoke at the DC P2 conference last week and he is the same person we had at our Annual Training. Janet McCabe, AA, spoke too and she was an awesome speaker.
 - Kat will do some digging on EJ groups in Nevada to see if there might be some natural fits for the March training.
- Lisa and Maxwell will draft an intro to the EJ Subcommittee and web resources. Anything we want to highlight when introducing the subcommittee?

❖ **EJ web page**

- Nancy added links to tools.
- ECHO
 - Region 7 SBEAPs had demo of tool.
 - Can find out what permits a facility has, RCRA status, etc.
 - Uses data from EJ Screen and shows which categories the facility falls under (i.e. wastewater, air toxics, cancer risk, particulate matter).
 - Only includes environmental indices, not demographics.
 - Tony uses to check for small businesses with violations and cold calls them.
- Jenifer hearing from businesses wanting to know how they'll be impacted by EJ.
- EPA EJ Showcase Communities – each region highlights a project. Will produce future case studies.
- Need to find web page with EPA regional EJ contacts.
- Posted Lisa's full document of links under "list of EJ resources."

❖ **Other things of note**

- 2023 National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program March 7-9. Registration is free for the public sector. <https://thenejc.org/registration>.

❖ **Next subcommittee call (monthly) – Wednesday, March 8, 2:00-3:00 Eastern**

❖ **Next Steps**

- **Move next call back 15 minutes to accommodate annual training planning call.**
- **Donovan will share slides on Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tools when available.**
- **Lisa will review web page edits and find EPA regional EJ contacts.**
- **Lisa/Maxwell will draft intro to EJ Subcommittee and web resources for annual training session.**

March 2023 NSBEAP EJ Workgroup

March 8, 2023 2pm – 3pm (Eastern)

Mission: Explore how SBEAPs can address environmental justice (EJ) concerns in their states through small business assistance.

❖ **Roll Call –**

- Chair: Lisa Ashenbrenner Hunt (WI)
- Region 1: Sara Johnson (NH)
- Region 2: Maxwell Graham (NJ)
- Region 3: Jeremy Hancher (PA)
- Region 4: Tony Pendola (NC), Donovan Grimwood (TN)
- Region 5: Jenifer Dixon (MI), Deb Jacobson (IL), Emilie Eskridge (OH), Renee Bashel (WI)
- Region 6:
- Region 7: Nancy Larson (KS), Mary Yesko (KS)
- Region 8:
- Region 9: Kat Olson (NV)
- Region 10:
- EPA: Mari Grover, Elnora Thompson

❖ **Agenda repair**

❖ **February minutes - Approved**

❖ **Annual Training**

- EPA Region 9 speaker: Morgan Capilla, Environmental Justice Coordinator; or someone from her office. (45 minutes)
- Subcommittee overview: Maxwell Graham – review of draft outline
 - Add discussion on cumulative effects. EPA is starting to consider / define. Small businesses may come into play since they're looking at all pollution sources.
 - Jenifer Dixon has experience in this area she can share.
 - NJ also considering cumulative impacts. Both major and minor air sources have been impacted.
 - Lot of questions about how to quantify. Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool doesn't address cumulative impacts. EPA doesn't have much guidance.
 - Nancy Larson heard from the KS environmental agency that, according to a committee they're on (maybe ECOS?), PA and CO both have strong programs. Nancy will find out more information.
 - Housing issues may come into play. Many areas converting old industrial buildings into housing, moving people into existing industrial areas. Are existing environmental issues considered when deciding where to put housing? Might be a zoning question. Renovations should at least trigger asbestos notifications. Environmental issues may be considered if property is already considered a brownfield.
 - We haven't been given much information about EPA assistance efforts beyond enforcement.

- Poll / discussion questions
 - Would need to find software for polling. Nancy exploring. No one else using.
 - Could use Google Jam Board.
 - Decided in-person discussion is better than polling.
 - Proposed questions look good.
 - Renee offered to take notes during discussion.

❖ **Web page**

- Will get feedback at Annual Training and then decide next steps.

❖ **NEJAC nomination**

- Nomination deadline March 17.
- Jenifer Dixon applying.
- Still time for others to nominate if interested. The more people nominated, the better.

❖ **Next subcommittee call (monthly) – Wednesday, April 12, 2:00-3:00 Eastern**
Speaker: Jamie Marincola, Stormwater, Wetlands and Oil Supervisor, OECA, EPA Region 9

❖ **Next Steps**

- **Maxwell and Lisa will finalize Annual Training session outline and create PowerPoint.**
- **Renee will take notes on discussion questions during training.**
- **Nancy will get more info on the committee that KS agency staff referenced.**
- **Lisa will talk to Jamie Marincola to discuss April call.**