

January 2024 NSBEAP EJ Subcommittee

January 10, 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: Samantha Harmon (PA), Jeremy Hancher (PA), Lee Ann Briggs (PA)
- Region 4: Tony Pendola (NC), Donovan Grimwood (TN), Derek Bozzell (KY), Emily Jayne (KY), Taaka Bailey (MS), Sherry Waldron (GA)
- Region 5: Kaitlyn DeVries (MI), Mark Stoddard (IN), Chrystal Wagner (IN), Hani Sharaya (IN)
- Region 6:
- Region 7: Nancy Larson (KS), Mary Baker (KS), Rajavel Krishnamoorthy (KS), Jennifer Wittenburg (IA)
- Region 8: Kaitlin Urso (CO), Gabe Catenacci (CO), Jesse Fairweather (CO), Jerrett Vigil (CO), Jesse Walters (CO), Bonnie Rouse (MT)
- Region 9: Sydney Boogaard (AZ), Kat Olson (NV), Chris Lynch (NV), Griffin Hadlock (NV), Martin Tull (NV)
- Region 10:
- EPA: Eric Tidquist (R5), Elnora Thompson

❖ Agenda repair - none

❖ Approval of December minutes - approved

❖ Autobody outreach discussion

- Summary of NH project / draft document – Sara Johnson
 - Focuses on how shops can be better members of their communities instead of emphasizing EJ.
 - Includes short list of ways they could decrease environmental impacts and get involved in their communities.
 - Includes a section on environmental requirements but doesn't go into every detail.
 - Sara will be presenting the document to her agency's EJ team who will advise on how to discuss EJ.
 - There are currently two sections of recommendations focused on reducing environmental impacts and community involvement. Would this work better with three sections on environmental requirements, BMPs and community involvement?
- Thoughts on requirements section
 - Don't list all the requirements here. Either include more or stick to voluntary actions.
 - Summarize 6H in a few bulletpoints (metals in coatings, spray guns, gun cleaners, filters, training, etc.). Don't necessarily have to know if they have metals in coatings if they're already complying with the rule. Keep short and simple. Include gun transfer efficiency, using enclosed gun cleaners, solvent distillation.

- Another suggestion to keep info general instead of getting into specific 6H requirements, since the rule doesn't apply to everyone.
 - Seeing shops moving outside municipalities and not being connected to POTW. Want to drain wastewater to onsite treatment.
 - Also seeing shops hooked up to city sewers but not registered with POTW.
 - How is paint from a damaged section of the vehicle removed? Dry or solvent/chemical based? If dry, how is the dust controlled? How is the waste dust managed?
- Section on "nice things to do" that are not required
 - Could include using waterborne/low VOC paints, checking coatings for metals beyond the HAPs in 6H and keeping consistent operating hours.
 - Suggestions not to paint at night when people are at home, pay attention to the Air Quality Index/action days, use PPE.
 - PPE isn't an environmental issue. If including that, should add other health-related things.
 - Hard sell to tell them not to paint on certain days. Maybe just suggest not painting when windy.
 - Add something about benefits of them paying attention to EJ issues.
 - Good housekeeping – avoid spills, etc. that lead to need for remediation. Keep rags/wipes in labeled and closed containers. Keep your mixing area organized and close containers of materials containing a solvent when not in use. Exterior storage of damaged vehicles awaiting appraisal should be kept cleaned to avoid the appearance of operating a salvage yard.
 - Rural areas without access to a sanitary sewer should consider having vehicles cleaned off site.
- Community involvement section
 - Is more EJ focused.
 - Some shops already doing these things.
 - Good to include this section emphasizing impacts of connecting with community.
 - Let community know you're an equal opportunity employer.
- How to get feedback from BIPOC (black, indigenous, and people of color) groups?
 - Sara has good relationships with associations but not much contact with BIPOC organizations. However, others in her department do have relationships with these groups, and they will be reviewing it. Sara will send the document to them once we're good with it.
- Other suggestions
 - Good to have EJ description at end of document. Soften by saying, "these things are especially important in EJ areas." Start with focus how suggestions help shops reduce impacts to encourage them to keep reading.
 - Consider translating into other languages. Sara is already planning on adding a question to her site visit checklist to ask what other languages they need assistance in.
 - Metal finishing and electroplating facilities often have poor housekeeping. In nondescript buildings, so you don't know what's going on inside them. Metal finishing/electroplating has been conducted in impoverished areas, some of which have gone through or are going through remediation. There are probably fewer decorative chrome platers of automotive parts for vintage vehicles.
 - Eric Tidquist (Region 5 EPA) has some contacts in the EJ group at Region 5 and could touch base with one of them to find the right person at Region 4.
 - <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/solicitation-fy-2024-technical-assistance-existing-and-potential-brownfields-rlf-grant> deadline is March 1, 2024
 - <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-near-you>
- How should the document be distributed (i.e. site visits, web posting, etc.)? Should outreach target EJ areas, and what's the best way to do that?
 - Will include the document on SBEAP web page, do social media posts and bring to site visits. Other ideas?
 - Suggestion to distribute through regional TCTACs who will be providing technical assistance to communities on EJ efforts. <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-thriving-communities-technical-assistance-centers>. Don't think the grant has been awarded yet in Region 1.
 - Any other technical assistance providers could help distribute it.
 - Let SBDCs know about this effort.

- EPA is primarily using EJScreen to identify communities for enforcement, but may also use CEJST. Can crosswalk the map with autobody shops.
- Distribute by mailing or could go door-to-door.
- KS is planning a similar push for the EPA EJ Flyer for site visits. Find the flyer and EJ resource page on NSBEAP @ <https://nationalsbeap.org/node/454>. They use CEJT for their database, but OECA is using only EJScreen. Doesn't have state tool. Cross walk the data with ECHO to get permit data.
- PA has a new EJ mapping tool. PennEnviroScreen. It is also similar to EPA tool with a lot more layers than the prior tool which was primarily race and socioeconomic. <https://gis.dep.pa.gov/PennEnviroScreen/>
- Michigan has a mapping tool too that is similar to EPA's EJScreen. <https://www.michigan.gov/egle/maps-data/miejscreen>. It is still in a draft form.
- Colorado's EnviroScreen tool (there is a tab that defines Disproportionately Impacted Community): https://teeo-cdphe.shinyapps.io/COEnviroScreen_English/
- Had a question on the annual report about if programs are tracking outreach in EJ areas and, if so, how are they defining them. Didn't get many positive responses.
- KS uses CEJST and EJScreen.
- Colorado mapped all the autobodys in the state by SIC code and then could over lap with EJ areas - then do outreach in those areas in-person. They use their own mapping tool.
- Could work through a state auto body association regarding outreach. They are probably interested in improving their image in the public's eye. In Indiana, it is the Indiana Auto Body Association.
 - Vocational/technical schools might be another group you should consider approaching.
 - Another resource - <https://ccar-greenlink.org/how-we-do-it/#collision>.
- Next steps
 - Sara will edit the document based on feedback received. Will have EJ Subcommittee review it again before sending to her agency's EJ group for review.

❖ **Technical Subcommittee Jan presentation on screening tools**

- Mary Baker presenting on EJScreen and CEJST.
- Lisa will give intro to EPA EJ flyer and how to use it.

❖ **Annual Training**

- Have already had EPA speakers on what EJ is, etc. and have recorded presentations.
- Should focus on practical applications of EJ work.
- Could discuss how to work with TCTACs or technical assistance to brownfield (TAB). Those groups might not know about us, but they're the ones getting the word out and they have funding.
- Nancy L. has a connect with TAB and can connect us.
- KS is looking at inviting the TCTAC for Region 4.
- Eric Tidquist, EPA Region 5, can help us find a Region 4 EPA EJ contact if needed.

❖ **Next subcommittee call (monthly) – February 14, 2:00-3:00 Eastern**

❖ **Next Steps**

- **Sara will edit autobody document based on feedback received and will have EJ Subcommittee review it again. Then will send it to her agency's EJ group for review.**
- **Mary Baker will present on EJScreen and CEJST on the next Technical Subcommittee call. Lisa will introduce the new EPA EJ flyer and web page on National SBEAP.**
- **Nancy will connect Lisa with TAB in KS as a possible annual training speaker.**

February 2024 NSBEAP EJ Subcommittee

February 14, 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:
- Region 3: Samantha Harmon (PA)
- Region 4: Tony Pendola (NC), Donovan Grimwood (TN), LaTrina Williams (MS)
- Region 5: Ynes Arocho (OH)
- Region 6:
- Region 7: Mary Baker (KS)
- Region 8:
- Region 9: Sydney Boogaard (AZ)
- Region 10:
- EPA:

❖ Agenda repair

- EJ Flyer
 - Question if it's possible to edit the document to make state-specific.
 - Sara only allowed to put documents on her website if they're her documents. Can only link to outside information. Wants to change "if you own a business in New Hampshire..." and use her own QR code.
 - Generally, Paula did not want the document edited since language was vetted by OECA and others at EPA.
 - It was noted that the flyer doesn't have EPA's logo on it.
- SBEAP/SBO promotional flyers
 - Sam H. created a new flyer promoting all three aspects of the program.
 - Are there other examples of state flyers on the national website? Yes, there are some examples on the Promotional Subcommittee page.
- [Environmental Justice Update 2024: Approaching the Crossroads - ALL4 \(all4inc.com\)](#)
 - Donovan forwarded email for webinar Feb 21. May be of interest to group.
 - All4 is also speaking at annual training.
 - Register for webinar to get recording.

❖ Approval of January minutes - Approved

❖ Any additional thoughts on January's autobody outreach discussion?

- Sara received great feedback. Discussion was worthwhile.

❖ Recap of Technical Subcommittee Jan presentation on screening tools

- Mary Baker presented on EJScreen and CEJST.
- Lisa gave intro to EPA EJ flyer and how to use it.

❖ **Annual Training**

- Federal employees operating under a continuing resolution for budget so they can't officially make plans until they know how that will play out.
- EJ panel and discussion
 - KS Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) staff unable to attend.
 - Donovan and Crystal spoke with Region 4 TAB, and they're interested in speaking.
 - If TAB isn't able to speak, could have Matt Taylor speak from TN agency. He was a Title VI coordinator.
 - Another option is to ask TN brownfield staff to speak.
 - Panel will join open discussion on EJ after they speak and answer questions.
 - Lisa will share EJ flyer during open discussion.
 - Each panel member will discuss their program initiatives and how we might be able to work with them.
- Crystal is working with the regional transport authority which gives free brownfields tours.

❖ **Next subcommittee call (monthly) – April 10, 2:00-3:00 Eastern; ~~March call cancelled due to Annual Training~~**

❖ **Next Steps**

- Lisa will ask Paula about editing the flyer.
- Lisa will cancel March meeting.

April 2024 NSBEAP EJ Subcommittee

April 10, 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:
- Region 3:
- Region 4: Tony Pendola (NC), Donovan Grimwood (TN), LaTrina Williams (MS)
- Region 5: Ynes Arocho (OH), Kaitlyn DeVries (MI)
- Region 6:
- Region 7: Mary Baker (KS)
- Region 8: Gabe Catenacci (CO)
- Region 9:
- Region 10:
- EPA:

❖ Agenda repair – None

❖ Approval of February minutes - Approved

❖ New subcommittee members – Gabe Catenacci (CO) introduced himself.

❖ Co-chair request

- Seeking a subcommittee co-chair to work with Lisa.
- Will send a note to entire subcommittee with request.

❖ EJ Flyer follow up

- Ok to make state-specific edits referencing your state and adding state website QR code.
- Can edit PDF with Acrobat. An editable Word version could also be made.
- Sara got approval from her agency to post the flyer as is. They preferred it not being a NH doc. They liked the language used to define environmental justice. Sent flyer to municipalities and promoted the help Sara can provide. Also planning social media posting.
- Flyer is posted on [Environmental Justice | National Small Business Environmental Program](https://nationalsbeap.org/sites/nationalsbeap/files/small-business/NSBEAP-EJ-1223.pdf) along with information on EJ for a small business audience. Direct link:
<https://nationalsbeap.org/sites/nationalsbeap/files/small-business/NSBEAP-EJ-1223.pdf>.

❖ Annual Training recap

- Session on EPA EJ Enforcement Initiatives and EPA's Small Business Compliance and Audit Policies / States' self-disclosure policies

❖ Discussion on self-disclosure policies and how they can be included in EJ outreach

- Not all states that have a policy promote it much (NH, TN).
- Policies used most frequently for EPCRA and RCRA issues. It's most been promoted for those issues.
- Important to recognize that it's not a "get out of jail free" card. Can't keep using it frequently.
- Are reports coming from EJ communities? – EPA doesn't publicly post a list of who discloses, but it might be possible to request that information informally or through a FOIA request.
- Sara wants to draft some outreach language on the NH policy that makes it understandable to small businesses.
- In CO, the oil and gas industry is the primary user of the state policy.
- Barriers from small businesses to use policies include the cost of an audit, knowledge of the program and trust in regulatory agencies.
- Discussed potential ways for small businesses to do an audit without hiring an auditor. They may be able to work with:
 - SBEAP – Some states, like TN, and EPA allow this.
 - SBDCs
 - Trade associations
 - University programs
 - Retired engineers program
 - Other small business assistance providers
- Attorneys have been a major promoter of WI's policy.
- WI's CAP was involved in rebranding the state compliance audit policy (now called Enviro-Check) to make it less intimidating and increase use.
- A limiting factor is that you can't keep using the policies or have repeat violations.
- Most of the state policies are similar to EPA's, since they were written around the same time.
- Policies written in the early 2000s. They were promoted more back then than now.

❖ Links to state policies

- **TN:** TDEC Self-Policing Policy <https://www.tn.gov/environment/sbeap/info/self-policing.html>
- **CO CDPHE:** Environmental self-audit reporting <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/environment/environmental-self-audit-reporting>
- **WI:** Enviro-Check <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/EnviroCheck>
- **MI:** Environmental Audit Privilege and Immunity <https://www.michigan.gov/egle/regulatory-assistance/compliance-assistance/environmental-audit>
- **KS:** Environmental Audit Policy <https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/15122/Environmental-Audit-Policy-PDF>
- **OH:** https://dam.assets.ohio.gov/image/upload/epa.ohio.gov/Portals/0/general_pdfs/audit.pdf

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

❖ Next steps

- **Lisa will send out request for subcommittee co-chair.**
- **Lisa will resend subcommittee call invitations to make sure new members have the link.**
- **Lisa will send a note to SBEAP Main listserv inviting other to join subcommittee.**
- **Anyone who has notes from the EJ Open Discussion session from the Annual Training send notes or highlights to Lisa.**
- **If your state has an audit/self-disclosure policy, send link to Lisa to compile.**
- **EJ Subcommittee will discuss collaboration with Education Subcommittee on May 28th Ed call on self-disclosure policies.**

May 2024 NSBEAP EJ Subcommittee

May 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), LaTrina Williams (MS)
- Region 5: Ynes Arocho (OH)
- Region 6:
- Region 7: Mary Baker (KS), Nancy Larson (KS)
- Region 8: Jesse Walters (CO)
- Region 9:
- Region 10:
- EPA:

❖ Approval of April minutes – Approved

❖ Agenda repair - EPA's updated EJ definition (Mary)

- More specific and inclusive language.
- Will update definition on National SBEAP web page. Keep shorter definition on EJ Flyer.
- Includes reference to climate change, cumulative impacts, equitable access.
- No promotion seen from EPA on change.

❖ Co-chair request - Seeking a subcommittee co-chair to work with Lisa.

❖ Subcommittee strategy suggestions

- Survey SBEAPs about how much of their assistance is in EJ areas
- Create new award to recognize EJ assistance
- Case studies
- Webinar topic – CO digital accessibility challenges
- Connect with trade associations and other groups – They have greater reach. Have them link to SBEAPs. Let them know what's going on with EPA priorities and what assistance is available.
- Connect with National CAP subcommittee – haven't met yet but will be soon. Sam is on subcommittee and can be our liaison.
- Periodic webinars?

❖ Potential collaboration with Education Subcommittee on self-disclosure policies. Work with Sara Johnson.

❖ EPA's new EJ Clearinghouse

- Cross-agency info.
- Compilation of resources to assist EJ partners.
- Narrow search based on topic area.
- Add link to web page: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/forms/ej-clearinghouse>

❖ **Next subcommittee call (monthly) – June 12, 2:00-3:00 Eastern**

❖ **Next steps**

- **Update subcommittee web page with new EPA EJ definition and add link to EPA's new EJ Clearinghouse.**
- **Lisa and Sara connect to discuss Education Subcommittee webinar on self-disclosure policies.**
- **Sam Harmon will be liaison between us and National Cap group.**

July 2024 NSBEAP EJ Subcommittee

July 10, 2024 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:
- Region 3: Jeremy Hancher (PA)
- Region 4: Tony Pendola (NC), LaTrina Williams (MS), Donovan Grimwood (TN)
- Region 5: Sydney Boogaard (MN), Kaitlyn DeVries (MI)
- Region 6:
- Region 7: Nancy Larson (KS), Rajavel Krishnamoorthy (KS)
- Region 8: Gabe Catenacci (CO)
- Region 9:
- Region 10:
- EPA:

❖ New co-chair - Gabe Catenacci (CO)

❖ Updates

- CO has new EJ requirements. Trying to integrate them into SBEAP.
- KS SBEAP is working on way to track EJ assistance. IT is working on a method that would look at addresses and determine if business is in an area with EJ concerns.
- EPA announced EJ Screen 2.3 with latest updates. <https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen/ejscreen-office-hours-training>
- Rajavel Krishnamoorthy is leading P2 EJ grants in KS and doing technical assistance. Not limited just to small businesses. Doing outreach and education at community colleges with sustainability initiatives. Working on a virtual reality program to help students and businesses – Chris Brazil is leading. In year one of three so will have more to share in a year or so.
- TN – doing public outreach on oil and gas air pollution control. Reaching out to rural locations and landowners. Some are disadvantaged communities. Donovan is looking at how regulations impact small businesses vs large businesses. Could have EJ impact on communities downwind of oil wells. Having a webinar on the topic tomorrow which will be partially recorded. The presentation will be recorded, but there will also be breakout sessions.
https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/environment/air/documents/hearings/ppo_apc_virtual-public-meeting-notice-oil-gas.pdf
- EPA is working on oil and gas outreach strategy. In litigation but still moving forward.
- PA has signup process online for small business clients, so they get addresses. About 20-30% of clients are in areas with EJ concerns. Samantha is overseeing a grant program that gives higher amounts of money for P2 projects in EJ areas. Jeremy will see if he can share that info.

❖ Subcommittee strategy discussion / ideas

- The Environmental Justice, or EJ, subcommittee has a mission to “explore how SBEAPs/SBOs can address EJ concerns in their states through small business assistance.”
- Nancy gets web data on top ten pages on NSBEAP website. EJ pages are not in the top ten.
- Open discussion on subcommittee calls is good but also good to have specific things to provide feedback on such as Sara’s project where we could share ideas.
- Continue to have regular meetings, either monthly or bimonthly.
- Meet only as needed, maybe every other month check-in.
- Potential projects –
 - 1. Effort to get flyer out to SB's in states. More than just talking about it.
 - 2. Database tracking, how can we get EJ metrics.
- Could solicit topic ideas from rest of SBEAPs.
- Like to hear what other SBEAPs are doing. Case studies on how states are incorporating EJ efforts into SBEAP assistance. Talk to states that have robust programs such as MI.
- **NSBEAP 2023 annual report has just been completed. Report summary doesn’t get into EJ data, but Nancy can send those responses. May be able to identify states doing EJ work that way. Group did not have concern with sharing that data for internal use only.**
- Touch base with Paula on EJ efforts.
- More work with EJ flyer. Possible efforts through SBDCs or other groups? Some states can’t do a broad blanket distribution but can distribute during site visits.
- Sara was able to post flyer on her site. Will be speaking about an EJ grant NH has applied for in September.

❖ **Next subcommittee call (monthly) – August 14, 2:00-3:00 Eastern**

❖ **Next steps**

- **Nancy will send EJ data from annual report. Lisa and Gabe will identify states engaging in EJ efforts for possible case studies, etc.**
- **Lisa will touch base with Paula for update on EJ efforts.**
- **Jeremy will provide info on PA grant program that provides higher amounts of money for efforts in areas with EJ concerns.**

August 2024 NSBEAP EJ Subcommittee

August 14, 2024 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:
- Region 3:
- Region 4: Tony Pendola (NC), LaTrina Williams (MS), Donovan Grimwood (TN)
- Region 5:
- Region 6:
- Region 7: Nancy Larson (KS), Rajavel Krishnamoorthy (KS)
- Region 8: Gabe Catenacci (CO)
- Region 9:
- Region 10:
- EPA:

❖ Updates

- MN in beginning stage of working on outreach for Option C Registration Permit specifically for facilities located within defined EJ communities. MPCA anticipates launching a new mapping tool shortly.
- EJ Flyer – Discussion on Region 5 call about who's using the flyer and if it's correct that EPA is actually doing more inspections. Concern about getting people worried if inspections aren't going to happen.
 - EPA is following their policy and increasing inspections.
 - KS has used the flyer and people have appreciated it. It helps them better understand what EJ is and encourages them to be proactive.
 - OECA has six national target areas including one involving HAPs. See EPA's enforcement and compliance 2023 report - <https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/enforcement-and-compliance-annual-results-fiscal-year-2023>. However, priorities could change based on outcome of election.
- CO has funding for small businesses in communities with EJ concerns via EPA P2 grant. Can get up to \$10,000 for energy efficiency upgrades (LED lighting, smart thermostats, etc.). Can get up to 80% of cost of big appliances. Have had a lot of success in Aurora. CO also has an EJ task force.
- WI DNR also just released EJ guidance for agency.

❖ EPA Smart Sectors

- Donovan reached out to EPA to get update on Smart Sectors but hasn't heard back. Unclear what they're doing regarding EJ.
- Smart Sectors aerospace staff helped KS connect with an association. They are mirroring some of the national P2 initiatives.

❖ **Next subcommittee call (monthly) – September 11, 2:00-3:00 Eastern**

❖ **Next steps**

- **Sara and MassDEP will present on EJ grant proposal at Sept meeting.**

September 2024 NSBEAP EJ Subcommittee

September 11, 2024 2pm – 3pm (Eastern)

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

❖ Presentation: Massachusetts Grant Project on Alternatives to TCE

Panel discussion on a grant project developed to help small businesses in areas with EJ concerns find alternatives to TCE in vapor degreasing.

Speakers from the Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI) at UMass Lowell, the Massachusetts Office of Technical Assistance (OTA) and the New Hampshire Small Business Technical Assistance Program will discuss this collaborative effort.

A recording of the presentation is available on the National SBEAP EJ Subcommittee web page: <https://youtu.be/REvj4RSMNWc>.

Speakers and bios:

Jason Marshall, ScD

TURI Lab Director
UMass Lowell

In his role as the Institute's Laboratory Director at UMass Lowell, Jason Marshall directs the services of the lab, helping companies, communities and citizens evaluate the performance of cleaning chemistries and equipment. Recent projects include: the promotion of safer ingredients in cleaning products resulting in recognition from EPA's Safer Detergent Stewardship Initiative at the Champion Level; established a Do-It-Yourself cleaning recipe evaluations program to conduct performance testing of these DIY recipes for basic household cleaners; evaluation of biobased products for several janitorial applications in a hospital setting; effort to promote the adoption of alternatives to trichloroethylene for business in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Dr. Marshall has a Bachelor's of Science in Chemical Engineering, Master's of Science in Environmental Studies and a Doctorate of Science in Occupational and Environmental Hygiene from the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

Caredwen Foley

Communications and Policy Analyst
Massachusetts Office of Technical Assistance

Caredwen Foley is the Communications and Policy Analyst at the Massachusetts Office of Technical Assistance. She has a Master of Public Health in Environmental Health from the Boston University School of Public Health, where she studied environmental toxicology, risk assessment, and science communication.

Sara Johnson, M.S., CPS

Small Business Technical Assistance Program-
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

Sara is the Small Business Ombudsperson/Small Business Technical Assistance Program Manager at the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. She has been in this role since 2008. Sara serves on the NH Businesses for Social Responsibility Board of Directors and on the National Steering Committee.

Prior to SBO/SBTAP role, Sara was the Pollution Prevention Program Manager for eight years. As P2 Manager, she served on the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable Board of Directors.

Sara has a M.S. from Antioch New England Graduate School in New Hampshire and a B.S. from Coastal Carolina University in South Carolina. In addition, Sara is a Certified Public Supervisor.

❖ **Next subcommittee call (monthly) – October 9, 2:00-3:00 Eastern**

❖ **Next steps**

October 2024 NSBEAP EJ Subcommittee

October 9, 2024 2pm – 3pm (Eastern)

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

❖ **Presentation: Colorado’s Small Business Equity Fund - Rayna Oliker – CDPHE Green Business and Environmental Assistance Unit Manager**

Discussion of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Green Business and Environmental Assistance Program’s Small Business Equity Fund (SBEF). The SBEF pilot funds energy efficiency upgrades for small businesses in environmental justice communities. The presentation covers program goals, metrics, funding and lessons learned.

A recording of the presentation is available on the National SBEAP EJ Subcommittee web page:
<https://youtu.be/l6zYsBfrpuA>.

❖ **Annual Report – EJ questions**

- Interest in keeping the same questions so we can compare responses year to year.

❖ **Next subcommittee call (monthly) – November 13, 2:00-3:00 Eastern**

❖ **Next steps**

November 2024 NSBEAP EJ Subcommittee

November 13, 2024 2pm – 3pm (Eastern)

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

❖ Roll Call

- Chair:
- Vice Chair: Gabe Catenacci (CO)
- Region 1: Sara Johnson (NH)
- Region 2:
- Region 3: Jeremy Hancher (PA), Samantha Harmon (PA)
- Region 4: Tony Pendola (NC), LaTrina Williams (MS), Donovan Grimwood (TN)
- Region 5: Sydney Boogaard (MN)
- Region 6:
- Region 7:
- Region 8:
- Region 9:
- Region 10:
- EPA:

❖ Updates

- Reviewed proposed questions for 2025 Annual Report
 - Discussion of whether we should be adding more questions to the EJ section, as it will likely no longer be a priority at the federal level
 - Majority thought it was still worth pursuing because multiple states will continue to invest in the development of EJ programs
 - Proposed adding skip logic so states without EJ components do not have to complete questions in this section
- Decided to change question 1 from last year's EJ section
 - Change "Does your program track technical assistance to customers in EJ..." → "Has your program conducted any targeted outreach, assistance, or projects specifically in EJ areas?"
 - Potentially add language for "small disadvantaged business" in addition to EJ.
 - May expand question 1 to ask what types of business sectors are receiving support in EJ communities.
- Survey discussion brought up the question of who this subcommittee is meant to serve – small businesses in EJ communities or the community itself
 - Decided that new data from survey can inform what direction the committee should go

❖ Next subcommittee call (monthly) – December 11, 2:00-3:00 Eastern

❖ Next steps

- Subcommittee will review proposed questions and provide feedback by 11/22
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_lvqIKm1PWYBFCC1R4yP0YkwFuDBL0yo2lhY8_pBSw0/edit?tab=t.0
- Gabe will forward our comments to the Education Subcommittee to review

December 2024 NSBEAP EJ Subcommittee

December 11, 2024 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)
- Vice Chair: Gabe Catenacci (CO)
- Region 1: Sara Johnson (NH)
- Region 2:
- Region 3: Samantha Harmon (PA)
- Region 4: Tony Pendola (NC), LaTrina Williams (MS), Donovan Grimwood (TN)
- Region 5:
- Region 6:
- Region 7: Nancy Larson (KS)
- Region 8:
- Region 9:
- Region 10:
- EPA:

❖ Agenda repair - none

❖ Annual Report questions

- Question as to whether answering “no” to first EJ question lets you skip the whole section. Not sure if that can be done with the version of Qualtrics being used.
- If answering “no” to first question, other EJ questions won’t be required.
- CO has Qualtrics account that allows skip logic. Could export survey to them to upload and everything should populate.
- Group meeting on Friday and will discuss how to proceed.
- Survey will go out in January and be due second week of March.
- Training on completing the report will be held in late January.
- Report committee will follow up after due date with those who didn’t submit data.

❖ EPA updates

- [New Interim Framework to Advance Consideration of Cumulative Impacts on Communities](#)
 - **Public comment until February 19, 2025.**
 - Draft providing agency programs and regional offices with tools and principles to consider cumulative impacts in their work.
 - Cumulative impacts = totality of exposures to chemicals and non-chemical stressors. Includes cultural factors, subsistence practices, socioeconomics and other social determinants of health.
 - Agency-wide approaches to incorporate consideration of cumulative impacts in standard setting, permitting, rulemaking, cleanup, emergency response, funding, planning, state/territory/tribal program oversight and other decision-making.
 - Not meant to provide detailed instructions or set expectation that cumulative impacts considered in every EPA decision.
- [Meaningful Engagement Policy](#)
 - Goal to make EPA decisions and actions stronger by being informed by lived experiences.

- Steps
 - Understanding EPA actions and key issues the public can inform.
 - Identifying expected level of participation using EPA's public participation spectrum.
 - Identifying engagement tools/practices using EPA's public participation model.
 - Doesn't create legal requirements/obligations but provides engagement recommendations.
 - Internal EPA document but public may use it or adapt it for their own organizations.
 - All EPA staff expected to become familiar with policy and help ensure meaningful engagement as appropriate for EPA actions.
 - Meaningful engagement means:
 - Providing timely opportunities for public to share info or concepts and participate in decision-making process.
 - Considering input as part of decision-making.
 - Seeking out and encouraging involvement of those potentially impacted by:
 - Making info accessible to those with limited English or disabilities.
 - Providing notice and reaching out to those potentially affected.
 - Addressing other barriers to participation.
 - Providing technical assistance, tools, resources for informed participation.
 - Tribal consultations are separate from EPA's public engagement obligations.
 - Use plain language in Federal Register notices, technical documents, etc.
 - Start by asking "can EPA make changes to the action if public shares new facts, dates, info?" Clearly communicate if and how input will be used.
 - "Public" includes business and industrial interests, including those of small businesses.
- **EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance [Annual Results for Fiscal Year 2024](#)**
 - Just released. Donovan will send link.
 - Past fiscal year has seen some of the strongest enforcement and compliance assurance results in many years.
 - Specifies how much of the enforcement was in overburdened communities.

❖ State resources

- **Presentation on NJ's EJ Rule that takes cumulative impacts into account:** Presentations from the 2024 MARAMA & Metro 4/ SESARM Joint Air Directors' Meeting and Air Monitoring Workshop held November 18 – 21 in Richmond, VA, are available [here](#).
 - Limits future placement and expansion of facilities in overburdened communities.
 - If EJ rule is applicable, all permitting clocks stop until completion of EJ process.
 - 26 stressors considered. The department must determine whether environmental or public health stressors are "higher than" those borne by other communities.
 - Includes 30-day comment period. **Applicant** conducts public hearing and must respond to all comments in writing.
 - If facility can avoid disproportionate impacts, the department will impose permit conditions.
 - If facility cannot avoid disproportionate impacts, department will deny application unless it demonstrates it will serve a compelling public interest in community. Economic benefit (tax revenue, employment, etc.) not considered a compelling public interest.
- **Wisconsin DNR internal agency resources**
 - **Environmental Justice Resources Toolkit web page – not publicly available.**
 - Provides EJ resources regarding training, screening and other tools, translation and interpretation services, climate justice, working with tribes, etc.
 - **DNR's Environmental Justice Framework and Toolkit for Program and Project Planning – not publicly available**
 - Trial period through 2024 with feedback opportunities.
 - Resources to assist DNR staff in incorporating EJ principles into planning.
 - Examples of how programs have adapted to better meet needs of communities.
 - Provides overarching principles and best practices.
 - Don't have to take on all activities. Pick one to start.
 - Meant to assist any agency team, project or program in addressing disparities through program or systems change.

- No specific definition for “disadvantaged community.” Depends on program purpose and community needs. Communities should define themselves.
 - Guiding principles and planning activities:
 - Co-create with the community.
 - Clearly define program/project objectives.
 - Devote adequate time to fully engage in process.
 - Build accountability.
 - Build capacity.
 - Recognize complexity (no perfect solutions).
 - Planning activities include examples:
 - Prompting questions to help apply EJ – identify who might benefit or be burdened, examine potential unintended consequences and how to mitigate, identify steps to involve community and address impacts.
 - **Key tenets of Environmental Justice**
 - Reduce environmental and other inequalities – requires multiple agencies.
 - Democratize decision-making.
 - Identify data gaps, contribute knowledge from lived experiences, raise questions and concerns missed by experts, monitor local conditions, etc.
 - Use the Precautionary Principle.
 - Pursue economic and racial justice.
- **CO EJ Act**
- EJ team within regulatory agency.
 - New ombudsperson.
 - Title V permit applicants have to run an EJ report using state screening tool. EJ team reviews. May result in increased regulations.

❖ **Discussion**

- Like the terminology of “overburdened communities” or “disproportionately impacted.” Not labeling as “disadvantaged” or “EJ” communities.
- Will EPA’s support for EJ initiatives continue? – They’re planning to continue EJ work until they’re told differently.

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

❖ **Next steps**

- **Nancy will check how many people watched the recordings of presentations in September and October.**
 - Sept. Alternatives to TCE – 22 views as of today
 - April 2023 Stormwater, ECAD R9 – 24 views as of today
- **Lisa will see if she can share WI DNR’s Environmental Justice Framework and Toolkit for Program and Project Planning.**