

## Environmental Justice

Executive Order 12898 signed by President Clinton in 1994 requires Federal agencies to make environmental justice part of their mission. Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, geographic location or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies

Environmental justice and Title VI are not new concerns. Today, because of the evolution of the transportation planning process, they are receiving greater emphasis. Effective transportation decision making depends upon understanding and properly addressing the unique needs of different socioeconomic groups. This is more than a desktop exercise; it requires involving the public. The U.S. DOT is committed to this more comprehensive, inclusive approach. These changes make sure that every transportation project nationwide considers the human environment.

### Frequently Asked Questions

Environmental Justice encompasses a lot of information. The need to consider environmental justice is already embodied in many laws, regulations and policies, such as:

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)
- Section 109( h) of Title 23
- The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (URA), as amended
- The Transportation Equity Act for the 21 st Century (TEA-21)
- Other U.S. DOT statutes and regulations

### Related Links

- [FHWA Environmental Justice](#)
- [FHWA Case Studies - MPO Environmental Justice Report](#)
- [FHWA Planning, Environment & Realty](#)
- [Federal Transit Administration](#)
- [USEPA Environmental Justice](#) - U.S. EPA revised Environmental Justice Web site features information on working groups, awards, and funding opportunities so that communities always know the resources available.
- **National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC):** The National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) was established September 30, 1993. This council represents the first time that representatives of community, academia, industry, environmental, indigenous, as well as state/local/tribal government groups, were brought together in an effort to create a dialogue that can define and "reinvent" solutions to environmental justice problems. It is essential that such a dialogue occur. In addition, NEJAC provides a valuable forum for integrating environmental justice with other U.S. EPA priorities and initiatives.

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