



September 26, 2023

# Department of Environmental Quality Environmental Justice Toolkit for Businesses



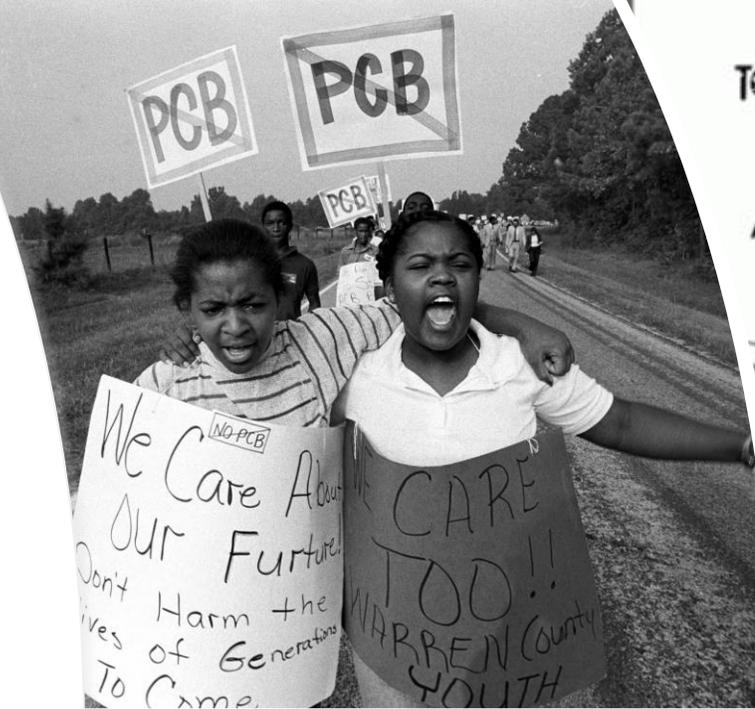


## *Environmental Justice (EJ)*

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 History

- **Warren County, NC** is the birthplace of the modern EJ movement
- **1978** – Illegal dumping of liquid contaminated with **PCBs**, a **toxic persistent chemical**
  - Landfills for PCB-contaminated soils sited in a predominantly Black community
- **1982** – Community protests against the landfill
- **1982** – Toxic Wastes and Race Report was published



## TOXIC WASTES AND RACE In The United States

A National Report on the Racial and Socio-Economic Characteristics of Communities with Hazardous Waste Sites



# *EJ History*

## Toxic Wastes and Race Report Findings

- **Race** was the largest predictor of proximity to toxic waste
- Communities with two or more facilities or one of the nation's five largest landfills had an **average minority population percentage 3x higher** than communities without these

# Recent Federal and State Actions

## FEDERAL

- Justice40 Initiative

## STATE

- Executive Order 246
  - Incorporate EJ and equity into funding opportunities
  - Designated EJ lead in all state cabinet agencies





## *NC DEQ and EJ*

- **Mission:** provide science-based environmental stewardship for the health and prosperity of all North Carolinians
- Committed to ensuring the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of **race, color, national origin, or income**

# *EJ Business Toolkit Purpose*



Consider environmental and community impact during the **site selection process**.



Meaningfully engage with neighbors **early and often**.



Incorporate **enhanced environmental stewardship principles** in long-term operations

# *Contents Summary*



Introduction & NC EJ Movement History



Project Development and Environmental Permitting Review



Community Engagement Best Practices, Resources, Tools, and Considerations



Environmental Stewardship Initiative

# *EJ Permit Review*



Initial EJ screening with a one-mile radius



Possible additional analyses and activities based on DEQ criteria



Analysis by DEQ EJ Program depending on the regulated activity



Development of EJ Report and other enhanced public engagement measures as warranted



# *Community Engagement Considerations*

- Practice open communication and early community outreach
- Consider the **needs, concerns, and questions** of the community

# Community Engagement Considerations

Have you engaged with the local tribal council as you would a local city council or county commission?

Will this project directly benefit the community? Will community members have access to job opportunities?

Are there sensitive receptors in the area and how can you keep them informed?

Does the surrounding community speak and read English proficiently? How will you engage limited English-speaking households?

What other factors are in the same area and what impact do they have on the community?

Will there be emissions or discharges from this facility that could impact nearby residents?

What concerns does the community have about your project?

Are there actions you could take to address community concerns or potential adverse impacts?

# ***Community Engagement Best Practices***

Tailored project communications plan

Identify a community liaison

Build a Community Stakeholders checklist

Create a list of physical and email addresses

Create flyers and information distribution plan

# Environmental Stewardship Initiative

- **No-cost technical assistance** to encourage long-term environmental stewardship after a project is complete
- Assistance includes strategies to reduce water and energy usage



# *Thank You*

*Questions?*

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