



Facilitation Guide

What is Environmental Justice?

The History of Environmental Justice

This facilitation guide can be used to inform our basic understanding of the environmental justice framework. We hope that through this workshop, you feel empowered to assert your role in the environmental justice movement and reclaim real solutions [by community for community] for the health of your local neighborhoods and communities.

Materials Needed

History of EJ Exhibit Materials

- [“Principles of Environmental Justice”](#), The Proceedings to the First National People of Color Leadership Summit (print)
- [Executive Order 12898](#) on February 11, 1994. The President: “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations” (print)
- [The EPA Environmental Justice Timeline](#)

Additional Materials

- Computer or iPad
- [EJ 101 Animation](#)
- [EJ 101 Animation Narrative](#)
- Paper
- Markers
- Tape

Facilitation Steps

A. Introduction: Who are we? Who's all here? Goals for today [10 min]

B. Framing relations to the EJ movement: Our River Activity [25 min]

1. Pass out paper and markers to all participants. Encourage them to draw a river running across the page (their rivers can be up and down, straight across, short or long).
2. Explain that their rivers are to portray their personal stories, illustrating how they have come to where they are now in the environmental justice movement. Along the river, have participants draw key moments and experiences that have shaped their involvement in the EJ movement (i.e. you became interested in food/land access because you visited a rural farm and...). Allow ~10 minutes for drawing and pondering.
3. Once participants have finished their river, have them share their key moments and how they connect to their presence in today's space. If comfortable, have them tape their rivers to the wall, one after another to create "Our River".

C. History of EJ Exhibition [40 min]

1. Set up three stations, one with a computer or iPad. At each of the two stations, place one of the printed EJ texts: "[Principles of Environmental Justice](#)", "[Executive Order 12898](#)". At the computer station, open a webpage to [The EPA Environmental Justice Timeline](#).
 - a. Station #1: Historical framing of the environmental issues communities face and how they've worked for change; [The EPA Environmental Justice Timeline](#).
 - b. Station #2: What are we fighting for? The Proceedings to the First National People of Color Leadership Summit defined our collective grassroots movement for environmental justice; [Principles of Environmental Justice](#).
 - c. Station #3: Centering federal programs, policies, and activities to focus on and address environmental (in)justice; [Executive Order 12898](#).
2. Assign participants to each station in pairs or small groups. Encourage them to read or watch the material at their station. Allow ~10 minutes for them to read and ponder at their station; encourage conversation.
3. Give participants a couple of minutes to summarize their resources for the larger group.
4. Going station by station, have participants share their learnings; guide the conversation to solidify the importance of each resource and how they fit among the others, through leading questions:
 - a. How do each of these resources define EJ?
 - b. Why are they different?
 - c. Which definition resonates most with you?
 - d. What were the actions (or inactions) of the government?
5. As a large group, work toward a collective definition of environmental justice, referencing the resources, their comments, and experiences. Synthesize a definition on the board.

D. What's in my community & how can I organize change? [15 min]

1. Play the [EJ 101](#) animation video.

2. Reference the [EJ 101 Animation Narrative](#) to pull key scenes. Give participants a minute to sit and reflect. Use leading questions as needed:
 - a. What struck you about this animation?
 - b. What was threatening the neighborhood?
 - c. Were there people or communities who were not affected/burdened?
3. Together, discuss the various actions and decisions (made by cities, neighbors, industries, etc.) that impact our communities, intentionally drawing parallels to our very own neighborhoods and citing learned material from the History of EJ Exhibition:
 - a. Where did we see meaningful community involvement?
 - b. How do we interact with city officials or industries when it comes to EJ advocacy?
 - c. How have EJ movements in the past interacted with these bodies to advocate for safe, healthy neighborhoods?

E. Reflections & Closing [10 min]

1. Wrap-up; what did participants learn? What will they be sharing with community members? What remains unanswered?
2. Thank participants for their time and participation; we hope that they learned something new and are energized to continue conversations like today's.