

Environmental Justice Issues in Prince Georges County

- **Access To Clean And Affordable Energy**
Focusing on inequities in access to renewable energy, energy efficient technologies and understanding demographics overburdened by energy costs and excluded from money saving energy practices.
- **Transportation Equity, Livable And Walkable Communities**
Focusing on inequities in access to hybrid/ electric vehicles, public transportation, and alternative transportation (bike/scooter shares, affordable ride share). Understanding the role of connectivity (sidewalks, bike lanes, safe road ways) as an environmental benefit.
- **Land Use, Planning, Zoning And Development; Differential Permitting Of Environmental Hazards And Locally Unwanted Land Uses (Lulus)**
Focusing on inequities that allow for excessive and incompatible placement of environmental hazards (power plants, polluting industries, high density traffic corridors) in communities of color/low income. This focus can also encourage land use planning and policy authorities to recognize environmental justice issues as valid concerns in their decision-making process.
- **Environmental Benefits**
Focusing on increasing benefits that promote social, environmental, economic, and health improvements in underserved and overburdened communities. Environmental benefits would encourage equitable development that improves air quality, green space and parks, walkability, sustainable infrastructure, fishable and swimmable rivers, and other ecological and social amenities.
- **Cumulative Impacts Of Environmental Hazards**
Finding ways to mitigate the effects of cumulative exposure to both environmental and psychosocial stressors that overburden certain communities and populations. Also, improving access to resources to mitigate or fortify these demographics from the adverse consequences caused by their overexposure.
- **Natural Disasters, Climate Change Resiliency/Adaptation**
Focusing on inequities that face the groups of people who are most vulnerable to severe weather events caused by climate change and their

access to emergency response and recovery resources

- **Health Equity And Health Impact Assessments**

Focusing on populations who suffer from health disparities due to exposure to a high concentration of environmental and social factors that threaten their wellbeing. Working to improve the use, comprehensiveness and influence of Health Impact Assessments (HIA) to manage the cumulative health risks associated with a proposed policy, plan, program, or project.

- **Air Pollution, Traffic, and Public Health**

Focusing on inequities in communities exposed to high levels of greenhouse gas emissions from energy production, disposal facilities, and industrial facilities. Also exploring particulate matter emissions caused by industrial operations, and high concentrations of truck and beltway traffic.

- **EJ issues in the County that are not in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act**

Focusing on drafting a Title VI policy that can be used to enforce environmental justice violations where federally-funded programs and activities affect human health or the environment. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination based on race, color and national origin in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance.

- **Access to safe and affordable housing and poor indoor environmental health**

Focusing on indoor environmental hazards that can be found in affordable housing including poor indoor air quality, pest infestations, and lead in pipes and paint. Homelessness/ housing security

- **Food Insecurity and Accessibility Issues**

Focusing on inequities in access to fresh food markets and available land for gardening. There is also a deficiency in knowledge and tools for growing food locally.

- **Water Quality**

Addressing inequities in exposure to water pollution including 1) lead Issues and toxins in plumbing infrastructure 2) storm water run- off from polluting facilities

- **Landfills, Incinerators, Brownfields, Superfund Sites, Rubble fills**

These undesirable land uses cause problems for communities by creating dust, noise, unpleasant smells, toxins seeping into waterways, toxic fumes, etc. Superfund sites, Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) facilities, and power plants may contain soil with elevated levels of lead.