Tools for Getting the Entire Community Engaged

American Planning Association, Pennsylvania Chapter Conference

October 21, 2019

Tom Wolf, Governor

Patrick McDonnell, Secretary
Today’s Presentation

- Reaching Communities
- History and Scope of Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Justice (PADEP) Office of Environmental Justice
- Helpful tools for planners
Reaching Communities

- Not enough attendees?
- Not the right attendees?
- The same attendees?

Source: Logan Dobbe
Reaching Communities

• Is the community hearing your message?
• Is your message targeted to the community?

Source: Pixstar
Reaching Communities

Standard Government Cycle

- You aren’t aware of community concerns
- Community is uninterested
- Community disengages and ignores you

Provide Information that is important to you

Breaking the Cycle

- Information addresses community concerns
- Understand community concerns
- Demonstrate responding to community concerns
- Community sees you as a trusted source

Understand community concerns
To protect Pennsylvania's air, land, and water from pollution and to provide for the health and safety of its citizens through a cleaner environment. We will work as partners with individuals, organizations, governments and businesses to prevent pollution and restore our natural resources.
Environmental Justice (EJ) is 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.
Reaching Communities

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Equality and Social Justice

Equality

Equity

Source: Cultural Organizing
Equality and Social Justice

Equality

Equity

Source: MPCA Photos
Equality and Social Justice

EQUALITY

EQUITY

Source: Cultural Organizing
Equality and Social Justice

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History of EJ

- Civil Rights and Environmental Movements of the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s
- First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit held in 1991
- Executive Order 12898 issued in 1994

Source: Bettman/Getty Images via NRDC
History of EJ in PA

• Chester Title VI Action Filed in 1996
• DEP Environmental Justice Work Group (EJWG) created in 1999
• EJWG Report and Recommendations released in 2001
• Office of Environmental Advocate (OEA) established in 2002 and the Environmental Justice Advisory Board (EJAB) in 2004
• Office of Environmental Advocate (OEA) was renamed the Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) in 2015.
Office of Environmental Justice Goals

• **Minimizing Adverse Environmental Impacts** - All communities are not unjustly and/or disproportionately burdened with adverse environmental impacts

• **Empowering Communities** - Ensuring citizens have meaningful involvement and a voice in decision-making process

• **Fostering Economic Opportunities** - Enable environmentally responsible economic development to and within EJ communities and in some cases build collaborations and relationships with the community and industry
Reaching Communities

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Breaking the Cycle

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• Mapping tool identifying DEP permits in EJ Areas
• Capacity for searches by address
• Use for DEP and community partners
Planners’ Role in EJ

Source: Public Source
Planners’ Role in EJ

Source: StateImpact Pennsylvania
Planners’ Role in EJ

Source: Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
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