

# The US EPA Needs to Codify Its INTERIM Environmental Justice Policy Into Law

**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.

This goal will be achieved when everyone enjoys:

- The same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards, and
- Equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work.

\***Fair treatment** means no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental and commercial operations or policies.

\***Meaningful involvement** means:

- People have an opportunity to participate in decisions about activities that may affect their environment and/or health;
- The public's contribution can influence the regulatory agency's decision;
- Community concerns will be considered in the decision making process; and
- Decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.

From the EPA website:

<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/learn-about-environmental-justice>