

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Join us on Zoom to engage in a
conversation about Environmental Justice

TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2023 AT NOON

*The link between
climate change,
health and poverty*
by Cheryl Holder



Carmera Thomas-Wilhite
Chesapeake Bay Foundation



Todd Pride
Legacy Land & Water Partners



Register: ChesCoCF.org/explore/Food-for-Thought

THANKS TO OUR THOUGHT LEADERS



Todd Pride

Legacy Land & Water Partners

<https://www.legacylandwater.org/>



Carmera Thomas-Wilhite

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

<https://www.cbf.org/>

SCHEDULE

12 | Welcome

**12:05 | Thought Leaders
Overview & Discussion**

**12:45 | Breakout Rooms
or Full Group**

**1:00 Depart
TED Talk individually**

THANKS TO OUR PROMO PARTNERS



GROUND RULES

- Please be respectful to all.
- Some may never have dealt with these topics before while others may have lived through traumatic experiences.
- Please mute yourself + turn off your video during the video streaming.
- Feel free to eat your lunch while viewing the video.
- Please unmute yourself + turn on your video immediately after the video streaming to encourage open dialogue.
- Raise your hand or use the chat room to make a comment or pose a question.
- Tackle problems, not people.
- Discuss the undiscussable.





Environmental justice 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.

The **environmental justice movement** was started by individuals, primarily people of color, who sought to address the inequity of environmental protection in their communities.

Climate gentrification refers to the ways that climate impacts may contribute to changes in community characteristics and potential displacement of vulnerable residents.







Environmental Racism Is Nothing New

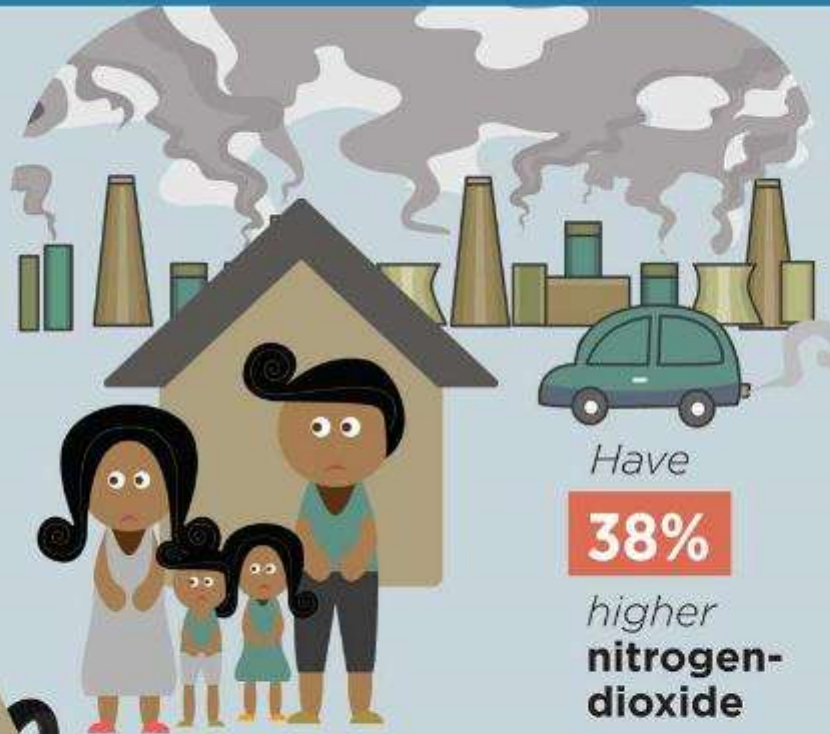
Race is the most significant predictor of a person living near contaminated air, water, or soil.

56%

of the population near toxic waste sites are people of color.



THE Nation.
150
INSPIRING PROGRESS SINCE 1865



People of color:

Have seen

95%

of their claims against polluters denied by the EPA.

Have

38%

higher nitrogen-dioxide exposure.

Are

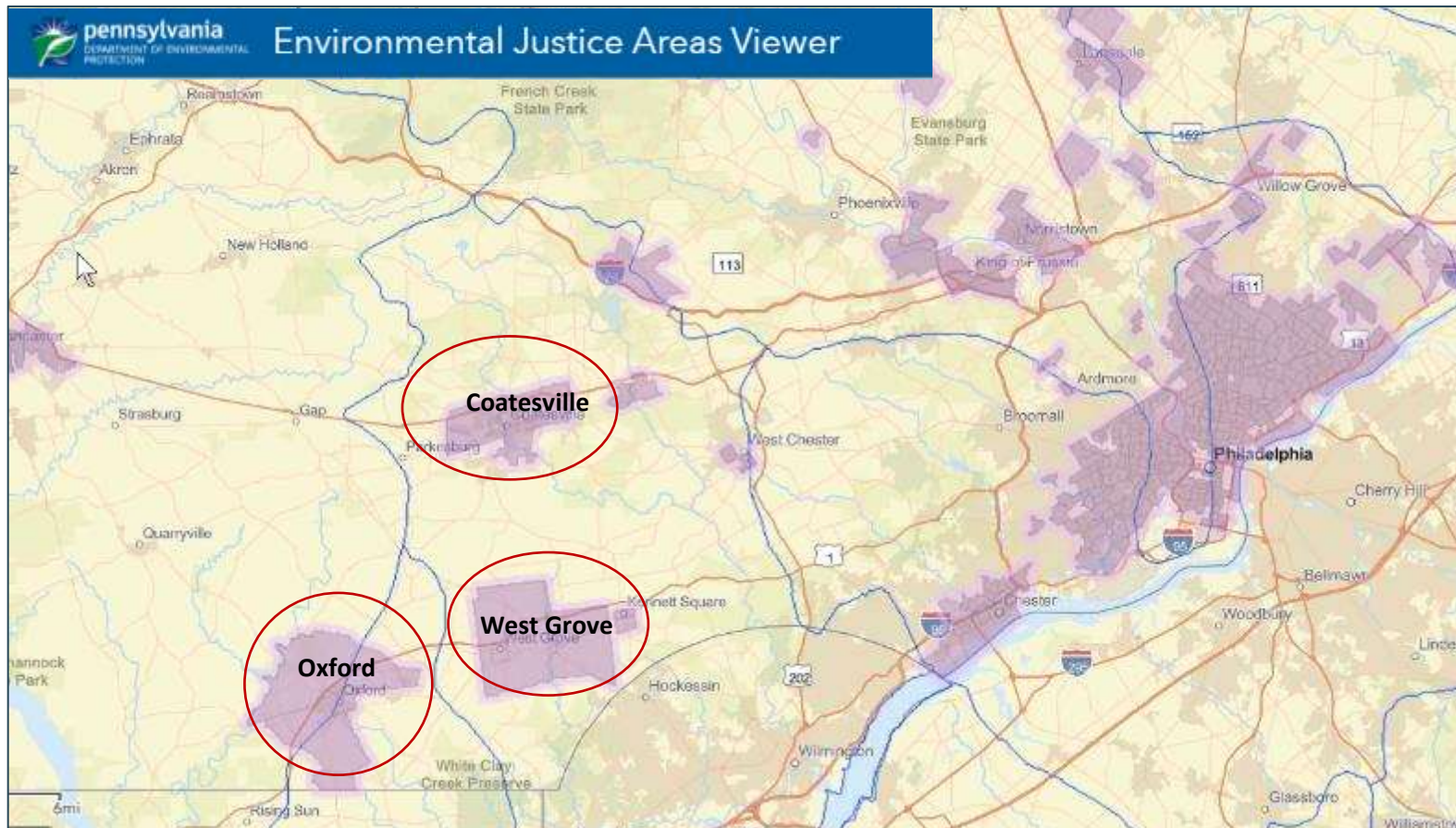
2x

more likely to live without potable water and modern sanitation.





Environmental Justice (EJ) Areas defined as: Communities where
20% of residents live below the federal poverty line &/or
30% are non-white minorities

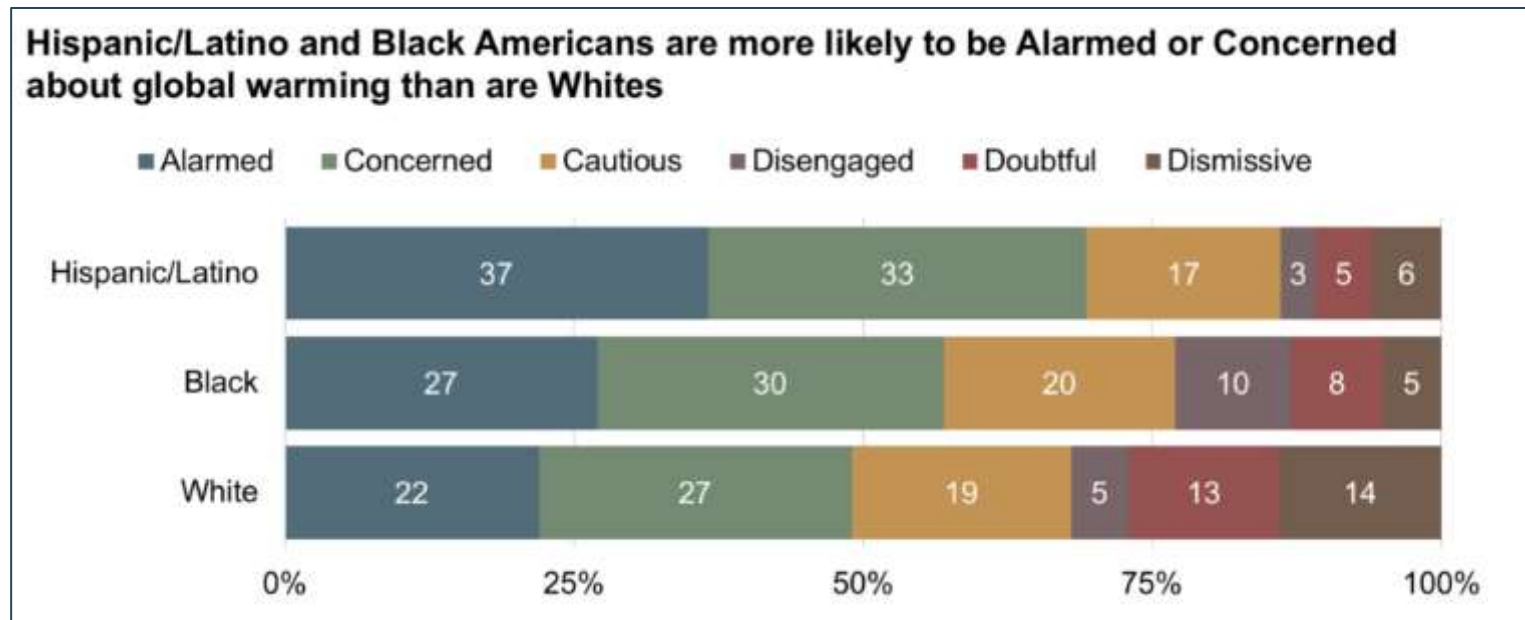


<https://padep-1.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=f31a188de122467691cae93c3339469c>



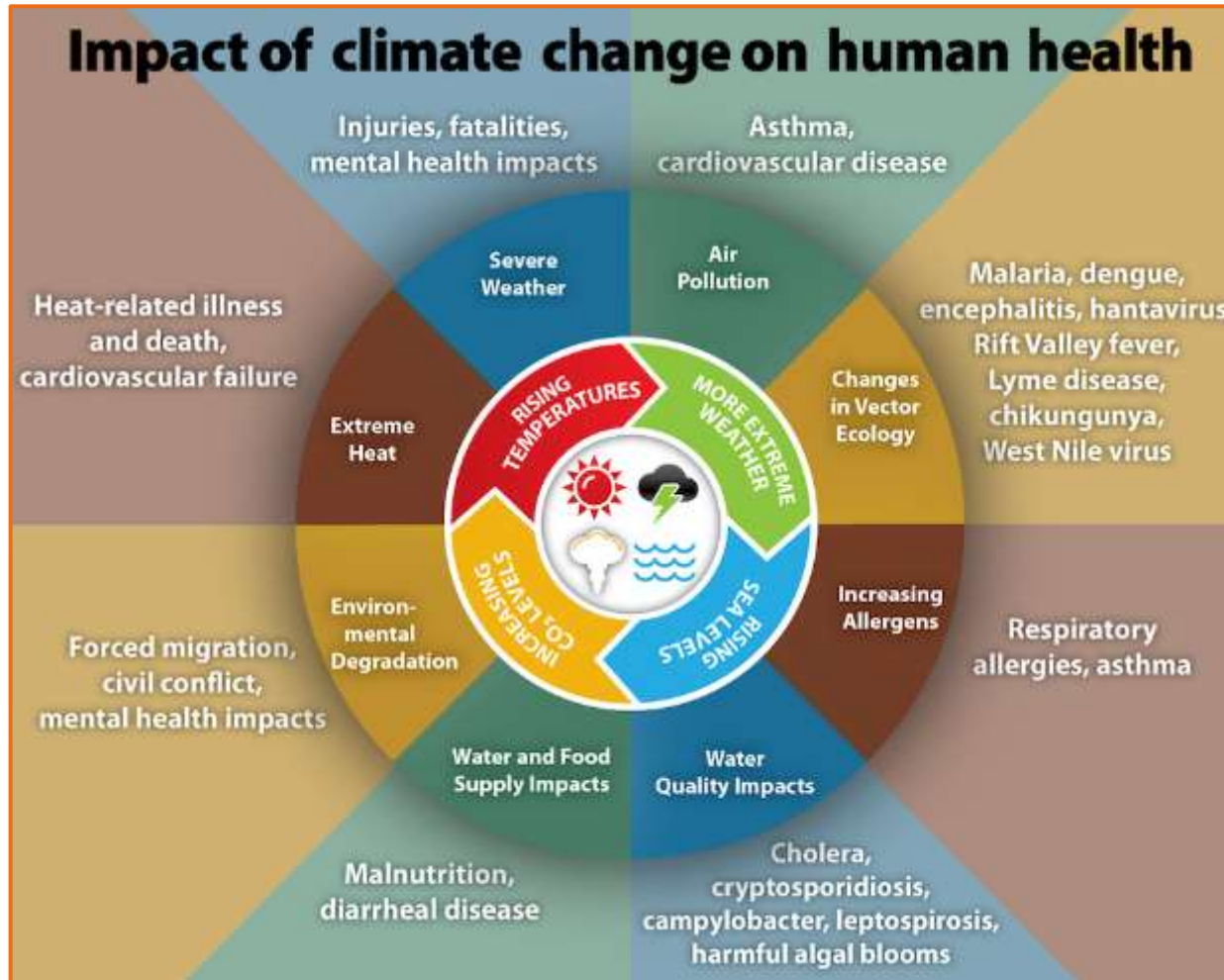
The World Health Organization estimates that climate change will cause an additional **250,000 deaths/year between 2030 and 2050.**

Low-income communities are more likely to be exposed to climate change threats (flooding, storms, and droughts) due to inadequate housing and infrastructure.



https://css.umich.edu/sites/default/files/Environmental%20Justice_CSS17-16_e2021.pdf

<https://climatecommunication.yale.edu/publications/race-and-climate-change/>



Top 10 Most Challenging Places to Live With Asthma in 2022:

1. Detroit, MI
2. Cleveland, OH
3. Allentown, PA
4. Lakeland, FL
5. Fresno, CA
6. Charleston, SC
7. Harrisburg, PA
8. Poughkeepsie, NY
9. Philadelphia, PA
10. Baltimore, MD

<https://aafa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/aafa-2022-asthma-capitals-report.pdf>

<https://theconversation.com/8-billion-people-four-ways-climate-change-and-population-growth-combine-to-threaten-public-health-with-global-consequences-193077>



The U.S. faces a **26% increase in flood risk** within the next 30 years.

Black communities will be **disproportionately impacted** as flooding risks grow in the coming decades.

The annual cost of flooding across the U.S. will hit \$40 billion annually by 2050, compared with \$32 billion currently, and predominantly Black communities will be the worst hit.

Neighborhoods created by historic discriminatory “redlining” housing policies tend to have lower than average vegetation cover and are at greater risk of extreme heat.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/science/environment/black-neighborhoods-risk-climate-change-accelerates-flooding-rcna13756>

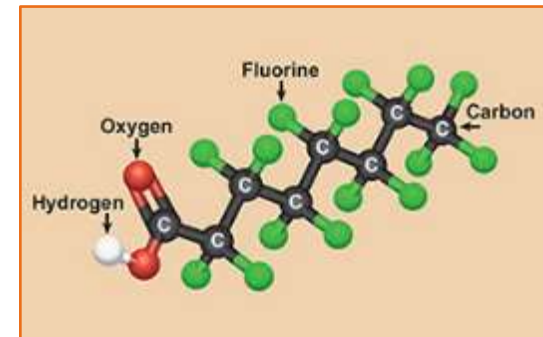


“Forever Chemicals”

Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large group of **human-made chemicals that have been used in hundreds of industry & consumer products worldwide since the 1950s**. More than 9,000 PFAS have been identified.

PFAS are contained in:

- Cleaning products
- Water-resistant fabrics, such as rain jackets, umbrellas and tents
- Grease-resistant paper
- Nonstick cookware
- Personal care products (shampoo, dental floss, nail polish, eye makeup)
- Stain-resistant coatings used on carpets, upholstery, and other fabrics



For 70+ years, chemical companies have known that the highly fluorinated PFAS build up in our blood (bio-accumulation in bodies)

U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) outlines health effects associated with PFAS exposure: **cancer, liver damage, decreased fertility, and increased risk of asthma & thyroid disease.**

<https://www.ewg.org/news-insights/news/decades-polluters-knew-pfas-chemicals-were-dangerous-hid-risks-public>



In the first seven weeks of 2023, there were more than 30 incidents recorded by the Coalition to Prevent Chemical Disasters: ~ one every 1.5 days

The 10 states with the most accidents from 2004 to 2020

Number of accidents at facilities handling hazardous chemicals tracked by the EPA

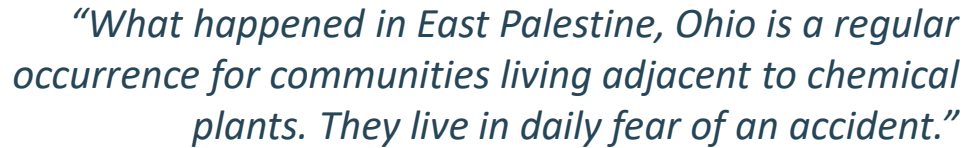


188 incidents in 2022
177 incidents in 2021



Map of reported chemical accidents in the US created by Coalition To Prevent Chemical Disasters. Red icons indicate accidents from 1 January to 31 December 2022. Purple icons indicate accidents since 1 January 2023. Photograph: Coalition To Prevent Chemical Disasters

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/feb/25/revealed-us-chemical-accidents-one-every-two-days-average>



- Hazardous spills → environmental & chemical concerns
- People & animals → head pain, coughs, rashes
- Contaminated air + ground + groundwater + rainwater + 1M gallons of water to fight flames
- Where to put the hazardous waste?
- Lack of trust between residents & officials:
“the area is safe to return to” + “it will take years to really know the impact”

- Accidental releases are from train derailments, truck crashes, pipeline ruptures, industrial plant leaks and spills
- @200 million people are at regular risk of being exposed to chemical accidents

[illegible]



- When faced with the **Depression-era housing crisis**, in **1933** FDR's federal **New Deal** increased American's availability to housing mortgages & housing stock.
- The **New Deal Housing Program Enforced Segregation**:
Beginning in 1934, the newly established FHA (Federal Housing Administration):
 - refused to insure mortgages for homes for Black families
 - refused to insure mortgages in white neighborhoods that were too close to Black ones
 - subsidized builders who were mass producing subdivisions for whites only
 - people of color were left out of mortgage lending
 - white people flooded the new suburban communities
 - people of color were pushed into urban housing project rentals

Levittown NY 1953. A house sublet by William Cotter & his family was plastered with signs to try to prevent eviction. The Cotters were the first black family to move in & were denied renewing their lease or buying their home. The family sued citing racial discrimination. **And lost.** The courts upheld the landlord's right to rent to whom he pleased.



<https://www.npr.org/2017/05/03/526655831/a-forgotten-history-of-how-the-u-s-government-segregated-america>
<https://www.history.com/news/housing-segregation-new-deal-program>

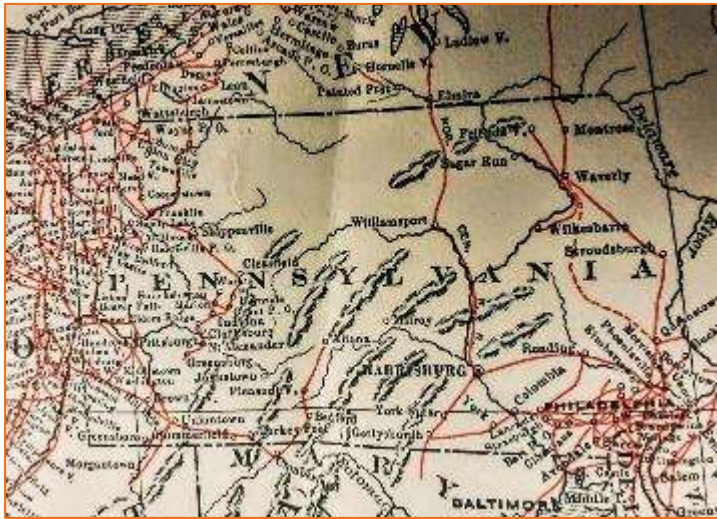


- We need to make the outdoors more inclusive.
- Shifting how we define the “natural environment” allows us to rethink how people of color engage with natural spaces and in the environmental movement.
- We need to “preserve open spaces and places that can engage and connect people with the outdoors, including culturally significant environments”.

<https://www.legacylandwater.org/mission>



“Black Faces, White Spaces” by Carolyn Finney
<https://www.euronews.com/green/2020/10/05/environmental-racism-has-ripped-black-people-away-from-nature>



Legacy Land & Water Partners aims to preserve the remaining open spaces of **Underground Railroad** trail areas and, in doing so, preserve and protect the “veins of freedom in the land of our country’s Democracy.”



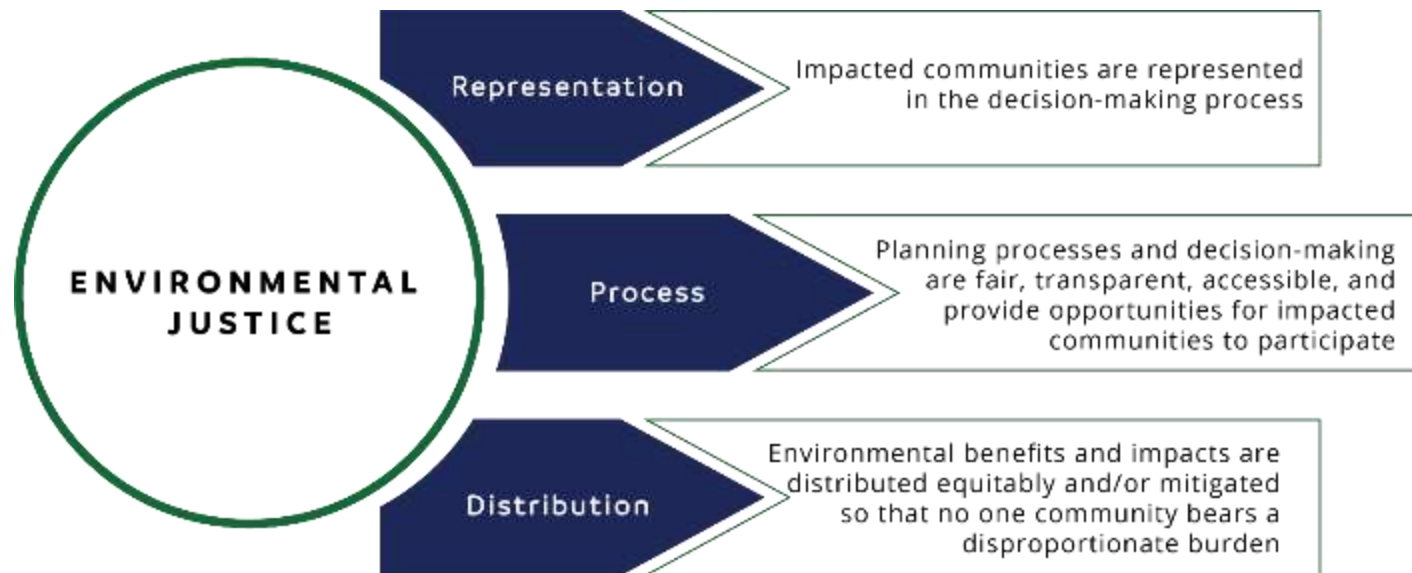
These open spaces provide **motivation to appreciate freedom and preserve our democracy’s critical natural resource** lands and biodiverse wildlife habitats that still exist as the **historical theater of the battles for individual liberties** by diverse allies.

<https://www.legacylandwater.org/underground-railroad-sacred-grounds>

WHAT CAN *YOU* DO?



- Better understand the communities you serve
- Explore ways to incorporate environmental justice into your work
- Listen and attend to community needs and priorities
- Partner with federal, state, local, Tribal, and community entities to plan, protect, respond, and adapt
- Tell your elected officials that you care about environmental justice



<https://aspe.hhs.gov/reports/ej-human-services>
<https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/environmental-justice>



From sending a message to your elected officials to signing a petition standing up for clean water, check out all the ways you can take action for the Bay!

<https://www.cbf.org/action-center/tools-and-resources.html>



Urge VA Legislators to Prioritize Clean Water Programs!

Amid the many competing priorities, budget negotiators will need to hear from you to keep clean water and a thriving Bay and economy in the forefront of their minds as they finalize the state budget.

TAKE ACTION



Pledge to Stand With the Watershed's Farmers

We must tell our federal government that investments in agricultural conservation are critical to save the Bay.

SIGN NOW



Urge EPA Administrator Regan: Make Saving the Bay a National Priority

Join us in urging EPA Administrator Michael Regan hold strong on his commitments to saving the Bay and making it a national priority once again.

SIGN NOW



Pledge to Save the Bay

Add your name and commit to standing with CBF, doing your part to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers and streams now and for generations to come.

SIGN NOW

Additional advocacy tools -- <https://www.cbf.org/action-center/tools-and-resources.html>



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION
Saving a National Treasure

Brief Intros

- Who are you? What brought you to today's Community Conversation?
- What did you want to learn? What have you learned?

Discussion Questions

- Where do you see **environmental justice intersecting** with other issues, such as housing, education, health care, etc.?
- How have you seen **systemic biases** and **discrimination** contribute to environmental injustice?
- What can we do in our **own neighborhood** to create a more equitable and sustainable future for our communities, with economic, environmental and social justice?



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The link between climate change, health and poverty

By Cheryl Holder

The health impacts of climate change are already here, says physician Cheryl Holder.

Unseasonably hot temperatures, disease-carrying mosquitoes and climate gentrification threaten the poor and vulnerable with existing health conditions; while wealthier people move to healthier ground.

In an impassioned talk, Holder proposes impactful ways to protect people from climate related health challenges -- and calls on doctors, politicians and others to build a care system that incorporates economic, environmental and social justice.



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Join us on Zoom to engage in a conversation about healthcare.
TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023 AT NOON



Register: ChesCoCF.org/Explore/Food-for-Thought



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Join us on Zoom to engage in a conversation about Juneteenth.
TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2023 AT NOON



JUNETEENTH
FREEDOM DAY



Register: ChesCoCF.org/explore/Food-for-Thought