Building a Movement For ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE in Oregon

Families & Workers Health & Pollution

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Beyond Toxics EJ Staff

Alison Guzman
2009-2013

Joel Iboa
2014-2016

Mysti Frost
2017
What is Environmental Justice?

WHAT:
• Unequal and unjust impacts of environmental contamination, pollution, and toxic exposure on communities of color, low-income, and indigenous communities.

HOW:
• Share data, form collaborative relationships and include communities in decision-making.

GOALS:
• Equitable distribution of environmental hazards and benefits;
• Fair and meaningful participation on environmental policy-making.
The Goal

Build a vital and lasting movement built on the principles of environmental justice and vested in impacted communities.
KEY ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES FACING OREGON’S VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

• Air Toxics and Land Use Codes Impacting the Health of Communities

• Farm Workers and Inhumane Conditions

• Clean Energy Economy to Improve the Lives of Low Income & Communities of Color
Purpose: Listen to communities about their environmental health vulnerabilities.
Community narratives = Priorities
Disparities in Air Pollution Risk

- West Eugene 2015: 500,241
- All Other Zip Codes 2015: 247
- West Eugene 2014: 486,789
- All Other Zip Codes 2014: 261
Student Asthma Correlates with Proximity to Industrial Emissions in West Eugene

\[ y = 0.6828x + 7.8756 \]

\[ R^2 = 0.4294 \]
Problem: Poor Urban Planning Determines Pollution in Neighborhoods
2017 Clear Lake EJ Overlay Zone

- Economic Growth
  - Large Industrial Lots
  - Near road, air and rail transit
  - Ag & Industrial Zoning

- Community & Environmental Health
  - Air
  - Climate
  - Noise & Vibrations
  - Light Pollution
  - Storm Water

Working class neighborhoods adjacent to polluting industries
It’s about people and their right to clean air
“implements supporting comprehensive plan policies that call for fairness and equity in achieving a healthy environment, vibrant community, and improved quality of life for surrounding neighborhoods.
“...Future development is encouraged to build upon Eugene’s competitive business advantages and recognize the community’s values around climate change, sustainability, local food systems, and natural resources.”
Zoning used to Protect

- EJ Values

- Economic Development

- Wetlands and Ag Soils
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:
ENDING TOXIC TRESPASS FOR WORKERS
1st Environmental Justice Forum
Medford 2015

Collaboration with the
Environmental Justice Task Force

FRIDAY, SEPT. 25th

FAIRNESS FOR THE LAND
AND THE WORKER:
2015 OREGON
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
TASK FORCE MEETING

Testimonies from workers
A Vulnerable Population

• 1.5 million farm workers live in poverty

• 32% are women & adolescents

• 25% more miscarriages

• Expected life span is 49 yrs
Having water to wash hands – A matter of human dignity and health
Farm Worker Housing
Hood River, Oregon
Farm Worker Housing
Hood River area, Oregon

Environmental Justice/Racial Justice
Envision a clean energy future for equity, economic justice, and environmental justice
What are the issues facing vulnerable Oregonians 10 years later?
Oregon Environmental Justice Summit
finding our path to justice

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Thank you!

www.BeyondToxics.org