



# Environmental Justice in Massachusetts





# Environmental Justice Principles



1. Meaningful involvement of all people with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies, including climate change policies.
2. Equitable distribution of energy and environmental benefits and burdens.



# Next Generation Roadmap Law 2021



## Environmental Justice Populations

- the annual median household income is 65 percent or less of the statewide annual median household income.
- minorities make up 40 percent or more of the population.
- 25 percent or more of households identify as speaking English less than "very well".
- minorities make up 25 percent or more of the population and the annual median household income of the municipality in which the neighborhood is located does not exceed 150 percent of the statewide annual median household income.

## Cumulative Impact Analysis





# Healey-Driscoll Administration EJ Commitment



## Investing in Environmental Justice

- FY 2024: 1% of overall state budget to executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs – more than \$105 million or 24%
- Creation of Undersecretary of Environmental Justice and Equity and tripled team
- \$2 million in language access: interpretation and translation
- Environmental justice liaisons in all EEA Agencies and Offices
- First-ever Environmental Justice Strategy released February 2024



# Office of Environmental Justice & Equity



## Environmental Justice Team at EEA

- María Belén Power, Undersecretary of Environmental Justice and Equity
- Crystal Johnson, Assistant Secretary of Environmental Justice and Equity
- Jonathan Guzman, Director of Environmental Justice and Equity
- Caroline Lemoine, Deputy Director
- Krishana Abraham-Petrie, Program Manager
- Pending, EJ Liaison
- Gina Lee, Executive Assistant



# Internal Engagement & Coordination



## Environmental Justice Taskforce & Language Access Working Group

Internal to EEA & Convened by EJ Office

Coordination and collaboration on environmental justice implementation:

- Department of Energy Resources
- Department of Public Utilities
- Energy Facility Siting Board
- Department of Environmental Protection
- Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Department of Fish and Game
- Department of Agricultural Resources
- Coastal Zone Management
- Massachusetts Water Resource Authority
- Mass Clean Energy Center
- Mass Environmental Policy Act
- Mass Environmental Police
- Office of Technical Assistance

## Environmental Justice Interagency Working Group

Includes all Secretariats under the Healey Driscoll Administration

Convened by EJ Office

Collaboration with Climate Office and Chief Hoffer



# External Engagement & Coordination



## Environmental Justice Council

- 15 members appointed by Governor
- Meets every 2 months (sometimes more often)

## Environmental Justice Table

- Statewide coalition external to government
- Convened and anchored by environmental justice groups

## Justice 40 Working Group

- Convened fall of 2023 by the Office of EJ and Equity
- Organizations from across the State
- Meets monthly

## Additional Engagement

- Project/Policy-Specific Engagement
- Trainings/Workshops in Communities
- Listening Sessions in Communities



# Environmental Justice Priorities



## Meaningful Engagement:

- Language Access
- Tribal & Indigenous Communities
- Low-Income Communities
- Minority Populations
- Outcome Must Reflects Process

## Equitable Distribution:

- Workforce Development
- Benefits vs Burdens / Cumulative Impact Analysis
- Community Benefit Agreements
- Justice 40