

ANR Environmental Justice Timeline (3.14.2022)

In 2021, the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) committed to a Performance Partnership Agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) related to Environmental Justice. Specifically, by September 2023 ANR will:

- Adopt a draft Environmental Justice Policy, with procedural guidance for each department, related to planning and permitting. For DEC in particular, the Agency has committed to Environmental Justice planning and permitting requirements for programs in air, water, and solid waste.
- Improve demographic and environmental data collection. As a first step, staff are currently researching improved public outreach, peer state efforts to develop and implement environmental justice policies (including “Mapping Tool” research).
- Develop Agency-wide training modules for Civil Rights compliance and environmental justice, including how it is applicable to targeted programs (air, water, and solid waste).

Spring 2022	Fall 2022	Spring 2023	Fall 2023	2024	2025
Environmental Justice Mapping A mapping tool specific to Vermont is needed to support environmental justice planning. Tools developed on the national level are available but do not appear to be well-suited to assess the needs, environmental benefits and burdens of Vermont communities.					
Continue research with other states and opportunities with other federal tools such as EJSCREEN and Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool	Finalize workplan for development of Vermont specific mapping tool, including recommended budget and timeline	Request approval for contractor to assist in tool development	Initial public outreach and ground truthing of mapping tool	Adopt interactive Vermont specific tool for public use	Provide ongoing training to state staff, community members businesses and municipalities
Onboard new half time staff member to focus on data analysis and environmental justice mapping support. Limited service for 2 years, supported through federal grant	Provide support to staff on current understanding and application of existing tools	Improve Agency data collection practices			
Community Engagement Contract DEC has contracted with Center for Whole Communities to complete in-depth outreach in three underserved communities in Vermont that will inform the development of the Community Engagement Plan and Environmental Justice Policy. Planning was initiated in August 2021, outreach is planned for June-September 2022, with a final report due in January 2023.					
Begin pilot project of in-depth outreach to three communities: elderly mobile home park residents in NEK, New Americans in Burlington/Winooski, low-income community members in Bennington	Continue outreach to targeted communities using community liaisons, innovative outreach strategies and compensation for participants	Final Report with recommendations for strategies to include in ANR policies	Consider need for ongoing community development contractor support		

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Environmental Justice Policy/Community Engagement Plan Develop and adopt Environmental Justice Policy and Community Engagement Plan for Agency of Natural Resources					
Develop draft Environmental Justice Policy (following receipt of input from community engagement contract)		Complete draft of Environmental Justice Policy by utilizing results of community engagement plan.	Final EJ policy adopted by ANR with guidance for Department procedures.	Adopt Agency-wide Community Engagement Plan with procedure guidance for each Department	Incorporate Environmental Justice Policy and Community Engagement Plan into targeted programs across ANR