

Environmental justice demands that public policy be based on mutual respect and justice for all people, free from any form of discrimination or bias. We believe that all people have the right to clean air and we will use the following principles to develop our policies and guide our actions:

Ensure Agency diversity

The Agency's staff will reflect the diversity of the communities we serve. A workplace that respects different perspectives will help recognize potential air quality problems, encourage problem solving beyond traditional approaches, and help build relationships with diverse communities. By encouraging respect for diversity and creating a more representative staff, we will better identify and serve affected communities.

Identify potentially affected communities (Best Practice Guidelines #1, 2, 4-9)

We will address the human health, economic, and social effects of air pollution when we identify potentially affected communities. By gaining a more holistic understanding of who is potentially affected, we will be able to develop and provide customized information to affected communities.

Develop and provide information to affected communities (BPG #1-6, 9)

The information we develop will reflect what we learn about the affected communities. We will identify and use the most effective methods to provide information to the target audiences. By purposefully developing information and conducting community outreach beyond traditional forms, we will invite community participation.

Provide and invite opportunities for participation (BPG #1-6, 9)

We will facilitate adequate opportunity for meaningful public participation to ensure that potentially affected communities are included in the process. Local community organizations and stakeholders can provide unique perspectives and alert us to new issues. We will contact local community organizations and stakeholders to help inform our decision making. By facilitating participation, we will build community partnerships.

Build community partnerships (BPG #4)

Partnerships allow for substantial collaboration on Agency actions and help educate all affected parties. By fostering collaboration among communities, other agencies, and local jurisdictions, we will be able to develop innovative solutions and pursue appropriate actions.

Pursue appropriate actions (BPG #6)

Clean air for everyone is the Agency goal. Successfully engaging with our diverse communities and ensuring that their various perspectives are heard and considered will enable us to craft appropriate actions for the clean air challenges we face and empower communities to be active partners in our mission.

Support community empowerment (BPG #1, 6)

Empowered communities voice their perspectives and are actively involved in improving our region's air quality and help us achieve our mission. In addition, empowered individuals use us as a relevant resource, enabling them to make better choices and create sustainable and livable communities.