
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE STRATEGY

2014 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS REPORT



U.S. Department of
Housing and Urban Development

HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE STRATEGY

2014 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS REPORT

MARCH 2015

Prepared by

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

For more information

[http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/economic_resilience/Environmental Justice Strategy](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/economic_resilience/Environmental_Justice_Strategy)

EJStrategy@hud.gov

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

I'm pleased to present this *2014 Implementation Progress Report* detailing how the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is advancing the goals of our *2012-2015 Environmental Justice Strategy*. As you'll see in the following pages, we're making very important strides in shaping communities where people can thrive and achieve their dreams.

Good health is one of life's most precious gifts, and families deserve the opportunity to prosper in a healthy environment — both at home and in their neighborhoods. That's why HUD has launched this comprehensive effort to ensure that this opportunity is within reach of every American.

Right now, too many folks are being exposed to public health risks simply because of where they live. These hazards are disproportionately impacting low-income, minority, and tribal populations. This simply isn't right. In our great nation, one's future should be determined by talent and work ethic alone, not one's Zip code.

HUD is tackling these challenges head-on. We've launched a National Disaster Resilience Competition that is investing \$1 billion into communities impacted by natural disasters. We've joined with the Department of Energy to expand the Better Buildings Challenge, with 87 multifamily property owners committing to reduce portfolio-wide residential energy use by 20 percent within the decade.

Our Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes is doing important work to improve living conditions so that children and their parents don't have to miss school or work because they are sick. And, our Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity continues to level the playing field so that families have the choice to live in the environment that best meets their goals for the future.

Across the board, HUD is making progress in addressing the health disparities that have impacted too many Americans for far too long. We know there is more work to do and we remain firmly committed to fulfilling the goals of the strategy. HUD looks forward to working with all our partners to continue to invest in the health of communities and to create opportunity for generations of Americans.



Julián Castro
Secretary
U.S. Department of Housing
and Urban Development

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from Secretary Julián Castro	3
Table of Contents	4
Overview	5
Development of HUD’s Environmental Justice Strategy.....	5
2014 Implementation Progress Report.....	5
A: Agency-Wide Statutes, Regulations, and Practices that Advance Environmental Justice	8
A1. Integrating Environmental Justice into Discretionary Funding Opportunities.....	8
A2. Ensuring Quality of Place	8
A3. Clarifying Environmental Justice in Environmental Review Requirements.....	8
A4. Promoting Fairness, Equity and Non-discrimination, and Equal opportunity.....	9
A5. Ensuring Integration of Tribal Consultation into HUD’s Programs and Policies.....	9
Additional Agency-Wide Environmental Justice Progress	10
P: HUD Program Office Efforts that Advance Environmental Justice	11
P1. Build Inclusive and Sustainable Communities Free From Discrimination.....	11
P2. Promote Healthy Homes Free of Environmental and Health Hazards	14
P3. Use Data Tools to Expand HUD and Public Knowledge about Environmental Justice	16
P4. Supporting Tribal Self-Governance and Improving Living Environments	16
Additional Program Office Environmental Justice Progress	17
I: Interagency Collaborations that Advance Environmental Justice	20
I1. Partnership for Sustainable Communities – Team EJ	20
I2. Addressing Local EJ Concerns that Affect Residents of HUD-Assisted Housing	20
I3. Healthy Homes and Communities	22
I4. Tribal Issues Interagency Working Group.....	22
Additional Interagency Environmental Justice Progress	23

OVERVIEW

Development of HUD’s Environmental Justice Strategy

With the publication of its [2012-2015 Environmental Justice Strategy](#) (EJ Strategy) in April 2012, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) took an important step in addressing disproportionately adverse health and environmental impacts faced by minority, low-income, and tribal populations. The strategy outlined key actions HUD would take to further incorporate EJ activities into agency-wide initiatives, program operations, and interagency efforts.

HUD’s EJ Strategy organizes these key actions into three general categories of efforts necessary to achieve HUD’s Environmental Justice goals: agency-wide, program office, and interagency efforts. Supporting the achievement of these goals are 28 more specific sub-goals to be carried out between the Fiscal Years of 2012 through 2015. This report is organized by these categories of activities and goals.

Table 1: HUD 2012-2015 Environmental Justice Strategy

Agency-Wide Efforts	A1. Integrate environmental justice into discretionary funding opportunities.
	A2. Ensure quality of place.
	A3. Clarify environmental justice in environmental review requirements.
	A4. Promote fairness, equity and non-discrimination, and equal opportunity.
	A5. Ensure integration of tribal consultation into HUD’s programs and policies.
Program Office Efforts	P1. Build inclusive and sustainable communities free from discrimination.
	P2. Promote healthy homes free of environmental and health hazards.
	P3. Use data tools to expand HUD and public knowledge of environmental justice.
	P4. Support tribal self-governance and improving living environments.
Interagency Efforts	I1. Partnership for Sustainable Communities – Team EJ.
	I2. Addressing Local EJ Concerns that Affect Residents of HUD-Assisted Housing.
	I3. Healthy Homes and Communities.
	I4. Tribal Issues Interagency Working Group.

2014 Implementation Progress Report

This *Implementation Progress Report* outlines the headway HUD has made through the end of Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 in addressing the goals laid out in HUD’s *2012-2015 Environmental Justice Strategy*. This report fulfills HUD’s responsibilities to report on progress under Executive Order 12898 (Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations) and the August 2011 Environmental Justice Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among Federal agencies.

The progress made at the **agency-wide level** includes:

- The submission of the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) Final Rule and Assessment Tool to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The rule calls for a fair housing assessment and planning process that increases access to opportunity and allows all families to make true housing choices;
- Collaboration with more than 87 multifamily building owners, including 30 public housing authorities, through the Better Buildings Challenge which will reduce portfolio-wide residential building energy use for many low-income households by 20% within 10 years¹;
- Securing the commitment of 160 Megawatts (MW) of renewable energy to be installed at single family and multifamily buildings that receive Federal assistance; and
- The inclusion of “promoting resident health through housing” as a strategic cross-cutting objective in the HUD 2014-2018 Strategic Plan.

This report also includes key achievements at the **program level**, including:

- 75 regions involved in the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning grant cohorts conducted a fair housing and equity assessment or regional analysis of impediments to fair housing choice;
- The award of a combined \$119.7 million to transform four distressed communities through HUD FY2014 Choice Neighborhoods implementation grant program, which emphasizes tenant involvement and neighborhood participation as part of the transformation plan;
- The development and adoption of priority points for Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) applicants who prioritize coordination between housing, health, and energy efficiency programs through Safe and Healthy Homes Investment Partnerships (SHHIP);
- Remediated mold and reduced allergens in 7,837 units and controlled lead paint hazards in another 13,733 housing units through over \$100m in FY2014 Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH) funding;
- Continued support of tribal communities through investments in the Indian Housing Block Grant and Indian Community Development Block Grant programs;
- New HUD programs carried out and launched with an emphasis on community resilience, including the Rebuild By Design Competition, National Disaster Resilience Competition, HUD Community Resilience Portal, and Agency Climate Adaptation Plan;
- Preservation of Affordable Housing through the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD); and
- Additional progress such as the development of the Healthy Communities Assessment Tool online portal which provides better information to communities about healthy neighborhoods.

Because revitalization issues facing low-income and minority communities are by their nature complex and require multiple financial resources and technical expertise, HUD must engage in an interdisciplinary response which frequently requires collaboration across Federal agencies. HUD’s collaboration at the **interagency level** includes:

- Place-based field engagement in communities like Birmingham, AL and Caño Martín Peña, PR;
- Ongoing leadership of 10 HUD field staff as Federal environmental justice liaisons to collaborate with other agency partners and community members to address environmental justice concerns;

¹ See <http://www4.eere.energy.gov/challenge/home>

- HUD's participation in the Partnership for Sustainable Communities Team-Environmental Justice (EJ) working group;²
- Participation in the Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice;³
- Participation in the Healthy Homes Working Group;⁴
- Participation in the Interagency Tribal Issues Working Group;⁵ and
- Other cross-agency collaborations.

With nearly three years of implementation progress under HUD's belt under the Department's EJ Strategy, much work still remains to be done and HUD will continue to fulfill its mission of creating strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all by seeking improvements in environmental health for low-income and minority communities. Over the next year, HUD will be updating its Departmental Environmental Justice strategy to identify further ways to incorporate environmental justice into its work. HUD continues to believe that where one lives should not limit one's aspirations, and that everyone should have access to a healthy and prosperous community in which to live, work, and play.

² See <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/ej/sustainability/index.html>

³ See <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/ej/interagency/>

⁴ See <http://www.greenandhealthyhomes.org/policy-makers/federal-interagency-healthy-homes-work-group>

⁵ See <http://www.epa.gov/oppt/npptac/pubs/draftgreenbldgsrecommend.pdf>.

A: AGENCY-WIDE STATUTES, REGULATIONS, AND PRACTICES THAT ADVANCE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

A1. Integrating Environmental Justice into Discretionary Funding Opportunities

A1.1 – HUD program offices will work with the Grants Management and Oversight Division of the Office of Strategic Planning and Management and relevant program offices to identify ways to further integrate environmental justice into discretionary funding opportunities.

The Office of Community Planning and Development and the Office of General Counsel 's Office of Fair Housing continue to work with the Grants Management and Oversight Division within HUD's Office of Strategic Planning and Management to identify ways to further integrate environmental justice into discretionary funding announcements.

A2. Ensuring Quality of Place

A2.1 – HUD policy includes Site and Neighborhood Standards as a regulatory document for new construction and rehabilitation. HUD will work with other Federal agencies to identify ways to address EJ issues affecting HUD-assisted residents of existing developments.

Please see Interagency Collaboration section for details regarding HUD's interagency work on environmental justice.

A3. Clarifying Environmental Justice in Environmental Review Requirements

A3.1 – HUD will evaluate the administration of environmental policies found at 24 CFR Part 51, Environmental Criteria and Standards, and environmental justice policy documents.

This evaluation was completed in 2012.

A3.2 – HUD will develop and deliver special training materials for HUD and grantee staff on environmental justice.

As of FY2012, HUD-administered environmental justice training for environmental review practitioners now incorporates HUD's refinement of its EJ policies as part of the Office of Environment and Energy's environmental compliance training.

A3.3 – HUD will initiate research on the effectiveness of environmental noise standards.

HUD completed the research on environmental noise in 2012. Please see the [2012 HUD Environmental Justice Strategy Implementation Progress Report](#) for additional details.

A3.4 - The Office of Housing will reemphasize its environmental review responsibilities and will advise applicants of any environmental justice concerns, including recommendations on their resolution.

During FY2013, HUD's Office of Housing staff amended the HUD Multifamily Accelerated Processing (MAP) Guide to incorporate the Radon Policy set forth in HUD Notice H 2013-13⁶, which takes considerable steps toward eliminating radon exposure in FHA-insured multifamily housing. Also, the MAP Guide updates the radon mitigation standard set forth in ASTM E 2121-11 to the updated standard set forth in Radon Mitigation Standards for Multifamily Buildings as recently published by the American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologies (AARST) in January, 2015.

For a description of past Office of Housing efforts, please see the 2012 and 2013 progress reports.

A4. Promoting Fairness, Equity and Non-discrimination, and Equal opportunity

*A4.1 – **Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing:** HUD will refine its fair housing planning requirements (including phasing out the requirements for Analysis of Impediments (AI) and replacing it with an Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) which will contain far more specific requirements and guidance) to help grantees improve access to opportunity, create inclusive communities, and foster true housing choice for all.*

For further discussion of HUD's release of the proposed rule on Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing in 2013, please see the [2013 HUD Environmental Justice Strategy Implementation Progress Report](#).

AFFH Final Rule and AFFH Assessment Tool. On July 19, 2013, HUD published its Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing proposed rule, by which HUD proposed to provide HUD program participants with more effective means to affirmatively further the purposes as required by the Fair Housing Act. To better fulfill this statutory obligation, this rule would replace existing requirements with a fair housing assessment and planning process that is intended to aid HUD program participants in improving access to opportunity and advancing the ability for all families to make true housing choices.

A5. Ensuring Integration of Tribal Consultation into HUD's Programs and Policies

*A5.1 – **Tribal Consultation Update:** In accordance with President Obama's November 5, 2009, Executive Memorandum on Tribal Consultation, HUD's Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) is working with the many offices within HUD that*

⁶ <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=13-03hsgn.pdf>

develop Federal policy that affects tribes to familiarize them with the requirements of Tribal Consultation and provide assistance in the execution of meaningful consultation and collaboration.

The Office of Native American Programs' work of assisting other program offices in tribal matters is ongoing.

Additional Agency-Wide Environmental Justice Progress

Environmental Justice in the President's Climate Action Plan

As part of the President's Climate Action Plan, released in June of 2013, President Obama cited a "moral obligation" to future generations to combat climate change, in order to protect children's health and ensure a stable planet. To meet these obligations, Federal agencies committed to both increase energy savings through expanded use of energy efficiency programs and promote leadership in renewable energy through accelerating renewable energy permitting. HUD's support for the Climate Action Plan further extends participation in these programs to low- and moderate-income communities through the Better Buildings Challenge and the new Federal renewable energy target.⁷

Better Buildings Challenge

The Better Buildings Challenge is a voluntary leadership program wherein building owners pledge to reduce the energy intensity of their portfolio by 20% within 10 years. The Challenge was expanded to the multifamily residential sector in 2013, and HUD is working with the Department of Energy (DOE) to recruit and provide technical assistance to HUD's multifamily and Public Housing partners. The Challenge has a positive environmental justice component because HUD's focus on recruiting subsidized housing owners and the portfolio-wide requirement ensures that more low-income families and communities will see benefits of lower utility bills and increased comfort from energy efficiency improvements. As of February 2015, over 87 multifamily building owners have joined the challenge, including 30 public housing authorities, pledging to cut energy consumption from nearly 400 million square feet of residential building space. Owners pledge to make portfolio-wide energy reductions, including all of their affordable housing properties.

Federal Renewable Energy Target

The Federal Renewable Energy Target represents the first time HUD has had a goal of increasing renewable energy onsite at its Federally-assisted properties. Onsite renewable energy generation will give low-income residents and communities the opportunity to benefit from local clean energy jobs and potentially lower energy costs. Since the launch of this goal last year, HUD and partners have secured renewable energy commitments of 160 MW of renewable energy to be installed at affordable housing, including single family and multifamily buildings. In February 2015, HUD and the White House convened financial and philanthropic stakeholders for a roundtable summit to discuss how to scale up financing options for solar energy for low-income renters in multifamily buildings. See also the *Additional Program Office Environmental Justice Progress* section of this document for information about HUD's Climate Adaptation Planning efforts.

⁷ See December 5, 2013, Presidential Memorandum on Federal Leadership in Energy Management at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/12/05/presidential-memorandum-federal-leadership-energy-management>

P: HUD PROGRAM OFFICE EFFORTS THAT ADVANCE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

P1. Build Inclusive and Sustainable Communities Free From Discrimination

P1.1 – HUD’s Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) will continue work on its Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP) and Fair Housing Agency Program (FHAP) to incorporate more Environmental Justice-related compliance and enforcement activity.

At its next policy conference, scheduled in FY2015 or FY2016 for Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP) and Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP) grantees, FHEO will provide training on discrimination arising out of climate-related disasters and how to respond to local policies and community pressures that would impose barriers for members of protected classes to return to their communities. FHEO will also provide training on how to address civil rights issues involving environmental hazards.

This progress is significant to HUD’s vision of achieving environmental justice because HUD’s FHAP and FHIP partners are vital to assisting victims of housing discrimination. Often equipped with close community ties and local knowledge, FHAP and FHIP grantees support HUD’s efforts to enforce civil rights laws as well as conduct education and outreach. Coordination with FHAP and FHIP grantees enhances EJ-related compliance.

In addition to these program-specific efforts, FHEO reviews all HUD issuances (Guidebooks, Notices, NOFAs, Regulations, Forms, etc.) prior to their release for fair housing related issues, including those involving Environmental Justice.

P1.2 – As part of the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant program, all grantees must complete a Regional Fair Housing and Equity Assessment (FHEA) exercise.

Between the FY2010 and FY2011 Sustainable Communities Regional Planning grant cohorts, 75 regions across the U.S. have conducted fair housing and equity assessments or regional analyses of impediments to fair housing choice. The FHEA is a tool in which diverse regional stakeholders develop a shared assessment of access to opportunity, especially as pertains to infrastructure and housing dynamics. The FHEA requires several analyses, which broadly fall into the three action themes: (1) data, (2) deliberation with community groups, particularly those representing populations that are typically underrepresented in the planning process, and (3) decision-making. Grantees are asked to use data and public discourse to analyze the following:

- Current racial/ethnic demographics and the political, social, legal and economic context for the development of racially-concentrated communities within the context of the history of the region;
- Racial/ethnic segregation and integration patterns;
- Potential solutions to reduce segregation and promote access to integrated communities;
- An analysis of access to opportunity, especially fair housing infrastructure and physical infrastructure investments with associated action steps and strategies.

This progress is significant to HUD's vision of achieving environmental justice because it requires grantees to examine their region's geography for areas of opportunity, determine how those areas align or do not align with racially or ethnically concentrated areas of poverty, and use this information to guide decision-making related to future investments. In particular, the iteration of this work undertaken by grantees funded in FY2011 includes data for analysis on health hazards exposure, job access, and transit, in addition to three other categories. These data can be used to identify areas of the region where concentrations of racial/ethnic groups are disproportionately exposed to health hazards or lack equitable access to jobs and transit.

As the FY2010 SCI grantee class wrapped up their work in FY2014, and FY2011 cohort nears completion in FY2015, a number of completed FHEA examples have become available to the public. Sample products are linked below:

- **Livability Lane**, Lane Council of Governments, OR (FY2010 grantee), [Equity and Opportunity Reports](http://www.livabilitylane.org/toolkit/equity_and_opportunity_reports.html) (http://www.livabilitylane.org/toolkit/equity_and_opportunity_reports.html)
- **Thrive MSP**, Metropolitan Council, Twin Cities (FY2010 grantee), [Choice, Place, and Opportunity Reports](http://www.metrocouncil.org/Planning/Projects/Thrive-2040/Choice-Place-and-Opportunity.aspx) (<http://www.metrocouncil.org/Planning/Projects/Thrive-2040/Choice-Place-and-Opportunity.aspx>)
- **Together North Jersey** (FY2011 grantee), [Access to Opportunities Maps](http://togethernorthjersey.com/?page_id=19079) (http://togethernorthjersey.com/?page_id=19079) completed in partnership with Rutgers University

P1.3 – In each future year for Sustainable Communities grant programs, HUD's Office of Economic Resilience (OER, formerly Sustainable Housing and Communities - OSHC⁸) will review its Notices of Funding Availability to further integrate environmental justice principles into the funding.

While the Sustainable Communities grant programs did not receive FY2013 or FY2014 appropriations, OER worked to integrate sustainable communities and environmental justice in its existing work, including provision of technical assistance to existing grantees through the Sustainable Communities Capacity Building Program. Technical assistance provided has included topics such as advancing environmental justice through sustainability planning, preserving affordable housing near transit, and engaging marginalized communities.

As the FY2010 and FY2011 Sustainable Communities grantee wrap up their work, a number of products, plans, and policies that support sustainability and equity have been completed. A small sample of products with associated hyperlinks is included below:

- **Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (MA) – Sustainability + Equity Report and Resource Guide:** This report and resource guide is intended to help advance civic engagement and equity work in the Pioneer Valley (and beyond). The document summarizes a three-year civic engagement and equity program in the Pioneer Valley as part of the Sustainable Knowledge Corridor project. The report also includes a set of resources and tools for engaging people and organizations often underrepresented in planning processes.

⁸ In 2014, HUD's Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities was renamed the Office of Economic Resilience, which continues to carry on the Sustainable Communities Initiative grant work began by OSHC. Throughout this document, all references to the Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities and OSHC will be replaced by Office of Economic Resilience and OER, respectively.

<http://www.pvpc.org/content/pvpc-sustainability-equity-resource-and-resource-guide>

- **City of New Orleans – Livable Claiborne Communities Study:** The Livable Claiborne Communities (LCC) Study encompasses seven diverse neighborhoods and a portion of the Central Business District in the heart of New Orleans. A community participation process included interviews, public meetings under the oversight of a governance and project advisory committee, and informed data analyses yielding the final LCC Study recommendations. Five overarching goals that emerged from the community discussion are:
 - Preservation of our culture and identity
 - Sustainable solutions for our flood-prone environment
 - Equitable access to economic prosperity
 - Managed change to benefit the existing community
 - Enhanced transportation choice and access

<http://www.nola.gov/livable-claiborne-communities/>

- **Puget Sound Regional Council – Growing Transit Communities:** A central element of the Growing Transit Communities work program has been to create and staff a Regional Equity Network to increase participation of historically underrepresented communities in regional planning activities, build local capacity, and give voice to community priorities.

The Regional Equity Network has been directly resourced by grant funds through two contracts with Impact Capital, a sub-recipient and project partner. One contract, in the amount of \$290,000, was used to fund a staff position at Impact Capital, the Equity Network Manager, to coordinate the development of the Regional Equity Network and to administer a community equity grant program.

<http://pugetsoundequity.org/>

<http://www.psrc.org/growth/growing-transit-communities/regional-equity/>

<http://www.psrc.org/about/advisory/gtc-committees/equity-net-sc>

P1.4 - OER will continue to coordinate HUD's participation in the Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice.

OER has continued to take a leading role in HUD's interagency collaboration, including participation in stakeholder listening sessions, coordinating the HUD internal working group on Environmental Justice, and identifying opportunities for interagency collaboration.

P1.5 - The Choice Neighborhoods program will continue to encourage applicants to consider the environment, energy efficiency and sustainability in their Transformation Plans.

Choice Neighborhoods (CN) is one of HUD's signature place-based initiatives and is a central element of the White House's Promise Zones Initiative.⁹ Choice Neighborhoods enables communities to revitalize struggling neighborhoods with distressed public housing or HUD-assisted housing. Through these grants, local leaders, residents, and other community stakeholders are replacing distressed housing with

⁹ See "Partner with Communities to Help them Rebuild" in "Building Ladders of Opportunity" at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/factsheet/building-ladders-of-opportunity>.

vibrant, mixed-income communities, catalyzing new retail and businesses, turning around failing schools, strengthening early education, preventing crime, improving transportation, ensuring basic neighborhood assets, and increasing access to jobs.

As part of this effort, Choice Neighborhoods specifically promotes sustainability and livability. Implementation grantees are required to achieve efficiency standards in new housing construction and incorporate sustainable construction and demolition practices. They are also encouraged to achieve LEED-ND certification or a similar neighborhood sustainability standard. Meanwhile, Planning grantees are required to incorporate sustainable development practices into their transformation plans, including supporting compact development and proximity to transportation choices, amenities, services, and employment opportunities. Planning grantees are also encouraged to improve resident health by adopting green building practices.

On June 30, 2014, HUD announced four FY2013 Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant awards for a combined \$119.7 million to transform distressed communities in: Columbus, OH; Norwalk, CT; Philadelphia, PA; and Pittsburgh, PA. Awards were a maximum of \$30 million each. To date, Choice Neighborhoods has funded 56 Planning grantees and 12 Implementation grantees¹⁰.

The progress made by the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative contributes to HUD's vision of achieving environmental justice by requiring tenant involvement and neighborhood participation as part of the transformation plan process and during subsequent revitalization. This revitalization provides distressed communities with the opportunity to improve the livability and sustainability of their surrounding environment. For example, a number of Choice Neighborhoods grantees have linked their work with brownfields remediation efforts. The Norwalk Housing Authority in Norwalk, CT secured brownfields remediation funding in 2014 to pair with their other sources of financing for redevelopment in the Washington Village/South Norwalk area (<http://www.norwalkha.org/building-better-neighborhoods.php>). The Wilson Housing Authority in Wilson, NC, a 2011 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant, secured Brownfields funding that allowed the City of Wilson to complete cleanup of a former petroleum company site and attracted new retail to the Center City neighborhood.

P2. Promote Healthy Homes Free of Environmental and Health Hazards

*P2.1 - **Safe and Healthy Homes Investment Partnerships (SHHIP):** HUD will create a certification for communities that coordinate home interventions across housing, health, and energy programs. SHHIP communities will advance environmental justice by removing the barriers and programmatic impediments to comprehensive home assessments and citizen need-based coordinated housing interventions.*

OLHCHH and HUD activities, including the development and adoption of priority points for NOFA applicants who prioritize coordination between housing/health/energy efficiency programs, have effectively incentivized the activities envisioned by the SHHIP communities. Further, HUD adopted the inclusion of promoting resident health through housing as a strategic, cross-cutting objective in the HUD FY2014-2018 Strategic Plan. As the benefits of cross-program coordination have been recognized and

¹⁰ As of publication, the number of planning grantees has reached 63 and a new Implementation Grant completion is underway; applications were received in February.

rewarded in the HUD NOFA by priority points, the office considers the goals of the partnerships attained absent the requirement of local programs to certify.

P2.2 - Green and Healthy Homes Initiative: *OLHCHH continues to support a public-private partnership known as the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) pilot. This pilot performs healthy and green retrofits of low-income housing units by bringing together Federal, state and local government, and philanthropic funding streams.*

The HUD-supported pilot phase of the GHHI has been completed but the local sites continue to conduct inspections and interventions under their compacts. In FY2014, participating jurisdictions in the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative have performed healthy and green retrofits to hundreds of housing units in fifteen cities. Each of the cities has committed to coordinating housing interventions through the execution of inter-program compacts and adoption of common assessment tools.

GHHI unit production activity is heavily focused on environmental justice communities; Baltimore, Cleveland, Flint, Denver, New Haven, and Chicago comprise the top six performing GHHI sites.

In addition to unit production, the GHHI has been actively coordinating training of workers in multiple sites. This training, funded in large part by a grant to the GHHI by the Open Society Initiative, has focused on building skills in multiple housing and energy efficiency disciplines among ex-offenders and low wage or unemployed workers.

P2.3 - Technical Assistance for Grantees and Identifying Opportunities for Effective Advocacy: *OLHCHH will spearhead the development of an interagency website, healthyhomes.hud.gov, which will contain substantial content on lead and lead poisoning prevention.*

In 2014, OLHCHH developed several informational products and strategic initiatives to support implementation of the healthy homes elements of the environmental justice strategy. OLHCHH heads an interagency healthy homes outreach work group to develop Federal healthy homes messaging, leverage resources and better collaborate on the following:

1. **Advancing Healthy Homes: A Strategy**- The strategy was officially launched in FY2013 by the leadership of five partner Federal agencies and includes major commitments on health promotion through better housing.
2. **Healthyhomes.hud.gov website**- This effort has continued development with progress on key components including the development of major partnerships and Federal resources to assist consumers on healthy homes concerns. A variety of complex Federal web security and information technology issues have been overcome and a site completion plan has been written. This plan will greatly improve usability by consumers and provide for efficient site maintenance.
3. **Disaster Recovery**- As evidenced by the response to Hurricane Katrina, EJ communities can be greatly impacted by poor planning and uneven disaster response by governments and other stakeholders. In 2014, OLHCHH expanded its assistance to consumers by creating multiple products for disaster recovery. Three disaster recovery videos have been added to our website [OLHCHH Disaster Recovery](#) and interagency clearance is underway for several more pamphlets and guidance documents.

P2.4 - The Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes Programs will continue to provide states and local communities with grants to make housing improvements that will yield positive health outcomes for individuals and families.

In FY2014, OLHCHH continued to provide states and local communities with resources to combat lead-based paint and other hazards in homes. The office quickly issued the FY2014 NOFA, reviewed the grant applications and completed new grant agreements with 33 states or local communities. Funding for these new programs in FY2014 totaled \$108,702,967.

Through FY2014, OLHCHH existing grantees controlled lead paint hazards, reduced allergens and remediated mold in 7,837 units. Another 13,733 units were made lead-safe through application of the Lead Safe Housing Rule or through enforcement settlement activity. The great majority of this activity was focused on older, pre-1978 housing stock primarily located in inner city neighborhoods. The Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Home grant programs are among HUD's preeminent programs that positively impact environmental justice.

P3. Use Data Tools to Expand HUD and Public Knowledge about Environmental Justice

*P3.1 – **Disaster Assistance Planning:** HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R) will coordinate the preparation of an initial Housing Needs Assessment to estimate the housing impact of a disaster, especially for minorities and vulnerable populations.*

PD&R continues to maintain such efforts spearheading this project and has already published a [webpage listing disaster assistance resources](#), which includes reports, guides, and ordinances to aid in the disaster recovery process. Additional HUD resources on disaster response and recovery are available at: <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/info/disasterresources>

*P3.2 - **Geospatial Mapping (GIS):** PD&R will enhance GIS functionality and HUD data to more fully utilize the capabilities that spatial data analysis can provide.*

HUD's eGIS platform is available at: <http://egis.hud.gov/>

P4. Supporting Tribal Self-Governance and Improving Living Environments

*P4.1 – **Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG):** Along with active tribal input in the development process, HUD consolidated a number of separate assistance programs and replaced them with the Indian Housing Block Grant program. These formula block grants for Indian tribes benefit primarily low-income families living on Indian reservations.*

In FY2014, \$652,690,296 was awarded to IHBG recipients. A list of recipients can be found at: http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/public_indian_housing/ih/codetalk/onap/i hbgformula

P4.2 – Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG): HUD’s ICDBG Program provides grants for developing suitable housing and economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income persons in Indian and Alaska Native communities.

In FY2014, \$56,219,221 was awarded to ICDBG recipients with approximately \$10 million additionally allocated for mold remediation. The funding announcement can be found at:

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2014/HUDNo_14-071.

P4.3 – Environmental Review: In accordance with HUD’s commitment to tribal self-governance and tribal self-determination, Indian tribes may assume the environmental review responsibilities of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other laws and authorities.

The Office of Public and Indian Housing (PIH) and the Office of Native American Programs (ONAP), within PIH, have maintained their commitment to servicing these grant programs and initiatives. Their work continues to increase environmental justice for low- and moderate-income Native American families across the nation.

Additional Program Office Environmental Justice Progress

While not explicitly mentioned under HUD’s EJ Strategy, a number of efforts across HUD program offices and HUD partners are incorporating environmental justice and considerations of vulnerable populations.

Rebuild by Design Competition

The Rebuild by Design (RBD) Competition was a planning and design competition for increasing resilience in the Hurricane Sandy-affected region. Administered by HUD under the authority of the America COMPETES Act, and funded entirely by philanthropy, the competition took a multidisciplinary and holistic approach to resilience that went beyond risk reduction for property loss. During the year-long competition (which concluded in June 2014), finalist design teams were introduced to environmental justice and public health issues through workshops (featuring EPA senior leadership and the New York City Environmental Justice Alliance) as well as site visits and discussions with local community organizations.

Incorporating environmental justice and public health concerns into the design process resulted in winning proposals that incorporated measures into their solutions to address these issues. As one example, the winning proposal for the Hunts Point area in the South Bronx of New York City (which includes a marginalized neighborhood adjacent to the region’s food distribution market) proposed to improve public health through streetscape plantings designed to capture particulate matter produced from the exhaust of nearby idling trucks. This element was targeted to reduce the abnormally high rate of asthma in the community. Another winning proposal in the Meadowlands of New Jersey addressed environmental degradation through an innovative two-tier berm system that isolates polluted from clean water basins while restoring wetlands. The proposal focused on balancing the needs of the industrial community along with those of the residential community and the natural environment.

HUD ultimately awarded \$930 million in Community Development Block Grant funding to state and local governments to help implement the beginning phases of the winning proposals—each of which considers environmental justice and public health needs in building community resilience. The winning proposals can be viewed on the competition website at www.rebuildbydesign.org.

National Disaster Resilience Competition

The National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC) is a two-phase process that will competitively award nearly \$1 billion in HUD Disaster Recovery funds to eligible communities. The competition will help communities recover from prior disasters and improve their ability to withstand and recover more quickly from future disasters, hazards, and shocks. This competition encourages American communities to consider not only the infrastructure needed to become resilient, but also the social and economic characteristics that allow communities to quickly bounce back after a disruption, paying special consideration to vulnerable populations.

HUD has included criteria in its NOFA which requires applicants to include and outreach to vulnerable populations. Sample questions from the *National Disaster Resilience Competition NOFA, Phase 1 Factor 2 Scoring Criteria* include:

“[F]or Phase 1, consider and respond to the following questions, at a minimum as they relate to the Unmet Recovery Need tied back to the most impacted and distressed areas from the Qualified Disaster.

How will addressing the threat(s) and hazard(s) related to this vulnerability(ies) address specific unmet disaster recovery, affordable housing, economic revitalization or restoration of infrastructure needs from the Qualified Disaster? How will addressing the risks from this vulnerability help your community recover, protect your community’s recovery projects/efforts, or revitalize your community from the effects of the disaster you had?

Are there risks with disproportionate effects on any population groups? Describe and identify whether the disproportionate effects relate to household income or a particular protected class. Will some of the risks disproportionately affect those with accessibility challenges? Can potential solutions benefit those with functional needs? Does the identified vulnerability(ies) offer any opportunity(ies) for disaster recovery and economic revitalization, including resilience to future and current risk? Why is addressing the risk related to this vulnerability important to your state, region, and local community?

Are there existing conditions in your community that exacerbate vulnerability (e.g., environmental pollution, significant downturn)? You may cross-reference and summarize your response to the Most Impacted and Distressed threshold, if such a condition(s) is described there.

What have you already done to address the risk from this vulnerability(ies)? What barriers are keeping you from completing a solution?”

The entire NOFA for the NDRC can be found at: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=265608>.

HUD Community Resilience Portal and Climate Adaptation Plan

Concurrently with the National Disaster Resilience Competition, HUD has conducted training and educational opportunities for communities, focused on vulnerable populations and climate resilience. HUD created a Community Resilience Portal, which provides various resources on climate resilience: <https://www.hudexchange.info/manage-a-program/community-resilience>. Additionally, HUD developed a series of webinars, focused on climate resilience: <https://www.hudexchange.info/news/ndrc-webinar-series/>. Specifically, HUD conducted a webinar on Equity and Equitable Outcomes, featuring SCI grantees efforts in New Orleans and Rhode Island:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/training-events/courses/ndrc-equity-and-achieving-equitable-outcomes-webinar1/>. EPA's Office of Environmental Justice staff also presented on the webinar.

In 2014, HUD developed a Climate Adaptation Action Plan. Action 5.1 of this plan calls for drafting of equitable and responsible principles for potential climate resilience projects. It is the goal of the Resilience Council to complete the draft by the end of 2015.

Healthy Communities Transformation Initiative

The [Healthy Communities Transformation Initiative \(HCTI\)](#) is a new three-year project, funded by OLHCHH, to improve the health systems and the physical, social, and economic service structures that support healthy living and healthy behaviors in our communities. Healthy Housing Solutions, Inc. is leading a team of partners in developing this initiative. Two key elements of the HCTI are the development of a Healthy Communities Index (HCI) and a Healthy Communities Assessment Tool (HCAT). OER is providing support to the HCTI in incorporating environmental justice and sustainability issues into the project. Currently, beta testing of the HCAT is underway in four communities. An example of the tool for the City of San Diego is found at <https://hci-sandiego.icfwebservices.com/>

Rental Assistance Demonstration

The Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) provides housing authorities with a powerful tool to preserve and improve public housing properties. RAD also gives owners of three HUD "legacy" programs opportunity to enter into long-term contracts that facilitate the financing of needed improvements.

RAD is a central part of the Department's rental housing preservation strategy, dedicated to preserving the nation's stock of deeply affordable rental housing and promoting efficiency within and among HUD programs and building strong, stable communities.

RAD is a voluntary program that seeks to preserve public housing by providing public housing agencies (PHAs) with access to more stable funding to make needed improvements to properties. Public housing units across the country need more than \$26 billion in basic capital improvements as Federal assistance continues to decline. As a result, PHAs have tough choices between things like repairing roofs and replacing plumbing—or worse, permanently demolishing public housing. RAD provides PHAs a way to rehabilitate, or repair, units without depending on additional money from Congress, by converting projects to long-term Section 8 Project-Based Voucher or Project-Based Rental Assistance Contracts.

Similar to the option allowed for PHAs, HUD multifamily owners of projects with Rent Supplement, Rental Assistance Payment, and Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation (known as "legacy" programs) have no option to extend or renew those contracts but are able to access long-term Section 8 Project-Based Voucher or Project-Based Rental Assistance contracts to preserve affordability.

The initial Congressionally-imposed RAD public housing conversion limit of 60,000 units was increased under the FY2015 appropriations to 185,000 units. RAD allows PHAs and property owners to improve housing conditions for residents by leveraging private capital and accessing low income housing tax credits, while preserving America's affordable housing stock long-term.

RAD is significant to HUD's vision of achieving environmental justice because new investments provide distressed communities with the opportunity to improve the livability and sustainability of public and assisted housing in need of new investments. For more on RAD: www.hud.gov/rad

I: INTERAGENCY COLLABORATIONS THAT ADVANCE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

I1. Partnership for Sustainable Communities – Team EJ

I1.1 – The Partnership for Sustainable Communities (PSC) will develop and deliver training materials that describe the integration of the fields of sustainable communities and environmental justice.

The PSC completed initial sustainable communities and environmental justice training in 2012.

I1.2 – The Partnership for Sustainable Communities Environmental Justice Team will identify and highlight best practices of projects using Federal assistance to address environmental justice through sustainable communities.

The Partnership for Sustainable Communities' Team EJ (Environmental Justice) co-chairs continue to represent environmental justice issues to the PSC leadership team.

I2. Addressing Local EJ Concerns that Affect Residents of HUD-Assisted Housing

I2.1 - HUD will initiate work with the Interagency Working Group (IWG) at the Headquarters, Regional Office, and Field Office levels to identify interagency and intergovernmental approaches to impact environmental justice issues which originate in areas where HUD may not have jurisdiction.

In an effort to expand the reach of HUD's environmental justice strategy, select HUD field employees—who have already been trained as regional lead sustainability officers—have now also been designated as “Field Environmental Justice Liaisons,” giving them the responsibility to promote EJ initiatives on the ground across all 10 HUD regions. A complete list of the ten Lead Sustainability Officers who have taken on this role and their contact information is [available online](#) (see those staff labeled “Lead SO”).

In addition to the lead sustainability officers accepting this role, many other HUD field staff have also provided assistance to communities to address EJ issues. Two such examples are provided below:

Efforts in Caño Martin Peña

The Caño Martin Peña is an estuarine tidal channel located next to San Juan's main financial district. The area is home to more than 20,000 impoverished residents from rural Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. Among their challenges are overcrowding, unsafe housing, unsanitary living conditions, and exposure to frequent flooding and untreated wastewater.

Since 1997, HUD has been part of the efforts to improve the physical conditions of the Caño Martín Peña communities. Through a \$3.5 million competitive grant under the Homeownership Zone Initiative Program (HOZ), HUD allowed the area to reclaim vacant and blighted properties, increase homeownership and promote economic revitalization. New single family, multifamily, and public housing projects were erected in the area. More than 16 million of dollars in CDBG and HOME funds

have been invested in the area under this initiative. Also, modernization of two public housing projects injected additional capital to improve the area.

As part of a Federal interagency effort, in 2002, the HUD San Juan Field Office endorsed the Proyecto Enlace Caño Martín Peña as an Environmental Justice Revitalization Project under EPA; and in 2013 recommended its selection as a participant and awardee of the Urban Waters Partnership Program under EPA.

Pursuant to the approved HUD Section 4 work plan, Enterprise Community Partners is currently working with the *Fideicomiso de la Tierra del Caño Martín Peña* (Fideicomiso), providing technical assistance to develop the necessary institutional capacity that will allow it to manage the redevelopment of the property it owns, using a public-private partnership framework.

To date, the assistance includes recommendations for staffing and organizational structure for the land trust and advice on market and economic potential and strategies for the development of land in which it has site control.

On July 18, 2014, the San Juan Field Office participated in a meeting sponsored by the Governor's office. Information was provided on the National Disaster Resilience Competition and the opportunity of non-profit organizations purchase HUD homes at discounts up to 30%. With the discount, they will have the opportunity of investing in the community through property rehabilitation and resell to first-time homebuyers and low to moderate income families.

Additional information on this engagement can be found at:

1. <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/ej/resources/publications/awards/2010/enlace.pdf>
2. <http://www.urbanwaters.gov/pdf/MartinPenaBackgrounder.pdf>
3. <http://www.pewtrusts.org/hip/cao-martin-pea-hia.html>

HUD Offers Support to Challenged North Birmingham Community¹¹

Interagency effort to address industrial pollution concerns

Through the efforts of the EPA, the North Birmingham Interagency Working Group has engaged Federal, state, and local governments and community leaders to help the citizens of North Birmingham overcome the impact of years of living in the shadow of major industrial production. The agencies and the community are participating in revitalization efforts aimed at making a visible difference in North Birmingham areas impacted by environmental concerns, blight and degradation.

EPA testing has revealed soil contaminated with industrial chemicals, as well as indications that the chemicals could be draining into the watershed. The neighborhoods, which include two public housing developments, have been further impacted by their proximity to railroad tracks, which prevent emergency vehicles, including fire and ambulances from quick access.

HUD Southeast Regional Administrator Ed Jennings, Jr., and Birmingham Field Office Director Michael German joined U.S. EPA Region IV Administrator Heather McTeer Toney, Congresswoman Terri Sewell and Birmingham Mayor, William Bell, at the North Birmingham Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice for an awareness tour and workshop day. Other participating agencies included

¹¹ Also available at: <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/states/alabama/stories/2014-08-18>

Health and Human Services, Department of the Interior, Department of Commerce, National Parks Service, Federal Highway Administration, and the U.S. Attorney's Office.

The group began the day by visiting residents, community advocates and elected officials to see first-hand the challenges the community is facing. After the tour, the group reconvened for a round table and small group discussion to offer insights into what resources might potentially be available to help revitalize the community.

13. Healthy Homes and Communities

*13.1 - **Science and Technology:** HUD will work with key agencies to analyze the effectiveness of current lead testing and abatement technology, including an evaluation of lead hazard control interventions conducted by recipients of the initial two rounds of Lead Hazard Control grants.*

In 2011, OLHCHH sponsored research to assess the national impacts of lowering the Federal definition of lead-based paint as well the ability of x-ray fluorescence technology to accurately measure lead-paint levels below the current standard. The office is currently conducting research to assess the ability of lead hazard control programs to achieve surface dust-lead loadings well below the current Federal clearance standard, and is coordinating with EPA.

13.2 – HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes chairs the Federal interagency Healthy Homes Working Group.

OLHCHH has continued to chair the interagency Healthy Homes Working Group.

14. Tribal Issues Interagency Working Group

In 2007, a group of Federal agencies, including HUD, assembled an Infrastructure Task Force and signed two Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) to improve interagency coordination for the planning and funding of tribal infrastructure projects. Upon expiration of these MOUs, the Task Force agreed to execute one MOU that combined aspects of the two earlier MOUs.

The MOU has been fully executed between HUD, the Indian Health Service (IHS), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The MOU was effective with the final signature on March 28, 2013, and was announced at the Tribal Utility Summit on April 10, 2013 in Nashville, TN.¹²

As a result of the original MOUs, the Inter-Agency Infrastructure Taskforce developed a workgroup that worked on recommendations for streamlining interagency project planning for tribal grantees. Agency coordination is focusing on:

¹² See

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdamediafb?contentid=2013/04/0066.xml&printable=true&contentidonly=true>.

14.1 - Streamlining the environmental review process for projects that receive funding from multiple Federal sources;

14.2 - Enhancing the selection and timing of project funding; and

14.3 - Working jointly or individually as agencies to fund specified projects.

Additional Interagency Environmental Justice Progress

Efforts of the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice

The Federal [Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice \(EJ IWG\)](#) was established in 1994 to guide, support, and enhance Federal environmental justice and community-based activities. The EJ IWG is comprised of 17 Federal agencies and White House offices. As one of its outreach efforts, the EJ IWG has created a [directory of member agencies](#) and a [guide of community-based resources](#) to assist communities with accessing information about Federal agencies and their programs as a part of the ongoing effort to improve community participation in Federal programs.

Representatives from HUD's Office of Economic Resilience (OER) and Office of Environment and Energy (OEE) participate in the IWG and some of its associated committees.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Committee

Background: The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is designed to ensure that all communities and people across this Nation are afforded an opportunity to live in a safe and healthy environment. NEPA requires Federal agencies, before they act, to determine the environmental consequences of their proposed actions for the dual goals of informed agency decision-making and informed public participation. The Federal actions subject to NEPA include, but are not limited to, those undertaken by Federal agencies, such as: adoption of official policy, programs or plans; Federal construction projects; plans to manage and develop Federal lands; and Federal approvals of non-Federal activities such as grants, licenses, and permits. Additionally, NEPA gives communities the opportunity to access public information on and participate in the agency decision-making process for these varied Federal actions. The Presidential Memorandum accompanying Executive Order 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*, underscores the importance of procedures under NEPA to "focus Federal attention on the environmental and human health conditions in minority communities and low-income communities with the goal of achieving environmental justice." Further, the Presidential Memorandum underscores public participation opportunities under NEPA, stating: "Each Federal agency shall provide opportunities for community input in the NEPA process, including identifying potential effects and mitigation measures in consultation with affected communities and improving the accessibility of meetings, crucial documents, and notices."

NEPA Committee of the Federal IWG on EJ: HUD is participating on the NEPA Committee of the Federal IWG on EJ. The purpose of the NEPA Committee is to improve the effective, efficient and consistent consideration of EJ in the NEPA process through sharing of promising practices and lessons learned developed by Federal departments and agencies since EO 12898 was signed in 1994. Thus, the NEPA Committee supports Federal agency NEPA implementation precisely to "focus Federal attention on the

environmental and human health conditions in minority communities and low-income communities with the goal of achieving environmental justice.”

Since it was established in May 2012 by the Federal IWG on EJ, the NEPA Committee has employed a robust and innovative process to fulfill its purpose. Co-chairs of the Committee and Subcommittees are from EPA, Department of Transportation, Department of Justice, and Department of Health and Human Services, while working groups are chaired by Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Energy, and EPA. Further, there has been active participation by the White House Council on Environmental Quality, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Interior, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Agriculture, General Services Administration, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and Veterans Administration.

- *Community of Practice*: Monthly interagency meetings have established a vehicle for cross-agency training and dialogue for addressing complex issues through sharing of experiences and effective practices in addressing EJ in the NEPA process
- *EJ and NEPA Agency Resource Compendium*: The compendium, available on the Federal IWG on the EJ webpage, gathers publically available information from twenty Federal agencies (e.g., regulations, orders, guidance, EJ strategic plans) on the intersection of environmental justice and NEPA into one place and hyperlinks them so that documents can be easily accessed. A select set of key references are also available on the EPA NEPA webpage.
- *Promising Practices on EJ Methodologies in NEPA Reviews*: The NEPA committee is drafting a compilation of promising practices which represents the results of research, analysis and discussions by participants of the NEPA Committee concerning the interface of environmental justice considerations through NEPA processes. It represents the professional expertise of the NEPA Committee participants, and their collective thinking and thoughtful deliberation of information sources and is not formal agency guidance. The draft final document will be presented to the chair of the Federal IWG on EJ.
- *National Training Product on EJ and NEPA*: The NEPA Committee is drafting a *National Training Product on EJ and NEPA*. This training product is a companion to EJ methodologies that provides history of NEPA and EJ, promising practices, and examples from Federal agency NEPA reviews.
- *Lexicon*: the NEPA Committee is drafting a lexicon and compendium of key terms as used by Federal agencies to consider environmental justice in NEPA reviews.

The NEPA Committee is providing Federal departments and agencies with promising practices organized in a coordinated, functional framework as identified by NEPA practitioners across the Federal family. This community of practice is working in a collaborative manner to address complex environmental justice issues in a timely manner. Ultimately, the NEPA Committee intends its efforts provide the groundwork for a renewed and dynamic process to advance environmental justice principles through NEPA implementation.

Goods Movement Committee

Goods Movement refers to the transportation of raw materials and products from their harvesting to their processing and final retail destinations. The Goods Movement Committee identifies ‘overburdened’ communities that are experiencing disproportionate health and environmental impacts from the transportation of goods through them, and seeks to assist Federal agencies in the reduction of those impacts. In 2014, members of the Goods Movement Committee participated in the National

Freight Advisory Council's development of 81 recommendations for the National Freight Strategic Plan (NFSP) that is being developed by the Department of Transportation (DOT). The recommendations focus on a range of freight-related topics, from safety, security, infrastructure investment and permit streamlining, to environmental sustainability.

Title VI Committee

Coordinated by the Justice Department, the Title VI Committee acts as a resource to help agencies connect their civil rights enforcement responsibilities with their efforts to achieve environmental justice. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 ("Title VI") prohibits race, color, and national origin discrimination by recipients of financial assistance from HUD. Environmental justice issues may be raised in programs and activities supported through Federal financial assistance. In those circumstances, Title VI is an important tool for addressing those concerns. HUD is committed to using its authority under Title VI to achieve the goals of Executive Order 12898.

More information on Title VI and environmental justice is available at:

<http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/interagency/title-vi.html>

Climate Change-related efforts

The EJ IWG provided input to the President's State, Local and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience. The Task Force provided recommendations to the President on how the Federal Government can respond to the needs of communities nationwide that are dealing with the impacts of climate change. The section on addressing the needs of vulnerable populations recognized that low-income, minority and indigenous communities are more severely impacted by climate change. The Task Force recommended that agencies "develop guidance and tools that consider geographic, economic, and social contexts to help identify disproportionately vulnerable populations and those most at risk to the effects of climate change."

The EJ IWG also provided guidance to Agency's Senior Sustainability Officers to assist agencies in considering the impacts of climate change on minority and low-income communities. The guidance was offered in the spirit of EO 13653 and EO 12898 to ensure that agencies are appropriately considering EJ vulnerabilities in their Agency Adaptation Plans.