

WTP

**Environmental
Justice
Curriculum**

Environmental Justice Curriculum

The purpose of this curriculum is to provide trainees with a framework for training in environmental remediation that connects this work to the larger context of the Environmental Justice movement. A major objective of the worker training programs is to emphasize the importance of this training in relationship to the need to increase the number of minority workers in the field, and to establish a direct connection between this work and the cleanup of communities where most trainees live. The environmental justice framework defines environment as where we live, work, play, go to school, and worship, as well as the physical and natural surroundings. Numerous studies have documented that low-income and people of color communities are disproportionately impacted by environmental decisions imposed by local, state, and federal agencies. The five lessons presented in this section should help trainees understand the following: (1) the history of the environmental justice movement; (2) the impact of this movement on public policy; (3) the connection between race/class and environmental hazards; (4) the economic, environmental, and health benefits of training people of color in environmental careers; and (5) to review the major accomplishments of the environmental justice movement.

Curriculum Outline:

Lesson 1: Two Decades of Environmental Justice

Lesson 2: Major Studies and Findings

Lesson 3: Race, Class, and Environmental Justice

Lesson 4: The Changing Face of the Environmental Industry

Lesson 5: Winning with Environmental Justice

Lesson 1

Two Decades of Environmental Justice

Objective: To provide a history of the environmental justice movement (i.e., overview of the environmental justice movement, significant environmental justice leaders, and major issues and events).

The module will cover major definitions and environmental terms related to environmental justice. The history will chronicle important environmental justice related activities, publications, and accomplishments over a 20 plus year period from 1978 –2002.

Activities: A matching activity designed to highlight major environmental justice events, publications, and policy decisions.

Reading List: Grassroots Flowering: Environmental Justice Comes of Age (NRDC – Amicus Journal)

Video: Department of Justice video, clips from People of Color Summit, and Just Transportation video.

Lesson 2

Major Studies and Findings

Objective: To understand the impact of the environmental justice movement on public policy.

The module will focus on the presentation of summaries and highlights of major environmental justice studies and research findings including the impact of these findings on public policy. The presentation format will be a visual lecture format utilizing slides, overhead, and reading materials. Topics will include:

- Toxic Waste and Race
- Distribution of Polluting Facilities
- Childhood Lead Poisoning
- Air Pollution
- Asthma Education
- Environmental Clean-up

Activities: Flash cards, pictures, matching, and fill-in the blank exercises will be used to engage the students in recalling major studies and key information.

Reading List: Toxic Waste and Race (1987); Grassroots Flowering, GAO Study (1982); Dumping in Dixie (1990); EPA Equity Report (1992); National Law Journal (1992); and Institute of Medicine (1999).

Lesson 3

Race, Class, and Environmental Justice

Objective: To understand the connection between race/class and environmental hazards.

The module will focus on the presentation of spatial distribution mapping of toxic release inventory data and race. In depth reviews of specific case studies will be presented and analyzed for discussion. Case studies will include:

- Mississippi River Chemical Corridor
- Atlanta Metropolitan Area
- Miami-Dade County
- West Dallas, TX

Activities: Hands-on Internet activity to access EDF scorecard, GIS maps, TRI data, and race and economic data.

Reading List: Toxic Waste and Race, Dumping in Dixie, Community Environmental Profiles (DSCEJ), Double Jeopardy (DSCEJ), and other articles by B.Wright on Chemical Corridor

Video: Peter Jennings's video; Green Peace Cancer Alley video; Atlanta, West Dallas, and Miami brownfields video.

Lesson 4

The Changing Face of the Environmental Industry

Objective: To understand the economic, environmental, and health benefits of training people of color in environmental careers.

The module will focus on the presentation of materials that show the benefits of training minorities in the environmental remediation field. Special emphasis will be placed on the economic, environmental and health benefits of training. The presentation will be in a visual lecture format utilizing slides, videos, and transparencies.

Activities: Internet search of job opportunities in environmental restoration. Introduce trainees to library resources for job opportunities.

Reading List: Brownfields articles, EPA Clean-up articles, and Superfund Sites

Video: TBD

Lesson 5

Winning With Environmental Justice

Objective: To review the major accomplishments of the environmental justice movement.

The module will discuss the following development topics:

- EJ Centers
- Policy changes
- Funding
- Grassroots organizations and network
- Education and curriculum development
- Environmental clean-up
- Economic development
- Job Training
- Public awareness
- Health initiatives
- Case Studies

The presentation format will consist of visual lectures, videos, and class activities.

Activities: Case Study/Role Play

- Review a hypothetical situation.
- Examine what they should do.
- List options for solution.
- List challenges.
- Review a real case to determine how they reached their goal. (e.g. Convent, Norco, Anniston, etc.)

Reading List: TBD (Check EJRC web site)

Video: *Norco- A Community Divided* (PBS)
Anniston, Alabama- EJRC web site
Pensacola, Florida-EJRC web site
Convent, Louisiana-DSCEJ
Norco, Louisiana-DSCEJ

Louisiana Energy Service, Inc.-EJRC web site
West Dallas, Texas-DSCEJ/EJRC web site
Agriculture Street Landfill-DSCEJ
Fort Lauderdale, Florida-EJRC web site
Mossville, Louisiana-DSCEJ