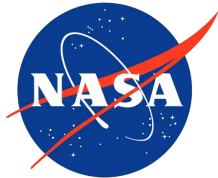


## Scorecard National Aeronautics and Space Ad...



### National Aeronautics and Space Administration

300 E. Street SW, Suite 5R30  
Washington, DC 20546  
[\(202\) 358-0001](tel:(202)358-0001)  
[nasa.gov](https://nasa.gov)

### About the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is America's civil space program and the global leader in space exploration. The agency works with U.S. contractors, academia, and international and commercial partners to explore, discover, and expand knowledge for the benefit of humanity.

This page provides information on how **the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** is working to advance environmental justice for communities across America. It is part of Phase One of the Biden-Harris Administration's Environmental Justice Scorecard.

## Justice40 Initiative

As part of President Biden's [Justice40 Initiative](#), the federal government is working toward the goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain federal investments reach disadvantaged communities that are marginalized and overburdened by pollution and underinvestment. In particular, the President's Justice40 Initiative applies to federal investments that address climate change, clean energy and energy efficiency, clean transit, affordable and sustainable housing, training and workforce development

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remediation and reduction of legacy pollution, and the development of critical clean water and wastewater infrastructure.

This Phase One Scorecard provides an update on initial progress made by **the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** in implementing the Justice40 Initiative. Future versions of the Environmental Justice Scorecard will provide additional information and updates on the benefits of Justice40 covered programs.

For more information on NASA's Justice40 covered programs, please contact [missionequity@nasa.gov](mailto:missionequity@nasa.gov).

Phase One Scorecard metrics and highlights in Fiscal Year 2022 include:

- **2** Justice40 covered program(s)
- **1** funding announcement(s) covered under the Justice40 Initiative
- **\$4,728,000** in funding made available from Justice40 covered programs<sup>1</sup>
  - Announced in late 2021 and selected in 2022, NASA began funding 39 investigator teams through grants in the Applied Sciences Program as part of the community action program area, one of the Justice40 covered programs.

<sup>1</sup> This funding amount describes examples of the funding that was made available in Fiscal Year 2022 through Justice40 covered programs. The amount does not represent the total funding that benefits disadvantaged communities. The funding was made available through grants, notices of funding opportunity, and other funding announcements. These funding announcements were from Justice40 covered programs that were funded through discretionary and mandatory appropriations, as well as supplemental appropriations, such as those enacted under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Pub. L. 117-58). The Justice40 Initiative sets a goal that 40 percent of overall benefits from certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities.

## NASA's Highlights

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, the NASA Earth Science Division made a call for proposals to advance progress on equity and environmental justice through the application of Earth science, geospatial, and socioeconomic information. The call sought proposals from NASA's partnership with non-federal domestic organizations, community-based non-profit institutions, Tribal governments, local governments, and academic institutions actively addressing equity and environmental justice issues.

## Environmental and Civil Rights Protection

Federal agencies are advancing environmental justice by carrying out their responsibilities under the law to identify and address disproportionate and adverse public health and environmental, climate-related, and cumulative impacts on



communities with environmental justice concerns. Agencies are working to ensure that all communities experience the protection of our country's bedrock environmental laws. The following information reflects some of the environmental and civil rights work **the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** has done from January 2021 to September 2022.

For more information, please visit [NASA's Equity Action Plan](#) .

## National Environmental Policy Act

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to consider and disclose the environmental, health, and community impacts of certain decisions or actions before taking them. Environmental reviews help ensure the public is informed about potential actions, and give communities an opportunity to participate in the government's decision-making process. Environmental reviews also ensure that federal agencies consider ways to protect and enhance public health and the environment, and advance environmental justice in their decision-making. The following information highlights some work **the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** has done from January 2021 to September 2022.

Phase One Scorecard metrics and highlights include:

- NASA has included environmental justice in Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements to comply with Executive Order 12898 since it was issued in 1994. Minority and low-income populations are considered in the NEPA analysis to confirm no disproportionate impacts on low-income and minority communities would result from the implementation from NASA programs and projects. Environmental justice is included in NASA's NEPA 101 course in the agency's System for Administration, Training, and Educational Resources for NASA (SATERN) training module informing program and project managers of the requirement to include environmental justice in all Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements.
- **1** training(s) on environmental justice considerations during NEPA reviews

## Centering Environmental Justice in Decision-Making

Federal agencies work to ensure that the voices, perspectives, and lived experiences of communities are heard and reflected in the priorities, policies, and decision-making of the federal government. Agencies also take steps to respect Tribal sovereignty and ensure government-to-government consultation on federal policies. The following information highlights work **the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** has done from January 2021 to September 2022 to center environmental justice in its decision-making.

## Community Input and Engagement

Phase One Scorecard metrics and highlights include:

- **2** technical assistance outreach event(s) in Fiscal Year 2022
  - Environmental justice is one of several high-priority domains identified by the NASA's Earth Science Division. NASA's Understanding Needs to Broaden Outside Use of NASA Data (UNBOUND) project seeks to make NASA data,

tools, and resources more usable and accessible to the public. The four-session environmental justice-themed workshop was an opportunity for organizations from various communities and disciplines to learn about and help improve the NASA Earth Science products and services.

- In addition, see NASA’s Earth Science Division, Equity & Environmental Justice Workshop Report from October 20, 2021.
- **2** public process(es) related to environmental justice, e.g., requests for information or listening sessions
  - On June 15, 2021, NASA published a Request for Information on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities in NASA Programs.
  - The NASA DEVELOP National Program conducted two “listening projects” in FY 2022 focused on identifying and evaluating the landscape and capacity of organizations and communities working toward environmental justice to use Earth observation data for equitable disaster management and risk reduction, as well as health and air quality management.

## Consultation and Partnership with Tribal Nations

Phase One Scorecard metrics and highlights include:

- NASA has a 2010 Tribal Consultation Policy to review all rule changes for potential impacts on Tribal Nations. Additionally, the agency is implementing a Tribal Consultation Action Plan.

## Institutionalizing Environmental Justice

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Since the start of the Biden-Harris Administration, federal agencies have been working to embed environmental justice into all aspects of their work, including by implementing [Executive Order 12898](#) and [Executive Order 14008](#). The following information shares some of the work **the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** has done from January 2021 to September 2022 to institutionalize environmental justice.

Phase One Scorecard metrics and highlights include:

- **Has** an environmental justice strategic plan that **has not been** updated in the past 5 years
- **9** tool(s) or resources to advance environmental justice
- **26** staff that work on environmental justice, either in a full- or part-time capacity
- **1** internal training(s) for staff on environmental justice
- **2** new or strengthened office(s) on environmental justice
- **1** new or strengthened internal working group(s), steering committee(s), council(s) on environmental justice
- Multiple interagency discussions between NASA and the Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and other agencies have occurred in this timeframe to exchange knowledge about environmental justice activities.

## NASA's Highlights

In 2022, NASA began funding 39 investigator teams to work on environmental justice through Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Sciences grants. In addition, the Applied Remote Sensing Training Program conducts trainings that relate to Earth observations for environmental justice. The DEVELOP program conducts projects related to understanding the environmental justice landscape with community groups. The Earth Science Data Systems Program began transferring the most-used environmental datasets to the cloud to enhance data equity and public accessibility.

The NASA Health and Air Quality Applied Sciences Team (HAQAST) is a collaborative team that works in partnership with public health and air quality agencies to use NASA data and tools for the public benefit. Satellite Data for Environmental Justice is a NASA HAQAST Tiger Team whose goal is to integrate satellite data into environmental justice screening and mapping tools. Satellite data have strength in spatial coverage to comprehensively identify and target disadvantaged communities for investments and remediation. Through the use of satellite data, NASA can discern differences in heat, pollution, and other environmental hazards within cities, including: heat, light at night, fine particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), and formaldehyde.

The NASA DEVELOP National Program conducted a total of 7 feasibility projects that addressed environmental justice-related community interests in FY22. The feasibility studies aimed to integrate NASA Earth observation data with socioeconomic data to inform decision-making relating to extreme heat and urban cooling interventions, urban flooding vulnerability, water dynamics, and climate mitigation and planning. Beginning in January of 2022, DEVELOP staffed a Virtual Environmental Justice Fellow position. This is a new addition, entirely focused on environmental justice projects. DEVELOP stood up its Virtual Environmental Justice office in January 2022, focused on conducting projects that integrate NASA Earth observations and sociodemographic data to address and support decision-making needs of communities with environmental justice concerns.

## Contact

Council on Environmental Quality  
730 Jackson Pl NW  
Washington, D.C. 20506  
(202) 395-5750

### More information

[Whitehouse.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov)

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