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The Environmental Justice Scorecard has been updated. Phase Two of the Environmental Justice Scorecard was released on July 24, 2024.

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[Scorecard](#)

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Department of Veterans Affairs

4 office(s), 2,009 location(s), 471,054 employees, and 107,002 new hire(s) in Fiscal Year 2023

The mission of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA or Veterans Affairs) is to fulfill President Lincoln's promise to care for those who have served in our nation's military and for their families, caregivers, and survivors.


VA integrates environmental justice into its mission and will continue to encourage and facilitate meaningful involvement of affected stakeholders and communities.

To learn more about environmental justice at VA, please visit VA's [environmental justice website](#) .


Some examples of well-known VA offices, bureaus, or agencies are:

- National Cemetery Administration
- Veterans Benefits Administration
- Veterans Health Administration


Get Involved

[Check out the Department of Veterans Affairs's public engagement events](#) 

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Progress on Advancing Environmental Justice

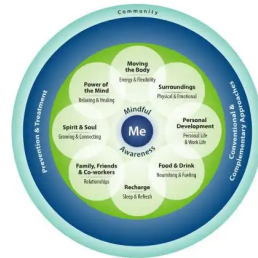
This section demonstrates key progress on advancing environmental justice at the Department of Veterans Affairs in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

Key Highlights ([show less](#) ^)

Enhanced Use Lease Housing Considers Environmental Justice in Siting

Veterans Affairs’ Enhanced Use Lease program provides housing for homeless Veterans. In siting housing projects, environmental factors such as noise and pollution are considered, and housing must meet sustainable building criteria.

Learn more 



“Surroundings” Contribute to Health and Well-Being

Photo credit: OPCC&CT

One of the Veterans Affairs healthcare priorities is a improving a person’s [“Whole Health.”](#)

That includes acknowledging

VA Integrates Environmental Justice in Project Prioritization for Better Health Equity

VA promotes environmental justice by prioritizing projects that improve healthcare access, reducing disparities in health outcomes across populations and communities.

Veterans Health Administration Ceased Using Ethylene Oxide for Sterile Processing

In FY 2023, the Veterans Health Administration successfully ceased used of ethylene oxide (EtO) for sterile processing of reusable medical equipment and instrumentation. EtO is carcinogenic and a harmful air pollutant. This change protects Veterans' and VA employees' health, as well as the health of local communities.

that a person's surroundings have an impact on their health and well-being. Veterans and employees are encouraged to complete a personal health inventory to help identify their needs in relation to their surroundings.

Learn more 

Electrification of the VA Vehicle Fleet

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) added 1,641 zero-emissions vehicles to its fleet since October 2022, replacing the same number of fossil fuel vehicles. VHA has procured 140 solar-powered electric vehicle charging stations deployed at 38 VHA facilities nationwide in an effort to drive toward zero-emissions as an organization through an investment in zero-emissions vehicles and the associated infrastructure.

[Learn more](#) 

Energy and Water Conservation

For the past 40 years, the Veterans Health Administration has implemented a robust energy and water conservation strategy at each of its medical centers. On average, the energy intensity of each medical center is approximately 143 Btu per gross square foot. That represents a 26% decrease from FY 2003. In addition, water intensity at each medical center is approximately 39 gallons per gross square foot. That represents a 33% decrease from FY 2007.

Justice40 Initiative

This section demonstrates progress on the implementation of the Justice40 Initiative at the Department of Veterans Affairs in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.


Overview

In FY 2023, nearly \$31,000 in funding was made available from the Justice40 covered

What is the Justice40 Initiative?

The Justice40 Initiative set the goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits of

program, VA’s Energy Efficient Mortgages (EEM) Program, which resulted in six loans to recipients in disadvantaged communities out of a total of 31 EEMs.

For more information on VA's Justice40 covered programs, please contact lgy.vbaco@va.gov 

Justice40 Covered Programs [\(show less ^\)](#)

The Department of Veterans Affairs has:

- **1** Justice40 covered program(s)

Progress on the Justice40 Initiative

Through President Biden’s [Investing in America](#) agenda and other sources, **VA** has:

approximately
\$322,000

in funds available to obligate (i.e., to spend) in Fiscal Years (FY) 2022 - 2027 through its Justice40 covered programs.¹

Through President Biden’s [Justice40 Initiative](#) , **VA** is working to deliver

certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution.

[Learn more](#) 

benefits to disadvantaged communities. Each program that is part of the Justice40 Initiative delivers benefits in at least one of [seven investment categories](#), and many programs are delivering benefits to communities across multiple categories of investment. The **1** covered program(s) at **VA** working to deliver benefits for communities include:

- **1** program(s) advancing affordable and sustainable housing

Overall, agencies are making concrete, tangible improvements to benefit disadvantaged communities across America through the Justice40 Initiative. These investments are resulting in cleaner air and water, more affordable clean energy, good-paying jobs, and other results that people are seeing and feeling today and into the future.

¹In the Phase Two Scorecard, the Justice40 Initiative section contains information about federal investments that Congress has funded through both discretionary and mandatory appropriations, as well as supplemental appropriations, such as those that Congress made in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Pub. L. 117-58) and the Inflation Reduction Act (Pub. L. 117-169). The Phase Two Scorecard includes information on each agency's budget authority

(that is, the total amount of funds that Congress has appropriated to the agency to spend on Justice40 covered programs) and the period of availability (that is, the period of time over which Congress has authorized the agency to spend the funds).

In some cases, agencies may not yet have the authority to spend the full amount indicated, such as when Congress has appropriated funds that will only become available in future Fiscal Years. Agencies provided the data presented here in spring 2024, and therefore the data does not reflect the annual appropriations for Fiscal Year 2024 that Congress made in March 2024.

Thus, the information that the Phase Two Scorecard presents in this section includes what the agency has available to spend in its Justice40 covered programs (i.e., its budget authority). These figures represent the total funding amount for all Justice40 covered programs, not only the portion that benefits disadvantaged communities.

Justice40 Covered Program Highlights ([show less ^](#))

The Department of Veterans Affairs is delivering benefits, or is projected to deliver benefits, for disadvantaged communities through grants or awards made through its Justice40 covered programs, such as:

Energy Efficient Mortgages

Energy Efficient Mortgages are loans to cover the cost of making energy efficiency improvements to a dwelling. In FY 2023, VA provided 23 EEM loans in communities, and six were located in disadvantaged communities as identified by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool.

[Learn more](#) 

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 at the Department of Veterans Affairs has done in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Environmental Justice ([show less](#) ^)

This section demonstrates progress on environmental protections, such as the National Environmental Policy Act, at the Department of Veterans Affairs in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

Environmental justice is an issue evaluated under VA's NEPA process. The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) has approximately 4,500 active non-recurring maintenance construction projects and

What is NEPA?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to consider and disclose

500 active minor construction projects. NEPA requirements are applied and followed for each project. In addition, through the Sustainability Program Office and Environmental Program Office, VA conducts NEPA review on major construction and leasing activities, including assessing impacts on communities with environmental justice concerns and engaging the public through the NEPA process.

For example, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) provides a regular and recurring training on topics that include NEPA. This is often coordinated with other Veterans Affairs organizations, based on the topic. The training is made available and provided to more than 1,400 engineers and construction professionals in VHA, including staff in the Environmental Program Office who conduct the environmental justice evaluations during NEPA project analysis.

the environmental health and community impacts of certain decisions or actions before taking them.

[Learn more](#) 

Centering Environmental Justice in Decision-Making

This section demonstrates progress on community engagement (e.g., partnerships with non-federal organizations, technical assistance, and public processes) and partnership and consultation with Tribal

Nations at the Department of Veterans Affairs in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

Technical Assistance ([show less](#) ^)

- **20** technical assistance outreach event(s) to improve access and information about federal programs related to environmental justice

FY 2023 Grant Opportunity Project Kickoff Meetings with Prospective Grantees to Establish or Expand a Veterans Cemetery

The program assists states, territories, and Tribal government prospective grantees in providing gravesites for Veterans in certain areas. 20 project kickoff meetings were held with prospective grantees remotely or in-person, specifically in Nebraska, New York, Arizona, Idaho, Arkansas, Kansas, Minnesota, Kentucky, North Dakota, Georgia, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Alabama, as well as three meetings in Virginia, two in Louisiana, and two in Texas.

[Learn more](#) 

Partnership and Consultation with Tribal Nations ([show less ^](#))

This section demonstrates progress on Tribal partnerships and consultations at the Department of Veterans Affairs, including steps that that agencies take to respect Tribal sovereignty and ensure government-to-government consultation on federal policies in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

For more information, please visit VA's [Tribal Consultation Policy](#).

For example, Veteran Affairs is advancing the Biden-Harris Administration's efforts to prioritize strengthening Nation-to-Nation relationships with Tribal Nations and advancing Tribal sovereignty and self-determination. Through attending conferences, the Office of Tribal Government Relations and Veterans Health Administration Office of Tribal Health have been made aware of priority issues for Indian Country, such as climate change.

Institutionalizing Environmental Justice

This section demonstrates progress to institutionalize environmental justice at the Department of Veterans Affairs including to implement [Executive Order 14008](#) and [Executive Order 14096](#), in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

Overview

VA's Office of Construction and Facilities Management (CFM) Sustainability Program Office is taking action to implement sustainability policies in its major construction program. These actions will align with Executive Order 14008 and Executive Order 14096, and will strive to enhance facility sustainability and reduce negative environmental impacts to local communities. Veterans Affairs NEPA reviews continue to evaluate potential impacts to communities with environmental justice concerns.

Training

- **19** agency training(s) for staff on environmental justice
- **610** employee(s) trained on environmental justice

For example, VA's Whole Health for All course provides VA clinicians with

awareness, skills, and tools needed to promote health equity and inclusion as well as to address social and structural determinants – including the impact of surroundings and climate in their clinical practice as they provide care to Veterans and their families.

Advancing Environmental Justice Policy ([show less](#) ^)

- **Has** assessed barriers and obstacles related to regulations, policies, or practices, including historical inequities
- For more information on how the Department of Veterans Affairs has removed barriers for communities with environmental justice concerns, please visit <https://www.va.gov/housing-assistance/home-loans/loan-types/native-american-direct-loan/>.
- Over the past four years **is working** to create an Environmental Justice Strategic Plan pursuant to [Executive Order 14096](#)

Advancing Environmental Justice Tools or Resources ([show less](#) ^)

- **1** tool(s) or resources that advance environmental justice, including access to health, environmental or other impacts, such as:

Loan Guaranty Service Dashboard

Loan Guaranty developed an internal data visualization tool. The tool incorporates data from the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST), and provides more accurate data to better evaluate the impact of climate change by location that could negatively impact Veteran homeownership and property, the home loan program, and portfolio monetary risk.

Interagency Collaboration ([show less](#) ^)

Veterans Affairs participates in the [White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council](#) (IAC), which President Biden established in 2021 and expanded in 2023 through executive orders on tackling the climate crisis and environmental justice.

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More information

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

[Freedom of Information Act \(FOIA\)](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

Additional government services

[Find a contact at USA.gov](#)

[Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov)

[EnvironmentalJustice.gov](https://www.environmentaljustice.gov)

[Environmental Justice Clearinghouse](#)



The Office of Management and Budget and the Council on Environmental Quality