

 An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know](#)

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

[Download the data](#)

Scorecard

Agencies

About

Contact



1000
Independence
Avenue SW
Washington, DC
20560
(202) 586-5000

<https://www.energy.gov/> 

The.Secretary@hq.doe.gov 

Department of Energy

The mission of the Department of Energy (DOE) is to ensure America's security and prosperity by addressing its energy, environmental, and nuclear challenges through transformative science and technology solutions.


Additionally, the Department is also weaving energy and environmental justice into the fabric of its energy system and operations via departmental offices, programs, and policies. DOE approaches energy justice through the lens of four concepts: recognition, procedural, distributive, and restorative justice.

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


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

- Office of Energy Justice and Equity
- Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy
- Office of State and Community Energy Programs


Get Involved

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

Latest News & Updates

[Find out the latest news at the Department of Energy](#) 

Get Funding & Support

[Find NOFOs, grants, and technical assistance](#) 

Progress on Advancing Environmental Justice

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

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



Energy Justice to the People Roadshow

Photo credit: DOE Public Affairs

DOE offices visited three locations in the Gulf Coast and Southeastern United States as part of the “Energy Justice to

Decrease Energy Burden in Disadvantaged Communities: DOE Energy Justice Policy Priority #1

DOE seeks to reduce the energy burden for people in disadvantaged communities through initiatives like the [Home Energy Rebates](#). In FY 2023, this program required states to reserve 40% to 50% of the \$8.8 billion in rebates for low-income households and provided a \$200 incentive for contractors to serve disadvantaged communities. In December 2022, DOE also [launched](#) the American-Made Equitable and Affordable Solutions to Electrification Prize. This initiative awards projects that make home electrification simpler, faster, and more affordable for homeowners across diverse communities and all housing types.

[Learn more](#) 

Increase Access to Low-Cost

the People Roadshow.” These visits helped to support and engage with disadvantaged and frontline communities related to energy security. DOE hosted a series of funding opportunity workshops, community benefits planning activities, and community listening sessions. These events brought together industry leaders, local

Capital in Disadvantaged Communities: DOE Energy Justice Policy Priority #4

The Twin Cities Electric Vehicle Community Mobility Network provided access to low-cost capital and created an electrified public car-sharing program, with emphasis on expanding car-sharing access for multifamily housing complexes in disadvantaged communities. In FY 2023, this project deployed 150 electric vehicles (EVs), 59 Level 2 EV chargers, and five fast charging EV stations. Then, in September 2023, Sunnova Inc.'s [Project Hestia](#) (supported by DOE's Loan Programs Office) began providing loans for clean energy systems for about 100,000 homeowners throughout the United States, including Puerto Rico. This project targets at least 20% of loans to customers with FICO credit scores below 680. Additionally, in FY 2023, the [American-Made Community Power Accelerator Prize](#) provided \$10 million to address early-stage access to capital for equitable community solar projects.

governments, community stakeholders, and local businesses. This engagement was a concerted effort to meet communities where they are, understand their needs and concerns, and to discuss solutions. One of the visits included a celebration for the opening of a solar/battery resiliency hub in Louisiana.

Learn more 

[Learn more](#) 

Increase Clean Energy Enterprise Creation and Contracting (MBE/DBE) in Disadvantaged Communities: DOE Energy Justice Policy Priority #5

The Black Owners of Solar Services received a \$6.3 million award from DOE in February 2023 to support enterprise creation and train local business-owners in the solar climate resilience and clean energy sectors. Additionally, the [Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization](#) (OSDBU) provides awards to small businesses, including those in disadvantaged communities, and increases awareness of funding opportunities for those businesses. OSDBU had [several accomplishments](#) in FY 2023.

[Learn more](#) 

Increase Clean Energy Jobs, Job Pipeline, and Job Training for Individuals from Disadvantaged Communities: DOE Energy Justice Policy Priority #6

The

[Advancing Equity Through Workforce Partnerships Program](#)

facilitates the rapid deployment of solar energy technologies and supports an inclusive workforce with opportunities for union membership. DOE announced 12 selected projects in June 2023 that will enable more members of disadvantaged communities and other communities with environmental justice concerns to pursue careers in the solar industry. The

[FY 2023 Ride and Drive](#) program supports projects across 16 states and the District of Columbia to bolster America's electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure. Seven of the selected projects are focused on improving access to related jobs for disadvantaged communities through new jobs and training resources. In addition,

[Reaching a New Energy Sciences Workforce](#)

(RENEW) awarded funding to 65 institutions across the United States in August 2023, 40 of which are minority-serving institutions. These investments will diversify the expertise and leadership in the physical, biological, and computational sciences to provide America's best and brightest students with environmental justice experience and increased pathways to STEM fields and jobs.

Learn more 

Increase Energy Resiliency in Disadvantaged Communities: DOE Energy Justice Policy Priority #7

Energy resiliency initiatives at DOE include the

[Onsite Technical Assistance Partnerships Program](#)

, which contributed to maintained operations during grid outages in Puerto Rico caused by Hurricane Fiona in 2022. In July 2023, an [award](#) for Resilient Distribution Systems for Underserved and Indigenous Community Microgrids (UICM) was announced. This effort

supports replicable microgrid solutions to ensure that low-cost reliable, resilient, clean energy is available in low-income, energy-burdened communities as well as Tribal and Indigenous communities that have been underserved. The Grid Deployment Office at DOE also provides grid resilience assistance, and in FY 2023 assisted Alaska with snow removal equipment as the most effective form of [grid resilience](#) to maintain their wind power operations during snowstorms.

Learn more 

Justice40 Initiative

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

Overview

DOE has eight policy priorities to guide the

What is the Justice40 Initiative?

The Justice40 Initiative set the goal that 40 percent of


implementation of the Justice40 Initiative that can be viewed on [DOE's Justice40 Initiative webpage](#) and through its [Justice40 Initiative Fact Sheet](#). These policy priorities are: (1) decrease energy burden in disadvantaged communities; (2) decrease environmental exposure and burdens for disadvantaged communities; (3) increase parity in clean energy technology (e.g., solar, storage) access and adoption in disadvantaged communities; (4) increase access to low-cost capital in disadvantaged communities; (5) increase clean energy enterprise creation and contracting (MBE/DBE) in disadvantaged communities; (6) increase clean energy jobs, job pipeline, and job training for individuals from disadvantaged communities; (7) increase energy resiliency in disadvantaged communities; and (8) increase energy democracy in disadvantaged communities.

DOE requires [Community Benefits Plans](#) (CBPs) as part of most Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act funding opportunity announcements, which are based on a set of four core policy priorities: (1) engaging communities and labor; (2) investing in quality jobs; (3) advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility; and (4) implementing the Justice40 Initiative. In June 2023, DOE held a [CBP 101 Webinar](#) that was recorded and posted on DOE's CBP webpage. Some project

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

[Learn more](#) 

applicants have made their CBPs public such as those for these [battery materials processing and manufacturing projects](#)

For more information on DOE's Justice40 covered programs, please contact energyjustice@hq.doe.gov 

Justice40 Covered Programs

([show less](#) ^)

The Department of Energy has:

- **167** Justice40 covered program(s), including **88** Justice40 covered program(s) that is/are funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Inflation Reduction Act, or both

Progress on the Justice40 Initiative

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

approximately

\$92 billion

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](#), **DOE** is working to deliver 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 **167** covered program(s) at **DOE** working to deliver benefits for communities include:

- **43** program(s) protecting communities from the impacts of climate change
- **119** program(s) advancing clean and affordable energy for communities
- **20** program(s) delivering and advancing clean transportation options for communities
- **16** program(s) advancing affordable and sustainable housing
- **38** program(s) delivering training and workforce development benefits
- **24** program(s) addressing the remediation and reduction of

legacy pollution

- **5** program(s) delivering critical clean water and wastewater infrastructure benefits

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 Energy is delivering benefits, or is projected to deliver benefits, for disadvantaged communities through grants or awards made through its Justice40 covered programs, such as:

Community Geothermal Initiative

The Community Geothermal Heating and Cooling Design and Deployment Program is a Justice40 covered program under the

[Geothermal Technologies Office](#)

This program supports the formation of U.S.-based community coalitions that will develop, design, and install geothermal heating and cooling systems to supply at least 25% of the heating and cooling load in disadvantaged communities. 11 projects were selected in April 2023 for the first phase of the program. Identifying and addressing environmental justice concerns is a key focus for each of the projects.

Learn more 

Bio-Optimized Technologies to Keep Thermoplastics out of Landfills and the Environment (BOTTLE) Consortium

The Bio-Optimized Technologies to Keep Thermoplastics out of Landfills and the Environment (BOTTLE) Consortium, funded by the [Bioenergy Technologies Office](#) Justice40 covered program for FY 2023, includes the development of a worksheet to stimulate thinking around environmental justice considerations. It also [guides](#) the usage of materials that have environmentally toxic and/or socially detrimental impacts. Designing processes that consider alternatives or minimize certain materials can benefit disadvantaged communities.

Industrial Assessment Centers

The Industrial Assessment Centers (IACs) program provides no-cost assessments and recommendations to small- and medium-sized manufacturers (SMMs) on energy efficiency, productivity, sustainability, and competitiveness, while simultaneously training the next generation of energy-savvy professionals. The program targets SMMs located within disadvantaged communities, as well as projects that strengthen outreach and access for local educational institutions, including minority-serving institutions. DOE began considering applications for the first round of IAC Implementation Grants in FY 2023.

[Learn more](#) 

Funding Announcements

([show less](#) ^)

The Department of Energy has:

- **Over 100** funding announcement(s) covered under the Justice40 Initiative
- **Over \$10 billion** available through

Justice40 covered program(s) funding announcements²

Advanced Cybersecurity Technology 1 Prize

Under the Rural and Municipal Utility Cybersecurity Justice40 covered program, this three-phase competition empowers rural and municipal utilities to implement solutions that improve their cybersecurity posture. Phase 1 opened in August 2023. In FY 2024, winners will receive cash prizes and technical assistance towards investments in workforce, governance, and cybersecurity tools and technologies.

[Learn more](#) 

Clean Energy Demonstration Program on Current and Former Mine Land

The

[Clean Energy](#)

[Demonstration](#)

[Program](#)

on Current and Former Mine Land, a Justice40 covered program, seeks to deploy clean energy projects across the 1.5 million acres of mine land across the nation while preserving natural and agricultural environments. The program encourages community ownership models and community and workforce agreements, in addition to requiring meaningful community and labor engagement, to provide economic development and new job opportunities for communities that have been affected by coal mines, including many disadvantaged communities. The funding announcement for this program was released in April 2023.

Learn more 

R-STEP: Renewable Energy Siting through Technical Engagement and Planning

In September 2023, under the [Solar Energy Technologies Office](#) Justice40 covered program, DOE [opened](#) R-STEP applications. The goal for R-STEP is for state-based collaboratives to provide technical assistance and other resources to rural communities, Tribes, and others to improve planning and permitting processes for large-scale renewable energy facilities. This will enable disadvantaged communities to improve environmental and economic outcomes from hosting large-scale renewable energy

[Learn more](#) 

²Further, this section also includes funding that

was made available through an agency's Justice40 covered programs in FY 2023. The funding was made available through various mechanisms, like grants, loans, agreements, contracts, 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) and the Inflation Reduction Act (Pub. L. 117-169).

Covered Program Design or Modification ([show less ^](#))

The Department of Energy made program or design modifications to maximize benefits and/or remove barriers or constraints for disadvantaged communities, such as:

Modified Tribal Consortium Applications for Grid Resilience State & Tribal Formula Grants

The Grid Deployment Office oversees the Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid / Hazard Hardening Justice40 covered program. Under that program, modifications were made to its State & Tribal Formula Grants Program based on feedback received during the FY 2023 application season from Tribes, including Alaska Native Villages and Alaska Native Corporations. The resulting changes include enabling Tribal consortium applications from smaller Tribes so that they are able to take full advantage of available funding.

Learn more 

Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas

In FY 2023, the Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED) made the \$50 million fixed award grant funding opportunity for the Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas available in English and Spanish and shared information in both languages in-person and online. To improve accessibility and limit capacity requirements for applicants, OCED simplified the application process with a short-answer pre-application and a shortened full application.

[Learn more](#) 

Manufacturing Ecosystem Track of the Community Energy Innovation Prize

Under the [Advanced Materials and Manufacturing Technologies Office](#) (AMMTO), AMMTO sponsors the Manufacturing Ecosystems Track to support the equitable and inclusive advancement of the clean energy manufacturing innovation ecosystem by strengthening relationships and partnerships with organizations that advance community-led solutions. Learning from a prior community-focused prize, the Community Energy Innovation Prize, [launched](#) in August 2023, kept its application period open for more than five months. The prize was also designed so that all ten of the teams were eligible to move through all three phases of the prize, creating less competition and promoting collaboration.

Justice40 In Action ([show less](#) ^)

The Department of Energy is delivering benefits, or is projected to deliver benefits,



for disadvantaged communities through the Justice40 Initiative, including:

Ohio's First Net-Zero Neighborhood: American Addition

The Ohio Department of Development and IMPACT Community Action are combining DOE Weatherization Assistance Program funding to establish Ohio's inaugural net-zero energy neighborhood. This neighborhood is called "American Addition," and it is the first net-zero energy disadvantaged community in the nation. This initiative aims to conduct comprehensive energy efficiency renovations on 60 historical homes in that have not been modernized for many years.

Learn more 



Justice Week 2023: Equity Empowered

*Photo credit:
DOE Public Affairs*

Held in October 2023, with planning occurring in FY 2023, [Justice Week 2023: Equity Empowered](#) was the second annual event dedicated to convening internal and external stakeholders to advance environmental justice and tackle the climate crisis

Consent-Based Siting for Interim Nuclear Storage Program

Under the Fuel Cycle Research and Development Justice40 covered program, DOE awarded \$26 million in June 2023 to 13 groups of university, non-profit, and private-sector partners that will work with communities using DOE's consent-based siting approach to storing and disposing of spent nuclear fuel. DOE and the consent-based siting consortia work together to build equity and environmental justice principles into the engagement processes. This funding opportunity was designed to be more accessible to disadvantaged communities and to serve needs more holistically by enabling mechanisms that provide subawards to communities and organizations.

[Learn more](#) 

through equity-centered solutions, including the implementation of the Biden-Harris Administration's [Justice40 Initiative](#). The [agenda](#) for Justice Week 2023 included keynotes by DOE senior leaders, panel discussions with equity and justice organizations, community engagement sessions, and much more. The event focused on highlighting DOE's efforts to advance justice,

DOE's Four Power Marketing Administrations Continue to Provide "At Cost" (Not-for-Profit) Power to Millions of People

The [Bonneville Power Administration](#), the [Southeastern Power Administration](#), the [Southwestern Power Administration](#), and the [Western Area Power Administration](#) serve millions of customers wholesale hydropower-based electricity. A large portion of these customers are in rural territories or Tribal areas at or below national poverty levels.

equity, diversity, and inclusion and provided a platform for communities across the country to share their experiences with DOE programs and initiatives. Each day drew over 500 in-person and virtual participants.

[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 Energy 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 Energy in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

As part of its NEPA process, DOE identifies and seeks input from communities with environmental justice concerns to inform the preparation of DOE NEPA documents. Of the environmental assessments (EAs)

What is NEPA?

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

and environmental impact statements (EISs) that DOE completed in FY 2023, five EAs and two EISs identified nearby communities with environmental justice concerns and analyzed potential impacts to these communities, consistent with NEPA and the CEQ regulations.

Training

- **4** agency training(s) on how to consider environmental justice considerations during NEPA reviews
- **368** employees trained on how to consider environmental justice during NEPA reviews

For example, during one training, DOE NEPA Office staff discussed the use of the scoping process to identify potentially affected communities and shared recommendations for providing early notice of opportunities for public engagement. The training also recommended providing opportunities for engagement of disadvantaged communities and communities with environmental justice concerns early in the project scoping and planning process to understand unique risks and concerns. The training noted that the NEPA documents should identify and analyze reasonably foreseeable effects, reasonable alternatives, and measures to avoid or minimize any such effects.

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

[Learn more](#) 

Environmental or Health Protection ([show less ^](#))

This section demonstrates progress by the Department of Energy on environmental or health protection that also advances environmental justice in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

DOE evaluates the potential impact to communities with environmental justice concerns in projects under NEPA review. In addition, DOE encourages early engagement with stakeholders and potentially affected communities during the scoping and project planning process. Further, DOE identifies the best management practices and measures to minimize, avoid, or mitigate potential impacts to human health or the environment in DOE NEPA documents, including potential impacts to communities with environmental justice concerns.

Minimizing Environmental Impacts of Component Manufacturing

In April 2023, DOE issues a [\\$750 million solicitation](#) for electrolyzer and fuel cell manufacturing research and development to encourage manufacturing processes that mitigate environmental health impacts. Examples include prioritizing environment, health, and safety in the manufacturing, installation, operation, and disposal/recyclability of fuel cell components and systems, as well as encouraging designs and processes that minimize potential hydrogen leaks or other harmful emissions.

Removal of 1.3 Million Pounds of Hazardous Refrigerant from the Paducah, Kentucky Site

In FY 2023, DOE [completed](#) the safe and successful disposal of approximately 1.3 million pounds of R-114 refrigerant, an environmental hazard stored at the site. This removal equates to taking about 10,000 vehicles off the road each year. This reduction in greenhouse gas emissions directly or indirectly affects the health of certain communities and populations that are [more vulnerable](#) to climate change impacts.

Long-Term Stewardship Program

In FY 2023, the Long-Term Stewardship program benefitted surrounding communities and Tribal Nations, including disadvantaged communities, limiting exposure from residual legacy contamination at four sites – Pantex, Sandia National Laboratories, the Y-12 Plant, and Kansas City/Former Bannister Federal Complex.

Civil Rights and Environmental Justice ([show less](#) ^)

This section demonstrates progress on civil rights related to environmental justice, for example, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or relevant laws other than Title VI of the Civil Rights Act at the Department of Energy in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

In FY 2023, DOE began work to create a new Language Assistance Plan for limited English proficiency (LEP) individuals to advance the goal of meaningful involvement. For further information on DOE and LEP, please visit DOE's [Limited English Proficiency website](#) .

Title VI and Environmental Justice ([show less](#) ^)

This section demonstrates progress on civil rights related to environmental justice, such as under Title VI of the Civil

Rights Act of 1964, at the Department of Energy in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

DOE's Office of Civil Rights is responsible for monitoring and enforcing compliance with [Title VI](#) , investigating Title VI-

**What is
Title VI of
the Civil
Rights Act**

of 1964?
Title VI of
the Civil
Rights Act of
1964
requires
that no

related complaints, and providing technical assistance to recipients of Department of Energy financial assistance.

- **1** open Title VI investigation(s) or compliance review(s) related to environmental justice

Training

- **1** agency training(s) on Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and environmental justice
- **40** employee(s) trained on Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and environmental justice

person be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance on account of race, color, or national origin.

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 Energy in Fiscal

Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

Many DOE offices engage with external partners. For example, there is work to [deepen relationships and trust](#) between hydropower and river stakeholders to better incorporate community priorities in hydropower research and development activities. DOE has also convened decision-makers and senior leadership from across sectors to inform an [action plan](#) for offshore wind transmission development in the U.S. Atlantic region. These convenings hosted 879 unique attendees representing 443 unique organizations, which included nonprofit and state officials who represented local community and Tribal interests. Among other offices, DOE's Office of State and Community Energy Programs includes environmental justice in much of its outreach and engagement activities.

DOE offices are creating ways to improve access to information for communities, such as the

[National Energy and Water Treatment Speciation Database](#)

. This database is a first-of-its kind digital tool to provide national access to water characterization data and to support water treatment for beneficial reuse, critical mineral recovery, and pollution abatement in communities with a legacy of fossil energy

dependence. Other DOE efforts include the Office of Legacy Management's [Community Leaders Institutes and Technical Assistance Workshops](#)

, which helps communities with “how to” skills such as grant writing and how to participate in federal decision-making processes. The [Energy Transitions Initiative and Partnership Project](#)

(ETIPP), which advances self-reliant island and remote communities through the development of resilient energy systems, held its [first-ever ETIPP annual meeting](#) – bringing together 24 communities from Cohorts 1 and 2 at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

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

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

Energy Storage for Social Equity Technical Workshops

Between November 2022 and March 2023, DOE held three Energy Storage for Social Equity technical workshops on microgrid planning and design, battery safety, and sizing software. In addition, DOE invited communities to participate in panels, touchpoints, and visits with DOE and generally compensated them for their involvement.

[Learn more](#) 

NEPA and Historic Preservation Training for the Public

In October 2022, DOE members participated in a training webinar for the public hosted by the National Association for State Community Services Programs about important updates on the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act, in particular as it relates to the Weatherization Assistance Program.

[Learn more](#) 

Application Assistance Workshops for Teachers and Scientists

Attendees of the Application Assistance workshops learned strategies to submit a compliant and competitive application and got their questions answered. Participants were also able to tune into the [Alumni Workshop](#) , where they heard stories from alumni about their internship experience.

Learn more 

Public Processes ([show less ^](#))

- **157** public process(es) related to environmental justice, e.g., requests for information or listening sessions, including:

Interconnection Innovation e-Xchange

In FY 2023, DOE's Interconnection Innovation e-Xchange (i2X) designed a series of virtual meetings in five topical "Solution e-Xchanges" to facilitate open dialogue among diverse stakeholders across the United States. One of the topical areas was Equity and Energy Justice. Feedback will be incorporated in the i2X Transmission Interconnection Roadmap.

Learn more 

Provider of Choice Public Workshops

On numerous occasions in FY 2023, public meetings were held in-person and virtually throughout the Pacific Northwest on the Provider of Choice draft policy direction. Provider of Choice will lead to long-term power sales contracts related to the long-term certainty of carbon-free power from the Federal Columbia River Power System for the next 20-year term following expiration of the existing contracts in 2028.

[Learn more](#) 

Wind Energy Equity Engagement Series

In FY 2023, DOE held three community listening sessions for community members to discuss their experiences and share ways to make wind energy more equitable. DOE received feedback that participants appreciated the workshops, with some expressing that they had not felt heard before the series. The [final report](#) summarized all three sessions and was shared with community organizations to promote learning across regions.

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

This section demonstrates progress on Tribal partnerships and consultations at the Department of Energy, 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.

During FY 2023, DOE continued working to [update](#) both the DOE Order 144.1, the DOE American Indian Tribal Government

Interactions and Policy. The Policy sets forth principles for DOE to follow to ensure effective government-to-government relationships with American Indian and Alaska Native Tribal governments. The Order lays out responsibilities for DOE staff and contractors to meet the agency's obligations for interacting with Tribal governments. The 2009 Order focused on DOE communication with Tribes at sites and facilities, and on transportation issues.

- **5** Tribal Consultation(s) related to environmental justice

Inflation Reduction Act Tribal Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates Consultation

The Tribal Consultation on Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates in March 2023 informed DOE on how to make home energy rebates under the Inflation Reduction Act more meaningful and accessible to Tribal Nations. DOE spent time consulting with Tribes and federal agencies on how to structure the program to take equity, supply chain access, and workforce issues into consideration.

Rattlesnake Mountain Sacred Site Tribal Consultation

In June 2023 DOE held a consultation on the [management](#) of “Laliik” or Rattlesnake Mountain with the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation, Nez Perce Tribe, Yakama Nation, and the Wanapum Band of Indians took place in June 2023. While Rattlesnake Mountain is a DOE property, it is managed by the Department of the Interior’s (DOI) Fish and Wildlife Service. The partnership between DOI and DOE fostered a memorandum of understanding between the agencies and conversations about increased Tribal access to this sacred mountain.

Strategic Uranium Reserve Consultation with Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

DOE participated in an interagency consultation among the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), DOI's Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the State of Utah to increase transparency around current activity at the White Mesa Uranium Mill, which is of concern to the local Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. This consultation led to improved notification and consultation guidelines being established at DOE when making awards impacting Tribes.

- **244** Tribal listening sessions and other engagements related to environmental justice

For example, many of DOE's offices have active partnerships, cooperative agreements, or memorandums of understanding with specific Tribal groups. Many offices have participated in listening sessions or hosted workshops to build capacity or provide technical assistance. For example, in FY 2023, DOE held a first-of-its-kind workshop to discuss how to protect and preserve sacred

sites. DOE hosted the [Tribal Clean Energy Summit](#) and attended the Reservation Economic Summit, the National Congress of American Indians, and several other conferences. In addition, DOE offices partnered with other agencies and the White House Council on Native American Affairs to host an

[Indian Energy Purchase Preference Listening Session](#)

on May 18, 2023, which established a pathway for Tribal power preference inquiries. The goal of the listening session was to gain important insight directly from Tribes, Tribally-owned businesses, Tribal utilities, and Tribal entrepreneurs regarding any interest, availability, development, or challenges associated with generating and selling electricity to the federal government using the Purchase Preference.

Training

- **Numerous** agency training(s) on Tribal Consultation or working with Tribes and Indigenous Peoples to advance environmental justice
- **Approximately 500** employees trained on Tribal Consultation or working with Tribes and Indigenous Peoples to advance environmental justice

For example, over 300 staff have viewed the virtual, on-demand DOE Indian Country

Education and Tribal Consultation Training since April 2023. The trainings orient new staff to the overall agency responsibility to Tribes consistent with DOE's Policy and Order 144.1 and DOE's particular responsibilities to support Tribes in their energy planning, infrastructure development and execution, and overall energy needs. Several DOE offices also provide tailored training on Tribal Consultation, including: (1) onboarding training for new federal and contractor employees; (2) cultural awareness training – particularly for DOE site offices that regularly engage with Tribes near that location – to introduce employees to Tribal perspectives, cultural sensitivity, and the importance of timely and consistent communication; and (3) training on specific topics like sacred sites.

Institutionalizing Environmental Justice

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

Overview

DOE is taking steps to institutionalize

environmental justice in a variety of ways.

In FY 2023, DOE released an

[Environmental Justice Implementation Progress Report](#)

. The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy’s (EERE) hosts the “Energy Equity and Environmental Justice Tiger Team,” with representatives from each of EERE’s 11 technical offices. The team advises EERE tech offices on incorporating energy equity and environmental justice in their programs and funding opportunities and provides guidance and training in these areas. DOE’s Loan Programs Office expanded many resources. The Office of Nuclear Energy also established the Office of Communications and Engagement, which is working to advance environmental and energy justice, and supports a cohesive approach to community, Tribal, and stakeholder engagement.

- **566** staff who work on environmental justice, either in a full- or part-time capacity
- **21** new or strengthened office(s) or program(s) on environmental justice

Training

- **137** agency training(s) for staff on environmental justice
- **Over 1,000** employee(s) trained on

Photo credit:
Office of
Energy Justice
and Equity

Development of the “Harnessing Hydrogen” and “Community Benefits Planning” Public Forums

[Community Benefits Plans](#)

(CBPs) are an important part of energy project proposals funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) or

environmental justice

For example, in September 2023, DOE’s Vehicle Technologies Office within the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) held an in-person training for the Clean Cities Energy and Environmental Justice Initiative in Denver, Colorado, featuring a site visit to a local mobility hub located in a disadvantaged community. Participants had the opportunity to see e-bike and electric shuttle bus infrastructure “in action” and heard from a panel of local residents about how the project was conceived and developed according to community needs. This training helped 17 newly hired Community Engagement Liaisons to further develop project management and community engagement skills, which they used to complete outlines of similar projects that they could perform in their own communities.

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

- **Has** issued or updated policy, guidance, or directives related to environmental justice (internal or external)

the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and typically count for about 20% of the project proposal’s overall score when it undergoes review for federal funding. In FY 2023, the [Harnessing Hydrogen and CBP Forums](#) were developed by the Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies Office and the Office of Energy Justice and

Community Benefits Plan Templates Published

In FY 2023, Community Benefits Plan (CBP) templates were published to aid applicants of DOE funding that required a CBP as part of the submission. These templates have since been updated and are available through DOE's CBP website. CBPs support advancing environmental justice through the Justice40 Initiative.

[Learn more](#) 

Equity as a tool to help both communities with environmental justice concerns and companies better understand and [engage](#) in the development and negotiation process of forming a CBP for energy projects.

[Learn more](#) 

Equity Action Plan Update

In FY 2023, DOE worked on updating its [Equity Action Plan](#) . The first Equity Action Plan featured how DOE is addressing environmental justice through the Justice40 Initiative and Executive Orders 13985 and 14008.

[Updates](#) to the plan feature five new priority strategies of: (1) establishing a DOE-wide Community Benefits Plan framework; (2) updating the Merit Review program to facilitate equitable outcomes; (3) increasing access to procurement opportunities for new entrants and disadvantaged businesses; (4) integrating justice considerations into R&D programs; and (5) developing an agency-wide framework to work with Tribal and disadvantaged communities.

[Learn more](#) 

Leveraging Existing Site Environmental Management Systems to Address Environmental Justice

In September 2023, the Office of Environment, Health, Safety and Security issued instructions for addressing environmental justice and disadvantaged communities in site Environmental Management Systems to fulfill the requirements of DOE Order 436.1A, Departmental Sustainability.

Learn more 

- **Has** assessed barriers and obstacles related to regulations, policies, or practices, including historical inequities
- For more information on how the Department of Energy has removed barriers for communities with environmental justice concerns, please visit <https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy23osti/85259.pdf>
- 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](#) ^)

- **Over 60** tool(s) or resources that advance environmental justice, including access to health, environmental or other impacts, such as:

Justice40 Tool

The Justice40 tool was [developed](#) by the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, and DOE. A methods paper about the tool was published in 2022 and the tool itself was made public in FY 2023. The goal of the tool is to offer decision makers an optimal portfolio of policy interventions that explicitly mitigate energy insecurity of a user-defined population by reducing its energy burden. DOE plans to add a layer for the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool next.

[Learn more](#) 

Energy Communities Interagency Working Group Site Review Tool

This tool, developed in part by DOE in FY 2023, is a resource for manufacturers and investors interested in developing or expanding clean energy manufacturing projects in energy communities and nationwide. The interactive map provides access to publicly available information on facilities, nearby infrastructure, and community attributes, including energy community census tracts.

[Learn more](#) 

Program Capacity Dashboards: Low-Income Communities Bonus Credit Program

The program capacity dashboard for the

[Low-Income Communities Bonus Credit Program](#)

, developed by DOE in FY 2023, illustrates the capacity remaining within each eligibility category for the program. The four eligibility categories are: (1) located in a low-income community, (2) located on Indian Land, (3) qualified low-income residential building project, and (4) qualified low-income economic benefit project. Please note that the information in the dashboard table is dynamic and changes as DOE verifies information provided by applicants, applicants update their application information, applicants withdraw applications, and as DOE and IRS process applications.

Learn more 

Advancing Institutional

Partnerships or Federal Advisory Committees ([show less](#) ^)

- **8** new or strengthened internal agency working group(s), committee(s), or partnership(s) to advance environmental justice, or new federal advisory committee(s) on environmental justice
- **20** new or existing federal advisory committee(s) related to environmental justice

Indian Country Energy and Infrastructure Working Group

The Indian Country Energy and Infrastructure Working Group (ICEIWG) was established in 2011 by DOE to evaluate Tribal experiences of the challenges and opportunities for energy infrastructure, development, and expanded capacity through enhanced DOE decisions on policy. In 2023, the group wrote Energy Secretary Granholm about the need to support capacity within Tribal governments to pursue energy projects. This has increased participation of Tribes in the Clean Energy Innovator Fellowship Program, and continued investigation into new program development.

[Learn more](#) 

Arctic Energy Ambassadors Program

Originally, DOE limited its Arctic Energy Ambassadors Program to Tribal stakeholders. In FY 2023, DOE's Arctic Energy Office reinvigorated the Arctic Energy Ambassadors Program to include all Alaska stakeholders and develop a network of energy leaders to help move the state towards sustainable and impactful projects that could be supported by DOE programs or other funding sources, such as other federal agencies, the State of Alaska, or private sector partners.

[Learn more](#) 

The Office of Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board Related to Cleanup Efforts

DOE created the Site-Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) to involve Tribes and stakeholders more directly in DOE cleanup decisions. When communities share their opinions by becoming involved in environmental cleanup discussions, federal decision-making and cleanup activities are improved. Public input helps DOE make decisions that are cost-effective, community-specific, and environmentally sound, which leads to faster and safer environmental cleanups. The SSAB held 32 meetings in 2023 to discuss EM cleanup topics.

Learn more 

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

DOE 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.

DOE also participates in the National Science and Technology Council's Environmental Justice Subcommittee, launched in 2023 by President Biden's executive order on environmental justice. The purpose of the Environmental Justice Subcommittee is to address the need for a coordinated federal strategy to identify and address gaps in science, data, and research related to environmental justice.

DOE also participates in the [White House Council on Native American Affairs](#) (WHCNAA).

The Department of Energy worked side-by-side with other federal agencies to advance a whole of government approach to environmental justice, including:

The Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers

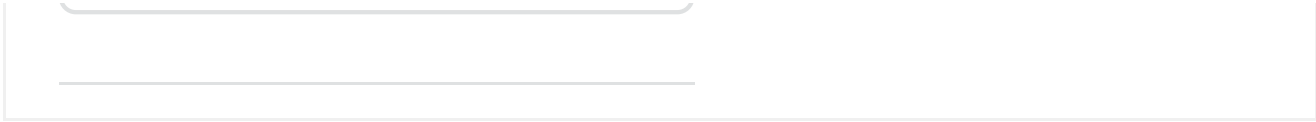
In partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency, DOE helped launch the Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (TCTACs), a network of technical assistance centers designed to remove barriers and improve accessibility to environmental and energy justice grant opportunities for communities that are disadvantaged and have been overburdened and under-resourced. There are 16 TCTACs and over 160 partners that aim to help communities identify grant opportunities, prepare grant applications and manage grant funding, build capacity to effectively engage with decisionmakers, and develop collaborative community-based partnerships.

Learn more 

Interagency Agreement to support the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe

Announced in December 2023, DOE's Office of Indian Energy is leading an interagency memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe signed by DOE, the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, Labor, Transportation, and Education, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Permitting Council. The purpose of the interagency MOU with the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe is to provide a framework for collaboration between the Tribes and federal agencies to ensure that infrastructure, manufacturing, research and development, and workforce training and development investments (including but not limited to those made through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Inflation Reduction Act, and CHIPS and Science Act) are invested in a strategic, coordinated, efficient, and equitable manner.

Learn more 



[Return to top](#)

Contact

Council on Environmental Quality

730 Jackson Place NW
Washington, DC 20506
(202) 395-5750

Office of Management and Budget

725 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20503
(202) 395-3080

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