

Scorecard General Services Administration



General Services Administration

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About the General Services Administration (GSA)

The mission of the General Services Administration (GSA) is to deliver the best customer experience and value in real estate, acquisition, and technology services to the government and the American people.

This page provides information on how **the General Services Administration (GSA)** 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.

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 General Services Administration (GSA)** has done from January 2021 to September 2022.

For more information, please visit [GSA and Environmental Justice](#) .

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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 General Services Administration (GSA)** has done from January 2021 to September 2022.

Phase One Scorecard metrics and highlights include:

- Section 9.2 of the GSA NEPA Desk Guide provides guidance to GSA on how to conduct an Environmental Justice Study as part of the NEPA Process. This includes: identifying and reaching out to specific underserved groups, low-income populations, Tribal Nations, or other protected groups; involving underserved, including low-income, populations such as offering opportunities for them to provide input during the NEPA process; and seeking to overcome linguistic, cultural, institutional, geographic, and other barriers to meaningful participation.
 - GSA identified Land Ports of Entry (or border station) projects funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) during the decision-making process where GSA could address environmental justice considerations prior to the NEPA process.
 - GSA held a full day training in June 2021 for GSA's NEPA Network. The training focused on environmental justice in the NEPA process.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Environmental Justice

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 requires that no person be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance on account of race, color, or national origin. Title VI requires federal agencies to ensure that programs or activities receiving federal funding, including those that affect human health or the environment, do not use discriminatory criteria, methods, or practices. The following information includes updates from January 2021 to September 2022 from **the General Services Administration (GSA)** on Title VI that are related to environmental justice.

Phase One Scorecard metrics and highlights include:

- In Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, as part of GSA's Title VI compliance reviews, GSA provided civil rights training, including a module on environmental justice to 12 State agencies for Surplus Property. Further, as part of GSA's commitments under the Executive Order 13985 Equity Action Plan, dated January 20, 2022, GSA provided two staff trainings (May 2022 and September 2022) on "Fundamentals of Environmental Justice."
- 2 internal training(s) on Title VI civil rights and environmental justice

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 General Services Administration (GSA)** 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:

- GSA's Green Building Advisory Committee (GBAC), a committee comprised of external stakeholders, issued an Advice Letter to GSA on Environmental Justice and Equity in Federal Sustainable Buildings in April 2022. This letter summarizes recommendations based on the work of GBAC's Environmental Justice and Equity (EJ&E) in the Federal Sustainable Buildings Task Group. This group met for a year and included additional external community members and organizations. As a result, the GSA Administrator appointed two new members to the GBAC to represent environmental justice and equity in the green building sector. The GBAC provides independent policy advice and recommendations to GSA.

Consultation and Partnership with Tribal Nations

Phase One Scorecard metrics and highlights include:

- GSA is developing tribal consultation strategies for relevant land port of entry projects funded under BIL. This process is already established in ADM 1020.3 Procedures for Historic Properties.
- **27** Tribal Consultation(s) related to environmental justice from January 2021 to September 2022

Institutionalizing Environmental Justice

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 General Services Administration (GSA)** has done from January 2021 to September 2022 to institutionalize environmental justice.

Phase One Scorecard metrics and highlights include:

- **1** tool(s) or resources to advance environmental justice
- **7** staff that work on environmental justice, either in a full- or part-time capacity
- **At least 5** internal training(s) for staff on environmental justice
- **1** new or strengthened office(s) on environmental justice
- **1** new or strengthened internal working group(s), steering committee(s), council(s) on environmental justice

- GSA developed its draft agency-wide Environmental Justice Strategy during this timeframe and is working on further revisions to finalize it. In addition, GSA's publicly posted 2022 Climate Change Risk Management Plan Progress Report includes actions which support environmental justice outcomes across specific agency offices and programs. And GSA's Sustainability Plan takes priority actions to incorporate the agency's environmental justice and equity capabilities.

GSA's Highlights

In FY 2022, GSA's priorities included improving environmental justice literacy, establishing environmental justice strategic objectives, and operationalizing environmental justice principles throughout the Sustainability Plan. Furthermore, GSA developed an internal mapping tool to assist in the identification of communities with environmental concerns. The tool can be used to assist in outreach and engagement strategies to increase community participation in GSA programs such as the Surplus Personal Property Donation Program. In addition, GSA incorporated environmental justice screening data, such as the beta version of the Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool, into its internal map systems. This tool was used to conduct environmental justice data-based analysis on all 26 Land Ports of Entry projects funded under BIL, and included analysis during planning on all new BIL construction projects.

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