

Scorecard Department of the Interior



Department of the Interior

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About the Department of the Interior (DOI)

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) protects and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and honors its trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and affiliated Island Communities.

This page provides information on how **the Department of the Interior (DOI)** 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, remediation and reduction of legacy pollution, and the development of critical clean water and wastewater infrastructure.

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This Phase One Scorecard provides an update on initial progress made by **the Department of the Interior (DOI)** 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 DOI's Justice40 covered programs, please contact environmental_justice@ios.doi.gov.

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

- **65** Justice40 covered program(s)
- **55** funding announcement(s) covered under the Justice40 Initiative
- **\$1,694,130,000** in funding made available from Justice40 covered programs¹
 - Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization (AMLER) Program: For Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, the AMLER Program provided grants to the six Appalachian states and three Tribal communities with Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Programs. Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia each received \$26.63 million; Alabama, Ohio, and Virginia each received \$10.652 million; while the Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe, and Crow Tribe each received \$3.551 million to return legacy coal mining sites to productive use and foster economic and community development.
 - Tribal Climate Resilience: In April 2022, DOI provided \$46 million in funding for Tribal communities to address the unique impacts of climate change in Indigenous communities. This initial funding, made available from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and FY 2022 appropriations, funded projects and initiatives that address and strengthen climate resilience and adaptation; ocean and coastal management; community-driven relocation and protect-in-place activities; and internships and youth engagement.
 - Energizing Insular Communities: In October 2021, DOI announced \$8.5 million in grant awards by the Office of Insular Affairs' Energizing Insular Communities program to support energy initiatives in the U.S. territories, including \$1 million to the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority for the procurement of hybrid and electric utility fleet vehicles and equipment and \$1 million to the American Samoa Medical Center Authority for microgrid, cooling tower, and LED lighting retrofit projects.
- Made program modifications for Justice40 covered programs such as:
 - In 2022, the Bureau of Reclamation modified the evaluation criteria for WaterSmart grants to encourage projects that will directly benefit disadvantaged communities and support climate change resiliency.
 - In July 2022, the National Park Service (NPS) announced \$192 million in funding for the Land Water Conservation Fund - Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP), which enables urban, disadvantaged communities to create new outdoor recreation spaces, reinvigorate existing parks, and form connections between people and the outdoors in such communities. As part of the notice of funding opportunity, NPS modified the evaluation criteria in ORLP grants to encourage States to submit projects focused on environmental justice, addressing heat islands, and support for recreation outside of military facilities. NPS also created 2 deadlines for the grant (January 23, 2023, and May 31, 2023) to encourage States to submit more grants.

- In 2022, in standing up the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Orphan Oil and Gas Well Federal Program, DOI established evaluation criteria to prioritize disadvantaged communities, and ensure projects identify and address any disproportionate burden of adverse human health or environmental effects of orphaned wells on communities of color, low-income communities, and Tribal and Indigenous communities.

¹ 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.

DOI's Highlights

In August 2022, DOI awarded grants to 24 states, totaling \$560 million, to plug, remediate, and reclaim orphaned wells on state and private land. Of the initial state plans, 12 states—including Kansas, New Mexico, and Ohio, will prioritize capping wells in disadvantaged communities. Several states—including Arizona, Louisiana, and Montana—will prioritize job creation and preference to small businesses through their contracting process.

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement developed an Environmental Justice - Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Dashboard to assist states and Tribal Nations in prioritizing AML projects that align with the Justice40 Initiative. This dashboard uses existing AML data, environmental justice data from multiple sources, and GIS to gain a better understanding of areas where efforts and resources should be focused to support disadvantaged communities.

Environmental and Civil Rights Protection

DOI's Highlights

In 2021, in partnership with the Department of Justice, DOI established the Not Invisible Act Commission to make recommendations to improve



intergovernmental coordination and establish best practices to bolster resources for survivors and victims' families, and to combat the epidemic of missing persons, murder, and trafficking of Native Americans and Alaska Natives. DOI also established the Missing and Murdered Unit of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services.

On January 3, 2022, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) transferred management of the former National Bison Range to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT), consistent with provisions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 that ensure these lands continue to be managed to provide public access and educational opportunities and have a publicly available management plan. FWS and CSKT staff coordinated on land management, visitor services objectives, and implementation, and the timing of real and personal property transfer, and FWS transferred \$5.4 million of deferred maintenance funds to CSKT.

In June 2022, FWS signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Delaware Nation and Delaware Tribe that now reside in Oklahoma and the Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohicans in Wisconsin, who were forced to relocate from their ancestral homelands, for a secure, respectful location for the reburial of ancestral remains repatriated to the Tribes pursuant to NAGPRA. FWS offered a site at Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, and the MOU will guide the reburial process and the future relationship between FWS and the Tribes.

In September 2022, BIA and Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) announced the creation of Indigenous Food Hubs for BIE-operated schools and BIA-operated detention centers to help source Indigenous foods, enhance culturally based healthy nutrition education and boost training for healthy and culturally appropriate food preparation.

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 Department of the Interior (DOI)** has done from January 2021 to September 2022.

For more information, please visit [Environmental Justice at DOI](#) .

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 Department of the Interior (DOI)** has done from January 2021 to September 2022.

Phase One Scorecard metrics and highlights include:

- DOI's Environmental Justice Implementation Policy (525 Departmental Manual Chapter 1) requires bureaus, in all appropriate NEPA analyses, to evaluate disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects to low-income, minority, and Tribal populations and to provide opportunities for and to remove barriers to communities' participation in the NEPA process. To supplement this policy, in September 2022, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued Instruction Memorandum (IM) 2022-059, Environmental Justice Implementation, to elevate environmental justice, with a primary focus on environmental compliance review under NEPA, including scoping, outreach, and analysis. At the same time, BLM issued its Frequently Asked Questions on Addressing Environmental Justice in NEPA Documents.
- **At least 12** project modification(s) where environmental justice concerns were raised during the NEPA process
- **31** training(s) on environmental justice considerations during NEPA reviews

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 Department of the Interior (DOI)** on Title VI that are related to environmental justice.

Phase One Scorecard metrics and highlights include:

- **2** open Title VI investigation(s) or compliance review(s) related to environmental justice
- **1** closed Title VI compliance review(s) or resolution agreement(s) related to 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 Department of the Interior (DOI)** 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:

- **17** technical assistance outreach event(s) in Fiscal Year 2022
 - In March 2022, DOI convened a workshop with federal partners and teams from several of the U.S. Territories—American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands—to discuss strategies to support the successful implementation of projects supported by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law in the U.S. Territories.
 - In February 2022, the Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland, along with White House representatives, convened Territorial leadership at the Interagency Group on Insular Areas, to discuss implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and how programs administered through the Departments of the Interior, Transportation, Energy, Agriculture, Commerce, and the Environmental Protection Agency could address needs in the U.S. Territories.
- **51** public process(es) related to environmental justice, e.g., requests for information or listening sessions
 - The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management held several environmental justice events: 1) An Underserved Community Dialogue series focused on offshore wind in the New York Bight region; 2) Environmental Justice Roundtables and an Environmental Justice Forum for the New York Bight Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement; 3) Technical workshop series in the Gulf of Mexico region to improve consideration of environmental justice issues, especially as they pertain to NEPA reviews.
 - The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) hosted Secretary Haaland at the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge for a roundtable discussion with Valle de Oro partners and community members about environmental justice issues in surrounding neighborhoods and the Refuge's role in advancing environmental and economic justice. The Pueblo of Isleta, including the Governor and representatives from the Environment Department and Unexploded Ordnance Department, were in attendance.
 - The FWS National Fish Passage Program hosted joint Tribal Listening Sessions with the federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Grant Program in September 2022 to invite feedback from Tribes on the opportunities provided in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to restore fish passage and aquatic connectivity. FWS and FHWA sought input from participating Tribes on how the agencies could align these funding opportunities with Tribal priorities and increase accessibility to these funds for Tribes and Tribal consortia. NFPP incorporated input from Tribes into its FY2023 Notice of Funding Opportunity.

Consultation and Partnership with Tribal Nations

Phase One Scorecard metrics and highlights include:



- It is a priority for DOI to strengthen the government-to-government relationship with sovereign Tribal Nations. Consistent with President Biden’s Presidential Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships, in August 2021, DOI published a plan for improving Tribal consultation, “A Detailed Plan for Improving Interior’s Implementation of EO 13175.” To implement the Plan, the Department launched a website to list upcoming Tribal consultations, the Secretary established a Tribal Advisory Committee, and the Department updated its Tribal consultation policy through a process that included a series of Tribal consultations.
- **Yes, has conducted** Tribal Consultation(s) related to environmental justice from January 2021 to September 2022
 - On September 13, 2022, National Park Service (NPS) released new guidance to improve federal stewardship of national park lands and waters. The NPS Policy Memorandum 22-03 provides a strong framework to help park managers move beyond traditional Tribal consultation and support working relationships with Indian Tribes, Alaska Native entities and Native Hawaiian organizations. The new policy memo implements Secretary's Order 3403, Joint Secretarial Order on Fulfilling the Trust Responsibility to Indian Tribes in the Stewardship of federal Lands and Waters, signed in 2021.
 - On January 31, 2022, DOI announced that NPS hired the first full-time civil penalties investigator to enhance oversight and compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). Additionally, DOI completed consultation with 71 Tribal Nations on improvements to NAGPRA regulations.
 - In March 2021, The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management held a virtual Tribal Ocean Summit to enable a mutual exchange of information and learning to improve working relationships and meaningful consultation practices going forward.
- **48** internal training(s) on Tribal Consultation or working with Tribes and Indigenous Peoples to advance environmental justice

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 Department of the Interior (DOI)** 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
 - DOI’s Environmental Justice Strategic Plan was updated in 2016.
 - In 2022, the DOI Strategic Plan, which sets performance measures and goals for Fiscal Years 2022–2026, was updated to integrate environmental justice and the Justice40 Initiative.

- DOI has renewed its focus on environmental justice and equity through the Secretary of the Interior signing Secretary's Order (SO) 3399, Department-Wide Approach to the Climate Crisis and Restoring Transparency and Integrity to the Decision-Making Process. The SO 3399 committed the Department to tackling climate change and its effects including actions to address disproportionate, adverse climate impacts to communities with environmental justice concerns.
- **8** tool(s) or resources to advance environmental justice
- **49** staff that work on environmental justice, either in a full- or part-time capacity
- **67** internal training(s) for staff on environmental justice
- **No** new or strengthened office(s) on environmental justice
- **Yes** new or strengthened internal working group(s), steering committee(s), council(s) on environmental justice
- DOI serves as a member of the White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council (IAC), which was established in Executive Order 14008. DOI co-chaired the Regional IAC Committee and the Native Americans and Indigenous Peoples Committee.

DOI's Highlights

In April 2022, DOI released its first-ever Equity Action Plan, outlining its efforts to advance equity through all operations, remove barriers to equal opportunity, and deliver resources and benefits equitably to the public. The Equity Action Plan focuses on contracts for underserved communities, discretionary grants to better support Tribes, and addressing barriers to recreation on DOI-managed lands and waters.

In May 2022, DOI held its first-ever DOI-wide Environmental Justice Symposium. During the three-day virtual event, DOI employees and partners highlighted work advancing environmental justice through science, policy, and engagement. The symposium included 32 sessions, including messages from the Secretary of the Interior and the Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, and two meet and greet sessions with DOI Tribal Liaison Officers and DOI Environmental Justice Coordinators. Over 1,200 people registered for the symposium.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) developed an environmental justice mapping tool that provides nationally consistent demographic data to facilitate identifying potential low-income, minority, and Tribal populations for environmental justice screenings, creating visualizations, and consideration in planning public engagement. This tool is available internally to all DOI employees.

DOI reinstated meetings of the DOI Environmental Justice Working Group (EJWG), to foster coordination and collaboration on environmental justice. The EJWG is comprised of the DOI Environmental Justice program and bureaus' and offices' Environmental Justice Coordinators. In addition, many bureaus and offices established internal environmental justice working groups, such as: BLM and the National Park Service each established an Environmental Justice Working Group, the U.S. Geological Survey established an Environmental Justice Task Force, and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management established an Environmental Justice Methodologies Working Group.

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