

 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](#)



# Tennessee Valley Authority


400 West  
Summit Hill  
Drive  
Knoxville, TN  
37902  
(865) 632-2101

<https://www.tva.com/> 


[tvainfo@tva.gov](mailto:tvainfo@tva.gov)



## Get Involved


[Check out the Tennessee Valley Authority's public engagement events](#) 

## Latest News & Updates

[Find out the latest news at the Tennessee Valley Authority](#) 

## Get Funding & Support

[Find NOFOs, grants, and](#)

[technical assistance](#) 

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is founded on a mission of service to all people of the Tennessee Valley region, including the Valley's disadvantaged communities. TVA delivers on this mission through three key service areas: (1) Energy that is reliable, resilient, and low-cost; (2) Economic Development that brings jobs and capital investment to the region; and (3) Environmental Stewardship of our public lands, water, and air. TVA is committed to the just treatment and meaningful involvement of local communities in TVA's decision-making. TVA seeks diverse partnerships that deliver broad and inclusive positive impacts through investment programs, community engagement, employee volunteerism, and customer and supply chain partnerships.

TVA encourages and facilitates meaningful participation by potentially affected communities in TVA's decision-making processes. TVA works with those communities to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any disproportionate and adverse human, social, economic, or environmental effects when possible. This aligns with TVA's statutory mission, and promotes mutually beneficial partnerships with potentially affected communities.

## Progress on Advancing Environmental Justice

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

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

#### Community Information Hub

Launched in FY 2023, the Community Information Hub has interactive maps that enable users to identify communities with environmental justice concerns and explore environmental justice-related metrics, like energy burden, across the TVA region. The database on funding resources and project ideas assists communities with advancing their community vision.

[Learn more](#) 

#### TVA Home Uplift Program

TVA solicits stakeholder engagement on its low-income energy equity programs through deliberative outreach to stakeholder groups, including outreach through advocacy groups for underserved

## Recreation and Environmental Justice Support Grants

In FY 2023, the program provided assistance for non-profit organizations to support diversity and inclusivity in the [outdoors](#) and to promote recreational opportunities in local communities with environmental justice concerns and accessibility to the outdoors.

[Learn more](#) 

## Grade School Robotics Partners

TVA employees and retirees partner with Tennessee Valley Robotics to support local schools' robotics initiatives, fostering innovation and inspiring the next generation of STEM enthusiasts.

communities and communities with environmental justice concerns, and cross-referral with organizations offering social services targeting housing and energy. All benefits of the free home energy upgrades provided are realized by low-income and other communities that are underserved.

[Learn more](#) 

## **Grade School STEM Program**

TVA and the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation have partnered to create STEM centers at 27 locations in communities with environmental justice concerns throughout TVA's seven-state region through a \$1.1 million TVA grant. This is anticipated to help develop young scientists who understand scientific issues related to health and the environment, to better illustrate the potential connection with environmental justice.

## **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 Tennessee Valley Authority 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 Tennessee Valley Authority in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

TVA's NEPA procedures are available at 18 CFR Part 1318, which outlines TVA's environmental review process. TVA conducts an environmental justice analysis as part of its NEPA environmental reviews. Meaningfully engaging with stakeholders is a vital part of TVA's mission executed through communications and outreach.

For example, a training session provided employees an awareness and education of online tools such as EJScreen and the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) to better understand issues impacting communities with environmental justice concerns. Use of screening tools occurs early in the NEPA process (before a full environmental justice analysis is conducted) to help NEPA staff, project managers, and external relations teams with targeted stakeholder outreach planning as early as possible.

## What is NEPA?

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.

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

TVA works closely with a variety of stakeholders (local governments, civic and community organizations, etc.) to assist TVA in finding engagement opportunities.

Stakeholders can directly engage with TVA decision-makers through various public meetings, along with submitting comments through NEPA and other engagement processes. New and strengthened partnerships in FY 2023 include: Grade School STEM Program: TVA and the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation have partnered to create STEM centers at 27 locations in communities with environmental justice concerns throughout TVA's seven-state region through a \$1.1 million TVA grant. This is anticipated to help develop young scientists who understand scientific issues related to health and the environment, to better illustrate the potential connection with environmental justice. Utility of the Future Information Exchange Working Groups: Through TVA's Utility of the Future Information



Exchange Working Groups, customers, residents, academics, environmental non-profit organizations, and government representatives discuss what topics or issues should be studied in long-term planning efforts. Teams are formed for specific purposes and sunset once goals are met.

Tennessee Urban League Grant: Through a strengthened partnership with TVA, the Tennessee Urban League provides assistance to communities with environmental justice concerns to secure economic self-reliance, parity, power, and civil rights. The partnership addresses inequities and creates caring, inclusive communities.

NEPA reviews and related documents are shared through various means, including but not limited to online, hard copies in local venues, hard copies by mail, materials translated to various languages, audio and video tours online, virtual and in-person meetings, local community events, local government meetings, social media, and newspapers.

---

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

---

## **Pumped Storage Community Open House**

TVA is preparing a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for evaluating potential pumped storage hydropower (PSH) site locations in Jackson County, Alabama, and at the existing Raccoon Mountain PSH Plant in Marion County, Tennessee, for the potential construction at one or more sites as the need for long-duration energy storage increases. In June 2023, TVA discussed Environmental Impact Statement alternatives, community economic and recreational benefits, and employment opportunities with local communities. The discussion focused on ways TVA could avoid, minimize, and mitigate environmental impacts to communities with environmental justice concerns.

## **Kingston Retirement Draft Environmental Impact Statement Public Meeting**

In May 2023, TVA published a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for public review and comment on the proposed retirement and demolition of the Kingston Fossil Plant and the construction of replacement generation. TVA conducted public meetings in local communities to share information about the proposal and the draft environmental analyses, to gather additional input from the public, and to answer questions and address concerns, as well as held virtual meetings. In addition, TVA conducted an awareness campaign ahead of the meeting date, and the venue was chosen based on accessibility to communities with environmental justice concerns. These public meetings enabled face-to-face conversations with community members and solicitation of formal comments to inform decision-making. In April 2024, TVA issued a Record of Decision on the Environmental Impact Statement.

## **Wilbur Reservoir Bridge Replacement Draft Environmental Assessment**

TVA prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to address the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposal to replace the roadway bridge across Wilbur Reservoir in Carter County, Tennessee, near Elizabethton. The draft EA was released for public review and comment in June 2023. During the 30-day review period, TVA held two public meetings to provide information to the public and solicit comments about the proposal. Part of the goal of meeting with local communities potentially impacted by project was to discuss how to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts and solicit formal comments to inform decision-making.

---

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

---

This section demonstrates progress on Tribal partnerships and consultations at the Tennessee Valley Authority, 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.

TVA has established government-to-government consultation and regularly consults with over 20 Tribes that have a religious or cultural interest in TVA's service area. The majority of these Tribes were forcibly removed during the Indian Removal period. The current list of Tribes can be found at TVA's Tribal Relations [website](#) . TVA prepared an updated [action plan](#) to implement the policies and directives of Executive Order 13175 as requested by the Presidential Memorandum of January 26, 2021. This detailed plan of action was developed in consultation with Tribes.

## **National Historic Preservation Act: Section 110 – Conditions Assessment for Removal Route Resources on TVA-Owned Land**

TVA consults with Tribes regarding forced Native American Removal Routes (RR). Tribes consider some RRs as sacred. TVA recorded intact portions of RRs and associated archaeological sites within TVA's region which assists TVA in the management and protection of resources. TVA provided Tribes with map data and an opportunity to participate in field conditions assessment of RRs intersecting TVA land.

## **TVA Updated Notice of Inventory Completion under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act**

In March 2023, TVA submitted a notice of inventory completion to the National Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) program in the [Federal Register](#) , effectively transferring legal control of all known Native American Ancestors and sacred items held by TVA back to Federally Recognized Indian Tribes. TVA is now able to facilitate reburial of these Ancestors and items with requesting Tribes.

## **TVA Native Plant Partnership**

The [Native Plant Partnership](#) , formed in 2016, invited all 23 Tribes that historically lived in the Southeast to consult, plant, and harvest traditional plants of all kinds. TVA consults with Tribes regarding native plants and seeks to incorporate Indigenous Knowledge into land management practices. TVA partnered with Tribes to plant and restore rivercane habitat on TVA land as well as install a native plant garden on TVA land.

For example, TVA holds regular teleconferences and face-to-face consultations with Tribes. These consultations encourage communication between the agency and Tribes regarding current projects, issues, and pertinent activities. Agenda items include National Historic Preservation Act activities, Archaeological Resources Protection Act activities, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act progress, Native American Reinterment, and other business. TVA consulted and engaged with Tribes regarding mutually beneficial partnerships that raise awareness and promote Tribal Sovereignty including: Archaeological Survey



Partnerships, Native Plant Partnership, Tribal Cultural History Project, Sacred Site Management Plans, and Tribal Engagement events.

For example, TVA provided training to employees regarding: the federal government's Nation-to-Nation relationship with Tribes, Executive Order 13175 and TVA's Tribal Consultation responsibilities, Tribe's involvement in federal preservation law, TVA's moral commitment to Tribes, and mutually beneficial partnerships that promote Tribal Sovereignty.

## Institutionalizing Environmental Justice

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

### Overview

TVA is founded on a mission of service to all people of the Tennessee Valley region, including the Valley's disadvantaged communities. TVA is committed to the just treatment and meaningful involvement of local communities in TVA's decision-

making. We seek diverse partnerships that deliver broad and inclusive positive impacts through investment programs, community engagement, employee volunteerism, and customer and supply chain partnerships. TVA has a dedicated office that leads efforts in the Environmental Justice Program, with goals of increasing strategic and focused outreach, enhancing internal communication, and aligning and coordinating how TVA supports and engages with communities.

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

### TVA's Environmental Justice Best Practices for Community Engagement

TVA's Environmental Justice Best Practices for Community Engagement document aims to treat communities with environmental justice concerns justly, and meaningfully involve those communities in TVA decisions that could affect their environment, health and safety, and socioeconomic well-being.

- **Has** assessed barriers and obstacles related to regulations, policies, or practices, including historical inequities
- Over the past four years **is working** to create an Environmental Justice Strategic Plan pursuant to [Executive Order 14096](#)

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

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

### **Best Practices Guide for Federal Agencies Regarding Tribal and Native Hawaiian Sacred Sites**

TVA participates in the Working Group of the Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Interagency Coordination and Collaboration for the Protection of Indigenous Sacred Sites, which developed a [best practices guide](#) for federal agencies regarding Indigenous sacred sites. The best practices guide was developed in consultation with Tribes and published in December 2023.

[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](#)

[EnvironmentalJustice.gov](#)

[Environmental Justice  
Clearinghouse](#)



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

**Share your feedback** [↗](#)