

## Scorecard Department of Energy



### Department of Energy

1000 Independence Ave. SW  
Washington, DC 20585  
[\(202\) 586-5000](tel:(202)586-5000)  
[energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

### About the Department of Energy (DOE)

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.

This page provides information on how **the Department of Energy (DOE)** 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.

This Phase One Scorecard provides an update on initial progress made by **the Department of Energy (DOE)** 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 DOE's Justice40 covered programs, please contact [energyjustice@hq.doe.gov](mailto:energyjustice@hq.doe.gov).

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

- **146** Justice40 covered program(s)
- **Over 100** funding announcement(s) covered under the Justice40 Initiative
- **\$21,800,000,000** in funding made available from Justice40 covered programs<sup>1</sup>
  - The \$25 million Renewables Advancing Community Energy Resilience opportunity required local community engagement to develop inclusive methodologies, investigate energy community needs, and identify vulnerabilities in technology development, demonstration, and deployment.
  - The \$13 million Community Geothermal Heating and Cooling Design and Deployment opportunity funds community coalitions in developing systems that supply at least 25% of the community's heating and cooling loads. This opportunity supports disadvantaged communities subject to high heating and cooling costs.
  - Announced opportunities to help provide electric power to Tribal government buildings that are otherwise unelectrified – integrating energy systems and energy infrastructure. DOE focused on installing clean energy systems and efficiency measures in Tribal government buildings, deployed community clean energy generation, and integrated energy systems for autonomous operation during emergencies.
- Made program modifications for Justice40 covered programs such as:
  - The Office of State and Community Energy Programs' Weatherization Enhancement and Innovation program specified four focus areas: place-based initiatives, multi-family housing, single family housing, and workforce development. This opportunity specifies: disadvantaged communities that are disproportionately impacted by high energy burdens, individuals underrepresented in the clean energy industry, and growing community partnerships. In 2022, DOE announced 21 project selections totaling \$37 million in investment.
  - The Vehicle Technologies Office prioritized benefits to disadvantaged communities through approximately \$27 million included in a program-wide announcement for clean mobility solutions, community engagement, outreach, technical assistance and training, community-driven electric charging deployment, and workforce development.
  - American-Made Equitable and Affordable Solutions to Electrification Prize offered \$2.4 million in cash prizes and technical assistance vouchers to innovators to make the electrification process faster and more affordable for homeowners across all housing types.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

## **DOE's Highlights**

DOE's Office of Economic Impact and Diversity hosted the Department's first-ever Justice Week. The five-day event convened over 4,500 virtual and in-person external and internal stakeholders to discuss the Department's Justice40 and Equity Action Plan implementation, to connect with external stakeholders, and gain insights about optimizing DOE's equity and justice efforts.

DOE advanced a department wide effort to integrate the Justice40 Initiative into funding opportunities by requiring applicants to develop Community Benefits Plans. Community Benefits Plans are assessed in the merit review and account for up to 20% of the score based on how effectively projects: ensure diversity, equity and inclusion, and the development of quality jobs and a skilled workforce; meaningfully engage with communities; and support Justice40 goals for disadvantaged communities. Community Benefit Plans are a cornerstone of DOE's approach to direct 40% of the overall benefits from covered federal investments to disadvantaged communities.

## **Environmental and Civil Rights Protection**

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### **DOE's Highlights**

DOE's Collegiate Wind Competition helps prepare the future wind energy workforce. Teams design prototype wind turbines, hypothetical wind farms, and conduct outreach with the wind energy industry and local communities. DOE announced that in 2023, 30 colleges and universities will compete in Phase 1, including two community colleges, two international schools, 12 minority-serving institutions (MSI) including eight Hispanic-Serving Institutions and six Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions.

As part of the Office of Environmental Management's Minority Serving Institutions Partnership Program, DOE announced \$30M in grants for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions and Tribal Colleges and Universities to help further develop the next generation of highly qualified, well-trained and technically skilled STEM students from underrepresented and historically marginalized communities.

The Office of Environmental Management Los Alamos site engaged in cooperative agreements with several Pueblos and Tribes to involve them in Natural Resource Damage Assessments, Environmental Monitoring, Emergency Preparedness and Response programs and trainings. In addition, EM created community engagement grants with state and local governments.

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 Energy (DOE)** has done from January 2021 to September 2022.

For more information, please visit [DOE's Environmental Justice Documents and Publications](#) .

## **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 Department of Energy (DOE)** has done from January 2021 to September 2022.

Phase One Scorecard metrics and highlights include:

- DOE has a NEPA policy or guidance that takes into account environmental justice. In addition, input from communities with environmental justice concerns is being used to inform the process around guidance and Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Statement engagement.
- **9** project modification(s) where environmental justice concerns were raised during the NEPA process
  - All projects on Tribal lands have received a Categorical Exclusion (CX) Determination where such determination would be responsive to

environmental justice concerns raised.

- DOE's State and Community Energy Programs worked under NEPA to develop categorical exclusions for Weatherization Readiness activities.
- DOE's Environmental Management Office (EM) continues to ensure environmental justice is reflected in its NEPA documents and processes.
- **3** 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 Energy (DOE)** on Title VI that are related to environmental justice.

Phase One Scorecard metrics and highlights include:

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

- **253** technical assistance outreach event(s) in Fiscal Year 2022
  - DOE collaborated with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop the Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers to support disadvantaged communities who need to access Federal resources and to address environmental justice challenges.
  - DOE provided 14 communities with technical assistance as part of the Energy Storage for Social Equity (ES4SE) Initiative, and another 24 communities received technical assistance as part of the Communities Local Energy Action Program. These programs are designed to help disadvantaged communities take direct control of their clean energy future. The majority of communities in the ES4SE and Communities LEAP are communities identified as disadvantaged by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool.

- DOE's Water Power Technologies Office Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership Project (ETIPP) announced the selection of 12 communities for the second cohort. ETIPP works with remote, island, and islanded communities that are Justice40 communities to transform their energy systems and increase energy resilience through strategic energy planning and the implementation of solutions that address specific challenges.
- **158** public process(es) related to environmental justice, e.g., requests for information or listening sessions
  - DOE received feedback that a funding opportunity announcement process can be a barrier for community participation. In response, DOE is diversifying funding mechanisms to leverage prizes and grants and has expanded technical assistance programs to build capacity, for example, through the Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers. In addition, some DOE offices, such as the Wind Energy Technology Office, provide summaries of responses to Requests for Information to make funding opportunities more inclusive and accessible. DOE's Office of Science engaged in outreach sessions at several minority-serving professional society annual meetings, including the National Organization for the Professional Development of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers, the National Society of Black Physicists, and American Indian Science and Engineering Society, among others.

## Consultation and Partnership with Tribal Nations

Phase One Scorecard metrics and highlights include:

- DOE has several policies or guidance for Tribal Consultations or working with Tribal Nations and Indigenous Peoples related to environmental justice. 1) DOE's Response to President Biden's Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to Nation Relationships; 2) DOE's Tribal Consultation Plan of Actions – Progress Report, March 2022; 3) Guide to Tribal Energy Development; and 4) DOE's Order 144.1: Department of Energy American Indian Tribal Government Interactions and Policy (2009). Finally, the DOE Tribal Energy Steering Committee and Congressional Affairs groups are updating DOE Order 144.1, Department of Energy American Indian Tribal Government Interactions and Policy, and DOE's policy on working with Tribal Nations. More than 25% of DOE technical assistance support addressed Tribal Nations or Tribal entities' requests.
- **235** Tribal Consultation(s) related to environmental justice from January 2021 to September 2022
  - Through discussions with Tribal Nations, DOE received feedback on projects, such as suggestions for improving the Siting Tool for Advanced Nuclear Development (STAND) and better accounting for Tribal representation. DOE also modified the design for a gaging station to incorporate input from a Tribal Council member who suggested using a telescoping arm to more accurately identify whether stream flow was present. Tribal leadership requested tours for the projects and notifications of progress and DOE fulfilled these requests.
  - DOE's Nuclear Energy Office renegotiated its Cooperative Agreement with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. DOE supports the Tribes' involvement in cultural, educational, environmental, economic development, emergency response and preparedness, nuclear waste transportation issues, and monitoring of DOE activities that may affect the Tribes.

- In October 2022, DOE held a Tribal Clean Energy Summit with over 350 participants, including a Nation-to-Nation roundtable discussion between Tribal leaders and U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm to explore how DOE can strengthen Tribal energy sovereignty.
- **43** internal training(s) on Tribal Consultation or working with Tribes and Indigenous Peoples to advance environmental justice

## Institutionalizing Environmental Justice

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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 Energy (DOE)** 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 been** updated in the past 5 years
  - DOE published General Guidance for Justice40 Implementation.
  - DOE created an Equity Action Plan.
  - DOE issued a Guidance document for preparing Community Benefits Plans.
- **63** tool(s) or resources to advance environmental justice
- **143** staff that work on environmental justice, either in a full- or part-time capacity
- **45** internal training(s) for staff on environmental justice
- **Yes, has a** new or strengthened office(s) on environmental justice
- **Yes, has at least two** new or strengthened internal working group(s), steering committee(s), council(s) on environmental justice
- DOE serves as a member of the White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council (IAC), which was established in Executive Order 14008; partners with the Department of Transportation (DOT) as part of the Joint Office of Energy and Transportation and the National Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Program to integrate equity and justice into EV infrastructure planning; partners with EPA to create Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers; and works with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to better understand Fair Housing and data sharing needs.

### DOE's Highlights

DOE's Office of Economic Impact and Diversity established the Office of Energy Justice Policy & Analysis to conduct policy analysis, research and evaluation, and technical assistance on federal energy policy and programs to advance equity and environmental justice. The Office leads the

Department's Justice40 Initiative implementation and established three department-wide Communities of Practice and Working Groups to provide internal capacity building and guidance: Justice40 Community of Practice; Stakeholder Engagement Community of Practice; and Energy and Environmental Justice Working Group.

DOE's Office of State and Community Energy Programs was charged with establishing an Office of Community Engagement that will serve as the center point for the Department's outreach and engagement with communities.

DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy created the Equity Community of Practice (ECOP), an informal staff group that shares an interest in energy equity and environmental justice. The ECOP meets monthly to hear from outside stakeholders and experts, discuss best practices and methodologies, identify collaboration opportunities, share data sources, and maintain awareness of external energy equity and justice efforts.

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## **Contact**

Council on Environmental Quality  
730 Jackson Pl NW  
Washington, D.C. 20506  
(202) 395-5750

### **More information**

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

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