

Scorecard Tennessee Valley Authority



Tennessee Valley Authority

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About the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is founded on a mission of service to all people of the Tennessee Valley region, including the region's disadvantaged communities. TVA delivers on this mission through three key service areas: Energy that is reliable, resilient, and low-cost; Economic Development that brings jobs and capital investment to the region; and Environmental Stewardship of our public lands, water, and air.

This page provides information on how **the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)** 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

TVA's Highlights

TVA is committed to the fair treatment and the meaningful involvement of our communities in TVA's decision making. TVA seeks diverse partnerships that deliver broad, inclusive, and positive impacts through investment programs, community engagement, employee volunteerism, and our

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customer and supply chain partnerships. TVA stands proud of the accomplishments and progress in advancing environmental justice principles and practices.

For example:

TVA encouraged public schools in disadvantaged communities to enter the School Uplift Program (SUP) that provides free, strategic energy management training and consultation on low-cost and no-cost energy savings opportunities and may award grants of up to \$200,000 for building energy upgrades. As of the time of reporting for the Phase One Scorecard, about 75 percent of participants are in disadvantaged communities and the largest grants are reserved for schools with demonstrated financial need. Since the program's 2020 inception, TVA has invested nearly \$5 million to serve 54 schools in areas with above average poverty levels. A TVA program piloted since 2021, Community Centered Growth provides local businesses in disadvantaged communities with free energy upgrades that save money and lead to decreased energy use, improved facilities, and reduced carbon emissions. TVA provides funding for facility improvements and manages the upgrade process for businesses in National Opportunity Zones—including disadvantaged areas identified by census data, income, and population. TVA is one of 18 electric utilities participating in the Department of Energy's Partnership for Energy Sector Climate Resilience. This partnership is an initiative to enhance U.S. energy security by improving the resilience of energy infrastructure to extreme weather and climate change impacts. Furthermore, TVA has updated its High-Level Vulnerability Assessment and Resiliency and Adaptation Plan to meet Department of Energy guidelines. TVA is also currently engaging with the Government Accountability Office on resiliency efforts.

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 Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)** has done from January 2021 to September 2022.

For more information, please visit [TVA's Climate Action Adaptation and Resiliency Plan to view an example.](#)

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 Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)** 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:

- TVA specifically aims to ensure access for communities with environmental justice concerns in outreach related to key projects, including in-person community meetings; meeting with local leaders and community action groups specifically focusing on communities with environmental justice concerns; distributing materials in multiple languages; distributing fact sheets and information to local schools and community action agencies in communities with environmental justice concerns; working with local power companies to distribute information; sending direct mail pieces to households near a proposed project; providing phone numbers on materials in lieu of website addresses; and sending hard copy materials directly to homes when requested to COVID-19 restrictions, all public meetings in 2021 were virtual, to ensure community input during the pandemic. In May 2022, TVA held in-person public meetings for the draft Cumberland Retirement and Replacement Generation Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). TVA aimed to improve access for potentially affected communities when setting the location of one of the two meetings. Additional methods were used to reach communities with environmental justice concerns, such as flyers in local food bank boxes that were distributed during the comment period.

Consultation and Partnership with Tribal Nations

Phase One Scorecard metrics and highlights include:

- TVA collaborates with over 20 federally recognized Tribes on a government-to-government basis. These Tribes have a religious and cultural connection to ancestral homelands in the Tennessee Valley and play a vital role in the management of cultural resources on TVA land. TVA is responsible for protecting more than 12,500 archaeological sites on more than 293,000 acres of public land along the Tennessee River and its tributaries, and 470,000 acres of inundated land. For example, in 2020, TVA partnered with Tribes to complete repatriations for 29 archaeological sites and dispositions for two archaeological sites. TVA plans to continue its efforts collaborating, partnering and consulting with Tribes.

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 Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)** has done from January 2021 to September 2022 to institutionalize environmental justice.

Phase One Scorecard metrics and highlights include:

- **Does not have** an environmental justice strategic plan that **has been** updated in the past 5 years
 - However, TVA has a dedicated office leading TVA efforts in developing and maturing the Environmental Justice Program, with goals of increasing strategic and focused outreach, enhancing internal communication, bringing consistency, and aligning and coordinating how we support and engage with people in disadvantaged communities. TVA has established two multidisciplinary environmental justice teams that guide environmental justice priorities across the agency, with a goal of having an environmental justice lens as a core part of TVA's decision-making processes. Efforts of the teams include developing a framework for how TVA will identify communities with environmental justice concerns and their needs, in line with evolving federal policy and guidance; improving our communication and services to such communities; planning strategically to ensure TVA holistically considers its impact on communities when we make operational decisions; and communicating emerging environmental justice policy issues and strategies and sharing progress on development of agency policy positions.
- **TVA's Environmental organization has some** staff that work on environmental justice, either in a full- or part-time capacity
- **2** new or strengthened internal working group(s), steering committee(s), council(s) on environmental justice

TVA's Highlights

TVA is updating and developing internal tools while enhancing engagement and outreach mechanisms to advance environmental justice. TVA's "What's New" newsletter, published and distributed weekly, provides updates on national, regional, and local headlines surrounding environmental justice issues.

Furthermore, TVA collected input on low-income energy equity programs through outreach to key stakeholders such as the Energy Efficiency Information Exchange for Low Income Households, local power company partners, and advisory boards/committees for Weatherization Assistance Program and Low-Income Energy Assistance Program through the Home Uplift Program. TVA partnered with community groups and consulting firms to improve Home Uplift promotional efforts, including community outreach through advocacy groups and cross-referral with organizations offering

social services. One hundred percent of the benefits of the free home energy upgrades are provided to disadvantaged communities.

TVA encouraged minority-owned business participation in TVA's Quality Contractor Network through the Powering Futures Initiatives. By partnering with community-based organizations, such as Valley Goodwill and technical trade schools, TVA can recruit and train weatherization and HVAC workers and qualify businesses for membership in the network. Contractors recruited through Powering Futures are eligible to work in TVA's Home Uplift and Residential Services programs.

Annually, TVA submits its Climate Action Adaptation and Resiliency Plan. This report: discusses how climate change may impact TVA's ability to achieve its mission and how TVA can prioritize and measure its progress and capability to adapt to changes in climate; provides an analytical framework, references, tools and other guidance to help TVA planners understand how to consider climate change and build resilience in the short- and long-term. The plan includes guidance on how to use climate projections that involve multiple future scenarios and different time periods in planning and project designs and identifies affected TVA departments, budgets and actions, consistent with TVA Board direction and guidance.

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