

Scorecard U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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About the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

USACE Civil Works Mission is to serve the public by providing the Nation with quality and responsive management of the Nation's water resources through: Support of commercial navigation; restoration, protection and management of aquatic ecosystems; flood risk management; and providing engineering and technical services in an environmentally sustainable, economic, and technically sound manner with a focus on public safety and collaborative partnerships.

This page provides information on how **the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)** 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 water and wastewater infrastructure.

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This Phase One Scorecard provides an update on initial progress made by **the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)** 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.

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

- **11** Justice40 covered program(s)
- **Over \$1 billion** in funding made available from Justice40 covered programs¹
 - The Continuing Authority Program (CAP) studies focus on disadvantaged communities, such as Stump Creek, a project providing flood mitigation in the small, disadvantaged community in Arkansas.
 - The Cano Martin Pena Ecosystem Restoration project in Puerto Rico includes work to re-establish tidal connections, increase biodiversity, and improve mangrove habitat.
 - The Jefferson County Shore Protection, TX study focuses on a project for ecosystem restoration in the low-income, disadvantaged community of Port Arthur, Texas by restoring and sustaining 6,000 acres of marsh habitat in 6 restoration units located in the J.D. Murphree Wildlife Management Area. This effort is expected to enhance access to nature, fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities for residents of Port Arthur.
- Made program modifications for Justice40 covered programs such as:
 - Many Districts, including the Pittsburgh District, conducted analyses to identify all disadvantaged communities within the District's Area of Responsibility.
 - Many Districts, including the Portland District, reached out to disadvantaged communities under the Silver Jackets program to share information about USACE programs.

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.

Army Corps' Highlights

One key component of this investment is partnering with state, local, and Tribal Nations, as well as private entities to share resources to address the environmental and social-economic needs of disadvantaged communities, especially after natural disasters and emergency situations. USACE uses the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) to identify

disadvantaged communities for Justice40 covered programs, and continues to refine USACE's social vulnerability tools.

USACE is considering revising its benefit-cost analyses for proposed flood and storm damage reduction projects and related investment decisions to provide a more equitable way to account for the welfare benefits of these projects in disadvantaged communities.

Environmental and Civil Rights Protection

Army Corps' Highlights

USACE is working to modernize the Civil Works program through a number of policy initiatives to better serve the needs of Tribal Nations and other disadvantaged and underserved communities. A series of public and Tribal listening sessions were conducted, along with the public docket, and have informed the on-going changes to these USACE policy initiatives.

USACE District-specific efforts include the Honolulu District engagement with the public and local communities, including disadvantaged communities and Indigenous Peoples, to inform decision-making during Civil Works studies and while conducting general outreach with the public. Norfolk District's Regulatory Office is working to develop district-level standard operating procedure agreements with Tribes on regulatory processes.

Pacific Ocean Division had 23 outreach engagements with Alaska Native Villages and 3 outreach efforts with state or non-profit organizations that support Alaska Native communities.

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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)** has done from January 2021 to September 2022.

For more information, please visit [USACE's Environmental Justice Overview](#) .

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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)** has done from January 2021 to September 2022.

Phase One Scorecard metrics and highlights include:

- USACE conducts multiple USACE training classes for NEPA practitioners with a strong focus on environmental justice, and conducts regulatory overview training that focuses on ensuring appropriate consideration of environmental justice issues during NEPA document preparation for Department of the Army Permit applications. Additionally, the USACE Chief of Engineers issued a memo in August 2021 to field commanders regarding preparation of NEPA documents by the Corps Regulatory Program, and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works issued a March 2022 memo providing interim implementation guidance for environmental justice and the Justice40 Initiative.
- **Approximately 38** project modification(s) where environmental justice concerns were raised during the NEPA process
 - On the Haleiwa Section 1122 project, a barge access zone was relocated due to input from a Native Hawaiian Organization to avoid impacts to a historic Hawaiian fishpond.
- **Approximately 5** training(s) on environmental justice considerations during NEPA reviews

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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)** 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:

- USACE conducts outreach events to help improve access to federal environmental justice programs. These events include Silver Jackets, Flood Plain Management Services and Planning Assistance to States events.
- **Approximately 240** technical assistance outreach event(s) in Fiscal Year 2022

- In coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) interagency recovery process, the Louisville District conducted targeted outreach to counties affected by the Eastern KY floods in 2021 and 2022.
- The Alaska District presented Planning Assistance to States and Flood Plain Management Services programs to five Alaska Native Villages.
- In partnership with the California Department of Water Resources Disadvantaged and Tribal Communities program, the San Francisco District delivered 10 special trainings and materials to Tribes and disadvantaged communities on how to use technical assistance programs.
- **Approximately 40** public process(es) related to environmental justice, e.g., requests for information or listening sessions
 - The Walla Walla District is partnering with middle and high school students as part of the Owyhee Ecosystem Restoration Project located within the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe’s Duck Valley Reservation.
 - Within the Portland District, the Operations Division conducted eight public processes that address environmental justice through Tribal engagement.
 - The Flood Plain Management Services Program held workshops which included Tribal Nations, state and other federal agencies, in California, Nevada and Utah to provide state and federal resources to address “flood after fire” concerns and address flood emergency preparedness and recovery.

Consultation and Partnership with Tribal Nations

Phase One Scorecard metrics and highlights include:

- USACE announced in the Federal Register (87 FR 33756) on June 3, 2022, its intent to update its Tribal Consultation Policy, implementation of the Tribal Partnership Program, and other potential rulemaking. Tribal Policy Principles in 2010 were developed as guiding principles for engagement with Federally recognized Tribes. USACE has an enterprise-wide Tribal Consultation Policy that was signed on November 1, 2012 by the Chief of Engineers. The Tribal Partnership Program (Section 203, Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2000, as amended) authorizes USACE to partner with Federally recognized Tribes on water resources development projects that are located primarily in Indian Country (as defined in section 1151 of title 18, including lands that are within the jurisdictional area of an Oklahoma tribe, as determined by the Secretary of the Interior, and are recognized by the Secretary of the Interior as eligible for trust land status under part 151 of title 25, code of Federal Regulations) or in proximity to Alaska Native villages and projects that will substantially benefit Tribes.
- **USACE conducted over 8,000 outreach coordination activities and** Tribal Consultation(s) related to environmental justice from January 2021 to September 2022
 - The Detroit District conducted government-to-government consultation with the Bay Mills Indian Community, the Grand Traverse Bay Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, and the Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Indians, on the evaluation of the removal and relocation of an obelisk that was built on a known burial site.

- The Northwestern Division and the Walla Walla District conducted government-to-government consultation for the successful transition of the management of Dworshak National Fish Hatchery to the Nez Perce Tribe. The transition to Tribal management highlights the fulfillment of USACE’s Tribal policy principles and the implementation of the Biden-Harris Administration’s prioritization of relationships with Tribal Nations that are built on respect for Tribal sovereignty and self-governance.
- The Los Angeles District, with extensive coordination and consultation, returned stone removed from Morro Rock between 1889-1913 to build the Port San Luis breakwater. Morro Rock, known as Lisamu in the Chumash language, is a site sacred to the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians of the Santa Ynez Reservation and the Salinan Tribe of San Luis Obispo. A reunification ceremony was conducted to commemorate the historic transfer.

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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)** has done from January 2021 to September 2022 to institutionalize environmental justice.

Phase One Scorecard metrics and highlights include:

- **Approximately 10** tool(s) or resources to advance environmental justice
- **Approximately 56** staff that work on environmental justice, either in a full- or part-time capacity
- **Approximately 31** internal training(s) for staff on environmental justice
- **3** new or strengthened internal working group(s), steering committee(s), council(s) on environmental justice

Army Corps' Highlights

Nationwide, USACE is improving how it incorporates disadvantaged communities in its policies and activities. This includes work with environmental justice groups, extending the public comment period when needed, and increasing the number of public engagements that reach disadvantaged communities.

To help build a diverse USACE workforce, USACE has yearly representation at recruitment conferences, such as Black Engineer of the Year Award (BEYA), to support Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) recruitment of

students that attend Historically Black Colleges/Universities (HBCU) or other schools. This also allows USACE to work with these schools to identify research and development opportunities that would promote educational investments in disadvantaged communities for those interested in careers in STEM. USACE continues to implement change throughout the Department that reflects Justice40 principles.

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