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**The Environmental Justice Scorecard has been updated.** Phase Two of the Environmental Justice Scorecard was released on July 24, 2024.

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# Department of the Interior

**11 office(s), 2,400 location(s), and 70,000 employees** in Fiscal Year 2023


The Department of the Interior (Interior or the Department) 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.

Interior prioritizes a coordinated and unified whole-of-government approach

## Get Involved

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to environmental justice. Interior’s environmental justice vision statement is to provide outstanding management of the natural and cultural resources entrusted to the Department in a manner that is sustainable, equitable, accessible, and inclusive of all people and communities.

[technical assistance](#) 

To learn more about environmental justice at Interior, please visit Interior's [environmental justice website](#) .

Some examples of well-known Interior offices, bureaus, or agencies are:

- National Park Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Indian Affairs

## Progress on Advancing Environmental Justice

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

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

**Enhancing Climate Resilience in Tribal Communities**

## **Prioritizing Actions to Ensuring Safe Drinking Water**

To help ensure safe drinking water to Tribal communities, in FY 2023, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) completed assessments at 85 BIA-owned public water systems, the majority of which serve BIE-operated schools. This resulted in BIA's very first Public Water System inventory that included baseline conditions of systems serving Tribal communities.

## **ties**

To help Tribal communities plan for the most severe climate-related environmental threats to their homelands, Interior announced the availability of \$120 million in funding in FY 2023. Tribal communities can use this funding to proactively plan to adapt to these threats and safely relocate critical community infrastructure.

## Developing Youth Opportunities

To provide opportunities for college-aged youth to work on initiatives and projects that advance environmental justice, in FY 2023, the National Park Service (NPS) established the Environmental Justice Fellowship program. The fellowship also supports the implementation of a Washington, DC-based environmental justice internship for local high school youth to address environmental justice concerns in their community. The environmental justice internship is facilitated by the University of the District of Columbia, Interior, and NPS.

[Learn more](#) 

This is one of the largest amounts of annual funding made available to Tribal Nations and Tribal organizations in the [history](#) of the BIA [Tribal Climate Annual Awards Program](#), due to President Biden's Investing in America agenda.

[Learn more](#) 

## Supporting Affordable Housing

In FY 2023, Interior and the Department of Housing and Urban Development announced a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MOU) to make it easier and more affordable for local communities in southern Nevada to obtain federal land at below fair market value to build critically needed affordable housing. In implementing the MOU, in April 2023, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) conveyed a five-acre parcel to Clark County, Nevada, for the development of affordable housing for low-income senior citizens.

Learn more 

## Supporting Native Hawaiian Tourism

In FY 2023, Interior announced \$1 million in funding for Native Hawaiian organizations to provide communities with environmental justice concerns access to resources and technical assistance. These efforts build sustainable recreational and cultural travel and tourism infrastructure and capacity, spur economic development, and create jobs.

[Learn more](#) 

## Justice40 Initiative

This section demonstrates progress on the implementation of the Justice40 Initiative at the Department of the Interior in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.


### Overview

To promote Interior's progress in enhancing benefits from Justice40 covered programs, agencies engaged in targeted land

### What is the Justice40 Initiative?

The Justice40 Initiative set the goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits of

acquisition and applied federal funding to covered programs. Interior also provided technical and financial assistance to restore ecosystems, invested in domestic water supplies for communities, expanded opportunities for recreation, and meaningfully engaged communities.

For more information on Interior's Justice40 covered programs, please contact [environmental\\_justice@ios.doi.gov](mailto:environmental_justice@ios.doi.gov) 

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## Justice40 Covered Programs ([show less](#) ^ )

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The Department of the Interior has:

- **75** Justice40 covered program(s), including **29** Justice40 covered program(s) that is/are funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Inflation Reduction Act, or both

### Progress on the Justice40 Initiative

Through President Biden's [Investing in America](#) agenda and other sources, **Interior** has:

approximately

**\$33 billion**

certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution.

[Learn more](#) 

in funds available to obligate (i.e., to spend) in Fiscal Years (FY) 2022 - 2027 through its Justice40 covered programs.<sup>1</sup>

Through President Biden's [Justice40 Initiative](#) , **Interior** is working to deliver benefits to disadvantaged communities. Each program that is part of the Justice40 Initiative delivers benefits in at least one of [seven investment categories](#) , and many programs are delivering benefits to communities across multiple categories of investment. The **75** covered program(s) at **Interior** working to deliver benefits for communities include:

- **64** program(s) protecting communities from the impacts of climate change
- **8** program(s) advancing clean and affordable energy for communities
- **2** program(s) delivering and advancing clean transportation options for communities
- **3** program(s) advancing affordable and sustainable housing
- **14** program(s) delivering training and workforce development benefits



- **16** program(s) addressing the remediation and reduction of legacy pollution
- **20** program(s) delivering critical clean water and wastewater infrastructure benefits

Overall, agencies are making concrete, tangible improvements to benefit disadvantaged communities across America through the Justice40 Initiative. These investments are resulting in cleaner air and water, more affordable clean energy, good-paying jobs, and other results that people are seeing and feeling today and into the future.

*<sup>1</sup>In the Phase Two Scorecard, the Justice40 Initiative section contains information about federal investments that Congress has funded through both discretionary and mandatory appropriations, as well as supplemental appropriations, such as those that Congress made in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Pub. L. 117-58) and the Inflation Reduction Act (Pub. L. 117-169). The Phase Two Scorecard includes information on each agency's budget authority (that is, the total amount of funds that Congress has appropriated to the agency to spend on Justice40 covered programs) and the period of availability (that is, the period of time over which Congress has authorized the agency to spend the funds).*

*In some cases, agencies may not yet have the authority to spend the full amount indicated, such as when Congress has appropriated funds that will only become available in future Fiscal Years. Agencies provided the data presented here in spring 2024, and therefore the data does not*

*reflect the annual appropriations for Fiscal Year 2024 that Congress made in March 2024.*

*Thus, the information that the Phase Two Scorecard presents in this section includes what the agency has available to spend in its Justice40 covered programs (i.e., its budget authority). These figures represent the total funding amount for all Justice40 covered programs, not only the portion that benefits disadvantaged communities.*

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## **Justice40 Covered Program Highlights ([show less ^](#))**

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The Department of the Interior is delivering benefits, or is projected to deliver benefits, for disadvantaged communities through grants or awards made through its Justice40 covered programs, such as:

## Addressing Legacy Pollution

In September 2023, Interior [awarded](#) nearly \$40 million to Tribes for the plugging and remediation of orphaned oil and gas wells across Indian Country. The funding is anticipated to plug and remediate 559 wells to address legacy pollution, reduce harmful methane leaks, and tackle environmental hazards that threaten local communities. In FY 2023, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) [awarded](#) more than \$680 million Abandoned Mine Land (AML) funds from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to 18 states and Tribes. AML reclamation supports jobs in coal communities while improving the environmental health and safety of disadvantaged communities. The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) [awarded](#) two contracts for the decommissioning of nine orphaned wells in the Matagorda Island area in federal waters approximately 12 miles off the Texas coast.

## Funding Critical Water Infrastructure in Tribal Communities

In May 2023, Interior awarded \$48 million across 13 projects to repair and revitalize Tribal water sanitation systems, upgrade irrigation and power projects, and invest in the safety of dams in Tribal communities.

[Learn more](#) 

## Combatting Climate Change in the U.S. Territories

In May 2023, Interior awarded \$12 million in investments from the Inflation Reduction Act for climate change planning, mitigation, adaptation, and resilience for the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This is anticipated to benefit disadvantaged communities in the territories.

[Learn more](#) 

## Funding Announcements ([show less](#) ^ )

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The Department of the Interior has:

- **138** funding announcement(s) covered under the Justice40 Initiative
- **\$6,312,826,000** available through Justice40 covered program(s) funding announcements<sup>2</sup>

### Launching the Tribal Electrification Program

In FY 2023, Interior launched a new program and made available \$72.5 million in initial funding to help Tribal communities electrify homes. The program provides financial and technical assistance to Tribes to accomplish the following: connect homes to transmission and distribution that is powered by renewable energy, provide electricity to unelectrified Tribal homes through zero-emissions energy

systems, transition  
electrified Tribal homes  
to zero-emissions energy  
systems, and support  
associated home repairs  
and retrofitting  
necessary to install zero-  
emissions energy  
systems.

**Learn more** 

## Funding Water Conservation and Efficiency Projects

In April 2023, Interior announced \$140 million in funding for 84 water conservation and efficiency projects in 15 states, which are expected to conserve over 230,000 acre-feet of water when completed. This saves the equivalent of 77 billion gallons of water, which is enough water for more than 940,000 people. One-third of the selected projects are anticipated to deliver benefits to disadvantaged communities.

[Learn more](#) 

## Revitalizing Land in Coal Communities

In FY 2023, Interior awarded \$135 million of Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization (AMLER) grants to return legacy coal mining sites to productive uses through economic and community development. Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia were each allocated \$29.35 million in AMLER funds; Alabama, Ohio, and Virginia were each allocated \$11.74 million; and the Crow Tribe, the Hopi Tribe, and the Navajo Nation were each allocated \$3.91 million.

[Learn more](#) 

*<sup>2</sup>Further, this section also includes funding that was made available through an agency's Justice40 covered programs in FY 2023. The funding was made available through various mechanisms, like grants, loans, agreements, contracts, 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) and the Inflation Reduction Act (Pub. L. 117-169).*

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## **Covered Program Design or Modification ([show less ^](#))**

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The Department of the Interior made program or design modifications to maximize benefits and/or remove barriers or constraints for disadvantaged communities, such as:

## **WaterSMART Provides Technical Assistance and Information**

The Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART program implemented several actions to increase access to information and technical assistance for disadvantaged communities. These included developing an online scheduling tool enabling entities to easily schedule technical consultations with program staff, offering application debriefs for all unsuccessful grant applicants, providing technical assistance focused on funding opportunity criteria, and developing a quarterly newsletter specifically tailored for Federally Recognized Tribes and insular areas on the latest WaterSMART updates (including open funding opportunities, upcoming webinars, and essential program contact information).

## Updated Land and Water Conservation Fund Manual

The National Park Service (NPS) updated its

[Land and Water Conservation Fund \(LWCF\) Manual](#)

to direct states to work more closely with Tribal Nations, disadvantaged communities, and underserved populations during the development of their Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans. In addition to supporting the priorities of Tribal Nations, the plans are a requirement for eligibility to receive LWCF funds. The NPS also requires states to develop an open project selection process that creates more parks in disadvantaged communities in need of recreational areas. In FY 2023, NPS distributed nearly \$300 million from the LWCF to across the 50 states, U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia to support and expand outdoor recreation.

Learn more 

## Implementation of the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool

Consistent with M-23-09, Interior began using the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) as the primary tool to identify geographically defined disadvantaged communities for Justice40 covered programs. For example, in FY 2023, the Fish and Wildlife Service's Fish Passages Program modified its Notices of Funding Opportunity to clarify program goals related to disadvantaged communities, that applicants should use the CEJST to identify disadvantaged communities, and that proposals will be ranked and scored depending on if projects benefits will be directed towards disadvantaged communities.

[Learn more](#) 

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## Justice40 In Action ([show less](#) ^)

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The Department of the Interior is delivering benefits, or is projected to deliver benefits, for disadvantaged communities through the



Justice40 Initiative, including:

### **Economic Revitalization on Tribal Lands**

The Shonto Township is a uniquely governed township within the Navajo Nation with a population of approximately 1,800 and a poverty rate of roughly 30%. The Shonto Township, in conjunction with the Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development, used approximately \$3.3 million of Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization funds to help develop the Shonto Hotel project. The project is currently under construction and is expected to benefit from tourism-related travel to destinations such as the Grand Canyon, Lake Powell, Monument Valley, and the Four Corners.

[Learn more](#) 

### **Tribal Conservation in Alaska**

*Photo credit: Bri Dwyer*

The Bristol Bay region is the largest wild salmon fishery in the world – accounting for 57% of global sockeye salmon harvest. Salmon are incredibly important to the economy of southwest Alaska. The Fish and Wildlife Service’s Coastal Program worked with Pedro Bay

## Recreation Opportunities Expanded for Disadvantaged Communities along the John Day River

Using Land and Water Conservation Funding, the Bureau of Land Management acquired approximately 4,000 acres of property along the lower John Day Wild and Scenic River in Oregon, expanding recreation opportunities to remote and rural communities, including Justice40 communities identified by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool. Private and guided trips for rafting, hunting, and fishing have dramatically increased, bringing tourism dollars to benefit the area.

[Learn more](#) 

Corporation (Corporation), an Alaska Native Village corporation, the Conservation Fund, and the Bristol Bay Heritage Land Trust. This collaboration resulted in the permanent protection of more than 44,000 acres of critical spawning and rearing habitats for sockeye salmon in the Iliamna Lake watershed. The project also preserved important cultural

## Supporting Tribal Employment

In FY 2023, the Bureau of Reclamation awarded the initial Arkansas Valley Conduit contract nearly \$43 million to WCA Construction LLC (WCA) to construct the infrastructure needed to reliably provide municipal and industrial water to 39 communities in Southeastern Colorado. WCA is a wholly owned economic enterprise of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. As a Tribal enterprise, WCA is dedicated to the employment, training, and development of vocational skills for Tribal community members. This policy has resulted in approximately 70% of WCA's total workforce being Tribal members or members of communities with environmental justice concerns.

[Learn more](#) 

traditions and subsistence activities. By selling the conservation easement, the Corporation generates revenue to provide long-term financial stability of the Dena'ina Athabascan people.

[Learn more](#) 

## 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 Department of the Interior has done in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

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## **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Environmental Justice** ([show less](#) ^)

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This section demonstrates progress on environmental protections, such as the National Environmental Policy Act, at the Department of the Interior in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

The responsibilities and requirements for implementing environmental justice requirements apply to all applicable Department of the Interior bureaus/offices and their existing and future programs,

### **What is NEPA?**

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to consider and disclose



policies, and activities. Bureaus/offices implement environmental justice policies, guidance, and procedures that meet their individual missions and mandates. For more information, please visit DOI's [website](#) .

## Project Modifications

- **33** project modification(s) where environmental justice concerns were raised during NEPA process, including:

## Protecting Subsistence Resources

In FY 2023, pursuant to comments received during Tribal consultation with the Cantwell Native Village in Alaska over blueberry subsistence opportunities in the proposed project area, the Bureau of Land Management conducted a vegetation survey. The survey identified areas likely to contain a higher concentration of blueberries and as a result, the proposed action was modified to exclude those areas.

## Protecting Historic Properties

In FY 2023, due to archaeological resource concerns raised in Tribal consultation with the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah & Ouray Reservation, the Bureau of Land

the environmental health and community impacts of certain decisions or actions before taking them.

[Learn more](#) 

Management worked with the project proponent to reroute the proposed linear developments to avoid potential physical impacts to multiple identified historic properties. Ongoing Tribal consultation also identified that the project area is part of a larger, ethnohistoric landscape important to the Tribe.

## Modifying Facility Plans

In consultation with the Tohono O’odham Nation, the Fish and Wildlife Service put on hold a proposed demolition of a building at the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge. The building once provided meals to Tribal members.

## Training

- **57** agency training(s) on how to consider environmental justice considerations during NEPA reviews
- **Over 550** employees trained on how to consider environmental justice during NEPA reviews

For example, the U.S. Geological Service (USGS) provides training to staff for environmental compliance, including on NEPA and associated analyses as needed to project managers. In FY 2023, there were three trainings provided to various Science Centers. In addition, USGS provided electronic resources that provide

training on NEPA, including the requirement to evaluate potential impacts related to environmental justice, to all USGS staff.

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## **Environmental or Health Protection** ([show less](#) ^ )

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This section demonstrates progress by the Department of the Interior on environmental or health protection that also advances environmental justice in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

Interior advances environmental justice by providing environmental or health protection in multiple forms and venues. Examples include: the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) conducting annual safety inspections and Emergency Management Accreditation Program audits of BIE-operated Tribal schools, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) conducting annual safety inspections of BIA-operated Tribal dams.

## **Reclamation of Tribal Lands and Resources**

In FY 2023, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement administered three terminations of jurisdiction and three reclamation liability release for mined lands on the Navajo and Hopi Reservations. These actions document the successful reclamation of these mined lands, protection of the human environment, and are important steps towards returning these lands and resources to the Tribes.

## **Revised Rule Permits the Reburial of Native American Human Remains**

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) revised its [regulations](#) pertaining to public conduct on Reclamation facilities, lands, and waterbodies – available at 43 CFR Part 423 – to allow for Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) reburials. The rule was developed in consultation with Tribal Nations and became effective December 21, 2023. This reburial provision allows permitted reburials of ancestral Native American human remains, and cultural items on Reclamation facilities, lands, or waterbodies, which previously was prohibited.

## Meaningful Involvement on Legacy Pollution Cleanup Prioritization

In April 2023, the Bureau of Land Management issued a [Permanent Instruction Memorandum](#) requiring its state offices to develop and annually update a State Environmental Cleanup Action Plan that will identify and prioritize all contaminated sites within their jurisdictions. The state offices are required to develop the plan through a meaningful public involvement process, including with communities with environmental justice concerns.

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## Civil Rights and Environmental Justice ([show less](#) ^)

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This section demonstrates progress on civil rights related to environmental justice, for example, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or relevant laws other than Title VI of the Civil Rights Act at the Department of the Interior in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

Interior responds to submitted civil rights and environmental justice-related complaints and

environmental justice-related complaints and investigations and conducts compliance reviews routinely throughout the year. For example, in FY 2023, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) opened two compliance reviews on Alabama's Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program and New Mexico's Abandoned Mine Land Program. OSMRE conducts these compliance reviews to determine whether recipients are providing programs and activities equitably based on race, color, national origin, age, disability, and sex (in educational programs). OSMRE continues to review and analyze data submission and anti-discrimination policies to ensure enforcement of civil rights laws and statutes based on federal financial assistance provided in the form of grants to each state program.

In September 2023, Interior released a [fact sheet](#) that specifies how the Title VI requirements apply to its federally funded programs and activities and how to report incidents of discrimination. The Bureau of Land Management enhanced the public-facing [interactive map](#) that highlights accessibility for people with disabilities. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management developed a Language Access Plan for its Pacific Region.

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## **Title VI and Environmental Justice** ([show less](#) ^)

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This section demonstrates progress on

**What is**

civil rights related to environmental justice, such as under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, at the Department of the Interior in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

Interior's Title VI efforts ensure that recipients of financial assistance operate without discrimination and that all persons have equal opportunity to participate in Interior's programs and activities.

- **5** open Title VI investigation(s) or compliance review(s) related to environmental justice
- **3** closed Title VI investigation(s) or resolution agreement(s) related to environmental justice

## Training

- **7** agency training(s) on Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and environmental justice
- **290** employee(s) trained on Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and environmental justice

## Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964?

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 subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance on account of race, color, or national origin.



## 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 Department of the Interior in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

In FY 2023, Interior bureaus conducted engagement events such as public meetings, listening sessions, and workshops, as well as developed partnerships with organizations and educational institutions, to enhance awareness of their programs and services. For example, in FY 2023, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement executed a cooperative agreement with the University of Alaska's Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program to provide training and learning opportunities to students in Alaska, with the goal of developing the next generation of lifelong conservation stewards.

In FY 2023, Interior bureaus evaluated opportunities to increase access and awareness of programs and funding. For example, the Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) Native American Affairs Program notified each Tribe of funding opportunities, encouraged them to submit

applications, and provided support in developing project scopes and budgets. The program also sends a “Dear Tribal Leader” letter to each Tribe notifying them of funding opportunities as they are initiated and hosted a webinar focused on Tribal funding to help Tribes apply for Reclamation funding opportunities.

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### Technical Assistance ([show less ^](#))

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- **Over 330** technical assistance outreach event(s) to improve access and information about federal programs related to environmental justice

For more information on the Department of the Interior’s technical assistance events, please visit

<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/>

## **Management of Natural Resources Assistance**

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) partners with the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society (NAFWS) to provide support, technical assistance, and education to Tribal Nations in the management of natural resources. In FY 2023, BIA and NAFWS provided a series of webinars on BIA's invasive species grant process and hosted invasive species workshops. NAFWS also hosted a national conference and regional conferences in which BIA provided informational sessions pertaining to natural resource management, recreation, and agriculture resources and funding. The conferences also provided an opportunity for attendees to share project updates and findings throughout Indian Country.

## **Abandoned Mine Lands Program Assistance**

In FY 2023, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) provided in-person technical assistance to the Navajo and Hopi Reservations abandoned mine lands programs and impacted communities to support development of Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization financial assistance applications. As a result, two projects on the Navajo Reservation have received funding and one project on the Hopi Reservation is being developed for submission.

## **Working with Small Businesses**

In FY 2023, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) met with over 100 vendors certified as a Small Disadvantaged Business, 8(a) Business Development Small Business, HUBZone Small Business Program, Minority Owned Business, or a Tribal Owned Business to increase awareness of opportunities to work with BSEE.

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

- **Over 130** public process(es) related to environmental justice, e.g., requests for information or listening sessions, including:

### **Japanese American Confinement Education Grants Guidelines**

Through outreach to Japanese American communities, eligible organizations, and the public, the National Park Service requested input on the guidelines and criteria for the Norman Y. Mineta Japanese American Confinement Education [Grants](#) , a new category of grants that will be administered through the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program.

## **Tribal Engagement for Mined Lands**

In FY 2023, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) gathered comments and concerns from community members, through hosted meetings on the Navajo Reservation. The topic concerned OSMRE's decision to release certain mined areas at the Kayenta Mine Complex from applicable reclamation liability. The release of reclamation liability is an important step towards returning these lands and resources to the Tribes so they can be used to their benefit.

## Supporting Tribes and Tribal Nations, Local Governments for Climate-Driven Coastal Hazards

In FY 2023, the U.S. Geological Survey's Integrated Climate-Driven Coastal Hazards program aims to integrate community needs into coastal hazards products that feed directly into local planning processes. Numerous outreach events were conducted to identify end-user needs and preferences to inform production and science development.

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

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This section demonstrates progress on Tribal partnerships and consultations at the Department of the Interior, 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.

In FY 2023, Interior [announced](#) new policies and procedures to strengthen and fulfill Interior's responsibility to ensure regular and meaningful consultation with American

Indian and Alaska Native Tribes, as well as a second policy for consultation with Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act Corporations. It is a priority for Interior to strengthen the government-to-government relationship with sovereign Tribal Nations, as well as with Alaska Native Villages.

- **Approximately 1,500** Tribal Consultation(s) related to environmental justice

### **Federal Government-Wide Consultation Training Modules**

To implement the [Presidential Memorandum](#) on Uniform Standards for Tribal Consultation, which directs the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, in consultation with Tribal Nations, to establish [training modules](#) regarding Tribal consultation for all federal agencies, Interior conducted Tribal consultation on the key elements of the training in April 2023. The training will be required for all employees who work with Tribal Nations or on policies with Tribal implications.



## Indigenous Knowledge Policy Development

In February 2023, Interior [conducted](#) Tribal consultation on a draft Department-wide policy to respect, and equitably promote the inclusion of, Indigenous Knowledge in the Department's decision-making, program implementation, and other activities.

## Transferring Facility for Tribal Use

In FY 2023, the Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs [transferred](#) the Cat Point Creek Lodge located on Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge to the Rappahannock Tribe to serve as an Indigenous Environmental and Conservation Education Center. Tribal citizens and the public will learn about Indigenous Knowledge practices for stewarding the land through exhibits, classes, and outdoor activities. In addition, the Tribe was awarded a \$750,000 Chesapeake Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense (WILD) grant that will help the Tribe re-acquire 703 acres of ancestral homelands.

- **Approximately 15** Tribal listening sessions and other engagements related to environmental justice

For example, Interior conducts Tribal listening sessions as a mechanism to share information with Tribal representatives or to seek information from Tribal representatives. Examples of Interior hosted Tribal listening sessions in FY 2023 include: The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

(OSMRE) hosted two listening sessions at each Tribal Nation that qualifies for Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) funding (Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe, and Crow Tribe), to provide information on financial assistance available through OSMRE under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). OSMRE will distribute approximately \$10.9 billion in BIL AML grants to eligible states and Tribes equally on an annual basis over a 15-year period, which is approximately \$725 million per year. States and Tribes are encouraged to prioritize using the BIL funds on AML projects that provide employment opportunities to current and former employees of the coal industry, and to promote the revitalization of disadvantaged communities affected by the coal industry, to advance the goal of the Justice40 Initiative and promote the revitalization of coal communities.

## Training

- **Over 20** agency training(s) on Tribal Consultation or working with Tribes and Indigenous Peoples to advance environmental justice
- **Over 350** employees trained on Tribal Consultation or working with Tribes and Indigenous Peoples to advance environmental justice

For example, trainings provide staff with knowledge on resources, policies, and

guidance on Tribal treaty rights, Tribal sovereignty, Interior's Trust responsibilities, Tribal relations, Tribal Consultation, Indigenous Knowledge, Tribal co-stewardship, and cultural competency.

## Institutionalizing Environmental Justice

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

### Overview

Interior continues to evaluate modifying existing or creating new policies and procedures as an opportunity to advance environmental justice. For instance, in FY 2023, Interior formed its Environmental Justice Steering Committee to coordinate the development and implementation of Departmental policies, programs, and initiatives that support Interior's efforts to advance environmental justice. The Steering Committee is comprised of representatives from each of Interior's bureaus and offices.

- **Over 430** staff who work on

**Meaningfully Consider Environmental Justice Implications of Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement's**

environmental justice, either in a full- or part-time capacity

- **40** new or strengthened office(s) or program(s) on environmental justice

## Training

- **65** agency training(s) for staff on environmental justice
- **Over 760** employee(s) trained on environmental justice

For example, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) provides two environmental justice training sessions for new employees annually. Through these trainings, new employees are made aware of BOEM's environmental justice responsibilities, are able to consider their new position's role in supporting those responsibilities, and know whom to contact regarding environmental justice issues.

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

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- **Has** issued or updated policy, guidance, or directives related to environmental justice (internal or external)

## Decisions

In FY 2023, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement's (BSEE) released its 2023-2026 Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan includes an objective to engage people, communities, and organizations with environmental justice concerns to help mitigate impact to communities. BSEE is employing strategies to ensure it:

## **Environmental Justice Implementation Policy (IM-045)**

In FY 2023, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement's (BSEE) Director issued an Instructional Memorandum (IM-045, Environmental Justice Implementation Policy) mandating bureau decision-makers strengthen consideration of environmental justice in program implementation and regional activities as well as advance meaningful engagement and outreach with communities potentially affected by BSEE's actions.

## **Accountability for Advancing Environmental Justice**

At the end of FY 2023, Interior developed employee performance appraisal plan (EPAP) standards on advancing environmental justice that are now required in all Senior Executive Service EPAPs starting in FY 2024.

(1) is knowledgeable about the past and potential impacts experienced by communities with environmental justice concerns stemming from activities on the Outer Continental Shelf; (2) possesses the capacity to regularly engage with communities and monitor and respond to environmental justice concerns; and (3) meaningfully

- **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](#)

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### Advancing Environmental Justice Tools or Resources ([show less](#) ^ )

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- **12** tool(s) or resources that advance environmental justice, including access to health, environmental or other impacts, such as:

considers environmental justice implications in bureau decisions and enforces compliance measures designed to mitigate those impacts.

[Learn more](#) 

## **Socioeconomic Profiles Tool**

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Socioeconomic Profiles is a web-based tool that provides an overview of demographic and economic conditions in counties and states near BLM Field Offices and National Conservation Land units. Users can explore local data on economics, demographics, land use, economic sectors, and other topics. Each topic includes a discussion of how to use socioeconomic characteristics to understand an area and its relationship to BLM managed lands.



## Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Environmental Justice Website

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) launched its environmental justice website to share information with employees and the public on BOEM's work to advance environmental justice.

[Learn more](#) 

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## Advancing Institutional Partnerships or Federal Advisory Committees

([show less](#) ^)

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- **13** new or strengthened internal agency working group(s), committee(s), or partnership(s) to advance environmental justice, or new federal advisory committee(s) on environmental justice
- **6** new or existing federal advisory committee(s) related to environmental justice

## Supporting Tribal Water and Sanitation Infrastructure

In FY 2023, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the Department of Health and Human Services' Indian Health Service [announced](#) a new [Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MOU) to advance safe drinking water and community sanitation infrastructure projects across Indian Country. Through the MOU, the agencies agree to collaborate to complete studies, plan, and design the construction of domestic water infrastructure projects. The collaboration is aimed at accelerating completion of such facilities in Tribal communities. In FY 2023, Reclamation made \$320 million [available](#) for Tribal domestic water supply projects, as part of an overall \$550 million allocated through the Inflation Reduction Act for domestic water assistance for disadvantaged communities, advancing the goal of the Justice40 Initiative.

## **Increasing Diversity in the Ocean Studies Workforce**

In FY 2023, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) sponsored the establishment of a National Academies committee, Developing a Just and Inclusive Culture in the U.S. Ocean Studies Community. The committee's goal is to ascertain the impediments, including past social policies leading to marginalization, and identify evidence-based approaches for increasing the racial and ethnic diversity and Indigenous, Alaska Native, American Indian, and Native American participation in the ocean studies workforce.

## Supporting Air Quality Monitoring

In FY 2023, the Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge launched the Environmental Justice Air Quality Monitoring program in collaboration with Mountain View neighborhood and the Pueblo of Isleta. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) gave FWS funding to start a high technology local air system and to train community leaders and students on the air system. The Environmental Justice Air program hired staff through a partnership with Lands Conservation Corps. This area of Albuquerque has high poverty rates, two Superfund sites, and more than 40 other industrial sites regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency.

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

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Interior participates in the [White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council](#) (IAC), which President Biden established

in 2021 and expanded in 2023 through executive orders on tackling the climate crisis and environmental justice.

Interior also participates in the National Science and Technology Council's Environmental Justice Subcommittee, launched in 2023 as provided by President Biden's executive order on environmental justice. The purpose of the Environmental Justice Subcommittee is to address the need for a coordinated federal strategy to identify and address gaps in science, data, and research related to environmental justice.

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) also hosts the New York Bight Environmental Justice Quarterly [Forums](#) comprised of federal and state government partners and community-based organizations that are working towards building an iterative engagement framework for communities affected by offshore wind projects in the New York and New Jersey area.

The Department of the Interior worked side-by-side with other federal agencies to advance a whole of government approach to environmental justice, including:

## **Increasing Access to Outdoor Recreation**

To increase opportunities for access for underserved, Tribal, and low-income youth to public lands, with a goal of approximately 500,000 additional youth visits annually, in FY 2023, the Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation, which includes the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureaus of Land Management and Reclamation, and other federal agencies, is advancing a transportation grant Initiative to collaborate on opportunities.

## Testing the Feasibility of Reintroducing Salmon in the Upper Columbia Basin

The Bureau of Reclamation, Bonneville Power Administration, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are preparing the Phase 2 Implementation Plan: Testing the Feasibility of Reintroducing Salmon in the Upper Columbia Basin (P2IP) Programmatic Environmental Assessment. The P2IP involves activities over approximately 20 years to test the reintroduction of salmon in the Upper Columbia River Basin. Returning salmon to their historic habitats in the upper Columbia River will restore Tribal traditional and cultural practices related to salmon.

[Learn more](#) 

## **Portland-Vancouver Canopy Collective**

In FY 2023, the Fish and Wildlife Service's Columbia Pacific Northwest Region led the creation of the new coalition, Portland-Vancouver Canopy Collective to increase tree canopy in underserved neighborhoods and disadvantaged communities. The Collective was successful in securing a \$7 million grant from the Department of Agriculture's Urban and Community Forestry Program to plant 3,000 street trees in four underserved neighborhoods and disadvantaged communities, employed 24 youth in living wage internships, and connected people to nearby nature and national wildlife refuges.

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[Return to top](#)



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