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

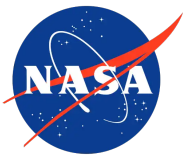
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# National Aeronautics and Space Administration

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**11 location(s), 18,343 employees, and 1,435 new hire(s)** in Fiscal Year 2023

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) explores the unknown in air and space, innovates for the benefit of humanity, and inspires the world through discovery.

NASA Earth science helps communities across the world adapt to changing environmental conditions.


Environmental justice efforts within the agency focus on providing trusted data and support resources to researchers, policymakers, and the public. Through strategic partnerships and capacity building activities, NASA strives to maximize the application of Earth science to solve real-world problems.

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

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

- Science Mission Directorate
- Office of STEM Engagement
- Office of Strategic Infrastructure

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## Progress on Advancing Environmental Justice

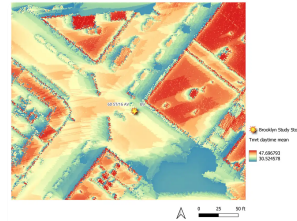
This section demonstrates key progress on advancing environmental justice at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

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

### Improving Accessibility, Discoverability, and Usability of Earth System Data

NASA strives to provide equitable access to Earth data, including through open data policies and ongoing migration of datasets to the cloud. In so doing, the agency advances environmental justice by lowering systemic barriers to entry into the scientific community.

[Learn more](#) 



### NASA DEVELOP Helps Communities and Organizations Address Environmental Justice Concerns with Earth Observing Satellites

Photo credit:  
NASA

Through DEVELOP, a workforce development and

## Assessing Environmental Impact of NASA's Activities

NASA maintains robust environmental management processes to help assess and minimize the impact of activities at NASA centers and launch facilities on local communities.

[Learn more](#) 

capacity building program, NASA partners with organizations to inform decisions related to environmental justice. In FY 2023, DEVELOP conducted 13 feasibility studies addressing environmental justice concerns, including climate, disasters, air quality, water resources, and wildland fires. Extreme heat is a growing

## Maximizing the Societal Benefit of Earth Science through Equity and Environmental Justice Applications

NASA's Equity and Environmental Justice (EEJ) program focuses on bridging the gap between basic and applied science to maximize the utility and impact of Earth information. The EEJ program provides competitive research and training opportunities relevant to EEJ applications of Earth science that advance equity and environmental justice.

[Learn more](#) 

concern to many organizations, including those that partnered with DEVELOP to better understand heat vulnerability at bus stops in New York City.

[Learn more](#) 

## Justice40 Initiative

This section demonstrates progress on the implementation of the Justice40 Initiative at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.


### Overview

NASA has two Earth science programs

### What is the Justice40 Initiative?

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

covered under the Justice40 Initiative:  
Applied Sciences: Climate Resilience and  
Applied Sciences: Community Action. These  
programs provide funding, training, and  
resources to environmental justice  
researchers, disadvantaged communities,  
and local decision-makers.

For more information on NASA's Justice40  
covered programs, please contact  
<https://appliedsciences.nasa.gov/contact> 

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

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The National Aeronautics and Space  
Administration has:

- **2** Justice40 covered program(s)

### Progress on the Justice40 Initiative

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

approximately

**\$10.4 million**

in funds available to obligate (i.e., to  
spend) in Fiscal Years (FY) 2022 - 2023  
through its Justice40 covered

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

[Learn more](#) 

programs.<sup>1</sup>

Through President Biden's [Justice40 Initiative](#), **NASA** 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 **2** covered program(s) at **NASA** working to deliver benefits for communities include:

- **2** program(s) protecting communities from the impacts of climate change
- **1** program(s) advancing clean and affordable energy for communities
- **1** program(s) delivering and advancing clean transportation options for communities
- **1** program(s) advancing affordable and sustainable housing
- **1** program(s) delivering training and workforce development benefits
- **1** program(s) addressing the remediation and reduction of legacy pollution

- **1** 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 National Aeronautics and Space Administration is delivering benefits, or is projected to deliver benefits, for disadvantaged communities through grants or awards made through its Justice40 covered programs, such as:

## NASA-Funded Project Uses Space-Based Data to Improve Community Health

Researchers at the University of California, Irvine are working to combine NASA data and participatory Geographic Information System mapping to study urban heat, air pollutants, and greenspace in southeast Los Angeles, California, in partnership with a local organization. This project advances environmental justice and improves community health by disseminating exposure information and promoting greenspace access. This project was funded by the Applied Sciences: Community Action Program, which is a Justice40 covered program, and it will run through September 2024.

[Learn more](#) 

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## Funding Announcements

([show less](#) ^)

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The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has:

- **2** funding announcement(s) covered under the Justice40 Initiative

- **\$4.2 million** available through Justice40 covered program(s) funding announcements<sup>2</sup>

### **ROSES-23 A.47 Earth Action: Community Action for Equity and Environmental Justice**

To advance equity and environmental justice, NASA sought proposals for the creation of geospatial tools that integrate Earth science and socioeconomic data to inform environmental decision-making. NASA encouraged proposals to be developed in collaboration with disadvantaged communities, including those identified by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool.

## **ROSES-23 A.67 Earth Action: Supporting Climate Resilient Communities**

NASA sought proposals to support communities, including disadvantaged communities, in building resilience to climate impacts through application of NASA Earth observations. Proposals focused on informing local decision-making and were required to include engagement with organizations that assist in knowledge sharing between stakeholders.

*<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).*

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

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration made program or design modifications to maximize benefits and/or remove barriers or constraints for disadvantaged communities, such as:

### Funded Co-Investigators

As part of the “Earth Action: Community Action for Equity and Environmental Justice” funding solicitation, NASA introduced a new requirement to promote equity and participation of disadvantaged populations. The new guidance required that the proposed investigator team include an end-user who is part of the affected community. This team member must be in a funded role as either the Principal Investigator or Co-Investigator on the proposed project.

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

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration is delivering benefits, or is projected to deliver benefits, for

**NASA's  
Indigenou**

disadvantaged communities through the Justice40 Initiative, including:

### **NASA-Funded Environmental Justice Researcher Responds to Devastating Lāhainā Fires**

NASA's Earth science data and tools help communities prepare for and respond to natural disasters such as hurricanes and wildfires. In August 2023, a NASA-led team was working in Maui County when wildfires broke out. The team acted quickly to provide local partners with maps and satellite data and later deployed an application to support damage assessments that helped distribute more than \$6 million in aid to 6,000 Maui residents impacted by the fires. This project was funded through the Equity and Environmental Justice component of NASA's Applied Science: Community Action Program, which is a Justice40 covered program.

### **s Peoples Initiative Partners with Karuk Tribe to Address Environmental Concerns**

*Photo credit:  
NASA*

NASA's Indigenous Peoples Initiative collaborated with the Karuk Department of Natural Resources (KDNR) to create the Remote Sensing of Wildfires and Watersheds workshop. This workshop focused on the Karuk Tribe's landscape monitoring

needs and introduced KDNR staff to data and tools for addressing wildfires, vegetation health, drought, and more. The agenda included hands-on activities, lectures, and time for reflection and discussion.

## 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 National Aeronautics and Space Administration 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 National Aeronautics and Space Administration in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

NASA includes environmental justice in Environmental Assessments (EAs) and Environmental Impact Statements (EISs)

### What is NEPA?

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



in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and its implementing regulations. Environmental justice is also included in the NEPA 101 course available through NASA's internal training system, informing managers of the requirement to include environmental justice in all EAs and EISs.

## Training

- **1** agency training(s) on how to consider environmental justice considerations during NEPA reviews
- **25** employees trained on how to consider environmental justice during NEPA reviews

For example, the NEPA module available in the agency training system cites the requirement for environmental justice to be included in Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements prepared for NASA programs and projects. New program and project managers are expected to complete this NEPA module, equating to an estimate of dozens of employees trained each year. Center NEPA Managers also occasionally provide NEPA trainings, which also include environmental justice considerations as an integral part of NASA's NEPA analysis.

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

[Learn more](#) 

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

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 National Aeronautics and Space Administration in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

In FY 2023, NASA developed new or updated Language Access Plans (LAPs) for all ten NASA Centers to establish a more equitable communication strategy for reaching members of limited English proficiency populations in nearby communities. The plans outline actions to implement the agency-wide LAP to identify the languages of greatest need for each service area and provide guidance to personnel on when and how to provide services in languages other than English. In the future, NASA will leverage LAPs to improve opportunities for community engagement during environmental management processes.

## **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 National Aeronautics and Space

Administration in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

NASA seeks to maximize the societal benefit of federal investments in Earth science missions and research. To achieve this, the agency promotes collaboration with community organizations, educational institutions, and other non-federal partners to understand user needs, expedite real-world applications, and advance environmental justice in decision-making.

NASA is committed to providing equitable access to the agency's data and tools, including those that can be used to identify and respond to environmental challenges. As part of this effort, eight new datasets relevant to climate and environmental justice were made available in FY 2023.

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

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

### **NASA Holds UNBOUND Workshops on Environmental Issues**

Environmental justice is one of several high-priority domains identified by the NASA's Earth Science Division. NASA's Understanding Needs to Broaden Outside Use of NASA Data (UNBOUND) workshops help promote discoverability and usability of NASA data and tools. These workshops provide a mechanism for user engagement to help define barriers and broaden use of NASA Earth data in communities outside of traditional research pipelines. Two UNBOUND workshops in FY 2023 focused on topics of relevance to environmental justice, including [air quality](#) and [coastal issues](#) .

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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 National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 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 response to the 2021 Presidential Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships, NASA developed a [Plan of Action](#) to Implement the Policies and Directives of Executive Order 13175.

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

For example, in January 2023, NASA hosted a virtual forum and listening session with Tribal representatives to advance Executive Order 13175 on “Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments.” While not specifically centered on environmental justice, feedback received during this session underscored the importance of access to NASA data for Tribal research, landscape monitoring, and natural resource management. This feedback was provided to NASA’s Earth Science Division and Indigenous Peoples Initiative for further action.

## Institutionalizing Environmental Justice

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

### Overview

NASA has embedded environmental justice within relevant internal and external facing policies, including in the agency's [Climate Strategy](#) ) and [Equity Action Plan](#) . In alignment with other agency directives, and in response to Executive Order 14096, NASA is also developing an Environmental Justice Strategic Plan, which will further institutionalize environmental justice within the agency

- **1** staff who work on environmental justice, either in a full- or part-time capacity
- **1** new or strengthened office(s) or program(s) on environmental justice

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



Photo credit:  
NASA

### **NASA Collaborates with Federal Partners to Launch the Earth Information Center**

In FY 2023, NASA partnered with the

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

### **NASA Releases Climate Strategy to Maximize Impact of Earth Science Programs**

In March 2023, NASA released its Climate Strategy which outlined efforts the agency is taking to support stakeholders – including at-risk and underserved communities – in preparing for and responding to climate change.

**Learn more** 

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Geological Survey, Department of Agriculture, USAID, Environmental Protection Agency, and Federal Emergency Management Agency to launch the Earth Information Center (EIC), a central hub for Earth data across the government. The EIC promotes access to and use of federal data

## NASA 2023 Equity Action Plan Focuses on Environmental Justice

Strategy #3 of NASA's 2023 Equity Action Plan focused on agency actions to advance equity in climate data accessibility and environmental justice. This strategy focused on capacity-building activities, open data policies, and citizen science programs.

[Learn more](#) 

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

for studying the Earth-human system and addressing environmental concerns. Thus far, three stories related to environmental justice have been published through the EIC on air quality, natural disasters, and agriculture.

[Learn more](#) 



## NASA's Environmental Justice Data Catalog

NASA's Environmental Justice Data Catalog provides a repository for datasets that may be useful in environmental justice research, organized by topic – such as extreme heat, food availability, and air quality. In FY 2023, work began to incorporate the Environmental Justice Data Catalog into NASA's Environmental Justice Data Search Interface, which is powered by the Science Discovery Engine. This search engine offers an open-source science infrastructure that enables collaborative and interdisciplinary environmental justice research.

[Learn more](#) 

## Environmental Justice Backgrounder

NASA's Earth Science Data Systems (ESDS) Program has created an Environmental Justice Data Backgrounder to provide information on NASA data that can be used to support environmental and climate justice efforts. This public resource also highlights use cases showing how scientists and decision-makers are applying datasets to assess the vulnerability and exposure of communities to environmental challenges.

Learn more 

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## Advancing Institutional Partnerships or Federal Advisory Committees ([show less](#) ^)

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- **1** 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

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## Interagency Collaboration

([show less](#) ^ )

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NASA collaborates actively with other federal agencies to enable resource-sharing and facilitate coordination on environmental justice goals.

Collaboration takes many forms, including joint Earth observation missions, interagency meetings, and groups such as the U.S. Global Change Research Program, and staff-level discussions.

NASA also participates in the National Science and Technology Council's Environmental Justice Subcommittee, launched in 2023 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 National Aeronautics and Space Administration worked side-by-side with other federal agencies to advance a whole of government approach to environmental justice, including:

## **NASA and USAID Join Forces to Address Environmental Challenges**

On November 4, 2022, NASA and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to expand collaborative efforts in development areas of countries with emerging economies, such as disaster response and environmental management. This MOU builds off a long-standing partnership on SERVIR, which facilitates application of Earth data to improve community resilience, including a focus on gender and social inclusion of disadvantaged communities, and supports locally led efforts to address environmental concerns related to climate change, water security, land management, air quality, and more.

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