



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SUBCOMMITTEE AND ACTION PLAN

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Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

Agenda Item #3



Mission of the EJ Subcommittee

- Develop an action plan to assist members on how to consider equity when implementing air quality policies, projects, and programs.
- The EJ subcommittee will lead the plan development and seek input from MWAQC, ACPAC, TAC and external stakeholders.
- Local and state members can voluntarily choose to implement/enforce that which is within their own jurisdictions.



EJ Subcommittee Activities to Date

- Held monthly meetings, including
 - Presentations on active hyper-local monitoring projects
 - Public input and community feedback
 - development of a complete list and priority of strategies and actions to address air quality in communities historically disfavored or overburdened
- The list was informed by public comment provided to the subcommittee and from insights gained from public listening sessions held around the region by AECOM. Key points have included:
 - Public Engagement
 - Air Monitoring
 - Emission Sources
 - Air Pollutants
 - Community Health Risks
 - Action Plan
 - Control Measures
 - Permits

Draft Action Plan Overview

- The draft Action Plan based on public and stakeholder engagement covers the following:
 - Air Quality in the region
 - Equity and Environmental Justice
 - Strategies to Improve Air Quality
 - Recommended Actions
 - Call to Action



West Falls Church rendering (WMATA)



Air Quality in the Region

- This chapter provides a foundation for the rest of the plan covering:
- Key Pollutants
- Sources
- Monitoring
- Regulation Control Methods
- Regional Trends



Equity and Environmental Justice

- This chapter highlights the disproportionate impact of air pollution on underserved communities and emphasizes the need for inclusive and equitable policies. Key points include:
- Uneven Distribution of Pollution
- Health Disparities
- Equity-Focused Policies
- Community Engagement
- Regulatory Integration
- Monitoring and Accountability



Strategies to Improve Air Quality

- Improve Air Quality Monitoring
- Foster Stronger Partnerships
- Improve Air Quality Regulation
- Increase Public Outreach and Education
- Reduce Emissions from Stationary Sources
- Reduce Vehicle Emissions
- Promote Land Use Planning



Recommended Actions

High Priority Actions:

- Advocate for stronger ambient air quality standards
- Facilitate knowledge sharing of success stories
- Enhance enforcement of fugitive dust and pollution sources
- Require additional controls at stationary point sources
- Retrofit diesel vehicles and transition fleets to zero-emission vehicles
- Promote public transportation and reduce idling of heavy-duty vehicles
- Increased air quality monitoring



Recommended Actions

Medium and Low Priority Actions:

- Deploy hyper-local and mobile air quality monitors
- Develop new local voluntary bundle measures
- Educate the public on data center control measures
- Evaluate local land use zoning for pollution sources
- Limit highway expansion projects in impacted areas
- Increase jurisdictional control and incorporate EJ in SIPs
- Reduce vehicle miles traveled for public transportation
- Partner with health departments and expand hyper-local monitoring partnerships



Call to Action

- Enhance Air Quality Monitoring: Expand monitoring systems and public outreach efforts.
- Implement Targeted Policies: Focus on stationary sources and integrate air quality considerations into land use planning.
- Strengthen Regulations: Update and enforce stricter air quality standards.
- Foster Regional Partnerships: Collaborate with various stakeholders to pool resources and expertise.
- Promote Sustainable Transportation: Invest in public transit, electric vehicle infrastructure, and anti-idling measures.
- Raise Public Awareness: Conduct education campaigns to inform communities about air quality issues and mitigation strategies.
- Coordinate Efforts: Promote cross-jurisdictional collaboration and advocate for regional investments in sustainable infrastructure.



Next Steps

- Draft plan is presented to the public in second round of listening sessions
- Draft plan is revised based on feedback from the public and EJ Subcommittee
- Plan is approved and published



Questions?





Presenters

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