

# COG ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TOOLKIT 2.0

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Montgomery County

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January 28, 2026



Metropolitan Washington  
Council of Governments

Agenda Item #3

# Environmental Justice Toolkit 2.0 Overview

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## Purpose of EJ Toolkit 2.0

- Update 2017 version with “on the ground” perspectives gathered from local government listening sessions, Equival’s community-based interviews, EJ conference speakers, and online research of national examples.
- Feature regional and national examples of effective engagement, partnerships, and equitable programs and policies.

## Development Process

- Local government workshops - COG held listening sessions with local government staff.
- Community engagement by Equival LLC.
- Added national examples.
- Multiple rounds of reviews; Thanks to Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) and CEEPC members.
- ACPAC provided guidance throughout and approved the Toolkit on January 26, 2026.

# Toolkit Format

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City of Frederick



Prince William Public Schools



Metropolitan Washington  
Council of Governments

Approach 1: Identifying Potentially Vulnerable Populations

Approach 2: Providing Meaningful Engagement Opportunities

Approach 3: Developing Metrics

Approach 4: Providing Data, Information, and Resources for Communities

Approach 6: Bolstering Community Leadership

Approach 7: Augmenting Economic and Workforce Development

Approach 8: Mainstreaming EJ into Public Policy, Planning and Programs

# Toolkit 2.0 Themes

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- Approaches 2 and 4 focus on Engagement Best Practices
  - Building trust
  - Meeting communities where they are—literally and figuratively- and making it easy to participate
  - Improving data literacy and access to data
- Approaches 5,6,7 focus on community empowerment through community involvement in data collection, leadership development programs, and workforce opportunities, & highlight regional partners
- ***Partnerships with trusted community partners are key for all the above.***
- Approach 8 highlights how local governments are not stopping at engagement, but at building equity into climate and energy programs and policies, and Approach 3 delves into metrics to measure this.
- Conclude with the need to sustain momentum and *du courage* to all working on EJ issues.



# CEEPC Discussion

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- CEEPC plans for using and sharing more broadly.
- Keep sharing Toolkit's applications this year.



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