

Draft Department of Homeland Security Environmental Justice Strategy

Fiscal Years 2021-2025

Executive Summary

“Environmental justice” describes the commitment of the Federal Government, through its policies, programs, and activities, to avoid disproportionately high and adverse effects on the human health and environment of minority populations and low-income populations. The Department carries out its environmental justice obligations under Executive Order (EO) 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations* primarily through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI). The existing DHS Environmental Justice Strategy was issued in 2012. Due to new areas of focus in environmental justice and recommendations made as part of a 2019 General Accountability Office report, DHS began revising its Environmental Justice Strategy.

The draft revised Environmental Justice Strategy reflects the Department’s renewed commitment to upholding the principles of EO 12898. It establishes new goals and objectives that mature the agency’s environmental justice program. It also seeks to support sustainable communities and provide meaningful participation for all persons in federal environmental decision-making processes. The four strategic goals are:

Goal 1: Expand Department-wide awareness of environmental justice and consideration of any disproportionately high and adverse environmental, and human health impacts on minority populations and low-income populations, that might result from its programs, policies, and activities.

Goal 2: Further the integration of environmental justice principles, as appropriate, into appropriate DHS lines of business.

Goal 3: Strengthen outreach to communities and stakeholders that may be disproportionately affected by high and adverse environmental and human health impacts from Department programs, policies, and activities through appropriate public engagement.

Goal 4: Expand collaboration and knowledge-sharing with interagency partners, as appropriate, to efficiently focus agency resources and technical assistance to address disproportionately high and adverse environmental and human health impacts on minority populations and low-income populations.

During the next five years, DHS will implement the DHS Environmental Justice Strategy. This will include actions such as: updating Department policy; identifying and developing training and educational resources for DHS personnel; building relationships with stakeholders; and engaging with our interagency partners.

DHS will track progress in meeting the goals outlined in the Environmental Justice Strategy and complete an annual implementation report. DHS will also reevaluate the Environmental Justice Strategy at the conclusion of the five-year implementation period.