



Environmental Justice,  
Health, Community  
Resilience, and  
Revitalization  
Program

September 2024-August 2025

# Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2025



[www.nwf.org/our-work/environmental-justice](http://www.nwf.org/our-work/environmental-justice)

# Table of Contents

Meet the Team	1
A Letter from Our Vice President	2
Executive Summary	4
Community Partnerships	5
EPA Region III TCTAC	9
Policy & Advocacy	11
NICER	13
Communications	15
Team Highlights	16
Future Plans & Milestones	18



# Meet the Team



[www.nwf.org/our-work/environmental-justice](http://www.nwf.org/our-work/environmental-justice)



**Adrienne Hollis, PhD, JD**  
Vice President of Environmental Justice



**Jason Harrison**  
Director of Environmental Justice Programs



**Alaura Carter**  
Senior Program Manager



**Holly Kistner**  
NICER Program Manager



**Taofik Oladipo**  
Policy Manager



**Fabiola Gomez**  
Senior Coordinator, Environmental Justice



**Becca Jimenez-Ward**  
Senior Coordinator, Environmental Justice



**Nishant Shah**  
Community Partnerships Specialist



**Megnot Mulugeta**  
Communications Coordinator





## A Letter From Our Vice President

As I sit with nearly ten months of unrelenting challenges behind us and in front of us—challenges to Environmental Justice, to our freedoms, to people of all races, gender identities, nationalities, and beliefs; to science, to democracy, to jobs and the economy— I feel a deep exhaustion. I know I'm not alone in this. Many of my colleagues and friends are feeling it too.

And yet, in the midst of this fatigue, we continue to search for ways to push forward—to keep these critical issues at the forefront, to challenge discrimination, disenfranchisement, and the creeping sense of dystopia that so many of us are witnessing.

In moments like this, I find myself returning to the words I shared earlier this year during my keynote at Johns Hopkins University's HOP25 event. The audience, made up largely of students, though not only, filled me with energy and hope. That experience reminded me that even in difficult times, the power of community and shared purpose can be a light in the dark.

I begin with the words of the late Congressman John Lewis, whose legacy continues to inspire:

**"Ours is not the struggle of one day, one week, or one year. Ours is not the struggle of one judicial appointment or presidential term. Ours is the struggle of a lifetime, or maybe even many lifetimes, and each one of us in every generation must do our part."**

*—John Lewis, Across That Bridge: A Vision for Change and the Future of America*

We have so much work ahead. And yes, it is tiring— but also deeply inspiring to witness how people are coming together to confront the injustices of our time. Too many are suffering from hate-driven and arbitrary decisions. Too many have already lost too much.

But here's the truth: we are not powerless. Together, through legal advocacy, education, outreach, and by uplifting the voices of those who have been silenced, we can, and must, respond.

I won't repeat my full keynote here, but I do want to reiterate the three key takeaways I shared then. While they were originally framed in the context of environmental justice, their relevance transcends any single issue. They apply to all of the work we are doing- now and going forward.

### **1. Collective Power Drives Change**

History teaches us that lasting change is born from collective action. From frontline communities resisting pollution to nationwide movements demanding justice, we know one thing for sure: no one does this alone. Our strength lies in unity. Our voices, our actions, and our solidarity are the drivers of change.

### **2. Policy Change Is Real, But It Requires Persistence**

Passing laws is only the beginning. Real justice demands follow-through. We must stay engaged, ensure implementation, and hold leaders accountable. Equitable policy requires not just good intentions, but sustained pressure and vigilance — especially for communities long left out of the process.

### **3. Equity and Sustainability Must Be Interwoven**

A truly sustainable future is not just about reducing carbon emissions or preserving natural resources — it's about ensuring that all people, especially those most affected, benefit from progress. Equity and sustainability are not separate goals; they must be inseparable. The future we build must reflect dignity, inclusion, and opportunity for all.

This is not an easy road, nor does it get easier as time goes on. But we do not walk it alone. And though the work is long, it is also sacred. Let's continue to stand together, to speak truth, to act with purpose — and to keep building a future that honors every person and every voice.



Vice President for Environmental Justice, Health,  
& Community Resilience and Revitalization  
*The National Wildlife Federation*

# Executive Summary

## *Resilience in Action: Centering Community, Connection, and Care in a Year of Change*



FY2025 was a year of both challenge and transformation for the Environmental Justice, Health, Community Resilience, and Revitalization (EJHCR<sup>2</sup>) program. Amid shifting national priorities, our team held fast to its mission: to advance environmental justice by centering communities, relationships, and care.

Across the country, we tripled our community engagements and partnered with over 20 grassroots organizations — from Chicago to California to Hawai‘i. In school gyms, community gardens, and neighborhood meetings, we witnessed the power of people shaping the future they deserve. These moments affirmed a simple truth: environmental justice begins and endures through connection. When a federal stop-work order halted the EPA Region III Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center, we adapted. Rather than stepping back, we continued fostering relationships, offering writing, data, and policy support to our partnering communities, proving that our commitment extends far beyond any one program or administration.

Even as we navigated uncertainty, we kept building tools for equity and resilience. The Environmental Justice Mapping Tool expanded to include new data across multiple states and hundreds of community assets. The Clean Economy Coalition of Color Roundtables relaunched, creating space for civil right and environmental justice leaders to gather and speak on timely issues. And through more than 40 policy actions, we advocated for environmental protections, water rights, and climate justice across local, state, and federal levels. Additionally, our Natural Infrastructure Center for Environmental Justice and Resilience (NICER) is forging new collaborations that link nature-based solutions with community leadership.

Our communication efforts grew too — from launching a dedicated Instagram presence to amplifying partner stories — ensuring that the people driving change remain visible and heard.

FY2025 showed us that progress is not always linear — but it is sustained by persistence, creativity, and collective care. The EJHCR<sup>2</sup> program remains grounded in this truth: environmental justice is not only about resisting harm, but nurturing resilience, belonging, and possibility.

# Community Partnerships

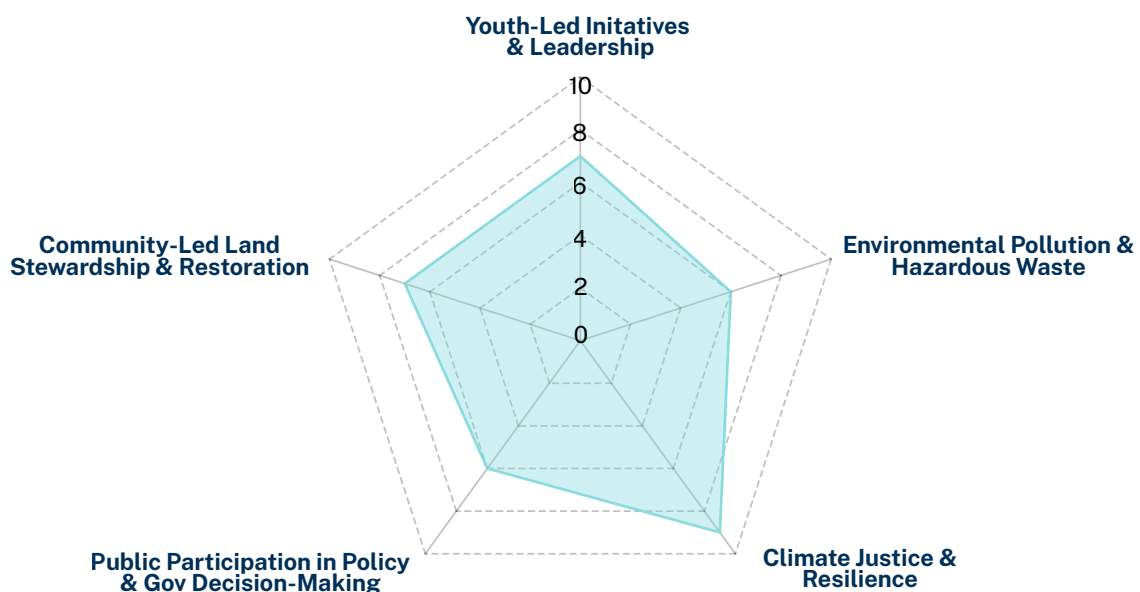
*Prioritizing and uplifting marginalized communities through authentic and meaningful relationship*



## A Growing Presence on the Ground

In fiscal year 2025, EJHCR<sup>2</sup> Program's community partnerships program has grown exponentially, with us participating in **3x more engagements** than years prior. Since September 2024, our team participated in **37 community engagement activities** in collaboration with more than **20 organizations nationwide\***. These engagements included a wide range of event types such as public forums, toxic tours, webinars, community potlucks, school district meetings, youth-led initiatives, and community-led restoration projects. The team prioritized grassroots environmental justice work by partnering with organizations like One Step A La Vez, Clean Air Coalition of WNY, Chicago Asian Americans for EJ, Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE), and Keaukaha Action Network (KAN), among others. Team members attended and presented at community awareness events, co-developed questions for environmental justice forums, and contributed to planning educational events. These efforts not only strengthened partnerships with local and regional environmental justice organizations but also emphasize the importance of relationship-based community participation in shaping environmental policy and addressing local issues.

## Key Themes Across Community Engagements

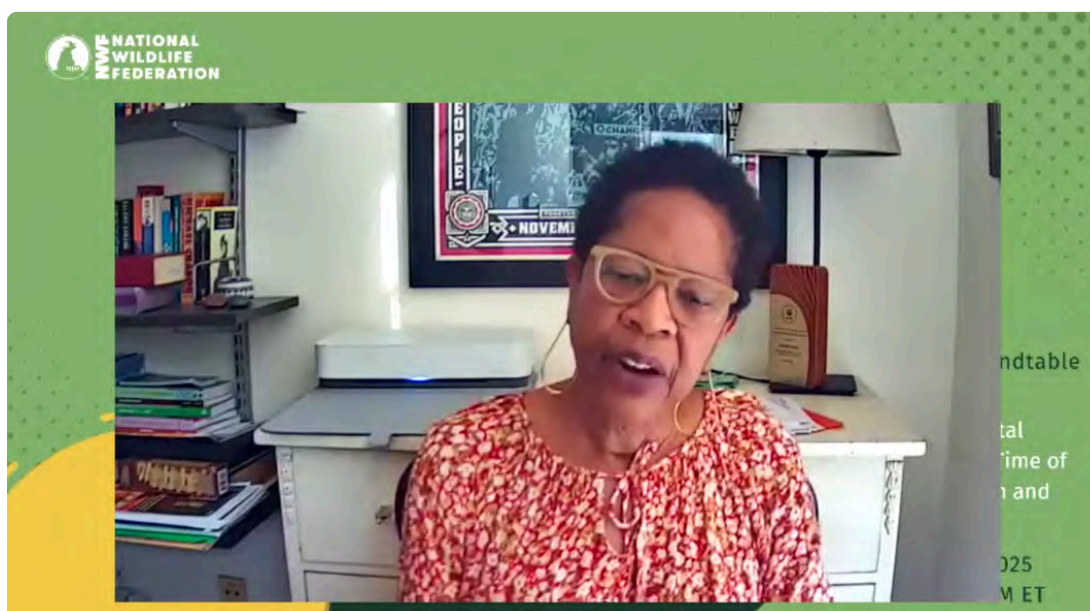


*\*Check out the Index & Resources for a more detailed list community engagement activities*



## Clean Economy Coalition of Color (CECC) Roundtables

This March, we relaunched the **Clean Economy Coalition of Color (CECC)**. The CECC is an alliance of some of the nation's most insightful Black, Latinx/e, Indigenous, Asian, and Pacific Islander leaders and advocates of color that are committed to amplifying ideas, recommendations, and solutions that uplift the priorities and economic interests of historically marginalized communities by guiding clean energy economy policies and implementation. The National Wildlife Federation's EJHCR<sup>2</sup> program hopes to uplift equitable policies to inform decision-makers, share resources to build capacity among CECC member organizations, unpack legislation and policies that impact our communities, and highlight leaders of color who are operating in the clean economy to share best practices and lessons learned.



*Veronica Eady, Policy Consultant and Environmental Lawyer at the March CECC Roundtable*

In a collaborative and crosscutting effort, our team hosted a timely session on Defending Environmental Justice in a Time of Deregulation and Rollbacks. The session brought together experts, advocates, and community leaders to discuss how the current administration's policies undermine environmental justice through regulatory rollbacks, funding cuts, and weakened enforcement. Panelists explored the real-world impact on frontline and fenceline communities, strategies for resistance, and the role of advocacy in protecting hard-won EJ gains. Panelists included: Michael Payan, Sussex Health and Environmental Network; Quenton King, Appalachian Voices; Veronica Eady, a Policy Consultant and Environmental Lawyer; David Wheaton, NAACP Legal Defense Fund. To watch the full March CECC roundtable, go to: <https://youtu.be/dGJo5D000Ag?feature=shared>

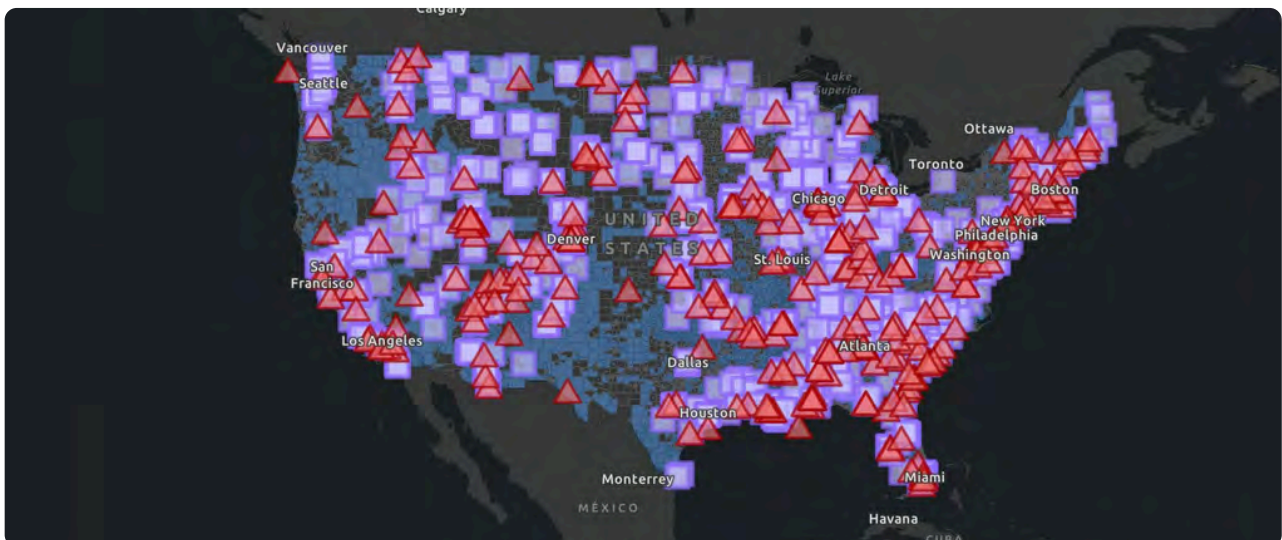


## Transformational Tours of National Parks

Earlier this fiscal year, the EJHCR<sup>2</sup> program was able to provide **\$86,000 to fund the Transformational Tours of National Parks**, an initiative led by Audrey Peterman to reconnect Black communities with nature and promote conservation through immersive park experiences. Partnering with the Hip-Hop Caucus, the program leverages cultural influence and social media to showcase public lands, address historical barriers, and inspire renewed interest in the outdoors.

## Environmental Justice Mapping Tool & Community Audit

The Environmental Justice Mapping Tool is a comprehensive platform designed to identify and uplift environmental justice communities and the nuanced issues they face. By showcasing over 500 environmental justice issues across the U.S. and highlighting over 2,200 community organizations, foundations, tribal nations, & more, the platform allows users to see where needs exist and who is leading the fight for justice. Additionally, the tool integrates environmental, health, and socio-economic data, providing users with a clear visualization of pollution sources, risks, and vulnerable populations.



To explore the map, watch tutorial videos, or suggest the addition of a community asset or issues, go to [www.nwf.org/EJMappingTool](http://www.nwf.org/EJMappingTool)

As a living, growing resource, this fiscal year, we updated the information for **11 states**, resulting in the addition of **110 new community assets** and updates to the information of **529 community assets** and **70 environmental justice issues**. Additionally, earlier this fiscal year our team conducted a **series of 1:1 meetings** with

**community-based organizations** (CBO) identified in the mapping tool to expand our program's reach. Meetings with CBOs included D.I.N.E. Care, Vermont Energy Education Program, Center for Sustainable Communities, Maine People's Alliance, Just Me for Just Us, and Oregon Just Transition Alliance, among others. We also hosted **3 internal workshops** for NWF teams and programs, including the Education and Engagements team, Mayor's Monarch Pledge, and Community Wildlife Habitat Network.

### **Dr. Adrienne Hollis Receives the 2025 William K. Reilly Environmental Leadership Award**

Dr. Adrienne Hollis received the **William K. Reilly Environmental Leadership Award** for 2025. The honor was shared with Dr. Gretchen Goldman, President at Union of Concerned Scientists. This is the 13<sup>th</sup> year of the awards program, held in honor of William K. Reilly, the former Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and a recognized leader in environmental and energy policy. The criteria for the award include a record of sustained leadership in environmental, energy, or sustainability issues: engaging and inspiring others in the field; experience in some combination of the public, private, and non-profit sectors; and encouraging or mentoring the next generation of leaders.



*Dr. Adrienne Hollis and Dr. Gretchen Goldman*

# EPA Region III TCTAC

*Environmental Justice Thriving Communities  
Technical Assistance Center*



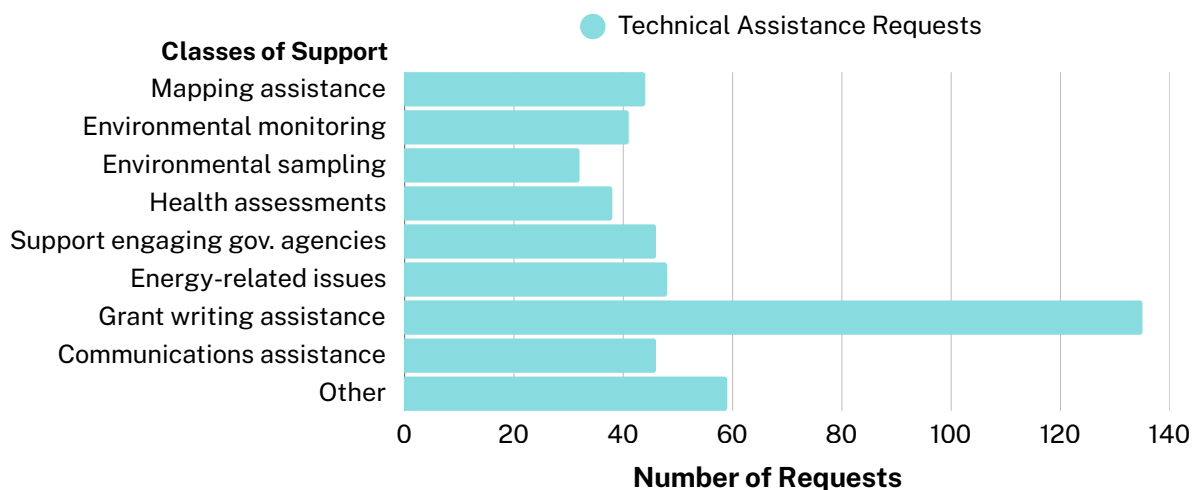
## Impacts of the Federal Stop Work Order on the EPA Region III TCTAC Program

The implementation of the EPA Region III Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center (TCTAC) program was put on hold following a federal directive from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). On February 21, 2025, the EPA issued a termination notice, citing a shift in agency priorities away from diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and environmental justice initiatives. In response, a stop-work order was issued for all activities related to the program within NWF and our partner hubs. NWF filed a dispute with EPA related to that termination, and the EJHCR<sup>2</sup> program has been actively assessing the implications of this decision. Although this stop work order has halted the progress of the EPA Region III TCTAC, it doesn't affect the EJHCR<sup>2</sup> program's commitment to the work.

## Technical Assistance to Communities in Need

During the 12 months our technical assistance intake forms were open, **256 requests for assistance** were received, requesting support from a wide range of resources offered by Region II TCTAC Hubs. Grant writing assistance was the most commonly

### Technical Assistance Requested

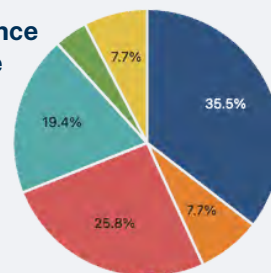




requested method of assistance, followed by communications support and energy-related issues. The majority of these technical assistance requests were received from the Maryland and Pennsylvania regions.

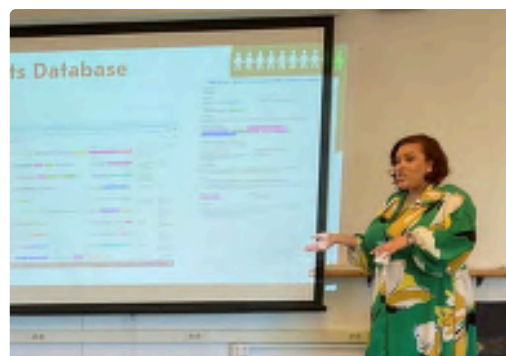
### Technical Assistance Requests by State

- Maryland (88)
- Delaware (19)
- Pennsylvania (64)
- Virginia (48)
- West Virginia (10)
- Washington D.C. (19)



## Overbrook Environmental Education Center's 2024 Thriving Communities Symposium

The Overbrook Environmental Education Center, one of the Pennsylvania-based hub organizations in the TCTAC, hosted a three-day symposium in October, held at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University and Moore College of Art & Design in Philadelphia. The symposium brought together CBOs, frontline communities, and resource-challenged groups to connect with environmental experts, funders, and agencies. Attendees gained valuable insights on grant applications, IRA-funded projects, and capacity-building resources while celebrating the official launch of the Greater Philadelphia hub for the Mid-Atlantic EPA TCTAC. This impactful event marked a key step forward in fostering environmental justice and empowering communities in the region. The EJHCR<sup>2</sup> team tabled at the event and assisted attendees with submitting intake requests. Additionally, Dr. Adrienne Hollis was a featured keynote speaker at the event.



*Laura Carter, presenting on the TCTAC program at the Overbrook Symposium.*

*"While the EPA's decision is deeply disappointing, it will not stop our commitment to environmental justice or our work with communities that have been historically marginalized and overburdened. The National Wildlife Federation remains steadfast in our mission to support and uplift EJ communities, and we will continue to provide resources, technical assistance, and advocacy through every avenue available to us. Our work does not depend on a single grant — we are here for the long haul, standing alongside communities in their fight for a healthier, more just future."*

*Dr. Adrienne Hollis*

Vice President, Environmental Justice

# Policy & Advocacy

*Engaging with decision-makers to support just, equitable, and community-driven solutions*

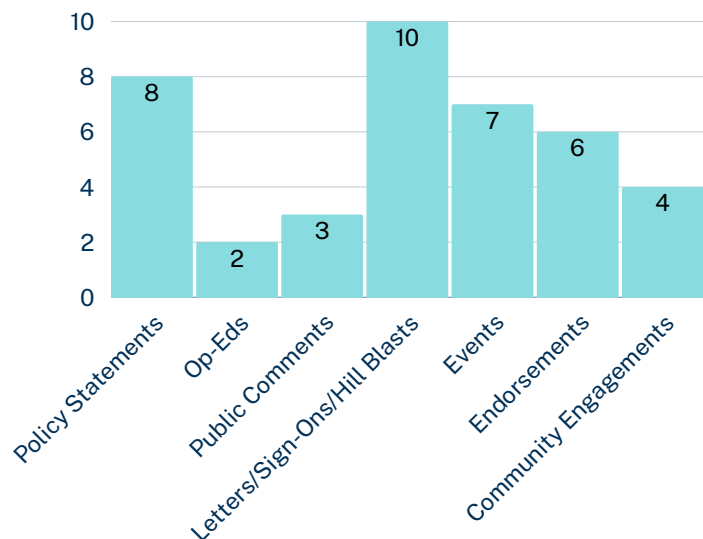


## Expanding Our Influence, Advocating for Environmental Justice

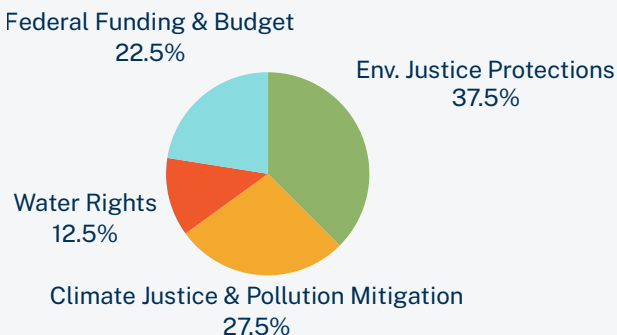
The EJHCR<sup>2</sup> team's policy and advocacy efforts have grown over the past 12 months, as we've boldly expanded our influence to champion environmental justice across local, state, and federal arenas. Our dedication has driven us to undertake over **40 impactful policy and advocacy** actions, addressing a diverse array of crucial topics<sup>\*</sup>.

We've been at the forefront, advocating passionately for environmental justice protections, climate justice, strategic shifts in federal funding, water rights, and much more. Communicating through an array of channels, the EJHCR<sup>2</sup> program continues to be an unwavering voice for advancing environmental justice.

**Policy Actions with EJHCR<sup>2</sup> Contributions**



### Key Themes Across Policy & Advocacy Actions



## Opposing Methane Polluter Fee Rollback

We joined EDF Action and over 75 other environmental groups in sending a letter to Congress, urging members to oppose H.J.Res 35 and S.J.Res 12, which propose rolling back the methane polluter fee implementing rule.

<sup>\*</sup> Check out the [Index & Resources](#) for a more detailed list of policy actions

## Endorsing Change

We endorsed **six** environmental justice and related bills: the **To Advance Environmental Justice by Addressing Cumulative Impacts and Underenforcement Act** (H.R.2995); the **Empowering and Enforcing Environmental Justice Act of 2025** (H.R.1553); the **Preventing Our Next Natural Disaster Act** (H.R.403); the **LNG Public Interest Determination Act of 2025** (H.R.381); the bill to codify **Executive Order 14096**, relating to revitalizing our Nation’s commitment to environmental justice for all (H.R.576); and the Senate companion, the **Empowering and Enforcing Environmental Justice Act of 2025** (S.720).

## Collaborative Capacity Building with EmpowerDC

As part of our policy and communications-focused community engagement efforts, we collaborated with [EmpowerDC](#) to support their numerous environmental justice initiatives. Our team discussed ways to enhance their policy capacity and shared key resources, including an Engaging with Policymakers Primer and a Letter to the Editor Guide. EmpowerDC also shared their cumulative impacts bill draft with us for review and provided feedback.

## Coming Clean Coalition

We co-drafted a [public comment](#) with the Coming Clean Coalition and 48 other organizations in response to the U.S. EPA’s “Interim Framework for Advancing Consideration of Cumulative Impacts.” The comment underscores the need to assess cumulative environmental and health impacts in overburdened communities and critiques the EPA’s historical inaction on this matter.

## EJ4All Act In-Person Convening

Policy Manager Taofik Oladipo participated in an all-day event on the EJ4All Act, hosted by Earthjustice, WE ACT, and the Equitable and Just National Climate Platform. The session focused on the Act, defining wins for the 119th Congress, and exploring strategies for advancing the bill.



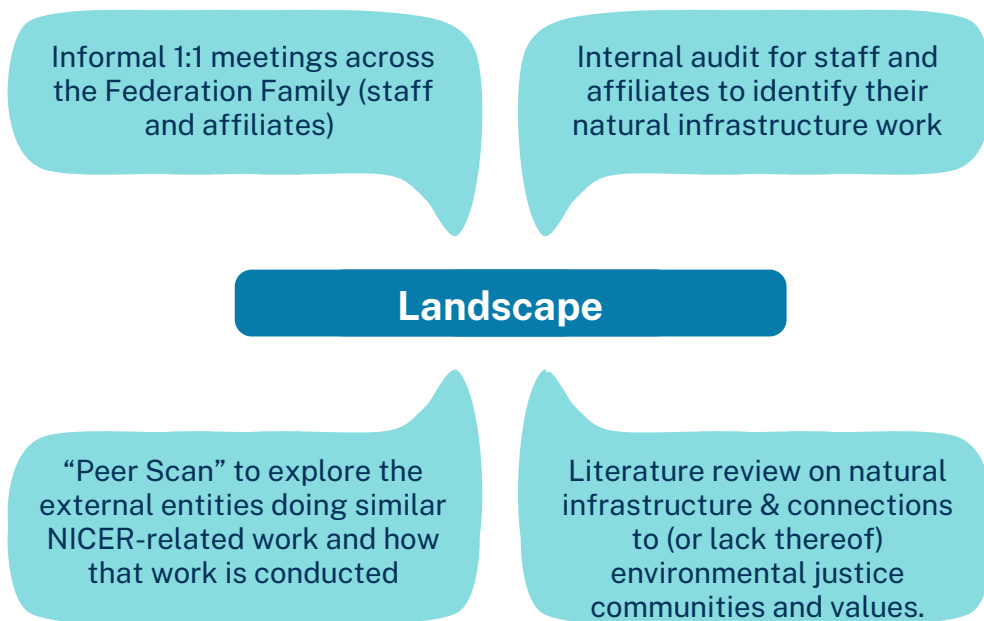
# NICER

*Natural Infrastructure Center for  
Environmental Justice and Resilience*



## Landscape Assessment of Natural Infrastructure

The Natural Infrastructure Center for Environmental Justice and Resilience (NICER) focuses on leveraging natural infrastructure solutions to address climate impacts in marginalized communities. This fiscal year, the NICER program conducted a multi-method landscape assessment to better understand how NWF advances natural infrastructure work. The results of this assessment were shared with NWF programmatic staff.



As part of the NICER landscape assessment, we created an Airtable interface that includes the results, records, and data collected through the assessment. We also shared the results on Field Notes, hosted a virtual “learning session” for staff, and joined calls across different programmatic staff teams to discuss the results.

## NICER Working Group

To improve collaboration and communication on NICER-related work, a cross-departmental NICER working group was established. Informed by the landscape assessment, this invite-only group will include staff from various programmatic teams, regional centers, and areas of expertise. In the future, the working group membership may expand to include affiliates and Directors of Conservation Partnerships (DCPs). While many at NWF contribute valuable work in this space, the

group will include a representative set of staff whose roles, relationships, and expertise reflect the broader organization. The group will meet monthly to support the strategic development and implementation of the NICER.

## **NICER & the Mississippi River Program Collaboration**

The NICER continues to collaborate with the National Wildlife Federation's Mississippi River Program, with a particular focus on the Quad Cities region. The anchor region projects are: 1. Collaborating with local stakeholders to identify resiliency priorities in the Quad Cities of Iowa and Illinois, 2. Restoring channelized rivers in West Tennessee, and 3. Exploring hydrology in Eastern Arkansas. A central initiative in this area is the protection of Milan Bottoms — a 500-acre, city-owned wetland complex vital to local biodiversity and climate resilience.

## **Prairie Rivers Network**

For several years, NWF has partnered with its Illinois affiliate, Prairie Rivers Network (PRN), to promote community-driven, nature-based solutions and to help build long-term climate resilience grounded in the best available science within the Quad Cities. Together, NWF and PRN have joined a broader community effort to preserve Milan Bottoms, which plays a critical role in supporting diverse wildlife habitats and reducing flood risks amid growing climate challenges.

A special shoutout goes to Nina Struss, PRN's River Health and Resiliency Organizer in the Quad Cities. As a community representative on the Mayor's Wetland Protection Task Force, Nina consistently uplifts local voices and perspectives. With support from NWF, she is helping to connect the Task Force with technical experts and critical resources, ensuring they have the scientific knowledge and tools necessary to protect and sustain this vital wetland ecosystem.

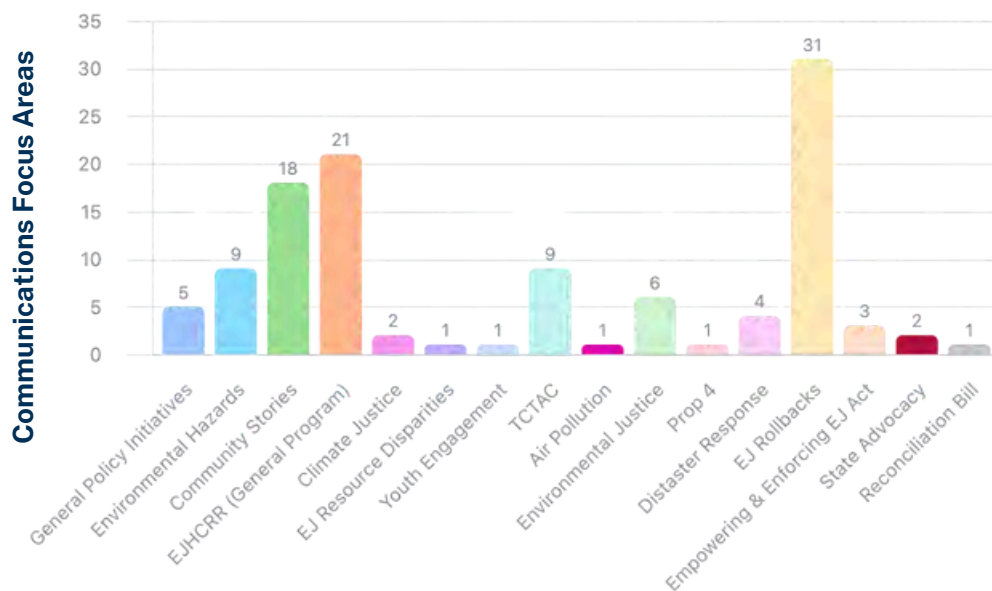
# Communications

*Strengthening Connections & Engaging Communities*



## Amplifying Voices to Advance Environmental Justice

Effective communication is foundational for bridge-building between communities, policymakers, and stakeholders. In FY25, our program diversified and increased our communication efforts to do just that, conveying key issues, such as the impacts of the new administration, environmental hazards, disaster response, and more. We relaunched our program newsletter, established an Instagram account, and published more blogs than ever before, all while strengthening communication capacity across the team. As a result, we engaged in **114 communication activities across 17 unique focus areas\***. Predominant themes were the current administration's rollbacks on environmental justice and the highlighting of community stories across the United States. Working in collaboration with Meshal DeSantis and Mike Saccone, Dr. Adrienne Hollis was quoted in **7 news articles**, and our program and/or staff were mentioned by **11 media outlets**. Additionally, we worked with the Digital team to release **2 action alerts** this year, each garnering over **8000 letters sent** from supporters.



## Growing our Followers

In February, we launched an Instagram account for our program (@envjustice\_nwf). By the end of FY25, we had close to 120 followers and received thousands of views on our account. Our posts highlight community partners, policy news/positions, resources, events, and more! [Visit our Instagram page here.](#)

*\* Check out the Index & Resources for a more detailed list communication activities*



# Team Highlights

*Discover How Our Team Excels Beyond Expectations,  
Both at NWF and Beyond!*



## Dr. Adrienne Hollis

Dr. Hollis had the honor of discussing the current challenges and concerns around public health. She was on the Opening Plenary Panel for the National Academy of Medicine's Climate and Health Summit, as part of its Climate Grand Challenge. In addition to giving a Keynote at Johns Hopkins' HOP25 Conference, Dr. Hollis also received the William K. Reilly Award from American University for her work in Environmental Justice.

## Jason Harrison

Our wonderful Director of Environmental Justice Programs - Jason Harrison - resigned in September 2025, at the beginning of the new fiscal year. But all that we have accomplished and discussed here, which is only a small part of our activities, was made possible because of Jason's vision and dedication. We miss him but we know that he is impacting others and leading change

## Fabiola Gomez

Fabiola volunteers with local organizations, helping in food pantries and providing Spanish interpretation for nature walks with a local biologist. Fabiola also serves on the board of her local science center, where she supports initiatives focused on environmental justice. She actively engages in workshops led by grassroots organizations to deepen her understanding of key local EJ issues. These workshops have explored a wide range of topics, including the impacts of AI data centers, offshore wind development, heat resilience, community engagement, toxic tours, and more.

## Alaura Carter

Alaura Carter is currently working with churches in the D.C. and Baltimore area in finding funding opportunities to sustainably renovate their places of worship and support community projects.

### **Nishant Shah**

Nishant creates racial and immigrant justice curricula for South Asian youth retreats and volunteers at Rush Hospital's Special Services Department to support public health efforts. Nishant enjoys learning about the Chicagoland environment through hiking and participating in community events, such as toxic tours.

### **Bec Jimenez-Ward**

Bec supports their community as a doula, offering birth, postpartum, and miscarriage support with a focus on queer and BIPOC families. They often volunteer at their local community arts center and with various land restoration and food sovereignty initiatives. Over the past year, Bec has also participated in several classes and trainings, including a course through North Carolina State University on EPA Superfund Assessments, where they learned to conduct environmental impact assessments, and a training about Native Hawaiian Law through the University of Hawaii at Mānoa.

### **Megnot Mulugeta**

Megnot has volunteered at different local food banks in her city this past year, and hopes to support more food access initiatives in her community in the near future. Megnot is also a voracious reader and enjoys reading books about food systems and people's diverse relationships to the ecosystems around them.

### **Taofik Oladipo**

Taofik plays a key role in furthering NWF's environmental justice policy work and strategic advocacy and communications. He has helped the Federation endorse key federal legislation that advances equitable climate solutions, ensuring environmental justice priorities are reflected and community voices are heard. He's authored a series of blogs that translate complex policy issues into accessible narratives, amplifying the needs of frontline communities and positioning NWF as a trusted voice on environmental justice.

### **Holly Kistner**

Holly is proud to be a part of the Buffalo NY community. She's a member and volunteer with the Clean Air Coalition (a grassroots environmental justice organization), Groundwork Market Garden (an urban farm), and the local tool library.



# Future Plans & Milestones

*Where the EJHCR<sup>2</sup> program is headed next*

## Always Looking Ahead

The work is never over, and the EJHCR<sup>2</sup> program is continually striving to develop our program to better serve and uplift fenceline and frontline communities across the United States.

*Below are a few of our upcoming projects and milestones.*

<p><b>Welcoming our new Associate Vice President Dr. Jacob Carter!</b></p> <p>We're excited to welcome Dr. Jacob Carter to EJHCR<sup>2</sup>! Formerly the Research Evaluation and Manager at Ripple Effects Communications, we're honored to have him join as an asset to our team!</p>	<p><b>State of Environmental Justice Round Table</b></p> <p>We're hosting our next CECC roundtable this October to hear from the NWF's Environmental Justice Advisory Council about pressing and emergent needs in the environmental justice movement.</p>	<p><b>South Eastern Voting Landscape Report</b></p> <p>During the first quarter of the new fiscal year, we are excited to announce the upcoming release of a comprehensive report examining the landscape of environmental justice legislation and voting rights throughout the southeastern states.</p>
--	--	--



# Index and Resources

*Dive into the details and explore the ins and outs of the EJHCR<sup>2</sup> team's work. This is not an exhaustive list. To learn more, contact us!*

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

### Events: Hosted & Attended

- **Tours / Field Events:**

- Altgeld Gardens Toxic Tour, hosted by [People for Community Recovery](#)
- Free Street Theatre performance of Parched(2)O
- Toxic Tour by [CAUSE](#) & [California Environmental Justice Alliance \(CEJA\)](#)

- **Committees / Organizational Meetings:**

- [Chicago Asian Americans for Environmental Justice](#) Steering Committee
- Met with Kyra Woods (Disaster Preparedness)
- Met with Pooj Ravindran (Disaster Preparedness)
- [Clean Air Coalition of WNY](#) membership meeting
- Chicago 40<sup>th</sup> Ward monthly pollinator garden meetings
- Chicago 40th Ward Pollinator Garden working group (x2)
- [Yale Program on Climate Change Communication](#)
- Santa Paula Science Building Board Meeting
- California State Lands Commission public hearing

- **Youth & Community Engagement / Presentations:**

- Resource & Community Awareness event with [One Step A La Vez](#)
- Joined One Step A La Vez Youth meeting to lead conversation
- Chicago Asian Americans for Environmental Justice Lunar New Years Potluck
- Helped develop questions for One Step A La Vez Environmental Justice Forum

- **Webinars / Online Trainings:**

- [CECC: Defending Environmental Justice in a Time of Deregulation and Rollbacks Roundtable](#) (hosted)
- Society for Ecological Restoration webinar
- Framing Climate Change Through a Justice Lens (EcoMadres)
- Yale School of Environment, Local Voices, Global Impact
- We the People of Detroit Water & Climate Justice webinar
- Prairie Rivers Network webinar
- Native Hawaiian Law webinar and training

- **Volunteer / Community Service Events:**

- Groundwork Market Plant Sale & Giveaway
- Land-based restoration project (Kahalu'u Kūāhewa)

- Free Street Theatre
- **Policy / Public Hearings / Board Meetings**
  - Santa Paula School District partner dinner
  - Santa Paula Science Building Board Meeting
  - California State Lands Commission public hearing
  - Defend Our Health: Authors & Friends
  - Yale program on climate change communication
  - Geothermal Public Forum (Pele Defense Fund)

### **Fiscal Sponsorships**

- \$86,000 to fund the Transformational Tours of National Parks
- \$5,000 sponsorship for Chinatown EJ Initiative & Toxic Tour costs

### **Projects**

- Chicago 40<sup>th</sup> Ward Rain Garden presentation & interest meeting
- Outreach and content for indigenous groups' interviews for US UN Ocean Decade Youth Action Council

### **Letters of Support**

- Letter of support to One Step A La Vez for their application to the Coastal Commission's Whale Tail Grants fund.

## **POLICY & ADVOCACY**

### **Policy Statements**

- 'Skinny' Budget Cuts Funding, Research Needed to Advance Environmental Justice
- Removing Scientists from National Climate Assessment Threatens Accuracy, Urgency of Report (quoted)
- Cancellation of National Nature Assessment Underscores Threats to Science, Nature (quoted)

### **Contributed to statements regarding:**

- Safe Drinking Water & Lead Removal (LCRI: community statement + EPA Water Office support)
- EPA Administrator & EJ protections (Zeldin confirmation; OEJECR; NEPA rollback opposition)
- Environmental Justice champions & funding (Grijalva tribute; budget/EJ funding)
- Reconciliation bill impacts (statement opposing harmful riders)

### **Op-eds (1 authored, 1 contributed)**

- Wildfire & water protection: Prop 4 (authored)
- Feedback/contribution to NWF Prop 127 op-ed (contributed)

## Public Comments

- Coming Clean coalition: cumulative impacts interim framework
- CEQ: NEPA implementing regulations removal comment
- DOE: NEPA interim rule comment (joined partners)

## Letters & Sign-ons to Congress / Hill Blasts

- Disaster aid / House Natural Resources (contribution to NWF org letter)
- EDF sign-on opposing rollback of methane polluter fee
- Hill blasts urging NO on S.J.Res.31 and on reconciliation riders
- Sign-on to preserve FY25 EJ funding priorities
- Letters opposing H.R.1415 & S.623 (IRIS restriction bills)
- Letter to House T&I (surface transportation portal)
- EJNCP sign-on on protecting EJ & public health
- Endorsed congressional letter demanding restoration of EPA EJ offices

## Events Attended

- EJ4All Act convening hosted by Earthjustice
- New Alpha CDC convening; 10th Annual New Alpha CDC Congressional Briefing
- EJNCP community conversation; UCC appreciation service; Combined Defense August Recess Accountability briefing

## Community Engagement

- Empower DC policy meeting (resources shared)
- Coming Clean public comment drafting
- WE ACT webinar: advocacy tools
- EJNCP training: budget reconciliation process

# COMMUNICATIONS

## Blogs

- [Community Spotlight: Altgeld Gardens](#)
- [TCTAC Partner Spotlight: Centro de Apoyo Familiar's Transforming Communities Conference](#)
- [From Advocacy to Exploration: Youth Advocates in the California Central Coast](#)
- [What to Expect from Lee Zeldin, Trump's Pick for EPA Administrator: Number 8 on Top 10 most viewed NWF blogs for January](#)
- [The NICER: Natural Infrastructure Center for Environmental Justice and Resilience](#)
- [TCTAC Partner Spotlight: University of Maryland's Environmental Finance Center](#)
- [City of Angels: Wildfires, Community Resilience, and the Pursuit of Equity](#)

- [Upholding the Purpose of Executive Order 12898 and Protecting Environmental Justice](#)
- [EPA's Decision to Shutter Its Environmental Justice and Civil Rights Office Puts Communities at Risk](#)
- [Community Spotlight: A Toxic Tour in Oxnard, California](#)
- [Community Spotlight: A Conversation with EJ Leader Vernice Miller-Travis](#)
- [Two Years After Sackett: Still Wading Through Muddy Waters](#)
- [Toxic Legacies of Hazardous Waste and the Fight for Environmental Justice](#)
- [Climate Resilience: How Nature Teaches Us to Prepare for and Recover from Climate Change](#)
- [The Road to Environmental Justice: A Call for Collective Action](#) - *Received over 1000 views!*
- [Here's How the Reconciliation Bill Affects Environmental Justice](#)
- [Rooted in Resistance: Ventura County Youth Take on Big Oil](#) by [Guest Blogger Dries Vergeer](#)
- [Why State Governments Matter More Than Ever for Environmental Protection](#)

## Media/Press

- Dr. Hollis has been speaking with reporters and media about recent federal EJ rollbacks (a few examples):
  - [Trump team junks a major study](#) (E&E News)
  - [Environmental justice work targeted by Trump DEI orders](#) (The Nation's Health)
- In July, Taofik Oladipo, along with Diane Pataki (NWF Chief Scientist), Jim Murphy (NWF Senior Director, Legal Advocacy), and Shannon Heyck-Williams (NWF AVP of Climate & Energy), sat on a panel for reporters to discuss the EPA's plans to rescind the Endangerment Finding — a legal determination that found that greenhouse gas pollution is a danger to public health and welfare.

## EJHCR<sup>2</sup> Program Newsletters

- Sent out March 2025 - Highlights include a spotlight on One Step A La Vez, summaries of recent federal action against environmental justice activities, and an announcement for the NICER program
- Sent out June 2025 - Highlights include local Earth Day event in California, update on TCTAC program, and recent EJ policy efforts



This Page  
Intentionally Left  
Blank

# Interested in Collaborating?

Let's Connect!

Email us at [EnvironmentalJustice@nwf.org](mailto:EnvironmentalJustice@nwf.org)

Visit us <https://www.nwf.org/Our-Work/Environmental-Justice>



Designed by Bec Jimenez-Ward, EJHCR<sup>2</sup> Senior Coordinator

