



Environmental Justice,
Health, & Community
Resilience and
Revitalization Program

December - February 2025

Quarter 2 Report

Fiscal Year 2025



www.nwf.org/our-work/environmental-justice

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Meet the Team



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**Adrienne Hollis,
PhD, JD**

Vice President of
Environmental Justice,
Health and
Community Resilience
and Revitalization



Jason Harrison

Director of
Environmental
Justice Programs



Alaura Carter

Sr. Program
Manager, TCTAC



Nishant Shah

Community
Partnerships
Specialist



Fabiola Gomez

Sr. Environmental
Justice Coordinator



Taofik Oladipo

Environmental
Justice Policy
Manager



**Megnot
Mulugeta**

Communications
Coordinator



Becca Ward

Sr. Administrative
Coordinator



Holly Kistner

NICER Program
Manager

Community Partnerships

Prioritizing and uplifting marginalized communities through authentic and meaningful relationship



Attended and Hosted Meetings & Events

This quarter our team engaged with communities on a wide range of environmental justice issues through attending eight events and meetings.

EVENT/MEETING	HIGHLIGHTS
Clean Air Coalition of Western New York	Holly Kistner attended the Clean Air Coalition of WNY membership meeting. Clean Air's members identify and tackle the environmental justice problems in their neighborhoods by organizing for solutions.
Society for Ecological Restoration Webinar	Holly Kistner attended a webinar hosted by the Society for Ecological Restoration called "Restoration can further equality: integrating environmental justice, the human hierarchy of needs, and the breath of life into restoration."
CAAEJ Lunar New Year Community Potluck	Nishant Shah attended and helped plan the Chicago Asian Americans for EJ Lunar New Years Community Potluck.
One Step A La Vez Environmental Justice Forum	Fabiola Gomez supported with the development of questions to ask elective officials for One Step A La Vez's first Environmental Justice Forum
Chicago 40th Ward Pollinator Garden	Nishant Shah attended Chicago 40th Ward Pollinator Garden working group meetings to learn more about flooding prevention work.
Yale Climate Group Listening Session	Fabiola Gomez attended the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication (YPCCC) Climate Group Listening Session
Santa Paula Science Board Meeting	Fabiola Gomez attended the Santa Paula Science Building Board Meeting
California State Lands Commission	Fabiola Gomez attended the California State Lands Commission public hearing about lease with Ormond Beach Generating station

US Youth Action Council for United Nations Ocean Decade

Nishant Shah, a member of the US Youth Action Council for United Nations Ocean Decade, conducted outreach and content gathering for indigenous groups' interviews led by the USYACUN's brand audit project.

EPA Region III TCTAC

Environmental Justice Thriving Communities
Technical Assistance Center



Federal Stop Work Order

The implementation of the EPA Region 3 Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center (TCTAC) program has been 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 is actively assessing the implications of this decision and has filed a dispute with EPA related to that termination. We will provide updates as further information becomes available.

Thoughts From Our Vice President

While this 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, Health and Community Resilience and
Revitalization

Policy & Advocacy

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



Letter to Congress: Rolling Back Methane Polluter Fee

We joined EDF Action and over 75 other environmental groups sent 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.

STATEMENTS & ENDORSEMENTS	Statement: Confirmation of EPA Administrator Zeldin	Statement: Shuttering of EPA OEJCR
	Statement: NEPA Rollbacks	Endorsement: H.R. 403 - Preventing our Next Natural Disaster
	Endorsement: H.R.381 - LNG Public Interest Determination Act of 2025	Endorsement: H.R.576 - Revitalizing our Nation's commitment to EJ for all

Coming Clean Coalition

We joined and co-drafted a joint public comment submitted by the Coming Clean Coalition and 48 organizations in response to the U.S. EPA's "Interim Framework for Advancing Consideration of Cumulative Impacts." The comment emphasizes the importance of assessing and addressing cumulative environmental and health impacts, particularly in overburdened communities, and criticizes the EPA's historical inaction on this issue.

Attended Events & Meetings

*New Alpha CDC Partner Convening
Where Do You Go From Here?
Community or Chaos—Next Steps from
2025 to 2028*

February 26th, National Advocacy Center,
Washington, D.C.

*10th Annual New Alpha CDC
Congressional Briefing*

February 27th, Hosted by Rep. Ro Khanna
Executive VP, Dr. Mustafa Santiago Ali was
a speaker on the panel: Health Sciences &
Social Justice.

NICER

*Natural Infrastructure Center for
Environmental Justice and Resilience*



Landscape Assessment is Complete!

The Landscape Assessment, which included 1:1 conversations, an internal audit of programmatic staff natural infrastructure work, an external “peer scan”, and a literature review, has been completed! We’ve been processing all the information we learned and preparing to share it across the Federation. Our team is also currently working on programmatic development and a plan for the implementation and activation of the NICER.

Internal Engagements

The NICER has continued to engage staff and affiliates across the Federation. In Q2, we’ve joined the Education and Engagement team and Tribal and Indigenous Partnership Enhancement Strategy team meetings. We’ve also been reaching out to the Directors of Conservation Partnerships (DCPs) and meeting with affiliates to learn more about their perspectives, priorities, and hopes as it relates to the NICER.

Mississippi River Program

The NICER’s collaboration with NWF’s Mississippi River Program has picked up momentum. Holly is supporting the Mississippi River Program's three “anchor” regions. 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.

Blog Release

We published a blog to share about the launch of the NICER! [Read it here!](#)

Communications

Strengthening Connections & Engaging Communities



Launching the EJHCR Instagram Account

This quarter we launched an Instagram account for our program (@envjustice_nwf)! As of the end of February, we have had over 1500 views on our posts and stories, and gained 58 followers. Our posts highlight community partners, policy news/positions, and Environmental Justice resources - [Visit our Instagram Page Here!](#)

Blogs Release & Engagement

This quarter, we published seven blogs. Our blog about the selection of the EPA Administrator, Lee Zeldin, ranked 8th among the top 10 most viewed NWF blogs.

BLOGS	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
	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	

Press & Media

VP, Dr. Adrienne Hollis and Executive VP, Dr. Mustafa Ali have been speaking with reporters and media about recent federal EJ rollbacks, and have been quoted in multiple articles. A few examples include:

- [Trump team junks a major study](#) (Dr. Hollis quoted)
- [‘It’s Worse Every Day’: Environmental Justice Staffers at EPA Face Uncertain Future as Potential Layoffs Loom](#) (Mustafa quoted)

Internal Updates

Building Momentum & Enhancing our Foundations



Grants

We were awarded funds from the Hewlett Foundation, providing crucial support to maintain our environmental justice initiatives. We are currently identifying other funding opportunities to continue our important community-based work.

Team Development

- Nishant, Becca, Fabi, and Jason participated in the Predictive Index Assessment to improve support and communication across the team.
- Jason participated in internal stakeholder engagements focusing on Systems and Processes Improvement across NWF.
- Jason and Adrienne participated in internal stakeholder engagements relating to unrestricted funding allocations across NWF.
- Jason met with the People's Team Learning and Development program to begin discussions on trainings across NWF for environmental justice-related competencies.

Initiatives & Working Groups

- NWF launched its Disaster Resilience Working Group with several members of the EJ team participating.

Strategic Planning & Program Alignment

- Jason mapped out various team projects and initiatives to the strategic plan goals and EJ Assessment recommendations to identify clear metrics and measures for the team's progress on overarching goals.
- Jason worked with the Community Wildlife Habitat team on incorporating EJ into our strategic plan.

Program Audits & Policy Engagement

- Jason participated in an internal audit of NWF's ECHO program.
- Adrienne, Jason, Taofik, Alaura, and Holly attended the NAC policy retreat in Washington, D.C.
- Adrienne and Jason presented during the retreat to support staff on community-centered and environmental justice related policy development.



Future Plans & Milestones

Where the EJHCR² program is headed next

Always Looking Ahead

The work is never over, and the EJHCR² 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>Sharing the Results of Landscape Assessment!</p> <p>Next quarter we will share the results of the Landscape Assessment across the Federation!</p>	<p>Newsletter and Website Updates</p> <p>Be on the look out for the EJ Newsletter relaunch in March, and for our new and improved EJ website will be completed in Q3</p>	<p>CECC Returns!</p> <p>On 3/25 the Clean Economy Coalition of Color returns with our first CECC Roundtable: "Defending Environmental Justice in a Time of Deregulation and Rollbacks". Register Here!</p>	<p>Upcoming Action Alert</p> <p>We will be releasing an action alert regarding the Federal EJ Pushback</p>
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Interested in Collaborating?

Let's Connect!

Email us at EnvironmentalJustice@nwf.org

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



Designed by Becca Ward, EJHCR² Senior Administrative Coordinator

