

Environmental Justice,
Health, Community
Resilience and
Revitalization Program

March- May 2025

Quarter 3 Report

Fiscal Year 2025



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

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Meet the Team



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**Adrienne Hollis,
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Vice President of
Environmental
Justice



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
Policy Manager,
Environmental
Justice



**Megnot
Mulugeta**
Communications
Coordinator



**Becca Jimenez-
Ward**
Sr. Administrative
Coordinator



Holly Kistner
NICER Program
Manager

Community Partnerships

Prioritizing and uplifting marginalized communities through authentic and meaningful relationship



Dr. Hollis Received the William K. Reilly Environmental Leadership Award for 2025

While attending the National Academy of Medicine's 2nd Annual Climate and Health Summit, 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 13th 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.

Attended and Hosted Meetings & Events

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

EVENT/MEETING	HIGHLIGHTS
Keynote Address at Helping Our Planet Symposium: HOP25	Dr. Hollis presented a keynote address at the HOP25: Helping Our Planet Symposium presented by the Johns Hopkins University's Environmental Sciences and Policy and MS in Geographic Information Systems Program and hosted at the Hopkins Bloomberg Center. The Symposium focused on critical environmental challenges. Dr. Hollis' Keynote was entitled "The History of Time and This Time in History".
National Black Environmental Justice Network	As a new member of the National Black Environmental Justice Network Advisory Committee, Dr. Hollis attended the first in-person member convening since its 2020 Relaunch, on April 10 th and 11 th , in New Orleans, LA.
NAM Climate and Health Summit	Dr. Hollis participated in the Opening Plenary Session, entitled "The Path Ahead", of the National Academy of Medicine's 2 nd Annual Climate and Health Summit, with National Academy of Medicine President Victor Dzau, Dr. John Balbus, and Dr. Howard Frumkin.

EVENT/MEETING	HIGHLIGHTS
Climate Vulnerability Index Workshop	Attending a workshop hosted by T.H.E. E.J. Lab, Fabiola Gomez learned about the Climate Vulnerability Index map.
Chicago 40th Ward Pollinator Garden	Nishant Shah attended Chicago 40th Ward Pollinator Garden working group meetings about flooding prevention work.
Traditional Agricultural Practices	Becca Jimenez-Ward volunteered conducting land-based projects with Kahalu'u Kūāhewa to restore one of Kona's largest intact traditional Hawaiian agricultural field systems.
The Power of Partnership Webinar	Fabiola Gomez attended The Power of Partnership: Challenges and Opportunities for Environmental Justice in Wisconsin hosted by the Midwest Environmental Advocates.
WEACT Webinar	Taofik Oladipo attended the WEACT Webinar, Dismantling Injustice: Advocacy tools to fight pollution and protect community health
Budget Reconciliation Process Webinar	Taofik attended a webinar hosted by the Equitable and Just National Climate Platform (EJNCP) with Waxman Strategies on the Budget Reconciliation Process
Parched(2)O - Water Justice in Chicago	Nishant Shah attended the Free Street Theatre performance of Parched(2)O, a play about water justice in the city of Chicago.
Climate Change through a Justice Lense	Fabiola Gomez attended a webinar by EcoMadres on Framing Climate Change Through a Justice Lens in Communications
Groundwork Market Plant Sale & Giveaway Event	Holly Kistner volunteered with the Groundwork Market Garden Plant Sale & Giveaway. The community event offered a wide variety of vegetable, herb, and flower plants for purchase, with more than 25 community partners participating in the event!
Wildfire Preparedness Training	Fabiola Gomez attended a wildfire preparedness training in her community, where she learned key tools for responding to unexpected wildfires and disaster events.

Relaunching of the Clean Economy Coalition of Color (CECC)

This March, we relaunched the Clean Economy Coalition of Color (CECC), an alliance of some of the nation's most insightful Black, Latinx/e, Indigenous, Asian, and Pacific Islander leaders and advocates of color. Roundtable discussions center on amplifying ideas, recommendations, and solutions that uplift the priorities and economic interests of historically marginalized communities by guiding clean energy economy policies and implementation. See the Policy & Advocacy section of this report to learn more about our March convening!

Policy & Advocacy

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



Endorsement of H.R. 2995

This quarter, NWF endorsed H.R.2995 — a bill introduced by Representative Diane DeGette (D-CO) on the Protection from Cumulative Emissions and Underenforcement of Environmental Law Act of 2025. The bill aims to address environmental justice by requiring the EPA to develop and implement protocols for assessing cumulative impacts and health risks from environmental stressors like climate change and pollution. It also mandates the EPA to identify at least 100 EJ communities with environmental violations and to develop corrective action with state and local agencies. The EJ Policy team met with Rep. DeGette’s staff to discuss a co-sponsor push and other ways to elevate EJ during this administration.

Using our Voice for Change

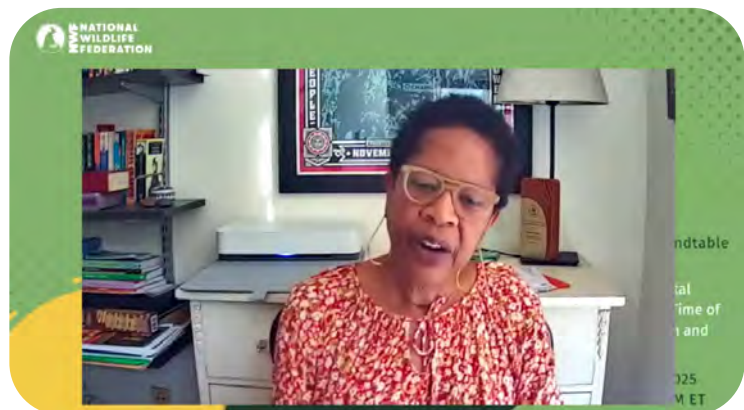
This quarter we have participated in eight different statements, public comments, and letters to congress or other key agencies.

STATEMENTS, PUBLIC COMMENTS & LETTERS TO CONGRESS	Grijalva’s An Unwavering Champion for Environmental Justice (Statement)	‘Skinny’ Budget Cuts Funding, Research Needed for Environmental Justice (Statement)
	Preserve Environmental Priorities in FY25 Federal Funding Legislation (Letter)	Opposing Bills (H.R. 1415 and S. 623) that Prevent the EPA from Relying on IRIS Scientific Assessments (Letter)
	2024 PM NAAQS Rule (Letter)	House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee’s Surface Transportation bill
	Equitable and Just National Climate Platform (EJNCP): Protecting EJ and Public Health (Letter)	CEQ on the Removal of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Regulations (Public Comment)

CECC March Round Table — Understanding the Current Administration's Environmental Justice Rollbacks

The Clean Economy Coalition of Color (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 Environmental Justice, Health, and Community Resilience and Revitalization 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 that are currently operating in the clean economy to share best practices and lessons learned.

In March, we 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.



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

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, Policy Consultant and Environmental Lawyer; David Wheaton, Legal Defense Fund.

[Watch the full March CECC roundtable here](#)

NICER

*Natural Infrastructure Center for
Environmental Justice and Resilience*



Landscape Assessment is Complete!

This quarter, the results of 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, 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 shared the results by posting a [Field Notes post](#), hosting a virtual “learning session,” and by joining calls across different programmatic staff teams.

NICER Working Group

To improve collaboration and communication on NICER-related work, we are forming a cross-departmental NICER working group. 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.

Advancing the Implementation Plan

The EJ team has been hard at work on the programmatic development and a plan for the implementation and activation of the NICER. We’ve created a draft short, medium, and long-term plan for strategically scaling the NICER’s initiatives. We are currently working on refining this plan with input from the NICER co-chairs and the NICER working group.

NICER & the Mississippi River Program Collaboration

The NICER continues to support the National Wildlife Federation's Mississippi River Program, with a particular focus on the Quad Cities region. 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.

Special Shoutout!

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



Growing our Followers!

Last quarter we launched an Instagram account for our program (@envjustice_nwf)! At the start of March, we had 58 followers, which almost doubled, and as of June 3, we have 95 followers! Additionally engagement continues to increase. From March 5 to May 31, we had 1985 views on our account. Our posts highlight community partners, policy news/positions, and Environmental Justice resources - [Visit our Instagram Page Here!](#)

Blogs Release & Engagement

This quarter, we published four blogs! Click on the titles below to read and learn more!

[EPA's Decision to Shutter Its Environmental Justice and Civil Rights Office Puts Communities at Risk](#)

[Two Years After Sackett: Still Wading Through Muddy Waters](#)

[Community Spotlight: A Toxic Tour in Oxnard, California](#)

[Community Spotlight: A Conversation with EJ Leader Vernice Miller-Travis](#)

Action Alert! Support for the Empowering and Enforcing Environmental Justice Act

This quarter, our team developed an action alert in collaboration with the Digital team, urging NWF supporters to reach out to Congress and support the Empowering and Enforcing Environmental Justice Act. The bill would permanently codify the Environmental Justice office at the Department of Justice and provide funding to states and Tribes to enforce environmental regulations. As of June 3rd, there are over 11,000 letters sent.

Internal Updates

Building Momentum & Enhancing our Foundations



Universal Dashboard

We are in the process of developing a Universal Dashboard to increase transparency surrounding our program and uplift the wide scope of projects and initiatives we undertake. The dashboard will cover all aspects of our program, including our strategic plan, communications, finances, policy, community engagements, and more.

Exploring Funding Opportunities

The NWF environmental justice program is actively reviewing and applying for funding. We had the opportunity to submit funding requests to two different funding sources:

- LOI to the New York Community Trust, National and International Environment Program.
- Proposal to the Burroughs Wellcome Foundation, Climate Change and Human Health Seed Grants.

Superfund Environmental Assessment Training

Becca Jimenez-Ward completed their first course in the Environmental Assessment Graduate Certificate program at North Carolina State University. Through the course, they learned the fundamentals of EPA Superfund environmental assessments (EA), including how to conduct an assessment and the key steps in the process. They hope to use this knowledge to better support communities navigating the Superfund process.

Strategic Planning & Program Alignment

Strategy pillar captains for the environmental justice pillars of the NWF Strategic plan met with their teams to reassess strategy goals and revise as necessary to best “meet this moment” in time. This included revising goals and action



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>Release of Universal Dashboard</p> <p>Next quarter we will share our Universal Dashboard, a glimpse into the ins-outs of the Environmental Justice Program!</p>	<p>Environmental Justice Annual Report</p> <p>Be on the look out for the Annual Report, to be released this upcoming quarter!</p>	<p>NICER Landscape Assessment Summary Report</p> <p>Stay tuned for a digestible report summarizing the results of the NICER Landscape Assessment, including a map!</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

