



# The State of Environmental Justice in America 2009 Conference



**May 27–29, 2009**



**Howard University  
School of Law**

2900 Van Ness Street, NW  
Washington, D.C.

*and*

**Doubletree Hotel –  
Crystal City**

300 Army-Navy Drive  
Crystal City, Virginia 22202

**Brought to you by:**

- **National Small Town Alliance**
- **U.S. Department of Energy**
- **U.S. Department of Agriculture**
- **Howard University School of Law**
- **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

[http://www.LM.doe.gov/env\\_justice/conference.htm](http://www.LM.doe.gov/env_justice/conference.htm)

Environmental Justice  
Definition and Conference  
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# About Environmental Justice



## What is Environmental Justice?

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people—regardless of race, ethnicity, income or education level—in environmental decision-making.

It has been more than 25 years since the Warren County, North Carolina, protest that arguably gave birth to the environmental justice movement in this country. It has been more than 20 years since the United Church of Christ published “Toxic Waste and Race in the United States,” a nationwide study that further documented the association between hazardous waste facilities and the racial composition of the communities hosting such facilities. It has been more than 15 years since *The National Law Journal* found that EPA enforcement under Superfund and other environmental laws was inequitable by race and income. It has been 13 years since the presidential executive order requiring that the principles of environmental justice be implemented throughout federal programs.

## The State of Environmental Justice in America 2009 Conference

The National Small Town Alliance, the Howard University School of Law, the United States Departments of Energy and Agriculture, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency have teamed with others to review the environmental justice movement and to determine the state of environmental justice in America:

- What do we mean by environmental justice in the 21st century?
- Have we made progress?
- What remains to be done?

A more complex and strategic assessment of environmental justice will be addressed at this exciting conference to examine the state of the issue.

## Why You Should Participate

The State of Environmental Justice in America 2009 Conference is exciting because it is a unique opportunity to bring together participants from diverse perspectives on environmental justice. This timely and inclusive 2009 conference welcomes people and organizations that may have never been able to openly discuss environmental justice to engage a variety of viewpoints and environmental justice strategies.

**Anyone** who is interested in the environmental justice arena is invited to participate.

Over the years, environmental justice has broadened in scope and now impacts even more community and policy discussions including architecture and green buildings, climate change, brownfields, community development, economic development, environmental regulations, gentrification, housing, planning, smart growth, sustainability, transportation, green jobs, unions, and almost all industries. It is vital that participants in these discussions and policy formulations attend this conference.

## Projected Audience

The conference seeks to continue bringing together participants from federal agencies, academia, business and industry, non-profit organizations, faith-based organizations, local community activists, and others to participate in dialogue on achieving equality of environmental protection. The conference will also continue to serve as an academic legal conference to advance scholarship regarding environmental justice. A related goal of this conference is to expose law students to the myriad and complicated aspects of environmental justice.

## Additional Information

For more information please contact Melinda Downing, Environmental Justice Program Manager, at [melinda.downing@hq.doe.gov](mailto:melinda.downing@hq.doe.gov) or access the Department's Environmental Justice website, [http://www.LM.doe.gov/env\\_justice/conference.htm](http://www.LM.doe.gov/env_justice/conference.htm).