



Addressing Environmental Injustices in the Chesapeake Bay watershed

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Choose Clean Water Coalition

About Me

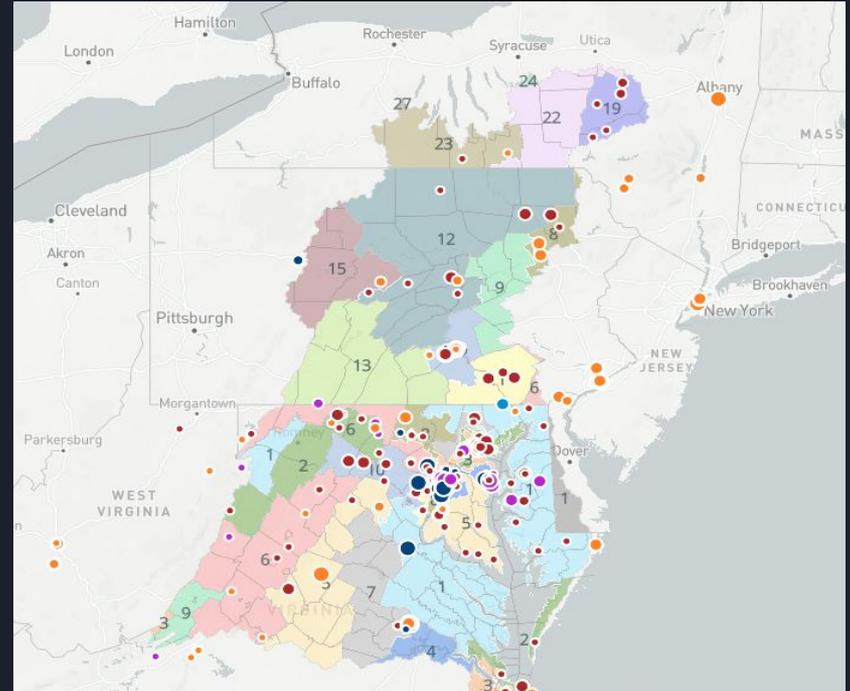


Choose Clean Water Coalition

Who: Over 260 members organizations

Mission: Restore and protect the healthy rivers and streams that flow through the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Policy Priorities: Federal Affairs, TMDL, Equity, Energy, Agriculture, Stormwater Communications



A Typical Day at Work



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE

CHAIR RAÚL M. GRIJALVA, REPRESENTATIVE A. DONALD MCEACHIN & SENATOR TAMMY DUCKWORTH





Terminology

Environmental Racism is the disproportionate impact of environmental hazards

Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with the respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.



Socioeconomic Issues

Climate Justice Can't Happen Without Racial Justice - David Lammy

WEALTH GAP: The median white American has TWELVE times the wealth of their black counterparts

HOUSING: More than 4 million instances of housing discrimination occur each year, and the vast majority are unreported

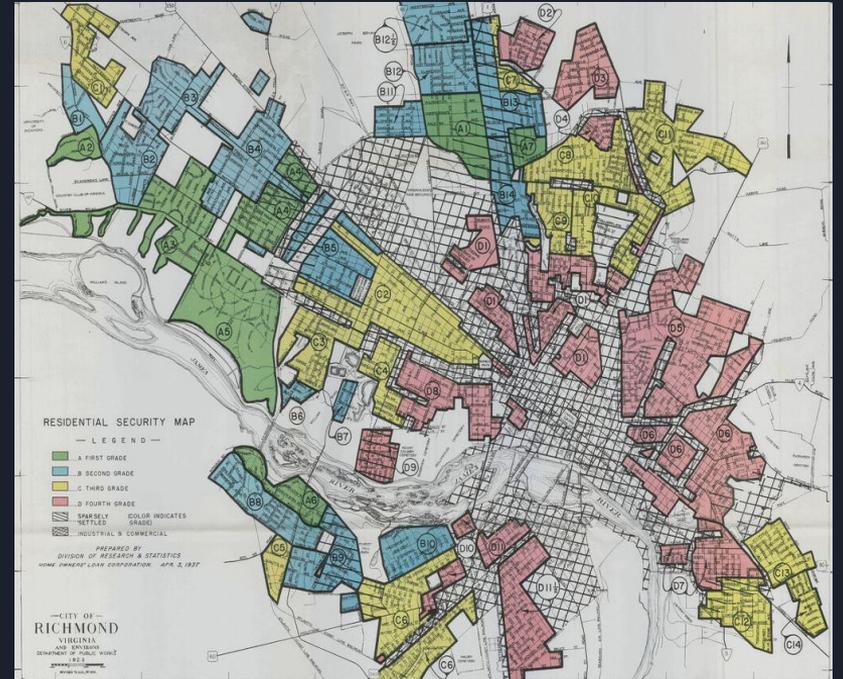
EDUCATION: The US educational system is one of the most unequal in the industrialized world. The wealthiest 10% of school districts spend nearly 10 times more than the poorest. Inequitable systems of school finance inflict disproportionate harm on minority and economically disadvantaged students

IMPACTS: Public health, mental health, environmental harm. African Americans are 75% more likely than whites to live in communities next to industrial facilities

Heirs Property



Redlining



What does Environmental Justice Look Like?



Case Study: Buckingham County Compressor Station

WHAT: Atlantic Coast Pipeline, 600 miles

WHERE: Union Hill is a historical Black Community founded by Freedmen after the Civil war

CHALLENGES: Strong support from Dominion Energy

VICTORY: The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals vacated an air permit citing that the Air Board failed to carefully account for the disproportionate harm of the project

Strong support from advocates and community members and received national attention and support



Case Study: Wheelabrator

WHAT: Johns Hopkins Hospital, waste to energy facility

WHERE: Baltimore City's one of the largest sources of air pollution. Recent study estimates that \$55M is spent per year on treating adverse health effects

CHALLENGES: Energy generated from the incinerator earns credits from the state's renewable energy portfolio

In 2020, the Baltimore Board of Estimates voted to extend the Wheelabrator contract to 2031

SOLUTIONS: HB0332 removes the incinerators from the energy portfolio.

Steering Baltimore towards zero waste





Areas of Opportunity at the Federal Level

Biden Administration

Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill

Environmental Justice for All Act

Challenges: Congress and DC Politics



Challenges

Lack of and/or no government accountability, oversight, and authority to address cumulative impacts and environmental injustices

Budget challenges

Leadership challenges

Deregulating environmental laws

Anti EJ/Environmental legislation- Spill Bill in Pennsylvania

Outdated regulations

Lack of education and understanding

Politics

Messaging

Clash between white led environmental justice groups and environmental groups



What Can You Do?

Vote!

Request a meeting with your representatives

Write a letter

Start a campaign of your own

Connect with local environmental organizations

Run for office



Questions?

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