



BACKGROUND

Overwhelming evidence shows that low-income communities and people of color bear disproportionate environmental burdens in our society. These neighborhoods are repeatedly chosen as sites for massive, polluting industrial facilities and landfills. Their air, land, and water are poisoned and contaminated by pollutants spewed out of giant smokestacks and bleeding into the ground from piles of toxic waste.

In 2000, the Sierra Club launched its National Environmental Justice Grassroots Organizing Program to address this national crisis. Through this program, the Sierra Club provides organizing assistance, activist empowerment training, and resources to community grassroots organizations and Sierra Club entities working with threatened communities. We work directly with communities to ensure that all people have equal access to clean air, clean land, and clean water. Merging with the former Environmental Partnerships Program, EJCP now includes tribal and Puerto Rican partnerships.

In addition, the EJCP Program is working to ensure that the transition to a new, green economy is a just one. Our organizers and national director are leading the fight for new, green livelihoods in the communities that need them most.

RESOURCES

The Sierra Club EJCP Program Provides:

- Campaign support for grassroots environmental justice groups.
- Trainings for community groups including strategic campaign planning, media relations, winning public hearings, how to form a non-profit, dismantling racism, and more.
- Training for Sierra Club volunteers including EJ activist training, dismantling racism, and cultural competency.
- Support for local, state, and federal legislative efforts.

Learn more about all of our work,
see specific contact information
for each organizer, and find the
program nearest you!

VISIT WWW.SIERRACLUB.ORG/EJCP



National ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE and Community Partnerships Program



ARIZONA/NEW MEXICO

Robert Tohe and Andy Bessler

In the Southwest, the Sierra Club's EJ Organizer Robert Tohe works with tribes and community groups to protect their resources from misuse and contamination via destructive industrial practices, as well as to ensure the health and safety of local residents. Robert works with a broad coalition of native groups whose aim is to prevent the resurgence of uranium mining in New Mexico and Arizona, where area residents still suffer from the health effects of past mining.

Since 1999, Andy Bessler has remained a trusted partner with diverse tribal communities and partner organizations in the Southwest to help bring about a Just Transition off dirty coal towards a green economy based on renewable energy from the wind and sun. Andy helps organize creative and visionary solutions with grassroots tribal communities to address the dark legacy of coal mining in the Southwest including work with the Navajo Green Economy Coalition. Andy also helps advise Sierra Club leadership in our ongoing efforts to promote diversity and inclusion across the country.

EL PASO, TEXAS

Mariana Chew-Sánchez

Every day, Sierra Club organizer Mariana Chew-Sánchez fights for social justice and environmental protection in two countries. Mariana supports communities in the United States and Mexico as they strive to make the border region of El Paso, Texas cleaner and safer. Working with residents on both sides of the border, Mariana leads the charge against the industrial, commercial and municipal pollution that contaminates the area and threatens the health of the millions of people who live there.

WASHINGTON, DC

Irv Sheffey

Irv Sheffey first got involved with the Sierra Club as a volunteer doing tree plantings throughout the city with the Casey Trees Endowment. Today, as the DC Environmental Justice organizer, Irv continues to work with local communities on tree plantings and clean-up. In addition, Irv has convened several conferences, community events, and educational talks to raise awareness about the numerous environmental justice issues facing the nation's capital.

WASHINGTON, DC

EJCP Program Director Leslie Fields, Esq.

Leslie Fields brings to the Sierra Club a wealth of knowledge, experience, and a deep commitment to the field of Environmental Justice. Based in the Sierra Club's Capitol Hill office, Leslie advocates for meaningful EJ policy on the federal level and supports the work of the Club's EJ organizers.

CENTRAL APPALACHIA

Bill Price

Communities in Central Appalachia are vigorously fighting to protect their homes, land, air, and water from the destruction created by the coal industry. Sierra Club organizer Bill Price works with local groups and Sierra Club volunteers to put an end to practices such as mountaintop removal coal mining that threaten Appalachia's health and heritage. The Central Appalachia site transcends state lines by organizing in communities in Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee.



DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Rhonda Anderson

With five proposed new coal-fired power plants, plans for a massive oil refinery expansion, and persistent solid waste issues, Detroit needs environmental justice now more than ever. Rhonda Anderson spends her days working with Detroit residents and local politicians to fight for the rights of communities already overburdened with polluting industries. Rhonda's powerful voice as a community advocate was recognized by the Michigan Chronicle, which named her as "One of the 10 Voices of Change for 2007."

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Rita Harris

Sierra Club organizer Rita Harris has been fighting for Environmental Justice in Memphis since the early 1990s. Leading frequent Toxic Tours and working with the community to campaign against major polluters, Rita works alongside residents to protect their land, air, water, and health. An air pollution monitoring program, a mapping project to alert residents to the dangers of a chemical spill, and an ongoing fight against a hazardous waste-burning incinerator all highlight actions by Memphis residents to improve environmental quality and justice for their communities.

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Darryl Malek-Wiley

The Club's EJ program in Louisiana began by focusing on empowering communities along the Mississippi River, from Baton Rouge to Venice, that are affected by toxic chemicals. Today, EJ Organizer Darryl Malek-Wiley works closely with community groups such as the Holy Cross Neighborhood Association and the Mary Queen of Viet Nam Parish in the monumental undertaking of recovering from Hurricane Katrina and the BP oil disaster.



PUERTO RICO

Camilla Feibelman

Camilla grew up in New Mexico and studied environmental biology at Columbia University. She began at the Sierra Club as a student activist and director of the Sierra Student Coalition. She went on to work in the media department to support communities in their fight for environmental justice and to launch the Sierra Club's first national Spanish language column. In 2005 Camilla moved to Puerto Rico to help establish the Sierra Club's first Spanish speaking chapter. In its first five years of existence, the chapter grew to more than 1,000 members. Her community organizing has focused on supporting efforts to protect the Northeast Ecological Corridor and its endangered leatherback turtle population from luxury development.



MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Karen Monahan

Karen Monahan works with communities all over the city who are disproportionately affected by the toxic by-products of industry, providing them with resources to fight for their health and safety. Karen works with HIRE Minnesota, which seeks to ensure that public investments in infrastructure and renewable energy help lift people out of poverty, reduce racial disparities and contribute to healthier communities. Karen also works closely with Healthy Legacy to educate about toxic chemicals and to make sure that communities of color are part of discussions that affect them.