

***ALMOST EVERYTHING
YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE***



Photo by Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice

Dear Friend,

The United Church of Christ helped to birth the movement which we now call the environmental justice movement in 1987 when the UCC Commission for Racial Justice published its legendary study, *Toxic Waste and Race*. Indeed, Ben Chavis and Charles Lee even coined the terms “environmental racism” and “environmental justice.” Almost from that moment we have been asked why the church is involved in environmental racism. My answer is simple: look in the very first chapter of the book of Genesis. If we believe that God created the earth, then we must do everything we can to ensure that the earth, and all of its inhabitants, are protected.

This guide to environmental justice and environmental racism will help you understand the process by which communities of color across this nation have become toxic waste sites. It will help you understand the connections between race and poverty and how our communities of color are more likely to be unhealthy places to live, work and play.

Most importantly, we hope that it will help you to find ways to become involved in cleaning up our communities and in preventing new toxic waste sites from being dumped. For we know that toxic wastes released into the water and air of communities of color don't just stay in them, they threaten every American everywhere. It reminds us of the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who said, “an injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

Another World is Possible. But only if we all get busy and clean up this one!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "M. Linda Jaramillo".

Rev. M. Linda Jaramillo
Executive Minister
Justice and Witness Ministries

INTRODUCTION:

“There is an environmental revolution going on in the United States and abroad. The struggle for environmental justice was not created in the 1990’s. People of color, individually and collectively, have waged war against environmental injustices that predates the first Earth Day in 1970. They were social and economic injustices that were embedded in institutional racism. Lack of services, land use and zoning issues, inadequate, intolerable hazardous living and work conditions. These were environmental problems in the sixties, they were environmental problems in the seventies, they were environmental problems in the 1990’s,”¹ and they still are environmental problems today.

The environmental justice movement is about trying to address all the inequalities that are the result of human settlement, industrial contamination and development. Our interest, at the Environmental Justice Program of the United Church of Christ, is to educate our churches and communities and to assist groups in organizing, mobilizing and empowering themselves to take charge of their lives, their communities and their surroundings. We seek to address the issues of power imbalances, political disfranchisement and lack of resources in order to facilitate the creation and maintenance of healthy, livable and sustainable communities.

The environmental justice movement is as much concerned about the environment as any of the traditional environmental groups. There is only one environment. The environmental justice movement is concerned about wetlands, birds and wilderness areas; it is also concerned, however, about urban habitats, about reservations, about the things that are happening in the US-Mexican border, about children poisoned by lead in their own homes and about children playing in contaminated parks and playgrounds. The environmental justice movement is committed to bring these issues to the attention of the large environmental groups and to the community at large. This is the purpose of this resource.

Knowing that the environmental justice movement is a dynamic one, a continuous struggle, we offer you this resource. “Almost everything” indicates that this resource is not the final word-- that there is so much out there to learn, understand and research. Please continue to add to this document the things you learn through your experiences as leaders in the environmental justice movement.

In these pages you will find the narrative of the historical process that galvanized the environmental justice movement. Within that history, you will also find the role that the United Church of Christ played in this important process. I believe that one of the most important aspects of the movement to keep in mind, while internalizing and understanding the historical development of the movement, is that we won’t be able to achieve sustainable development until we get justice in environmental protection, particularly the enforcement of regulations. The Church must be part of a long term active movement, not only working within the US borders but also keeping in mind the unsustainable development policies that are being exported abroad. The Church has a role in this anti-racist movement, and I hope that this resource will help us embrace the inclusive movement of environmental justice, opposing everything that relates to pollution, industrial contamination in poor communities and communities of color, and greed-driven non-sustainable development and non-sustainable patterns of production.

Carlos J. Correa Bernier
Environmental Justice Program
Racial Justice Team, Justice and Witness Ministries

¹ Dr. Robert Bullard, “A Dream Deferred: 30 Years After the Civil Rights Act of 1964,” *U.S. Department of Justice Symposium, November 30, 1994.*

WHAT IS THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT?

Most of the issues which now fall under the category of “environmental justice” have been matters of considerable concern among communities of color for many years. The characteristics of the issues that have been affecting our communities of color are part of discriminatory patterns of housing, land use, transportation, employment opportunities, occupational status, political disenfranchisement, and access to information and medical care. All of these factors have been associated with mental and physical health issues in poor communities and communities of color.

These environmental realities are contributors to the development of different types of illnesses and other physical conditions, economic abandonment, decay of infrastructure and the disintegration of communities.

Some of the earliest studies and reviews to identify environmental impact focused on such topics as lead poisoning, air pollution, pesticide exposure, occupational health and safety, environmental issues affecting Native Americans and radioactive hazards. Environmental Justice addresses these issues from a perspective of a question: who reaps the benefits and who is carrying the burden of the adverse impact of a modern industrial society?

Communities which suffer environmental injustice also suffer the negative effects of social inequity. These communities suffer both the physical and social consequences of housing discrimination, residential segregation, and inappropriate land use and zoning practices. They suffer from lack of educational and employment opportunity, inadequate health care services, economic disinvestment, political disenfranchisement, and other forms of racial discrimination. They are vulnerable to economic extortion and “job blackmail”. Cultural heritage and traditions vital to their survival as wholesome communities are maligned or eradicated. Their youth suffer from mass alienation and subject to destructive violence, often as a direct result of living in degraded physical environments.

The social justice movement has demonstrated that the negative impacts of environmental contamination have, for years, been implicitly associated with the issues of poverty and political disconnection of poor communities and communities of people of color. Nevertheless, it wasn't until approximately two decades ago that a series of events was able to demonstrate the connection, in an explicit manner, of the issues of environmental contamination with the elements of race, color and socio-economic status.

The Environmental Justice movement works with the environmental issues affecting communities of color, approaching every issue from an integrative perspective observing the benefits and problems that are part of an industrial society.

ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM

Environmental racism is the intentional placement of hazardous waste sites, landfills, incinerators, and polluting industries in communities inhabited mainly by African-Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asians, Pacific Islanders, migrant farm workers, and the working poor. Minorities are particularly vulnerable because they are perceived as weak and passive

citizens who will not fight back against the poisoning of their neighborhoods in fear that it may jeopardize jobs and economic survival. Environmental racism deals with discrimination which is observable in the issues related to unsustainable developments and to the implementation of policies, regulations and laws affecting the quality of our environment. Such racism becomes an obvious reality through the deliberate selection of communities of color to be used as place; where landfills are built, toxic waste is disposed of or where toxic industries are established. These communities of people of color are often excluded by the traditional environmental groups, by the board in charge of making significant environmental decisions or by the regulatory commissions or bodies.

HOW DOES THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT DEFINE THE ENVIRONMENT?

Throughout the history of the United States, there has existed an “inextricable link between exploitation of the land and exploitation of people.”² The grassroots Environmental Justice movement defines the environment as “the place where we live, where we work, and where we play.”³ It sees the ecosystem which forms the basis for life and well being as being composed of four interrelated environments: natural, artificial, social, and cultural/spiritual.

WHAT ARE SOME COMMON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ISSUES?

The Environmental Justice movement focuses its interest on actions by governmental structures or private corporations that are affecting the quality of environment or the quality of life of those living in communities close by. In most cases the environmental justice issues include a spectrum of concerns, most often in people of color and poor communities.



Photo by Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice

The following is a list of results of some of the discriminatory practices:

- The placing of hazardous and other noxious facilities
- Lead poisoning among children
- Asthma and other respiratory illnesses
- Unsafe, indecent, and exploitative workplace conditions
- Cancer, birth defects, and developmental illnesses
- Pesticide poisoning of farm workers
- Contaminated sites and properties
- Transportation thoroughfares
- Congested and decaying housing conditions

² Charles Lee, “Environmental Justice and You”, United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice.

³ *Proceedings: The First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit*, (The Washington Court on Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C., October 24-27, 1991), United Church of Christ, Commission for Racial Justice.

- Lack of protection of spiritual grounds and indigenous habitats
- Pollution and lack of sound economic development
- Lack of access to quality health care
- Unequal enforcement of environmental laws
- Lack of people of color in the environmental professions
- Inadequate community participation in the decision-making process

There is an element of environmental justice in almost everything that affects the quality of life in the place where we live, work and play. That's why the Environmental Justice movement says "people must speak for themselves."⁴

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1982, WARREN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA: A poor and predominantly African American county was chosen by the State of North Carolina for the placing of a toxic waste landfill to dispose of PCB's illegally dumped along the roadway of fourteen counties.

Community residents enlisted the support of the United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice to engage a campaign of nonviolent civil disobedience which ultimately resulted in over 500 arrests.

Warren County is widely viewed as the juncture which marks the transformation of environmental problems in people of color and low income communities from isolated issues into the present national concern around environmental justice.

JUNE 1983, U.S. GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE REPORT: Subsequent to Warren County, a GAO study found that 3 out of the 4 offsite hazardous waste landfills in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Region 4 (Southeast) were located in predominantly poor black communities.

1987, TOXIC WASTE AND RACE IN THE UNITED STATES: This landmark report by the United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice was the first national study on the demographic patterns associated with the location of hazardous waste sites, both operating and abandoned. Among other things, the study found that a community's racial composition was the most significant factor in explaining the existence of operating hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal facilities. It also documented the large concentrations of abandoned hazardous sites in communities of color, particularly in metropolitan areas. This often-quoted report gave great visibility to environmental issues in communities of color; it has been credited with "changing the terms of the debate on issues of race and the environment."⁵

1990, WE SPEAK FOR OURSELVES: SOCIAL JUSTICE, RACE AND THE ENVIRONMENT: A book edited by Dana Alston, the title of this publication by the Panos Institute became emblematic of a

⁴ Ibid

⁵ *Environmental Justice and You*, United Church of Christ Commission on Racial Justice, p.1.

major tenet of Environmental Justice, i.e. affected communities must play a meaningful role in identifying, defining and articulating concerns and become equal partners in achieving solutions.

1990, DUMPING IN DIXIE: RACE, CLASS AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY: The first academic text on Environmental Justice, written by Robert Bullard, chronicled environmental justice struggles in urban, rural and suburban African American communities in the South. In years since, scores of books (including a number by Dr. Bullard) as well as hundreds of papers, articles and monographs in public health, sociological, legal, ethical, religious and popular literature have appeared. Special issues of numerous scholarly journals have been devoted to the subject of Environmental Justice.

1990, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN SYMPOSIUM ON “RACE AND THE INCIDENCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS”: This first gathering of “scholar-activists” addressing issues of Environmental Justice led to the publication in 1992 of *Race and the Incidence of Environmental Hazards: A Time for Discourse*, Bunyan Bryant and Paul Mohai (ed.), and the formation of the Michigan Coalition, which began a series of key dialogues with the EPA. Similar to a growing body of scholarly literature, there have since been thousands of conferences, symposia, seminars, and technical workshops on Environmental Justice.

1991, FIRST NATIONAL PEOPLE OF COLOR ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT: This historic conference, sponsored by the United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice, brought together approximately 1,000 people from virtually all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Mexico and the Marshall Islands. It solidified the grassroots people of color environmental movement in the United States. Out of this process, a new definition of the environment emerged as being “the place where we live, where we work and where we play.” Summit delegates adopted a set of seventeen Principles of Environmental Justice, codifying the concept.



Photo by Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice

Among other things, this Summit moved Environmental Justice from merely being focused on the placement of hazardous facilities to embracing more global issues such as public health, cultural survival and sovereignty of Native people, land rights, land use, community empowerment, transportation, energy, federal facilities cleanup and defense conversion, urban decay, economic justice, sustainability, and trans-boundaries issues. The Summit deliberations were published in the Proceedings of the *First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit*, edited by Charles Lee.

IMPACT OF FEDERAL POLICY 1989, ATSDR MINORITY HEALTH INITIATIVE: Impetus from the US Department of Health and Human Services’ *Report on Black and Minority Health*, and the report, *The Future of Public Health*, and the United Church of Christ report caused the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry, the federal agency with responsibility for the environmental health agendas specified under Superfund legislation, to undertake a Minority

Health Initiative. ATSDR sponsored a “National Minority Health Conference: Focus on Environmental Contamination” (December 4-6, 1990, Atlanta, GA).

1992, ESTABLISHMENT OF EPA OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: Administrator William Reilly, as the result of a series of dialogues with members of The Michigan Coalition, established the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Office of Environmental Justice (Originally named Office of Environmental Equity) and the publication of the EPA report *Environmental Equity: Reducing Risks for all Communities*. The Office of Environmental Justice coordinates work by environmental justice staff in EPA’s ten regions, administers several environmental justice grant programs (including Small Grants and Community/University Partnership programs), and oversees several environmental justice projects.

1994, FEDERAL INTERAGENCY SYMPOSIUM ON “HEALTH RESEARCH AND NEEDS TO ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE”: This historic symposium was originally planned to be a follow-up session to the “Equity in Environmental Health” workshop. Efforts spearheaded by Dr. Robert Bullard and Charles Lee led to “opening up the process” and the creation of a unique planning committee composed of grassroots environmental justice activists, community organizers, research scientists and academicians along with government representatives. Attended by 1,000 persons – 400 of whom were residents of impacted communities -- the symposium process generated the “bottom up” energy needed to effect national policy change. The symposium developed an extensive set of recommendations in the following areas : (1) conduct meaningful health research in support of people of color and low income communities, (2) promote disease prevention and pollution prevention strategies, (3) promote interagency cooperation to ensure environmental justice, (4) provide effective outreach, education and communications, and (5) design legislative and legal remedies. It was sponsored by EPA, ATSDR, the Department of Energy, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

FEBRUARY 11, 1994, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE EXECUTIVE ORDER: On the second day of the interagency symposium on “Health Research and Needs to Ensure Environmental Justice,” President Clinton signed Executive Order 12898, “Federal Actions to Ensure Environmental Justice in Minority and Low Income Populations.” The Executive Order focused on the application of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). It called for improved methodologies for assessing and mitigating impacts and health effects on communities, collection of data on low income and minority populations which may be disproportionately at risk, and identification of the impact on subsistence populations. It encourages participation of the impacted communities in the various phases. The Executive Order created an Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice consisting of 17 federal agencies.

1994, NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL: EPA established a formal federal advisory committee to provide advice on issues related to environmental justice. The 25-member council was chaired by Richard Moore (Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice) and it was composed of representatives from community groups, academia, industry, local and state government and nongovernmental organizations. It functioned through six subcommittees: Research and Health, Public Participation, Enforcement, Waste and Facility Placing, International and Indigenous Issues. Some key accomplishments were: the review of the EPA Environmental Justice strategic plan, development of a public participation model,

recommendations for a health research agenda, enforcement strategies and a five-city series of public hearings on environmental justice, urban revitalization and landfills.

THE VISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

In a very short period, Environmental Justice has evolved tremendously. More than merely a response to environmental inequities, it offers a maturing vision for the future. The vision of environmental justice is the development of a holistic, bottom up, community based, multi-issue paradigm for achieving healthy and sustainable communities. When the Environmental Justice movement demanded that people must speak for themselves about an environment defined as the place we live, where we work, and where we play, it established a framework for bridging some key components of our national environmental policy. These include community based environmental protection, pollution prevention, integration of urban public policy and government accountability to the public.

In recent years, a grassroots vision of what constitutes physically and psychologically healthy, economically and ecologically sustainable, and culturally and spiritually vital communities in a multiracial and multicultural society has evolved. This is a unifying theme of the Environmental Justice movement.

The collective and individual health of members of a community is the direct result of a set of physical, social, cultural and spiritual factors. The emphasis of looking into the importance of the comprehensive health and well being of a community was directly initiated by the Environmental Justice movement. The Environmental Justice movement represents a new vision created through a series of community processes whose main objective is a transformative public conversation about what is necessary for sustainable, healthy and vital communities. The Environmental Justice movement envisions the development of a community based, multi-task integrative paradigm that facilitates the unification, development and permanency of healthy and sustainable communities.

THE EFFECTS OF WAR ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Excerpted from "War and the Environment: Some of the Ways that Military Actions Can Affect the Ecosystem," by Roland Wall

We are used to thinking of human effects on the environment – like pollution or sprawl-- as being the result of growth, a byproduct of consumption and development. Often, policy makers must balance environmental problems against long term economic benefits such as jobs, food production or human welfare. Yet the environmental consequences of economic activity can pale before the damage associated with the far more ambivalent "benefits" of war. Regardless of the policy logic, violent conflicts within and between nations are, by definition, designed to bring about the purposeful destruction of humans, resources and landscape.

Warfare can affect many aspects of the environment. Land use, water supply, air quality, biological resources, and the functioning of ecosystem services are often disrupted by war. Military impact on natural capital is global, ongoing and persistent. It can result from the actual physical destruction of landscape, the release of pollution during (or in preparation for) combat, or from the social disruption that leads to refugee population, resource depletion and subsistence living.

The International Campaign to Ban Landmines estimates that ten of millions of explosive booby traps have been left scattered around the world from various conflicts. In nations such as Cambodia and Bosnia there may be well over a hundred landmines per square mile. Beyond the horrendous human costs exacted by these devices, when present in such numbers, they effectively shut off access to huge amounts of productive land.

Critical natural habitat and its associated biodiversity have been steadily diminished in wars around the world. By 1991, decades of civil war in Angola had left the nation's park and reserve with only 10% of their 1975 wildlife population levels. In Sri Lanka, a six year civil war has led to the felling of over 5 million trees, including 2.5 million of palmyrah, a crucial resource for the farmers and villagers of the island. Bombing and defoliants in Vietnam and Afghanistan resulted in dramatic habitat loss for both countries.

While environmental damage will always be a collateral effect of warfare, with adequate preparation, clear rules of engagement and timely post war interventions, this damage can be lessened and ultimately corrected. In working toward this goal, it is convenient to employ two term used for peacetime environmental management: pollution prevention and environmental remediation.

For the most part, however, the existing international law only applies to international environmental destruction. Despite the best efforts of diplomats and scholars, war will inevitably damage key natural ecosystem services. In post war settings, timely and effective remediation is critical to minimizing the damage of the environment.

It will fall upon policy makers, diplomats and scientists to develop methods which will, at least, have a chance of preventing environmental catastrophes. To do this, society must look beyond the political rationales and recognize warfare for what it is: a direct and relentless assault on human and natural ecosystems.



WHAT SHOULD WE DO IF WE HAVE AN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE/ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM PROBLEM?

- Talk to members of your church and others in the community
- Research all the facts
- Develop a good description of the problem
- Collect good documentation of issues and activities
- Consult with other communities with similar issues; don't reinvent the wheel
- Select the most appropriate resource persons and organizations
- Identify government agencies who are supposed to help
- Clarify the legal, scientific and medical issues involved
- Hold community meetings to share information and strategize
- Prepare educational materials for your community
- Formulate an action plan
- Form partnerships with university, environmental, health and other groups

- Devise a media strategy
- Don't be intimidated or overwhelmed; you are the expert on your community
- Network with other environmental justice groups

PRINCIPLES OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (EJ)

Delegates to the *First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit* held on October 24-27, 1991, in Washington, D.C. drafted and adopted 17 principles of Environmental Justice. Since then, *The Principles* have served as a defining document for the growing grassroots movement for environmental justice.

Preamble:

We, the people of color, gathered together at this multinational People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit, to begin to build a national and international movement of all people of color to fight the destruction and taking our land and communities, do hereby re-establish our spiritual interdependence to the sacredness of our Mother Earth; to respect and celebrate each of our cultures, languages and beliefs about the natural world and our roles in healing ourselves; to insure environmental justice; to promote economic alternatives which would contribute to the development of environmentally safe livelihoods; and, to secure our political, economic and cultural liberation that has been denied for over 500 years of colonization and oppression, resulting in the poisoning of our communities and land and the genocide of our people, do affirm and adopt these Principles of Environmental Justice:

- 1) **Environmental Justice** affirms the sacredness of Mother Earth, ecological unity and the interdependence of all species, and the right to be free from ecological destruction.
- 2) **Environmental Justice** demands that public policy be based on mutual respect and justice for all people, free from any form of discrimination or bias.
- 3) **Environmental Justice** mandates the right to ethical, balanced and responsible uses of land and renewable resources in the interest of a sustainable planet for humans and other living things.
- 4) **Environmental Justice** calls for universal protection from nuclear testing, extraction, production and disposal of toxic/hazardous wastes and poisons and nuclear testing that threaten the fundamental right to clean air, land, water, and food.
- 5) **Environmental Justice** affirms the fundamental right to political, economic, cultural and environmental self-determination of all peoples.
- 6) **Environmental Justice** demands the cessation of the production of all toxins, hazardous waste, and radioactive materials, and that all past and current procedures are held strictly accountable to the people for detoxification and the containment at the point of production.
- 7) **Environmental Justice** demands the right to participate as equal partner at every level of decision-making, including needs assessment, planning, implementation, enforcement and evaluation.
- 8) **Environmental Justice** affirms the right of all workers to a safe and healthy work environment without being forced to choose between an unsafe livelihood and unemployment. It also affirms the right of those who work at home to be free from environmental hazards.

- 9) **Environmental Justice** protects the right of victims of environmental injustice to receive full compensation and reparations for damages as well as quality health care.
- 10) **Environmental Justice** considers governmental acts of environmental injustice a violation of international law, the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, and the United Nations Convention on Genocide.
- 11) **Environmental Justice** must recognize a special legal and natural relationship of Native People to the United States government through treaties, agreements, compacts, and covenants affirming sovereignty and self determination.
- 12) **Environmental Justice** affirms the need for urban and rural ecological policies to clean up and rebuild our cities and rural areas in balance with nature, honoring the cultural integrity of all our communities, and providing fair access for all to the full range of resources.
- 13) **Environmental Justice** calls for the strict enforcement of principles of informed consent, and a halt to the testing of experimental reproductive and medical procedures and vaccinations on people of color.
- 14) **Environmental Justice** opposes the destructive operations of multi-national corporations.
- 15) **Environmental Justice** opposes military occupation, repression and exploitation of lands, people and cultures, and other life forms.
- 16) **Environmental Justice** calls for the education of present and future generations which emphasizes social and environmental issues, based on our experience and an appreciation of our diverse cultural perspectives.
- 17) **Environmental Justice** requires that we, as individuals, make personal and consumer choices to consume as little of Mother Earth's resources and to produce as little waste as possible; and make the conscious decision to challenge and reprioritize our lifestyles to insure the health of the natural world for present and future generations.

Photo by Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice



THE MOVEMENT CONTINUES

The number of encounters, conferences and publications about environmental justice are on the increase. The events mentioned above helped galvanized the national attention. These encounters, efforts and publications represent the connections that were generated by a group of people who share, among other realities, being people of color, having low financial income and needing to confront the issues related to their environment, their health and social policy. As more groups are formed, the participants -- as important "players" in the development of the

environmental movement -- are still developing an impressive accumulation of knowledge and experiences related to the environmental health of their communities.

These community groups were able to establish regional networks through which they exchange information, support and efforts. Many of these groups have been of extreme importance for the

development, strength and maintenance of the Environmental Justice movement. Many of the efforts of the groups involved in the development of the movement have been documented by Robert Bullard in 1995 in his publication titled *Directory of People of Color Environmental Groups, 2nd Edition*.

These groups also provided the necessary energy for the development and implementation of legal defense efforts, implementation of university programs, religious initiatives, legislative actions and governmental programs dealing with issues of environmental justice. They also continue developing technical tools, databases, public education campaigns, programs for leadership training and development, contamination prevention and strategy for environmental restoration, models for working groups and new protocols for the effective participation of communities in the scientific investigation, environmental decision making processes and public policy.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACADEMIC CAREERS

The area of academic/professional careers within the fields of environmental issues is a complex one. Environmental contamination fluctuates from the very “simple” action of creating domestic landfills to the creation of massive dumps of toxic waste in poor communities of people of color. This kind of complexity had created the need for development and offers an ample area of possible academic and professional careers.

Those interested in formal education with an interest in environmental issues should consider the different academic concentrations that are intimately related to the issues of environmental contamination:

- Marine biology
- Entomology
- Environmental lobbying
- Conservation Science
- Environmental Chemistry
- Environmental Law
- Photobiology

There are other concentrations that can be easily researched on the internet.

The employment offers for those in the field of environmental issues are equally vast.

- Environmental researcher
- Fishing scientist
- Biomedical and pharmaceutical researcher
- Meteorologist
- Recreational developer
- Geophysics
- Marine biologist
- Hydrologist
- Environmental analyst
- Environmental lawyer

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the amount of employees in the environmental fields is significant, but with a series of significant needs:

- Industrial Engineer: 198,000
- Scientific Technician: 198,000

- Chemical Scientist: 92,000
- Environmental Scientist: 62,000
- Environmental Engineer: 52,000 (16,000 working for the government)
- Urban and Regional Planner: 30,000
- Conservation and Forest Scientist: 29,000
- Geoscientist: 25,000
- Ground Architect: 22,000
- Agricultural and Food Scientist: 17,000
- Hydrologist: 8,000
- Atmosphere Scientist: 6,900
- Mine Engineer: 6,500
- Agricultural Engineer: 2,400

Some of the universities in the United States and Puerto Rico offering concentrations related to environmental issues are:

- Boston University
- Duke University
- Michigan State University
- Northwestern University
- San Francisco State University
- Universidad de Puerto Rico (Recinto de Mayagüez)
- University of Idaho (School of Natural Resources)
- University of Michigan
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point
- University of Vermont (School of Natural Science)

There are also a series of web pages offering information about studies, jobs, careers, training, conferences and financial resources, which can help you obtain information about academic possibilities and leadership within the field of Environmental Science and Environmental Justice.

- www.enviroeducation.com
- www.ecojobs.com
- www.ecoemploy.com
- www.ejobs.com
- www.epa.gov
- www.galaxy.com
- www.eco.org
- www.education.org
- www.environmentalcareer.com

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