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Environmental Justice Toolbox

The Environmental Justice (EJ) Toolbox supports local planning or policy processes intended to identify and implement opportunities to advance equitable plans, projects, programs, and policies that improve outcomes for EJ communities. It provides recommended practices and approaches for nine different EJ topics for the six counties in the SCAG region: Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura.

Healthy, Safe, and Sanitary Housing

Climate Vulnerability and Resiliency

Impacts of Road Pricing Mechanisms

Access to Essential Services and Facilities

Roadway and Aviation Noise Impacts

Community Outreach and Engagement

Active Living, Active Transportation, and Physical Activity

Air Quality and Pollution Exposure Impacts

Other Policy Recommendations for EJ Impacts

Environmental Justice

Healthy, Sustainable, Viable and Equitable Communities

Health · Economic · Transportation · Social · Environmental

What is environmental justice?

The fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

Source: State of California Department of Justice

What are environmental justice communities?

Low-income communities of color experiencing disproportionate negative environmental impacts that affect their access to more mobile, sustainable, and prosperous futures.

Climate Vulnerability and Resiliency

Climate change already impacts all communities in California, but EJ communities can potentially suffer disproportionately higher adverse impacts when EJ is not considered during the planning process. Extreme heat, flooding, wildfire, drought, and sea-level rise are hazards that can harm people and present risk to the built and natural environment.

Below are examples of existing projects, programs and policies that local jurisdictions and community members can reference during their planning process to address climate vulnerability and resiliency.

Example Practices & Approaches

Project Examples

- California Department of Public Health (CDPH), California Building Against Resilience Against Climate Effects (CalBRACE) Initiative

Program Examples

- City of Los Angeles Cooling Center Program
- City of Riverside Heat Response Plan

Policy Examples

- California Air Pollution Control Officers Association, Model Policies for Greenhouse Gases in General Plan (2009)
- Ventura County Tree Protection Ordinance

About SCAG

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is the nation's largest Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), representing 6 counties, 191 cities and more than 19 million residents. The SCAG region is home to a diverse population and a variety of built and natural environments. With this diversity comes a wide range of health outcomes and challenges, but also opportunities to plan for healthy communities and to prioritize policies that support healthy outcomes for people of all ages and socioeconomic backgrounds. SCAG is responsible for developing the Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), or "Connect SoCal". The multimodal transportation and land use strategies of Connect SoCal include many co–benefits for improving health outcomes and present opportunities to ensure investments result in equitable health outcomes and benefit all populations in the region.

For more information visit: https://scag.ca.gov/environmental-justice