

Takeaways from Multi-State Attorneys General Guidance Affirming the Legality of Environmental Justice Initiatives

The following highlights examples from the Guidance of policies and activities that public and private entities may undertake to advance environmental justice.

Education, Technical Assistance, and Funding Support	Education – Education programs for nonprofit organizations, municipalities, and others about environmental justice issues, efforts, and funding opportunities.
	Technical Assistance and Funding – Training, technical assistance, and funding support to address environmental health and disproportionate, cumulative and/or concentrated environmental harms.
Public Engagement and Participation	Language Access – Language access to ensure public participation and advance health and safety of all communities through, for example, notices, alerts, meetings, warnings, and resources.
	Outreach and Accessibility – Practices to improve accessibility for community participation, including people with disabilities or vulnerable immigration status. These may include offering hybrid attendance, varied meeting times to accommodate work- or care-giving needs, extended comment periods, and broad, targeted, and early outreach.
Burden Identification and Analysis	Scientific Analysis and Data collection – Air and water quality monitoring, mapping, research and analysis to inform environmental decision-making.
	Cumulative Impacts Data – Data collection on overlapping chemical and non-chemical stressors to understand how pollution and other burdens create disproportionate impacts on specific communities and populations.
	Socio-Environmental Data – Analyzing pollution data alongside other datasets to predict human health impacts, including the location of people with higher health risks, socioeconomic stressors, and access to social determinants of health (such as access to healthcare, housing, food, public services, transportation, or jobs).
	Community Co-Management of Monitoring – Community ownership or co-management of pollution monitoring providing real-time data to understand pollution burdens and enforce emissions limits.

Preventing and Mitigating Pollution Exposures	Access to Safe Drinking Water – Programs to protect access to safe, clean water, including funding support for municipal and household infrastructure projects, such as lead pipes replacement, providing water during crises, and well testing.
	Healthy Homes Initiatives – Policies and programs to improve indoor environments by reducing air pollutants, toxins, and pests. These may include appliance emission standards, funding for air monitors and purification systems, and lead and mold abatement standards and enforcement.
	Environmental Justice and/or Cumulative Impacts Review –Environmental justice or cumulative impact reviews and assessments to identify and help reduce or avoid increased pollution exposures from facility permit or land use decisions in communities that are already home to pollution sources.
	Community Benefits Plans and Agreements (CBPs and CBAs) – CBPs and CBAs to help ensure benefits from land use and infrastructure decisions flow to communities. They can enable developers and local governments to commit to measures like pollution mitigation, job access, and environmental protections to address environmental health impacts.
Climate Readiness and Resilience	Climate Resilient Infrastructure – Climate resilience programs that protect communities disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change. These may include flood-proofing, stormwater upgrades, heat mitigation (e.g., trees, cool roofs, green spaces), home weatherization in vulnerable areas, and community Resilience Hubs to offer power, cooling, food, and medical aid during and after extreme weather.
Enforcement and Remedies	Task Forces & Interagency Working Groups – Working groups to bring together state, regional, and local agencies to coordinate inspections, issue citations, and hold public meetings to improve enforcement, including by responding to reports of violations and working in partnership with impacted communities.
	Community Enforcement Partnerships and Input – Public agency investigations and enforcement actions based on data from community groups through field test kits and sampling tools for water and air pollution. Public entities can offer accessible opportunities for residents to provide direct community testimony on potential or alleged violations during enforcement hearings.
	Community-Centered Remedies – Government entities can seek remedies for environmental violations that result in benefits flowing to impacted communities.
	Environmental and Climate Justice Advocacy – Private entities retain the right to advance environmental and climate justice goals through community organizing and policy advocacy.