

What is Environmental Justice?

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

Everyone has the right to a healthy environment. *You should be able to expect the same healthy environment as any other neighborhood or community. Your community should be involved in decisions that affect your community's health and environment.*

Low-income communities, communities of color, and residents with limited English proficiency often suffer the “first and worst” effects of environmental harm, including **exposure to severe heat, lead paint in homes, and air and water pollution.**



Many communities lack access to resources to build resilience and improve quality of life. These resources include **green spaces, access to healthcare and transportation, and cooling spaces.**

Recent EJ Case Examples

1

East Hollis, Nashua **Defeated Proposal for Asphalt Plant**



In 2022, activists rallied against a proposal to build an asphalt plant in Nashua. The plant would have been built in an area that is home to many immigrants and people of color, and would have significantly increased air and noise pollution, and commercial traffic. Community activism and legal testimony led to the proposal's rejection in July 2024.

2

Dalton **Landfill Expansion**



The North Country has been fighting NH's ongoing waste crisis for decades. The region houses major landfills, though most of the waste comes from out-of-state. In 2023, Casella Waste Systems proposed a new landfill in Dalton. The landfill would be 70 acres and receive 1,800 tons of waste every day for 18 years. The current battle against this proposal is an important opportunity for residents to voice their concerns and protect the communities most affected by environmental contaminants.

3

Manchester **Urban Forestry Program**



In 2024, the City of Manchester launched a bold Tree Equity Program. Trees will be planted and green spaces created to address extreme heat and environmental inequities. The Manchester Environmental Justice Advisory Group identified issues of tree inequities and heat islands and mobilized support for the Program. Members of the Advisory Group will join the Urban Forestry Committee to guide planning and implementation of the Tree Equity Program, and a “Tree Ambassador” program will provide workforce development opportunities to equip community members with urban forestry skills to ensure program sustainability.



Next Steps: EJ Community Engagement

*click the headlines
for more information*

> **NH Environmental Justice Roundtable**

Monthly virtual meetings connect people and organizations working on EJ in NH, and collectively design and support greater EJ learning, action and movement building in NH. For more information, email nh.ej.rdtbl@gmail.com.

> **Manchester NAACP**

The Manchester NAACP organizes communities of color in Greater Manchester that are often disproportionately burdened by pollution and other environmental harm. The organization works for the equitable sharing of benefits associated with green spaces, transportation, and community planning. For information, visit naacpmanchesternh.com

> **Granite State Organizing Project (GSOP)**

GSOP works to strengthen the collective voice in decisions that affect New Hampshire communities by taking action on issues such as poor housing, failing schools, barriers to citizenship, unjust working conditions, and costly health care that put neighborhoods at risk. GSOP has active chapters across NH. For more information, visit granitestateorganizing.org

> **NH Center for Justice and Equity (NHCJE)**

NHCJE believes that everyone has a role to play in creating a vibrant, flourishing, just, and equitable New Hampshire for all. NHCJE works to impact government decision-making with specific focus on efforts to realize environmental justice and equity in infrastructure. To get involved, visit nhcje.org/policy-platform

> **NH Healthy Climate**

NH Healthy Climate includes students, trainees, early-, mid- and late-career professionals, as well as retirees, from a wide variety of healthcare settings, both clinical and nonclinical. Its work is concerned with the impact of climate on individual and population health and equity, seeking progress through education and advocacy in support of just climate solutions. For more information visit nhclimatehealth.org

> **Conservation Law Foundation (CLF)**

CLF is a non-profit environmental advocacy organization working to advance environmental justice in New Hampshire and across New England. It has dedicated, full-time staff working to build an environmental justice advocacy community in Manchester and Nashua. People interested in working on environmental justice issues in these communities can learn more [here](#), and can contact CLF EJ Advocates Arnold Mikolo (amikolo@clf.org, Manchester) and Marina Vaz (mvaz@clf.org, Nashua) to get involved.

Additional Resources

[Environmental Business Council \(EBC\)](#) New England Chapter

[Indigenous NH Collaborative Collective \(INHCC\)](#)

[The Nature Conservancy \(TNC\)](#)

[New England Grassroots Environment Fund](#)

[New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services](#)

[Outdoor Research Collaborative](#)