HEC ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCATE EJ TRAINING

PLEASE NOTE:

• All participants are automatically muted in order to cut down on feedback so please type questions/comments in the chat box if you are in the Zoom meeting

• Slides will be shared through the FB event and on our webpage!
HEC ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCATES

all. together. now.
About the Hoosier Environmental Council

• OUR MISSION:
• The Hoosier Environmental Council is the voice of the people for the environment in Indiana—the organization with the passion and the plan to tackle our environmental challenges and help make our state a healthier, better place to live and do business.
What the “HEC” does HEC do?

• Education
• Legal & Technical Assistance
• Advocacy
How To Get Involved

Grassroots Advocacy 101
Stay informed – HEC Website

The 2019 Indiana General Assembly

Hoosier Environmental Council has a bi-partisan approach to advocating for clean air and water, protected wilderness, and quality of life in Indiana.

Learn More

www.hecweb.org
Help Raise Awareness

www.facebook.com/hecweb
www.twitter.com/HEC_ED
www.instagram.com/hoosierenvcouncil
www.youtube.com/user/hecweb1
Environmental Justice: Paula Brooks
Advancing Environmental Justice In Indianapolis
Environmental Racism
• Any Environmental Policy, Practice, Or Directive That Negatively Affects - Whether Intentionally Or Not - Individuals, Groups, Or Communities Based On Race Or Color

Environmental Equity
• No Single Group Or Community Faces Disadvantages In Dealing With Environmental Hazards, Disasters Or Pollution

Environmental Justice
• Civic Activism To Protect The Right To A Clean, Healthy And Safe Environment By Highlighting Inequities And Advocating For Policies That Level The Playing Field
Environmental Justice

- A Global Social Justice Movement
- Inter-Generational, Multi-Ethnic Leadership
- De-Centralized, Response To Environmental Racism
The Environmental Justice Movement Can Be Traced To The Passing Of The 1964 Civil Rights Act

Title VI Prohibits Discrimination On The Basis Of Race, Color Or National Origin In All Programs Or Activities Receiving Federal Funds
A Watershed Moment for Environmental Justice

In 1982, Warren County, NC Residents Made Use Of Organized Civil Disobedience Tactics To Keep Out A Toxic Waste Dump For Soil Contaminated With PBC’S

Hoosier Environmental Council, 2020
Warren County Residents Redefined Environmentalism By Expanding The Narrative To Include The Impact Of Environmental Hazards On Low Income Communities And People Of Color

Hoosier Environmental Council, 2020
Redefined To

“Where We Live, Work, Play, Learn And Pray”
## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HAZARDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chemical</th>
<th>Physical</th>
<th>Biological</th>
<th>Mechanical</th>
<th>Psychosocial</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lead</td>
<td>Noise</td>
<td>Bacteria</td>
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<td>Light</td>
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<td>Electromagnetic Fields</td>
<td>Viruses</td>
<td>Lifting</td>
<td>High-Demand/Low-Control Occupations</td>
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<td>Solvents</td>
<td>Temperature Extremes</td>
<td>Rodents</td>
<td>Poorly Designed Equipment</td>
<td>Poverty</td>
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Hoosier Environmental Council, 2020
Environmental Racism – Real World Impacts

- Increased Risk of Exposure To Environmental Hazards
- Disproportionately Burdened By Negative Environmental Processes And Policies
- Segregation Of Minority Workers In Dangerous And Dirty Jobs
- Workers Forced To Choose Between Hazardous Jobs And Environmental Standards
- Inequality In Environmental Services And The Built Environment
- Lax Enforcement of Environmental Laws, Regulations And Practices
Advocacy Is The Core Of Environmental Justice

- Fighting For The Needs Of The Community Members
- Making Sure Community Members Have A Voice On The Things That Are Most Important To Them
- Building Trust, Power And Equity
- Connecting Organizing Work To Real Policy Change

Hoosier Environmental Council, 2020
• Provides ongoing, informed outreach to neighborhoods that face threats from one of the largest underground plumes in our capital city, which could cause dangerous vapor intrusion in homes

• Ensures major infrastructure projects such as the reconstruction of the North Split address air pollution, noise, and aesthetic concerns
HEC’s Indianapolis EJ Initiative

- Advocate for increase investment in the preservation of mature trees, for the sake of air quality, stormwater management, aesthetics, and noise reduction

- Advocate for public transit authorities to work with communities to identify policies that serve those who rely on their services the most — not just a privileged few
Site 0153 Groundwater Contamination Cleanup

- Low levels of contamination from cleaning solvents used in manufacturing and dry cleaning were found in the underground water in the Riverside and White River Wellfields (2013)

- The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is completing an investigation into the sources of the contamination and will be implementing a cleanup and a monitoring plan
Site 0153 Neighborhoods

- Crown Hill
- Fall Creek Place
- Herron Morton
- Highland Vicinity
- Historic Washington Park
- Mapleton Fall Creek
- Marian Univ (KW30, Westerleigh, Questend)
- Meridian Highland
- Meridian Park
- Near North Westside (Golden Hill, MLK Corridor, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Planters, Riverside, UNWA)
- Near West (Haughville, Hawthorne, Stringtown, We Care)
- Old Northside
- Old Near Westside (Fayette Street, Historic Flanner House Homes, Indiana Avenue, Ransom Place)
- St. Joe
- Westside (Lafayette Rd)
• Routes have been re-routed to feed the BRT red line leaving riders with no other transportation options without convenient service or no service
• Announced systemwide change to a grid system without accessing if bus stops designated as transfer points were ADA compliant
The Reconstruction Of The North Split

- Repair deteriorating bridges, upgrade pavement conditions in the area and improve safety
- The North Split project has not addressed the harm caused to neighborhoods along I-70 East when the original interstate was constructed
• No plans exist to make pedestrian safety and quality of life improvements to the Commerce Avenue underpass, nor to increase connectivity between existing trails and transit.

• Other neighborhoods have had their connectivity and quality of life objectives more fully met than our neighborhoods which are more impacted.
Environmental Equity In The Planting And Maintenance Of Trees

• Mature trees provide cooling, air purification, reduced storm water runoff, noise buffering, and improved aesthetics

• Increase funding for the maintenance of municipal-owned trees in the public right of way
• Many of the trees are structurally weak due to disease or age and residents in these communities cannot afford the maintenance costs
What You Can Do Today

- Be An Example
- Incorporate Environmental Justice Elements In Your Work
- Mentor, Educate and Support Young People
- Vet, Vote and Advocate
Thank You!
Questions?
Comments?
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Add Your Councilor to Your Contacts

https://www.indy.gov/workflow/find-your-elected-official
https://www.indy.gov/agency/city-county-council
Add Your Legislators to Your Contacts

Indiana General Assembly
2015 Session

Find Your Legislator
Please enter your home address to get Legislator Information
Street Address
City
State
Zip

Search

http://iga.in.gov/legislative/find-legislators/

bitly.com/INLegis
How to Talk to Your Elected Officials (& Their Opponents in Upcoming Races):

1. Be Courteous
2. Be personal if you can
3. Know your material
4. Follow Up
How to Talk About EJ

- Use examples in your community if possible
- Make the case from many angles: environmental, social, and economic
- Know your audience – what do they care most about?
- Ask lawmakers and their opponents to be open to legislative action that could address environmental injustice
Learning More About EJ: Resources

- https://www.naacp.org/issues/environmental-justice/
- https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-your-community

Interviews & Articles:


Book List:

- https://www.ecowatch.com/environmental-justice-books-2646289636.html?rebelltitem=1#rebelltitem1
REMINDER – read our emails, pay attention to social media and watch the HEC Bill Watch Page for calls to action throughout the year!
Be sure to keep an eye on our Events Calendar for phone banks, future trainings, & more!

QUESTIONS?

Thank you!
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