



# New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance 2017 Annual Report



NJEJA at the introduction of the national Environmental Justice Act of 2017  
(Left to right: Dr. Ana Baptista, Cynthia Mellon, Dr. Nicky Sheats, Sen. Cory Booker, Lauren Boles, Kerry Butch, Avery Grant, Kevin Moore)

## **NJEJA Staff:**

Lauren Boles, State Director  
Nicole Scott Harris, Newark Organizer  
Kevin Moore, Climate Resiliency Coordinator

## **Board Members:**

Dr. Nicky Sheats, Chair  
Dr. Ana Baptista  
Kerry Butch  
Valorie Caffee  
Theodore Carrington  
Avery Grant  
Priscilla Hayes  
Estrella Sainburg

## **Contact Us:**

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NJEJA Spring 2017 EJ  
Leadership Training



NJEJA Board Development  
Consultants at 2017 Retreat

**In Memoriam:** The NJEJA 2017 Annual Report is dedicated to the memory of Rutgers Master Gardener & Environmental Steward, community advocate, NJEJA colleague, and friend, Bill Allen.



Each One Can Teach One: Bill Allen (left) at NJEJA EJ Leadership Training (Spring 2016)



Tree Planting Ceremony honoring Bill Allen at Weequahic Park, Feldman Middleton Community Center; Photo: Wynnie Hinds

*A special thank you to Wynnie-Fred Hinds for planning the tree planting ceremony.*

**NJEJA 2017 Annual Report**

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### **Message from the State Director:**

We share this 2017 Annual Report of the New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance with partners and members, leadership and staff, funders and friends to celebrate the impact of our policy, advocacy, organizing, training and technical assistance efforts. As always we seek opportunities to deepen our impact, and therefore NIEJA leadership and staff encourage our funders and friends to partner with us to leverage collective success. Here are a few highlights of 2017.

NJEJA coordinated the logistics and emceed the introduction of the national **Environmental Justice Act of 2017** in Newark, NJ. The Act, sponsored by New Jersey Senator Booker, was designed primarily to codify Executive Order 12898 which requires federal agencies to remove barriers to environmental justice that may result from national policies and practices. Dr. Nicky Sheats, NJEJA Chair, convened national calls with more than 30 environmental justice leaders to: review and comment on the Act; facilitate a vast range of EJ voices and concerns to shape the contents of the Act; and ensure that the Act reflects what communities want and need. Several of the 30 plus national EJ leaders engaged have requested EJ site visits to identify next steps for select projects across the nation.

Laureen Boles, NJEJA Director, was invited by Congressmen Donald McEachin (VA) and John Conyers (MI) to present the successes of the Kresge Climate Resilience Urban Opportunity initiative at the **2017 Annual Legislative Conference of the Congressional Black Caucus** in Washington, DC. The session, titled “Keeping It Green: the Shared Impacts of Environmental Justice”, was moderated by CNN correspondent Angela Rye. NJEJA garnered additional support for the environmental justice approach to climate resilience; and Congressmen Clyburn (SC) welcomed NJEJA’s analysis of the President’s proposed infrastructure bill in order to ensure that the bill’s language produces environmental and climate justice outcomes.

Nicole Scott Harris, NJEJA organizer, was invited as a delegate to the **2017 NAACP National Conference** in Baltimore, where she engaged with people from around the country on topics of environmental and social justice. At the local level the **Newark Branch of the NAACP** published in their quarterly newsletter her article on the state of environmental justice in Newark, NJ, which provided NAACP members in Newark and the region an opportunity to engage their networks to drive policy change and social cohesion. Dr. Nicky Sheats, NJEJA Chair, accepted an invitation to address constituents of the **New Jersey Chapter of NAACP** at their annual, statewide conference, after which the board agreed to draft a resolution endorsing NJEJA’s energy efficiency and renewable energy recommendations for EJ communities.

Through the Kresge Foundation's **Climate Resilience and Urban Opportunity** initiative, NJEJA introduced clean energy solutions to climate change into the daily vernacular of more than 80 clergy at a meeting hosted by Rev. Rountree of Newark's Office of Clergy. NJEJA encouraged faith leaders to take advantage of the energy utility-administered, state-funded incentives for equipment upgrades. NJEJA continues to assist attendees who expressed an interest in the program.

We saw two gubernatorial elections in this first year of the Trump administration, one in New Jersey and one in Virginia. NJEJA conducted interviews with the New Jersey gubernatorial candidates and contributed to the Coalition for Healthy Ports' **Gubernatorial Briefing Book**, which extols the environmental and health benefits of cleaner air, community benefits, good jobs, and good governance.

NJEJA continued its collaboration with the Union for Concerned Scientists on the EJ and Science Initiative to improve the availability of science to the environmental justice community. The collaboration produced the first equity study of the **Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative**, a northeast regional carbon trading program.

NJEJA joined the national **Brownfields to Healthfields Initiative** to link climate resilience and community health strategies to brownfield redevelopment along the Newark Riverfront. NJEJA lent its planning expertise and coordinated support to the Broad Street Neighborhood Association. NJEJA organized a site visit and tour with Suzi Ruhl of the EPA Office of Environmental Justice and Jorge Santos at the City of Newark Economic Development Commission, and continues to support the Broad Street Neighborhood Association through the brownfield redevelopment process. Kevin Moore, NJEJA Climate Resiliency Coordinator, was invited by Suzi Ruhl to represent NJEJA to the **2017 National Brownfield Conference** in Pittsburgh, PA.

Congratulations to Valorie Caffee, NJEJA co-founder and board member, who was honored by the **New Jersey Work Environment Council** for a lifetime of environmental and social justice work. Valorie's legacy is invaluable to the success NJEJA has had; we cherish her wisdom.

Finally, NJEJA is most thankful to the Victoria Foundation for sponsoring **NJEJA Board Development** with our consultants, The Support Center and Paideia. NJEJA on-boarded two board members in 2017 and vote to on-board four board members in 2018, developed a new funding plan, and revised its communications plan. We anticipate that our increased capacity will improve our ability to realize our mission.

Thank you,



Laureen Boles, State Director  
New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance

## About NJEJA:

### Mission:

NJEJA is an alliance of New Jersey-based organizations and individuals whose mission is to create healthy, sustainable and just communities by eliminating environmental injustices in low income and communities of color. We work with communities across four priority areas: (1) local, state, and national policy development, (2) targeted campaigns and organizing, (3) advocacy, (4) training and technical assistance.



NJEJA with Mustafa Ali, Hip Hop Caucus VP, at the 2017 National Conference of the NAACP



NJEJA with Jacqui Patterson, Director of the NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program at the 2017 National Conference of the NAACP

 A page from the 'YOUTH NEWS' newsletter. The title is 'ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN NEWARK, NJ' by Nicole Scott Harris, Environmental Justice Chairperson. The page features two columns of text. The left column discusses environmental justice (EJ) as a movement and its impact on low-income communities. The right column discusses Newark as a major source of pollution and the need for sustainable public policies. There are two photographs: one at the top right showing students with an 'ACT-SO' banner, and one at the bottom right showing students at a cook-off. A circular logo for the NAACP is at the bottom left.
 

**YOUTH NEWS**

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN NEWARK, NJ**  
By Nicole Scott Harris,  
Environmental Justice Chairperson

Environmental Justice (EJ) is a movement that grew from the recognition that low-income communities and communities of color throughout the U.S. are unfairly burdened with toxic pollution, due to the placement of certain industries and facilities in these neighborhoods. For the people who live in these areas, there are serious negative impacts to their daily quality of life and overall life expectancy because of contamination of the air, water, and land. Diseases like asthma, heart disease, and cancer may be caused or worsened as a result of where you work, live, and play.

As New Jersey's largest city, Newark holds the distinction of also being one of the largest EJ communities in the nation. Newark is also home to several major sources of pollution, including the largest garbage incinerator in NJ (burning waste from throughout Essex County and much of NYC), busiest seaport on the east coast, and 15th busiest airports in the nation.

While these industries are also highly profitable, it has not directly increased the income of residents or budget for local government. It is often said that EJ communities "get all the pollution, and none of the profit." In these uncertain political times, the need to fight for sustainable public policies at the local, county, and state levels are more important than ever. The voices of everyday people are critical to this effort.

**Diseases like asthma, heart disease, and cancer may be caused or worsened as a result of where you work, live, and play.**

**NEWARK BRANCH NAACP**

Newark ACT-SO students at 28th NJ ACT-SO Awards Ceremony. Seven students who received gold medals will represent Newark at the National Competition in Baltimore, MD. in the areas of humanities, visual and performing arts. Joan Whitlow is chairperson of the Newark ACT-SO.

Newark High School Cook Off sponsored by Whole Foods and Newark NAACP was held with three students winning an opportunity to attend the national ACT-SO Culinary Competition in Baltimore. Participating students were from North 13th St. Essex County Tech, Marion P. Thomas Charter School of Culinary & Performing Arts and Newark Institute of Culinary Education at West Side HS. Shown are the judges, winning students with Coordinator Joan Whitlow.

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"The State of EJ in Newark" by Nicole Scott Harris, Newark Branch of the NAACP Newsletter

**NJEJA History:**

NJEJA, founded in 2002, is a recognized leader, on both the local and national levels, developing air pollution, climate change and public health policy from an environmental justice perspective. NJEJA is the only statewide organization in New Jersey that focuses on environmental justice issues and whose leadership and membership are predominately people of color. As a result of its unique leadership in the environmental arena, the Alliance has been successful helping to move environmental justice issues from the margin to the mainstream of environmental policy discussions.



Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference

# KEEPING IT GREEN

*Shared Impacts of Environmental Justice*

Walter E. Washington Convention Center  
801 Mt. Vernon Place NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Thursday, September 21, 2017  
10AM -12PM  
Room 147B



**Congressman  
Donald McEachin**  
*Honorary Host*



**Angela Rye**  
**CNN Contributor**  
*Moderator*

**Mustafa Ali**, Hip Hop Caucus Senior Vice President of Climate, Environmental Justice & Community Revitalization  
**Telva McGruder**, Director of Global Facilities Engineering and Manufacturing Operations for General Motors  
**Leslie G. Fields**, Director, Environmental Justice & Community Partnerships Program, Sierra Club  
**Jacqueline Patterson**, NAACP Director of Environmental and Climate Justice Program  
**Damien Jones**, Environmental Justice Outreach Advocate, Union of Concerned Scientists  
**Laureen Boles**, State Director, New Jersey Environmental Alliance  
**Darryl Alexander**, Environmental Health and Safety Consultant, American Federation of Teachers

**Congressman John H. Conyers, Jr., Honorary Host**

NJEJA on “Keeping it Green: Shared Impacts of EJ” at the 2017 Annual Legislative Conference of the Congressional Black Caucus

## Our Impact:

- ***Policy Development***

- Environmental Justice Act of 2017:

NJEJA coordinated the logistics and emceed the public release of the national Environmental Justice Act of 2017 in Newark, NJ. The Act, sponsored by New Jersey Senator Booker, was designed to: codify the federal Executive Order 12898 on EJ; address cumulative impacts; address poor infrastructure in EJ communities; restore a private right of action under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act; and preserve important aspects of the National Environmental Justice Council.

Dr. Nicky Sheats, NJEJA Chair, convened national calls with more than 30 environmental justice leaders to review and comment on the Act, facilitate a vast range of EJ voices and concerns to shape the contents of the Act, and ensure that the Act reflects what communities want and need. Several of the 30 plus national EJ leaders engaged have requested EJ site visits by Senator Booker to highlight and address local issues of concern.

- Climate Change Mitigation Policy:

At the state and national level NJEJA has continued its work with its environmental colleagues to interject an environmental justice perspective into climate change mitigation policy, including Earthjustice, Union of Concerned Scientists, the Sierra Club and the National Resources Defense Council on the national level, and the New Jersey Climate Adaptation Alliance and the Fund for New Jersey on the state level. The state level organizations have endorsed the unique mandatory emissions reductions proposal developed by NJEJA and EJ partners that would force polluting facilities located in environmental justice communities to reduce their air pollution emissions.



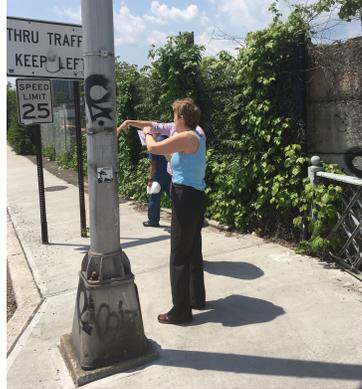
NJEJA at the Vote Solar Bootcamp

The national groups are part of a workgroup co-directed by NJEJA that also has other EJ participants including the Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy from Minneapolis; the Little Village EJ Organization from Chicago; WEACT from New York City; the EJ Health Alliance, and Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives. In 2018, the workgroup seeks to pilot, in several states, the mandatory emissions reduction proposal and steps to ensure that EJ communities have equitable access to energy efficiency and renewable energy. NJEJA also co-directs the EJ and Science Initiative, and

through this national coalition, continues working to set a foundation for making scientific assistance available to EJ communities. Participants in the initiative provide guidance for an equity study of carbon dioxide and greenhouse co-pollutant emissions for nine states in the northeast. The study is being conducted by the Union of Concerned Scientists.

- Newark Environmental Justice and Cumulative Impacts Ordinance:  
In 2016 the City of Newark adopted an Environmental Justice and Cumulative Impacts ordinance, the product of years of legal development and organizing on the part of NJEJA and its partners. The ordinance requires the municipality to create an Environmental Resources Inventory (ERI) that includes EJ demographic information. It also mandates that any new commercial or industrial project must make public the amount and type of pollution that will be associated with the proposed project. The ordinance has triggered the Newark Environmental Commission to review several new development permits, however position vacancies in city government have negatively impacted the process. In the future NJEJA proposes to evaluate implementation of the ordinance, recommend course corrections, and pursue interest in a statewide ordinance.
- ***Targeted Campaigns and Organizing***
  - Climate Resilience:  
Through the Kresge Foundation’s Climate Resilience and Urban Opportunity Initiative, NJEJA met with nonprofits and faith-based communities to introduce opportunities available through the New Jersey Direct Install Program. Kevin Moore, NJEJA Climate Resilience Coordinator reports, “when mitigation strategies, climate preparedness, energy efficiency were presented to community members in the context of community self-determination, the result was elevated excitement, improved resonance and increased community cohesion, mirroring both individual and organizational aspirations.”
  - Cities of Service:  
NJEJA and the Newark Resilience Action Plan (RAP) team partnered with Newark’s Office of Sustainability to develop an impact volunteering project under the federal Cities of Service “Prepared Together” program. In 2018 project volunteers will participate in the following disaster preparedness, mitigation, or recovery activities.
    - Plant trees to improve aesthetics, reduce ambient temperatures, and reduce the impacts of flash flooding.
    - Apply reflective paint to roofs, creating cool roofs to lower indoor temperatures more than 60F and correspondingly lower electricity bills.
    - Install rain barrels to capture and slow storm water that floods local streets and reuse non-potable water.

- Brownfields to Healthfields:  
 NJEJA partnered with the Broad Street Neighborhood Association on the Brownfields to Healthfields initiative, by coordinating support for the community organization from the Newark Environmental Commission, Moving Forward Network, and the EPA. The neighborhood association participated in a rigorous public participation process for site development as a part of the Newark Riverfront Development Plan. NJEJA proposes to continue shepherding project development and implementation, as the outcomes are consistent with our climate resilience solutions.



NIEJA with Suzi Ruhl, U.S. EPA Office of Environmental Justice, and Jorge Santos, Newark Economic and Community Development Corporation at the Clay Street proposed brownfield reclamation site.

- **Advocacy**

- Green in '17 Initiative:  
 NJEJA participated in the League of Conservation Voters Education Fund's (LCVEF's) "Green in '17" initiative and published 3 op-eds to (1) elevate environmental and climate justice in the political campaigns and (2) to advance equity and climate resilience in New Jersey policies. NJEJA recommended that, at a minimum, strategies address legacy disparities in environmental justice communities as a priority, specifically under mandates instead of on a voluntary basis. Access the op-eds here:



**Op-Ed: NJ's Next Governor Should Champion Environmental Justice - NJ Spotlight**  
 It's time that New Jersey recommit itself to being a leader on environmental protection through an affirmative environmental justice policy  
 NJSPOTLIGHT.COM

<http://www.njspotlight.com/stories/17/10/11/op-ed-nj-s-next-governor-should-champion-environmental-justice/>



**Op-Ed: Will Christie's Successor Block Trump's Efforts to Dismantle EJ? - NJ Spotlight**  
 The New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance recognizes that communities of color and low-income communities are typically...  
 NJSPOTLIGHT.COM

<http://www.njspotlight.com/stories/17/10/29/op-ed-will-christie-s-successor-block-trump-s-efforts-to-dismantle-ej/>



**Op-Ed: Environmental Justice Is Key Aspect of Climate-Change Policy - NJ Spotlight**  
 Climate-change mitigation must not only reduce carbon dioxide emissions but also reduce the disproportionate amount of pollution in many...  
 NJSPOTLIGHT.COM

<http://www.njspotlight.com/stories/17/11/02/op-ed-environmental-justice-is-key-aspect-of-climate-change-policy/>

○ Solidarity During the Storm:

NJEJA co-hosted, with the Climate Speakers Network, the EJ and climate event: “Solidarity During the Storm”, with remarks provided by Newark Mayor Ras Baraka. While the Climate Speakers Network, founded by former Vice President Al Gore and headquartered in DC, is a group of cultural leaders, organizers, scientists, and storytellers who have come together to solve the climate crisis, the organization lacks access to diverse voices. On the other hand, NJEJA has been successful moving environmental justice issues from the margin to the mainstream of environmental policy discussions with leadership and membership who are predominately people of color. The collaboration highlighted the need for more diversity in the climate arena and thereby a broader perspective of climate concerns and climate solutions.



NJEJA hosts Al Gore’s Climate Speakers Bureau

○ Sandy Climate Justice Roundtables

In 2017 NJEJA engaged more than 50 stakeholders in its Climate Justice Roundtables. Subcommittees continued implementation of 3 recommendations that emerged from statewide community engagement post SuperStorm Sandy: Climate Curriculum in New Jersey schools, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in EJ communities and Community-led Climate Resiliency.

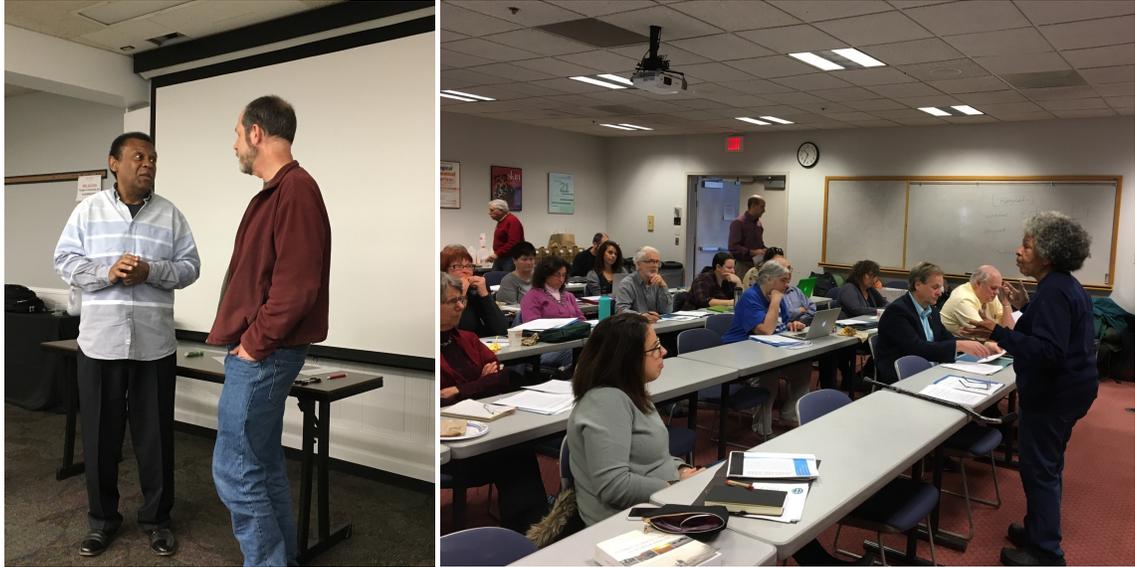
▪ *Community Mitigation & Adaptation Planning Subcommittee:*

The Community-led Climate Resilience Subcommittee began to review research conducted by the Lower Passaic Urban Waters Partnership on the distribution of federal funds post Hurricane Sandy. The application of an equity lens will reveal the extent to which EJ communities received funds and how EJ communities might achieve greater access to disaster relief in the future. The subcommittee proposes to produce a template for community-led mitigation and adaptation planning.

▪ *Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Subcommittee:*

The Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Subcommittee refined its campaign work-plan intended to improve access for environmental justice communities to energy efficiency and renewable energy. The subcommittee proposes to map the energy needs of low income communities in several New Jersey cities, then advise New Jersey urban mayors on which federal energy efficiency and renewable energy programs would best meet community needs, all in partnership with the Urban Mayors Association of the John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy at Thomas Edison State University.

- *Climate Curriculum Subcommittee:*  
The Climate Curriculum Subcommittee of the NJEJA Climate Justice Roundtable is working with three schools in New Jersey to include climate justice curriculum in existing programming; one of the schools is designated a Green Ribbon School. The subcommittee proposes to produce climate justice curriculum for youth and adult learners, which can be utilized also as educational material for environmental and social organizations as well.



NJEJA at Rutgers Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute (EOHSI) for the Sandy Climate Justice Roundtables

- ***Training and Technical Assistance***

- Climate Resilience and Health Equity:  
NJEJA attended the 2017 NIEHS Environmental Health Science summit, EHSFest, as a representative of the Rutgers University's Center for Environmental Exposure and Disease (CEED) Community Advisory Group. The purpose of the summit was to identify opportunities to advance community projects, like climate resilience, while addressing related health impacts. NJEJA leads the NIEHS research team and proposes to examine greater opportunities for the organization to support EJ communities prior to, during, and post climate-related disasters.

- Environmental Justice Leadership Training:  
NJEJA engaged a diverse group of students, including representatives from a municipal green team, a house of worship, and a local gardener, in the Spring 2017 NJEJA EJ Leadership Training Program, focused on resilience and citizen science. The training empowers EJ advocates on a variety of issues of importance to them from climate resilience to food justice to organizing. Participants received certificates of completion and provided feedback on the program.

*“Attending this training has provided me a foundation for being a better concerned citizen and an effective advocate for environmental issues. I place great value in the air that I breathe and the water that I drink and I see it as a right for all beings, everywhere.” - Beth B.*



Environmental Justice Leadership Training Program Instructor and Newark Graduates

The NJEJA Leadership Training Program resulted in community members engaging their families, neighbors, employers, local businesses and elected officials at community events, action days, and public meetings. The goal of the leadership training is to equip participants with an EJ-focused baseline understanding of affecting change at a local level and seeing the term citizen as a verb instead of a noun.

NJEJA also presented an abridged version of the EJ Leadership Training Program to 50 scientists at the Rutgers University’s Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute (EOHHSI) retreat. The purpose of the presentation was to introduce opportunities for greater collaboration between the EJ community and scientists.

As a result of growing interest in equitable solutions to global warming there is increased interest in the leadership training program. Administrators of the Rutgers University Future Scholars program approached NJEJA with a request to present (8) EJ Leadership Training workshops for participants in their 9th grade after-school at Rahway High School. The trainings will run from November 2017 to February 2018.



Environmental Justice Leadership Training Program for Rutgers Future Scholars at Rahway High School

### **New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance's Environmental Justice Leadership Training Modules**

**Ethnicity, Money and Environmental Justice:** Students will examine the roots of the EJ movement, including its underpinnings in the Civil Rights Movement, and the interchange of racism and economic inequity in the strive for this socioeconomic goal. Students will engage in interactive exercises that dramatize the basic problems that the EJ Movement addresses.

**Advocacy and Organizing: Using People Power to Make Grassroots Change** This course is an introduction to community organizing, with a focus on building local opposition to polluting industries. Students will learn the Elements of Organizing and how to apply the organizing elements in real world scenarios.

**Healthy Ports and Environmental Justice Tour:** Students will tour a site with an unsustainable legacy of environmental pollution in order to view prime examples of environmental injustice and learn about the community's response.

**Recycling and Solid Waste:** Students will be introduced to the unspoken assumptions used to justify not treating trash as a valuable natural resource. Students will also be introduced to the use of a waste audit, a tool for creating better recycling systems and moving towards zero waste.

**Food Justice: Making the Connection Between People, Planet, and Food**

This course is an introduction to the concept of Food Justice and why it matters to

EJ communities. Students will learn Food Justice Principles and how activists from all over the country are applying them to reshape the local food landscape for the most vulnerable populations.

**Food Literacy & Labeling: Getting to Know Your Food**

This course is an introduction of concepts and categories of food, including labels like “organic,” “non-GMO,” “fair trade,” “vegan,” and “natural.” Participants are taught the value of being better-informed consumers; they will increase their understanding of how the food choices we make affect our human health and our planet.

**Air Quality:** This course is an introduction to particulate matter air pollution, its composition, sources, and health effects, as well as the emissions reduction policies developed by the NJ EJ Alliance and its allies.

**Climate Change:** This course is an introduction to climate change from an EJ perspective, including mitigation and adaptation policies, greenhouse gas co-pollutants, carbon trading, and EPA’s climate change rule (the Clean Power Plan).

**Cumulative Impacts:** This course is an introduction to the concept of cumulative impacts as well as the policies developed by the NJ EJ Alliance and its allies to address the issue.

**Civic Tech:** This course is an introduction to digital tools used as methods of civic input and engagement, to address localized issues and develop effective solutions.

**Career Paths in Environment & EJ:** This course an introduction to various career pathways in Environment and Environmental Justice, including the emerging green economy, nonprofit, academia, media, and entrepreneurial endeavors.

**Urban Agriculture & Solar Energy:** This course is an introduction to Urban Agriculture and Solar Energy as it relates to creating resilient and self-sustaining Environmental Justice communities.

**Sustainability: A Roadmap to an Environmental, Economic and Equitable**

**Future:** This course is an introduction to sustainable living in a green economy. Students will become familiar with the contents page a local, municipal sustainability plan and learn how to become an active participant.

**Community Mapping and Fieldwork: A Student Perspective:** Students map community characteristics, ground truth data from city, state and federal databases, and explain variations.

**Community Air Monitoring and Fieldwork: A Student Perspective:** This course affords the participants the opportunity to monitor air quality in the vicinity of community assets and liabilities. Students will collect data and use city, state, and federal databases to compare results.

**Data Management and Course Evaluations:** In this course students will analyze environmental data collected during the program, discuss the findings, and draw individual conclusions. Students will also provide feedback on the EJ leadership training program and make recommendations for improvements.

***Help Us Welcome our new Board Directors!***

**Jerrell Blakeley, Campaign Organizer for Healthy Schools Now (HSN) - NJWEC**



Mr. Blakeley serves on the Mercer County Board of Social Services and was selected as a 2016 New Leaders Council Fellow. He most recently taught Civics and History at his alma mater, Trenton Central High School-West, and served as an Organizational Development consultant with the New Jersey Education Association. Blakeley was a member of the Trenton Education Association and the NJ Education Association, where he served on the local and county Legislative Action Teams and was selected as one of 50 Emerging Leaders in the

NJEA. He secured an academic scholarship to Howard University, where he earned a degree in History. Blakeley is also a alumnus of The Graduate School of Education at Rutgers University-New Brunswick, where he earned an Ed.M. in the Social and Philosophical Foundations of Education as an Eagleton Fellow of Politics and Government.

**Bryana DeVeaux, Commissioner, Franklin Township Sewage Authority**



Ms. DeVeaux started her environmental career as an active student at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey. While Bryana was a resident Eco-Rep and employed as the Assistant at the Office of Sustainability at the university, she worked on the Climate Neutrality Plan of 2035 to reduce carbon emissions at Drew. Bryana also began a collaborative research project on toxic emissions in the state's

Pollution Prevention Program alongside faculty members from Rutgers University and Drew University. Their research findings won third place at the The New Jersey Higher Education Partnership for Sustainability (NJHEPS) competition in 2016. She received her Bachelors degree in Environmental Studies and Sustainability from Drew University in 2017. Bryana was recently appointed a Commissioner on the Franklin Township Sewerage Authority in Somerset County, and is a full-time legislative aide in the 17th Legislative District.

**Priscilla E. Hayes, Consultant & Environmental Educator**



Ms. Hayes has been an activist since her undergraduate work at Princeton University, where she was among the original founders of the Princeton University Women's Center. Her work creating a student task force on Affirmative Action at Princeton inspired her to go on to Duke Law School, and then on to representing the New Jersey Department on Civil Rights; subsequently she performed environmental law work representing the New Jersey Department of

Environmental Protection. Priscilla performed environmental policy work for fifteen years for the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES) at Rutgers University, during which she won the Environmental Quality Award from the United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 2, for her work coordinating the Solid Waste Resource Renewal Group at NJAES. Also during her time at Rutgers, she

became a member of the New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance during its initial year of existence, bringing her civil rights and environmental work full circle.

**Cynthia Mellon, Policy Coordinator, Climate Justice Alliance**

Ms. Mellon is Policy Coordinator of the Climate Justice Alliance. For seven years, Cynthia served as Environmental Justice Organizer for the Ironbound Community Corporation in Newark, NJ. She holds a Masters in Sociology of Law from the Instituto Internacional de Sociología Jurídica in Oñati, Spain and a certificate in Urban Agriculture from Farm School NYC. Cynthia is Co-Chair of the Newark Environmental Commission and Chair of the Environmental Justice Committee of the NJ Latino Action Network.



**Ingrid Rosario, Esq., Ewing Green Team**

Ms. Rosario has a JD from Vermont Law School, where she concentrated her studies on water law and property law. Ingrid has experience working with environmental legislation and lands preservation. She received her MA in International Relations at The New School. Ingrid also brings a decade of experience in wealth management. Originally from Brooklyn, NY, Ingrid has lived in Europe and South America. She speaks German, Spanish, and Portuguese.



**Estrella Sainburg, Organizer, GreenFaith**

Ms. Sainburg, as an Organizer with GreenFaith, is working to support interfaith local community organizing for the environment in New Jersey and around the world. Originally from Los Angeles, California, Estrella graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with a B.A. degree in International Development and Global Poverty. As a native Spanish speaker, Estrella hopes to empower Latino communities in the United States to advocate and ensure a healthy living environment and harmonious relationship with the natural environment, as well as see more Latinos speaking about environmental injustices. Estrella is motivated by her belief that we are God's tools for creating spaces for the voices of the marginalized to be heard and for the environment to be treated with care.



We hope that you will join us in 2018 for an NJEJA general body meeting, or at one of our events, as we continue to implement a vision of environmental justice in 2018.

## **2018 NJEJA Steering Committee / General Body Meeting Schedule**

**1st Tuesday's: Steering Committee Meeting at 4pm; General Body Meeting at 6pm**  
**Thomas Edison State College, 315 W. State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608**  
**Subject to change; please contact the State Director to confirm schedule.**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>MEETING</b>
01/09/18	Executive Committee
02/06/18	Executive Committee
03/06/18	Board Meeting
04/10/18	Board/General Body
05/01/18	Executive Committee
06/05/18	Board/General Body
07/10/18	Executive Committee
08/07/18	Executive Committee
09/11/18	Board/General Body
10/02/18	Executive Committee
11/13/18	Executive Committee
12/04/18	Board/General Body



**NJEJA Staff:**

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