

Environmental Justice Leaders on President Biden's Executive Order:

Richard Moore, Co-Chair of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council and Co-Coordinator of Los Jardines Institute in Albuquerque, New Mexico: "Today is an historic day in our larger movement for justice, started by our elders and ancestors many years ago. Since his first day in office, President Biden committed to listening and learning from the expertise and perspectives of environmental justice, grassroots communities to update the Clinton Executive Order. With this Executive Order, he is making good on that promise and answering a decades-long call to put environmental justice at the heart of federal policy. I am pleased that the recommendations of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council are central to this Executive Order. There is more work that must be done together, but today is a day to remember."

Peggy Shepard, Co-Chair of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council and Co-Founder and Executive Director of WE ACT for Environmental Justice: "The Biden Administration has issued an update of Executive Order 12898, adding to the President's landmark work to create the Justice40 Initiative, the White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council, and the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC). Today, the foundation of the government's environmental justice work has been updated to respond to recommendations made by the WHEJAC to further advance environmental and climate justice throughout the federal government. This is an important action as we begin to see real investment in frontline communities."

Catherine Coleman Flowers, Vice Chair of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council and Founder of the Center for Rural Enterprise and Environmental Justice: "President Biden has demonstrated time and again his commitment to environmental justice. From the early days of the campaign when he sought solutions directly from community leaders, to the creation of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council, to today's announcement, the President and his Administration are bringing the voices of communities into federal policy-making. I'm honored to be working alongside these leaders in this fight for justice and a healthy future for children."

Dr. Beverly Wright, Founder & Executive Director of the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice: "This executive order is a promise made and a promise kept by the Biden Administration. I was a part of the team that worked on the original executive order signed by President Bill Clinton in 1994. Although it was an historic step in the right direction, it lacked accountability measures to ensure its efficacy. This new order strengthens the 1994 executive order by operationalizing and institutionalizing the recommendation within every level of the federal government. And to ensure accountability, each agency will report all progress made directly to the President. But, while today's executive order is historic, much work must be done to achieve true environmental justice."

Tom Cormons, Executive Director of Appalachian Voices in Charlottesville, Virginia: "President Biden's executive order today is a big step forward for real, practical action to address the profound environmental injustices affecting the health and well-being of millions of Americans every day, in every corner of the country. Together with the President and Vice President's commitment and vision, the absolutely tireless, sustained hard work of generations of community activists and justice leaders, my colleagues on the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council, and the public servants at the

White House Council on Environmental Quality, we have reached this milestone. A lot more of this same resolve will be needed to implement the EO, so some of the most important work has just begun.”

Michele Roberts, National Co-Coordinator, Environmental Justice Health Alliance: “The President’s Executive Order is an historic announcement and action. We are excited to know that President Biden is honoring his commitment to center environmental justice throughout the entire federal family. Our communities are equipped with their own solutions and are ready to work together with their local governments to advance the remedy and redress they need.”

Maria Lopez-Nuñez, Deputy Director, Organizing and Advocacy for Ironbound Community Corporation: “From the technical assistance centers and urban forestry grants announced last week to the new Executive Order, the Biden Administration is on a roll. President Biden is showing the country – and the world – that as we deal with climate change, we have to prioritize those who have been most impacted.”

Dr. Kyle Whyte, a Member of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council Executive Order Workgroup, Professor at the University of Michigan, and U.S. Science Envoy: “President Biden’s Executive Order creates a powerful new tool that speaks to the many important dimensions of how government and communities can work together to achieve environmental justice that have not previously been given this much due. It reflects the wisdom of generations of environmental justice advocates – and the recent hard work of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council.”

Jade Begay, Director of Policy and Advocacy, NDN Collective: “This action from the Biden Administration signals that our guidance and feedback, informed by our lived experience as EJ and Tribal community members, is not only being heard but is being acted upon and implemented in the ways that we expect them to be. While we have an exciting and challenging task ahead of us for implementation of this EO, it is critical that all those who work to advance environmental justice – past, present and future – acknowledge this win and celebrate your hard work.”

Angelo Logan, Senior Director, Environmental and Climate Justice at The Liberty Hill Foundation: “I applaud President Biden and his administration at this monumental moment for signing and putting into action the Environmental Justice Executive Order. This Executive Order makes it clear that much more needs to be done to lift the burdens off and protect EJ communities. This Executive Order directs the highest levels of government to institutionalize Environmental Justice giving government and EJ communities the tools to tackle the onslaught of environmental burdens we have been contending with for decades. I look forward to working with the administration and all of government to implement this order and hold all levels of the administration account to the principles and statements within this order.”

Reverend Leo M. Woodberry, Pastor of Kingdom Living Temple Church and Executive Director of New Alpha Community Development Corporation, in Florence, South Carolina: “President Biden’s Executive Order is yet another historical first on environmental justice and a much-needed remedy for the citizens of this great nation. As climate impacts grow on a daily basis, it must be matched by greater efforts to keep our world, people, and nature safe, resilient, and sustainable.”