

Environmental Justice and Equity for Federal Green Buildings Task Group

Co-chairs: Sarah Slaughter and Projjal Dutta

Green Building Advisory Committee

November 16, 2021

Agenda

- EJ&E Task Group Mission
- Presentations to EJ&E Task Group - Discovery
- Context: NAACP Senior VP for Advocacy and Policy
- EJ&E Framework:
 - Guiding Principles for Environmental Justice and Equity in Federal Buildings
 - Cross-Cutting Themes and Examples of EJ&E Government Initiatives
 - Processes for Community-Focused Collaboration for Federal Buildings
- Contributions: NAACP CESBS Program Manager
- Federal Government Current and Potential Next Steps” GSA Senior Advisor to GSA Administrator for Equity

Task Group Mission

to identify and propose **effective approaches** to intentionally improve environmental justice and equity in federal building processes,

thereby **eliminating persistent inequities** found in the local community and

enhancing engagement with diverse local communities and key partners throughout the building lifecycle that is responsive to the true needs of the local community.

Presentations to Task Group - Discovery

- Dr. Cecilia Martinez, Senior Director for Environmental Justice at the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)
- Elizabeth Fahay, GSA OGP - Federal Real Property Program
- Kristen Smith & Maria Torres, GSA Public Building Services (PBS) - GSA Portfolio
- Steven Lewis, FAIA, AIA Architects Foundation Board President – Environmental Justice and Equity
- Evelyn Britton, GSA Office of Civil Rights - NEPA for Environmental Justice and Equity
- Frank Giblin, GSA PBS Office of the Chief Architect - GSA Urban Development and Good Neighbor Programs
- GBAC EJ&E Task Group Survey (March-April 2021)– Top Priorities and Top Actions to Advance Environmental Justice and Equity in Federal Buildings
- NAACP Townhall (August 19, 2021)

Presentations to Task Group - Discovery (cont'd)

- Alex Gamble, Architect/Sustainability Coordinator, Indian Health Service (IHS) Division of Engineering Services – IHS Leading Examples
- Chris Castro, Director of Sustainability and Resilience, City of Orlando, FL – Orlando Leading Examples
- Nori Catabay, Green Building Team Program Manager, King County, WA – King County Leading Examples
- Frank Giblin, GSA PBS Office of the Chief Architect – GSA PBS Capital Leasing Project Processes
- Kenneth Schelbert, GSA Leasing – GSA Leasing Process Overview
- Don Kottl, GSA – GSA Small Project Processes
- Mandy Lee, Program Manager, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Centering Equity in the Sustainable Building Sector (CESBS) Initiative – Summary of NAACP Townhall on August 19, 2021

Guiding Principles for Environmental Justice and Equity in Federal Buildings

- These Guiding Principles are intended to assist Federal agencies in assessing progress towards environmental justice and equity associated with their buildings and related real property assets. These principles were developed based on foundational environmental justice and equity work, including:
 - Principles of Environmental Justice, First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit, 1991;
 - Equity and Buildings: A Practical Framework for Local Government Decision Makers, Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN), June 2021.

Guiding Principles for Environmental Justice and Equity in Federal Buildings

- Provide direct, long-lasting, and **significant benefits** to the diverse local communities.
- Respect, reflect, and **champion the culture, identity, and traditions** of the diverse local communities.
- Incorporate the **rights of diverse local communities to participate as equal partners** at every level of decision-making, including needs assessment, planning, implementation, enforcement, and evaluation.
- Develop and report **transparent accountability measures** of environmental justice and equity for building processes and operational performance, working with the diverse local communities, particularly those with the greatest need.

Guiding Principles for Environmental Justice and Equity in Federal Buildings (cont'd)

- Accessibly, transparently, and **openly share data and information** about building processes and ongoing operations performance so it can be leveraged to develop local capabilities and leadership.
- Ensure **easy, affordable, and direct access** for the diverse local communities, building occupants, and visitors traveling by foot, bicycle, wheelchair, public transportation, or other means.
- Work with diverse local communities, particularly those most impacted and those with the greatest need, to **rapidly reduce and/or eliminate the existing or potential environmental, economic, or social harms and risks.**

Major Cross-Cutting Themes for Environmental Justice and Equity in Federal Buildings

Economic Opportunity and Economic Development: support economic opportunities and economic development for diverse local communities, including supporting enterprise development, workforce development, career development, local procurement, and economic inclusion of the community



Health, Safety, and Well-being: enhance health, safety, and well-being for diverse local communities, building occupants, and visitors, including: environmental quality; neighborhood quality; social health; access to healthy food; access to local green spaces (such as parks, community gardens, and tree canopy); and transportation access (for all modes, all ages, and all abilities).

Resilience to Disruptions and Disasters: address resilience to disruptions and disaster for diverse local communities, building occupants, and visitors, including: ensured access to critical power, water, communications, information (such as phone, radio, and/or internet) sanitary services and safe shelter; community prosperity and capacity; mutual aid; climate adaptive responses to climate-related emergency events; and preventive action plans to reduce energy and water usage, health and well-being risks, and costs, particularly in low-wealth communities

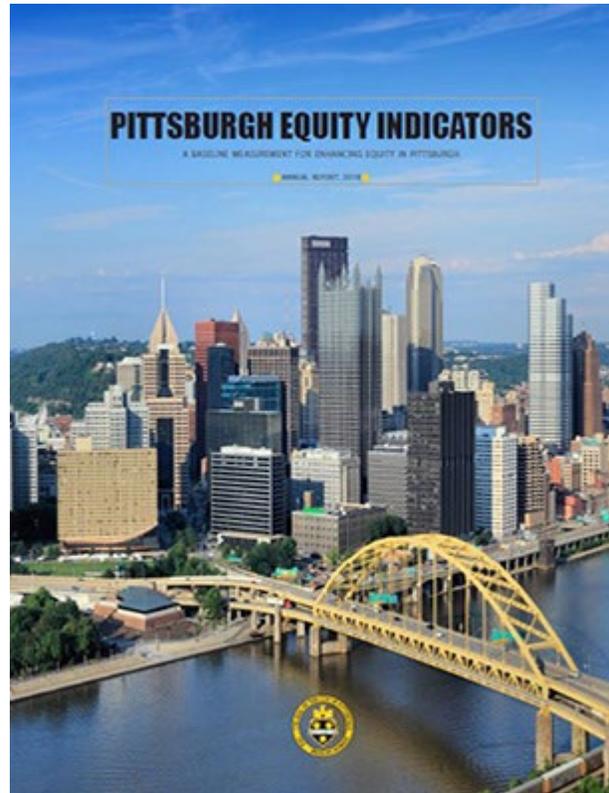
- Blueprint Program and MWBE Procurement Policy
- USDN 'Foundations for Equity' Staff Training
- Equity Mapping with GreenLink Analytics
- Chief Equity Official, Merchon Green
- City Equity Working Group & GARE Equity Toolkit
- Equitable Resilience Hubs
- Building Performance Standard (BPS) community engagement



- Government Alliance on Race & Equity (GARE)
- Pittsburgh Equity Office + Equity Indicators Report
- Seattle / King County Equity & Social Justice Department
- USDN Equity and Buildings Framework



Racial Equity Toolkit
An Opportunity to Operationalize Equity



EQUITY AND BUILDINGS:

A PRACTICAL FRAMEWORK
FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT DECISION MAKERS

USDN | urban sustainability
directors network

American Cities
Climate Challenge

Emerald Cities
COLLABORATIVE
America empowered.

UPRIGHT
Consulting Services

Process for
Community
Focused
Collaboration
Advancing
Environmental
Justice and Equity
in Federal Buildings



Process for
Community Focused
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Objective 1

Enable Federal agencies to apply and implement the Guiding Principles for Environmental Justice and Equity in Federal Buildings.

Process as a means for accomplishing strategic planning for environmental justice and equity decisions on Federal real property management and operation.

Process for
Community Focused
Collaboration
Advancing
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Federal Buildings

Objective 2

Engage and maintain collaborative dialogue amongst diverse groups of local communities and stakeholders throughout the life cycle of Federal facility – site selection, programming, design, construction, post-occupancy, opening, and on-going operations.

Process as a means for using a systematic framework for gleaning information and establish an on-going communication system.

Process for
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Objective 3

Correlate and align project needs with community needs for every project – identify positive impacts to the community at-large.

Process as a means to support inclusive environments, provide access to services and amenities, and establish opportunities for healthy interdependence – meeting both community needs and Federal facility's mission.



Process for Community Focused Collaboration Advancing Environmental Justice and Equity in Federal Buildings

“A *process* that enables and empowers a diverse population by improving human performance, health and wellness, and social participation.” (Steinfeld and Maisel, 2012)



Process for
Community Focused
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Advancing
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Federal Buildings

Implementation

Identify all stakeholders.

Identify goals and Owner Project Requirements (OPR) for Federal facility.

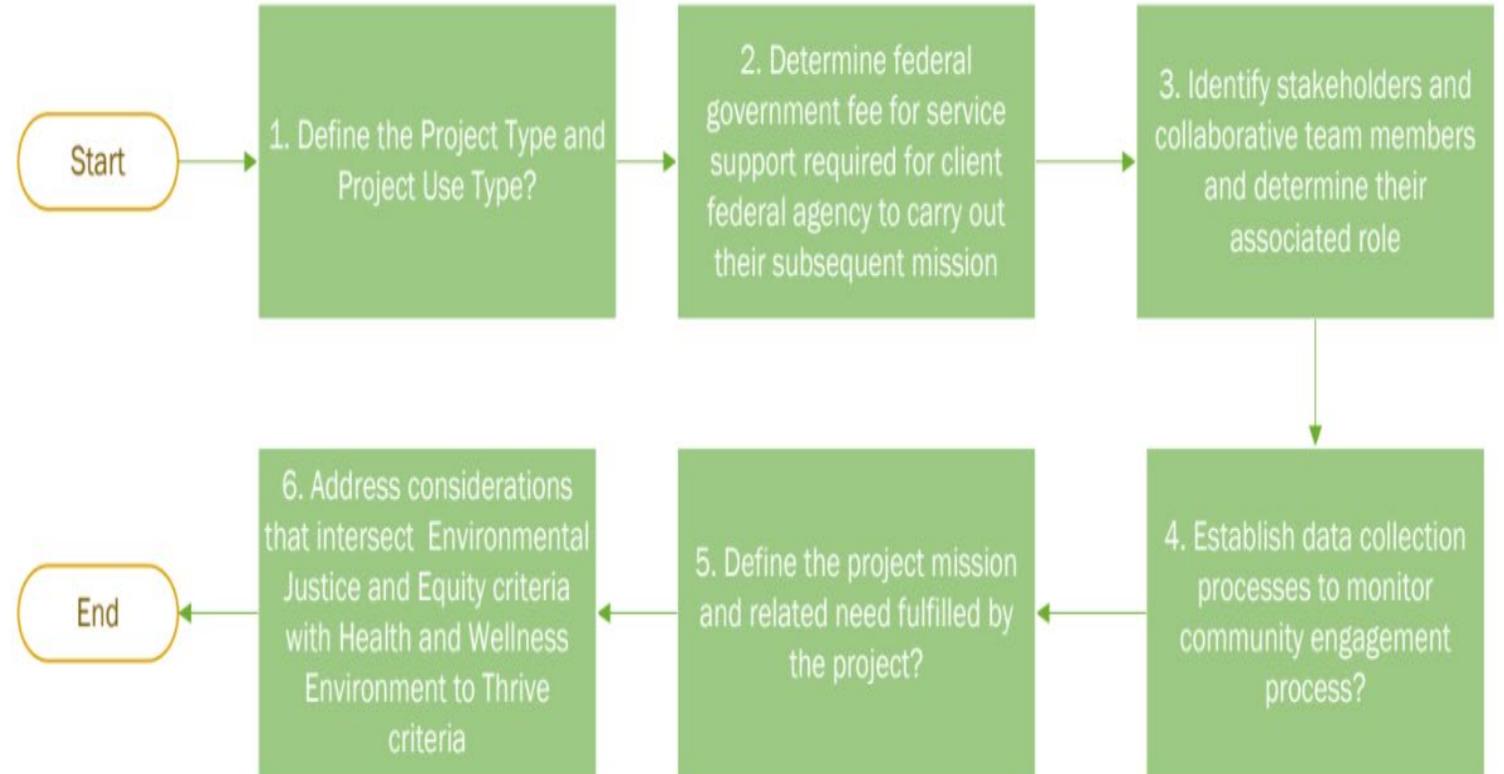
Community Stakeholder Groups identify needs of community and include commonalities in OPR.

Identify roles and responsibilities for each stakeholder group and means for feedback.

Scheduled public presentations for follow-up input before, during, and after construction.

Process for Community Focused Collaboration Advancing Environmental Justice and Equity in Federal Buildings

Summary



Resources for Environmental Justices and Equity for Public Buildings (Sample)

- **Public Building Resources**

- [Federal Real Property Profile \(FRPP\) public data set](#): Federal government's database of its real property inventory
- [NBI Releases Zero Energy Performance Targets for New Construction Projects](#)
- [Guiding Principles for Sustainable Federal Buildings](#): Federal criteria for sustainable buildings
- [Comprehensive Annual Energy Data and Sustainability Performance](#): DOE FEMP resource for sustainability data, sortable by agency
- [Federal Sustainability Progress, Plans, and Performance](#): (Office of Sustainability, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)) Individual agency performance graphics and OMB Scorecards for Efficient Federal Operations/Management. Includes annual performance data on facility energy use, water use, renewable electricity, facility efficiency investments, high performance sustainable buildings, fleet petroleum and alternative fuel, greenhouse gas emissions.

- **Non-Federal EJ&E Resources**

- [MTA Business Services Center overall resource page](#)
- [Voluntary Land Taxes](#): From the Native Governance Center. GSA should consider the idea of paying voluntary land taxes where Indigenous communities have those systems in place and there is overlap with federal property.
- [Social Economic Environmental Design \(SEED\) Network](#): The SEED Network connects similarly-minded members of the general public with designers from the fields of Architecture, Communication Design, Industrial Design, Landscape Architecture, Urban Design, and Urban Planning, who have an interest in community-based design practice.
- [Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion Webinar](#): Monthly calls about projects that are exemplary in terms of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion; hosted by the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA), National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and Social Economic Environmental Design (SEED) Network.
- [EcoDistricts](#): EcoDistricts aims to mobilize, empower and accelerate sustainable and equitable urban development leadership throughout North America and beyond.

Task Group Participants

GBAC Members or Designees

Reena Agarwall, Center for Active Design
Gopinath Boray, HHS
Kevin Bates, Sharp Development Company
Chris Castro, City of Orlando
Projjal Dutta (Co-Chair), NY State Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Ralph DiNola, New Buildings Institute (NBI)
David Kaneda, IDeAs Consulting
Sara Karerat, Center for Active Design (CfAD)
Jane Rohde, JSR Associates Inc.
Andrew Persily, National Institute of Standards and Technology
Sarah Slaughter (Co-Chair), Built Environment Coalition
LaToria Whitehead, HHS Office of Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH)

SME Additional Participants

Valerie J. Amor, Drawing Conclusions LLC
Nori Catabay, King County Green Building Team
Alex Gamble, Indian Health Service
CDR Leo Gumapas, HHS Program Support Center
Mandy Lee, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Centering Equity on Sustainable Building Sector (CESBS)
R. Steven Lewis, FAIA, and current AIA Architects Foundation board president
Dr. Cecilia Martinez, Senior Director for Environmental Justice at the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)
Jacqui Patterson, Executive Director, Chisholm Legacy Project
Alice Sung, Greenbank Associates
Joel Todd, USGBC
Lakisha Woods, National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS)

Task Group Participants (cont'd)

GSA Participants

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Karen Handsfield, GSA PBS Urban Development

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