

DEPARTMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACTION PLAN

CITY OF CHICAGO'S GOAL: *Take a whole-government approach to improve and protect the environment, health, and quality of life in environmental justice (EJ) communities through changes to internal policies, processes, practices and/or budgets.*

ENVIROMENTAL JUSTICE ACTION PLAN					
Department Name: Department of Procurement Services					
Department Scope and Authorities: The Department of Procurement Services (DPS) is the contracting authority for the procurement of goods and services for the City of Chicago. DPS works with all City departments and its customers to guarantee an open, fair and timely process by establishing communication and enforcing superior best practices.					
Environmental Justice Strategy: Establish new processes and standards for City commodity contracts to minimize impacts on EJ Neighborhoods. The City of Chicago awards more than 2,000 contracts, modifications, amendments, task orders, and releases annually, with an estimated value of \$3B. Community organizations have called upon the City to ensure that its contracts are not contributing to additional environmental burdens in EJ Neighborhoods, and to use its purchasing power to move local industries toward cleaner, safer operations. In response, DPS intends to work with the Office of Climate and Environmental Equity (OCEE), the Department of Law (DOL), and Department of Public Health (CDPH) to issue a collective memorandum to User Departments. The memorandum would require User Departments to identify projects that could possess an environmental impact in Environmental Justice Neighborhoods (EJN). User Departments would work internally and collaborate with OCEE and DOL when developing scopes of work. Along with the memo, User Departments will be provided a checklist, compiled by DPS, OCEE, CDPH and DOL, that will include a list of environmental-related questions. If the department answers “yes” to any of the questions, they will be required to convene a meeting with OCEE, DOL, CDPH and DPS to determine what, if any, new requirements should be included in their scope of work, prior to advertising the solicitation. The objective is to ensure that projects that could pose an environmental threat or concern to an EJN, have the necessary language and requirements for contractors to adhere to, to mitigate any potential hazards.					
Supporting Department(s): OCEE, Department of Public Health, Department of Law					
Impact Measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of City contracts incorporating additional environmental, health, and sustainability requirements, as applicable • Contract compliance documentation and performance indicators 					
Related Department Investments & Prior Commitments: In 2022, the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) worked with CDOT, DPS, and DOL to incorporate new requirements in the bid solicitation for asphalt contracts. Notably, this included requirements for contractors to build equipment that captures almost all harmful gases known as volatile organic chemicals released from their operations, and to limit the number of areas awarded to a single bidder.					
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Work with OCEE, CDPH, and DOL to develop a memorandum and checklist for User Departments	3Q-2023	
As bid specifications are submitted to DPS, ensure if a project has been deemed to have an environmental impact, all necessary steps have been followed, prior advertisement	1Q-2024	
Community Input & Response		
Community Input: <i>The request from the community was to see more investment in overburdened communities and more "green jobs".</i>		
Response to Community Input: <i>While DPS understands the importance of investing in overburdened communities and green jobs, this does not fall in the scope of the department.</i>		