

CUMULATIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROGRESS REPORT: INTERDEPARTMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE WORK GROUP

JUNE 2023

The Interdepartmental Environmental Justice Work Group was formed in March 2023 by the Office of Climate & Environmental Equity and Chicago Department of Public Health to help City departments **promote environmental justice (EJ) and address disproportionate environmental, health, and social stressors in certain neighborhoods** (cumulative impacts). The Work Group is a space for City departments to:

- Review citywide and neighborhood level impact data, including lived experience
- Examine City policies that contribute to cumulative impacts
- Develop a vision and framework for collaboration across departments and with people from EJ communities
- Identify and solve potential barriers to collaboration
- Pursue immediate and longer-term actions
- Track and report on progress

An Environmental Justice Executive Order (EJ EO) issued in May 2023 formalized the Work Group, ensuring that it will lead and coordinate City-wide EJ strategy going forward.



INTERDEPARTMENTAL EJ GOAL

Departments developed and adopted an EJ goal for the City of Chicago that guides our shared work: **All City of Chicago departments will work together and use their powers to improve the environment, health, and quality of life in environmental justice communities through changes to internal decision-making processes, citywide policy, meaningful community engagement, and equitable distribution of benefits and burdens of City actions.**



EJ ACTION PLAN

The Work Group will produce an EJ Action Plan with specific strategies each member department will pursue to advance the City's EJ goal with meaningful community involvement. **These strategies represent changes to department practices and policies** so that justice and equity principles are part of day-to-day operations and decision-making. The City will transparently track and measure progress on the EJ Action Plan over time to ensure accountability.



NEXT STEPS AND TIMELINE

Under the EJ EO, the Work Group must **complete the EJ Action Plan by September 1, 2023**, then publish a progress report by December 31, 2023 (and annually thereafter). The final EJ Action Plan and other Cumulative Impact Assessment deliverables will be available for public review on the City's website, [Chicago.gov/cumulativeimpact](https://chicago.gov/cumulativeimpact). Opportunities for public input will continue throughout the cumulative impact project.



COMMUNITY INPUT

- Departments reviewed a summary of community input to understand needs and priorities.
- Department strategies were shared with other Cumulative Impact Assessment work group community co-chairs for feedback.
- In-person engagement events are being hosted throughout the summer to collect additional insights.
- Full EJ Action Plan is available for review at [Chicago.gov/cumulativeimpact](https://chicago.gov/cumulativeimpact). Public comments are invited through **July 31, 2023**.



MEMBERS

FOUNDING MEMBERS (SINCE FEB 2023)

- Office of Climate & Environmental Equity
- Department of Public Health
- Department of Assets, Information & Services
- Department of Housing
- Department of Law
- Department of Planning & Development
- Department of Streets & Sanitation
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Water Management

NEW MEMBERS (AS OF JUNE 2023)

- Department of Buildings
- Department of Procurement Services



To learn more about the cumulative impact project and upcoming activities, visit:
[CHICAGO.GOV/CUMULATIVEIMPACT](https://chicago.gov/cumulativeimpact)



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