



New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance 2018 Annual Report



NJEJA Board Members, Ana Baptista and Nicky Sheats, at Gov. Murphy's signing of the NJ Environmental Justice Executive Order #23

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Nicole Scott Harris, Newark Organizer

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Dr. Ana Baptista
Kerry Butch
Valorie Caffee
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Congresswoman Bonnie Watson-Coleman and NJEJA Board Chair, Nicky Sheats, at the NJEJA 2018 Environmental and Climate Justice Summit

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NJEJA 2018 Annual Report

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Message from the State Director:

We are highly appreciative of the opportunities and collaborations that materialized in 2018, therefore we celebrate the impact we have had with our colleagues in this Annual Report. Here are a few highlights of the past year.

NJEJA lent an EJ perspective to the proposed **New Jersey Energy Master Plan**, testifying at the BPU hearings and submitting formal comments. NJEJA also serves on the steering committee charged with implementation of Governor Murphy's **Environmental Justice Executive Order**, which mandates environmental justice as a goal of state policies.

We partnered with the DC think tank, Center for American Progress, to host the **2018 Environmental and Climate Justice Summit**. More than 100 EJ advocates, policy makers, concerned citizens, and experts from New Jersey and the surrounding region participated in the summit. Summit speakers included New Jersey Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy's Chief Policy Advisor Kathleen Frangione, and NJDEP Deputy Commissioner, Debbie Mans.

NJEJA partnered with New Jersey League of Conservation Voters Education Fund to create a soon to be released report on **Natural Resources Damages** and environmental justice community engagement. NJEJA examined practices that determine: which 'injuries' are selected for legal action; how the impacts of the 'injuries' are valued; what remediating projects are selected and how they are implemented."

NJEJA cohosted the "**Public Health and Our Ports Conference and Tour**" with Rutgers University's Center for Environmental Exposure and Disease (CEED), Ironbound Community Corporation, and Clean Water Action. The conference engaged more than 100 stakeholders, including public policy leaders, environmental and public health organizations, and academics.

NJEJA continued its urban climate resilience work with Ironbound Community Corporation and Clean Water Action on the Newark Resilience Action Plan (**NewarkRAP**), and with Newark's Office of Sustainability on **Cities of Service**. Nearly 200 volunteers were engaged to create 9000 square feet of cool roofs, adopt 136 catch basins, install 76 rain barrels and divert 11,825 gallons of stormwater from the sewer system.

Consistent with our energy justice work to elevate the decision-making of environmental justice communities, NJEJA partnered with the **Energy Foundation** to: co-chair its Health and Equity Committee; participate in community solar pilot(s); address barriers to energy efficiency and renewable energy, promote transportation sector emission reductions.

NJEJA continued Environmental Justice Leadership Training for 25 students in the **Rutgers Future Scholars Program**. Participants in the program have been from the cities of Rahway, New Brunswick, Piscataway, and Highland Park.

Dr. Nicky Sheats, NJEJA co-founder and board chair, who was honored by the Ironbound Community Corporation with the **Sr. Carol Johnston Community Service Award**. Congratulations Nicky!

Highlighted Outreach and Partnerships:

Webinar on State EJ Organizations: NJEJA Executive Director, Lauren Boles, was featured on a webinar about statewide EJ organizations, convened by Charles Lee at EPA Headquarters.

2018 Environmental Law Forum: Lauren and NJEJA Board Chair, Nicky Sheats, provided EJ continuing education for environmental lawyers at their annual forum.

DELPF: “From Here to There: Sustainable Development in the Triangle”: NIEJA Newark Organizer, Nicole Scott Harris was a panelist at the 2018 Annual Symposium of the Duke Environmental & Law Policy Forum (DELPF), where she presented lessons learned from goods and freight movement in the Tri-State: New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut.

NJ Urban Mayors Forum on Education: NJEJA participated in the Urban Mayors Forum on the Intersectionality of health and environment on education outcomes. Mayors, educators, and EJ advocates received instruction on how to address the cumulative impacts of environmental injustice through policy and grassroots advocacy.

Runaway Inequality: Lauren and Board Member, Priscilla Hayes, coordinated a training session, with Brandon Castro at the Work Environment Council, providing an EJ lens for WEC’s Runaway Inequality Campaign.

Newark Forward: NJEJA contributed guidance on the 2019 Newark Sustainability Plan.

WURD Radio Interview: Lauren participated in a WURD broadcast on environmental issues, featuring NJEJA.

For more information on NJEJA activities, please contact me at director@njeja.org.

Thank you,
Lauren Boles, Executive Director



New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance

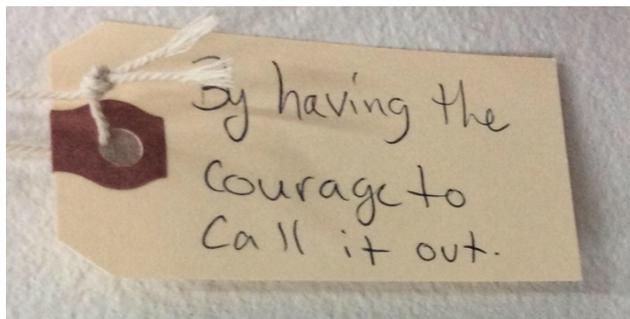
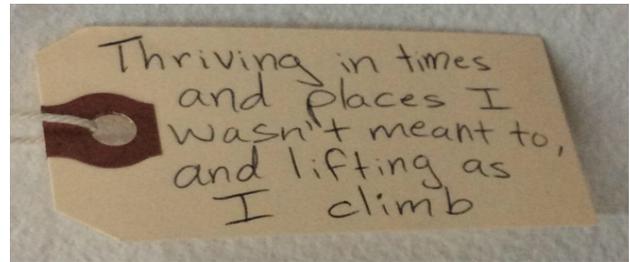
About NJEJA:

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 at Casa Familiar during the Kresge Foundation's Climate Resilience Urban Opportunity Initiative



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 EJ perspective. NJEJA is the only statewide organization in New Jersey that focuses on EJ issues and whose leadership and membership are predominately people of color. As a result of NJEJA's unique leadership in the environmental arena, the Alliance has been successful helping to move environmental justice from the margins to the mainstream of environmental policy discussions.



NJEJA Board Members, Kerry Butch and Avery Grant, at the Save Asbury Waterfront press event

Our Impact:

- **Policy Development**

- New Jersey Environmental Justice and Climate Summit:

NJEJA and the Center for American Progress (CAP) co-hosted the first-ever statewide New Jersey Environmental Justice and Climate Summit on April 4th at the Mercer County Community College in Trenton. The summit goal was to bring together state officials, members of Congress, and members of the environmental justice community to discuss solutions to pollution and climate change impacts in New Jersey's communities of color, low-income neighborhoods, and Indigenous communities. The summit was held on the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. to create an opportunity to reflect on King's environmental legacy; encourage Gov. Phil Murphy to reduce carbon pollution and associated co-pollutants; prepare for climate change effects; expand access to clean energy; and address cumulative pollution impacts in EJ communities.



NJ DEP's Debbie Mans at the NJ EJ and Climate Summit

- Natural Resources Damages:

NJEJA partnered with the New Jersey League of Conservation Voters Education Fund to create a soon to be released report on Natural Resources Damages and EJ community engagement. Lauren and NJEJA Board Member, Priscilla Hayes, examined practices that determine: which 'injuries' are selected for legal action; how the impacts of the 'injuries' are valued when settlements are reached; what remediating projects are selected and how they are implemented." New Jersey LCVEF led the effort to get the issue on the ballot in November 2017. Voters indicated a preference for implementation of restoration projects as close as possible to the site of the original injury; nexus to injury is crucial for EJ Communities, disproportionately impacted by environmental pollution.

- New Jersey Energy Master Plan:

NJEJA lent an environmental justice perspective to the proposed New Jersey Energy Master Plan by testifying at the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) hearings and submitting formal comments. At the Camden hearing, NJEJA Executive Director, Lauren Boles, emphasized development and implementation of the Energy Master Plan could be the first test of Governor Murphy's Environmental Justice Executive Order, which mandates environmental justice as a goal of state policies.



Patty Cronheim @PCronheim · 1h
Lauren Boles of @NJEJAlliance says "special care" needs to be taken to alleviate disproportionate impacts from fossil fuels and "include EJ. communities in clean energy market."



NIEJA at Energy Master Plan hearing, Camden, NJ

- **Targeted Campaigns and Organizing**

- **“Public Health and Our Ports Conference and Tour”:**

Rutgers University’s Center for Environmental Exposure and Disease (CEED), with NJEJA, Ironbound Community Corporation, and Clean Water Action, hosted the “Public Health and Our Ports Conference and Tour” at the Rutgers Law School in Newark. CEED has been working on the public health impacts of NY/NJ port activities on port-adjacent communities. The overall goal of the conference was to articulate solutions that improve the health and well-being in affected communities. The conference engaged more than 100 stakeholders, including public policy thought leaders, environmental and public health organizations, and academics.



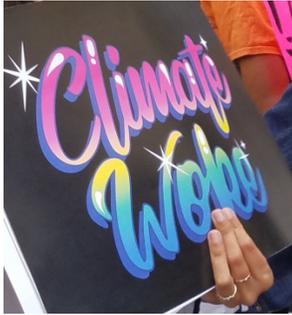
NIEJA Executive Director, Laureen Boles, on the mic at the “Public Health and Our Ports Conference and Tour”

As a steering committee member organization of the Coalition for Healthy Ports (CHPs), NJEJA is actively supporting the campaign for equitable, transparent operations at the Port Authority of New York-New Jersey. While broadly promoting environmental and economic justice in PANYNJ operations and related industries, some specific objectives of the campaign includes: equitable compensation for the city; environmental mitigation policies like a ban on dirty pre-2007 diesel trucks; and a Zero Emissions standard for port operations. In an effort to achieve these aims, NJEJA has regularly participated in direct engagement with officials from EPA Region 2 and PANYNJ to express our concerns and desired outcomes.

National Work on Goods & Freight Movement

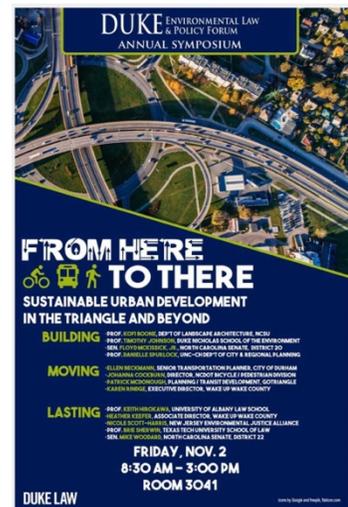


NIEJA Newark Organizer Nicole Scott Harris with NJEJA Board Member Cynthia Mellon and Mustafa Ali of the Hip Hop Caucus at the 2018 People’s Climate March in San Francisco, CA



Nicole Scott-Harris with members of the Moving Forward Network at the Port of Oakland.

- DELPF: “From Here to There: Sustainable Development in the Triangle”: NIEJA Newark Organizer, Nicole Scott Harris was a panelist at the 2018 Annual Symposium of the Duke Environmental & Law Policy Forum (DELDPF), where she presented lessons learned from goods and freight movement in the Tri-State: New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. Nicole followed up the panel presentation with a paper that she penned with Lauren at NIEJA, Professor Kofi Boone at North Carolina State University, and Omega Wilson, North Carolina EJ colleague and a Executive Director of the West End Revitalization Association. The paper is titled, “Lessons from the Tri-State to the Triangle: Mitigating Environmental and Health Impacts from Transportation in Populous Regions”.



NIEJA Newark Organizer Nicole Scott Harris, pictured with Duke Environmental & Law Policy Forum member, Jennifer Thelusma.

- Climate Resilience and Cities of Service:

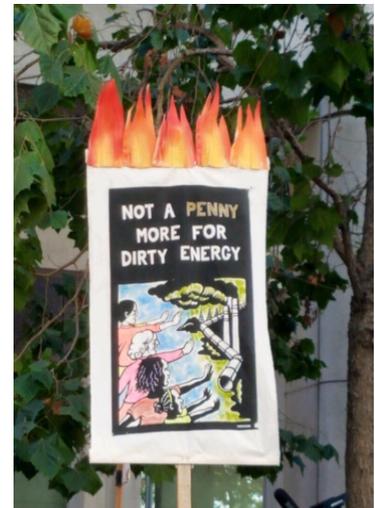
Through the Kresge Foundation’s Climate Resilience and Urban Opportunity (CRUO) Initiative, NJEJA and its partners, the Ironbound Community Corporation and Clean Water Action, have been engaged in climate-resilience planning, policy development, and implementation efforts to advance the needs and priorities of low-income and minority people. Working in conjunction with the City of Newark’s Office of Sustainability, project partners developed an impact volunteering project under the federal Cities of Service “Prepared Together” program. In 2018, **188 volunteers** participated in the following disaster preparedness, mitigation, and recovery activities.

- **11,825 gallons of stormwater were diverted** from the sewer system;
- **30 trees were planted** to improve aesthetics, reduce ambient temperatures, and reduce the impacts of flash flooding.
- **9000 square feet of cool roofs were created** with reflective paint, to lower indoor temperatures and electricity bills.
- **136 catch basins were adopted** and **640 pounds of debris diverted** from the sewer system
- **76 rain barrels were installed** to capture and slow storm water that floods local streets and reuse non-potable water.

NJEJA also prepared a summary of policy work under the initiative, including the history, implementation and future of the cumulative impacts ordinance, for the Kresge site visit on July 12 and 13, 2018. Kresge conducted staff interviews with NJEJA Newark Organizer, Nicole Scott Harris, and partner agency interviews with Stephanie Greenwood at the Victoria Foundation and Nathaly Agosto Filion at the City of Newark.

- **Advocacy**

- Energy Justice: As Governor Murphy rejoined the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, committed to building 3,500 megawatts of offshore wind by 2030, and initiated a revision of the state Energy Master Plan, NJEJA worked with other clean energy, climate resilience, and just transportation advocates to produce equitable policy development and implementation. Consistent with our energy justice work to elevate the decision-making of environmental justice communities, NJEJA partnered with the Energy Foundation to: co-chair its Health and Equity Committee; participate in community solar pilot(s); draft energy policy climate and equity considerations; address barriers to energy efficiency and renewable energy, and propose targeted emission reductions from transportation sector.



- Sandy Climate Justice Roundtables:
NJEJA continued its climate resilience work through the statewide Sandy Climate Justice Roundtables and three subcommittees of more than 50 organizations and individuals: Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Community-led Climate Resilience, and Climate Justice Curriculum.
 - *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 municipalities 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.
 - *Community Mitigation & Adaptation Planning Subcommittee:*
The Community-led Climate Resiliency Subcommittee reviewed research conducted by the Lower Passaic Urban Waters Partnership on the distribution of federal funds post Hurricane Sandy. The data is being reviewed with an equity lens to ascertain 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.
 - *Climate Curriculum Subcommittee:*
The NJEJA Climate Education Committee has developed a successful ongoing partnership with the Long Branch School District at the invitation of NJEJA Board Member Avery Grant, who is a long time member of the Long Branch Board of Education. During focus group meetings, NJEJA presented four units of the Leadership Training program to the Long Branch high school teachers and led a trip to the Ocean County Materials Recovery and Composting Facility.

- ***Training and Technical Assistance***

- Environmental Justice Leadership Training:
Rutgers Future Scholars is a pre-collegiate academic enrichment program, and tuition-free pathway to higher education, offered to select high school students in the vicinity of Rutgers' campuses. NJEJA conducts trainings with Rutgers Future Scholars, introducing students in 8th and 9th grade to concepts and topics on environmental justice. Participants in the program have been from the cities of Rahway, New Brunswick, Piscataway, and Highland Park.



Dr. Ana Baptista at Environmental Justice Leadership Training

Sample of New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance's (NJEJA's) Environmental Justice Leadership Training Modules

Ethnicity, Money and Environmental Justice: Through interactive exercises, students examine the roots of EJ, including its underpinnings in the Civil Rights Movement, and the interchange of racism and economic inequity in the strive for this socioeconomic goal.

Advocacy and Organizing: This course is an introduction to the Elements of Organizing, with a focus on EJ issues. Students will learn how to apply the organizing elements in real world scenarios.

Healthy Ports 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 strategies toward a healthier port.

Recycling and Solid Waste: Students will be introduced to trash as a valuable natural resource, and to a waste audit as a tool to create better recycling systems and moving towards zero waste.

Food Justice: This course is an introduction to the Food Justice Principles and how activists across the country are applying them to reshape the local food landscape for EJ communities.

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.

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.

Sustainability and Green Jobs: This course is an introduction to sustainable living in a green economy. Students will become familiar with a sustainability plan and learn how to make applications in their lives.

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

Community Monitoring and Fieldwork: A Student Perspective: Students monitor air quality in the vicinity of community assets and liabilities, collect data and explain results.

Data Management and Course Evaluations: Students will analyze environmental data, discuss findings, draw individual conclusions, and make recommendations for improvements to EJ training.

Goals for 2019:

- ***Policy Development***
 - Cumulative Impacts:

NJEJA proposes to continue participation in the monthly meetings of the Newark Environmental Commission as progress on the Environmental Resources Inventory develops. NJEJA also proposes to work with the Newark Environmental Commission to: evaluate the impact of the ordinance and ERI; address necessary modifications; and promote replication of the ordinance and ERI statewide and regionally.

- ***Targeted Campaigns and Organizing***
 - Good Jobs, Healthy Neighborhoods, & a Clean Environment

As a member of the Coalition for Healthy Ports, NJEJA will continue to promote the Gubernatorial Briefing Book in an effort to inform and provide guidance to New Jersey's gubernatorial candidates on policies, procedures, and standards for equitable and just port operations. NJEJA intends to highlight and call for the prioritization of environmental and social justice issues by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

 - Climate Resilience

NJEJA will continue to urge political leaders and major employers to consider the impact of policies on community climate resiliency and help us develop a common understanding of what local communities want and need. Ultimately, our goals are to integrate low-income and minority communities into the policy development and decision-making process, develop model, community-led methodologies and policies, and contribute to the field of climate change.

- ***Advocacy***
 - Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy:

NJEJA plans to bring environmental justice and energy training to New Jersey, as part of a concerted advocacy effort aimed at ensuring inclusion of EJ in New Jersey state energy programs, and to prepare New Jersey communities for participation in discussions on the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and the Global Warming Response Act.

- ***Training and Technical Assistance***
 - Environmental Justice Leadership Training:

NJEJA plans to continue Environmental Justice Leadership Training in 2019 and work with the NJ Department of a Education to certify the curriculum in NJ schools. The overall goal is to create EJ champions in New Jersey and in the region.

We hope that you will join us for an NJEJA general body meeting, or at one of our events, as we continue to work toward environmental justice in 2019.

2019 NJEJA Steering Committee / General Body Meeting Schedule

**1st Tuesday's: Steering Committee Meeting at 4pm; General Body Meeting at 6pm
204 W. State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608, except when advertised elsewhere**

DATE	MEETING
01/08/19	Executive Committee
02/05/19	Executive Committee
03/05/19	Steering Committee / General Body
04/09/19	Executive Committee
05/07/19	Executive Committee
06/04/19	Steering Committee / General Body
07/09/19	Executive Committee
08/06/19	Executive Committee
09/10/19	Steering Committee / General Body
10/01/19	Executive Committee
11/12/19	Executive Committee
12/03/19	Steering Committee / General Body

NJEJA General Body Meeting, December, 4, 2018:

Thank you for a fruitful 2018. We look forward to sustained and new partnerships in the coming year.



NJEJA General Body Meeting, December, 4, 2018



*NJEJA Board and Staff: General Body Meeting, December, 4, 2018 (Left to Right)
Avery Grant, Ingrid Rosario, Laureen Boles, Kerry Butch, Dr. Nicky Sheats, Valorie
Caffee, Priscilla Hayes, Ted Carrington, Nicole Scott-Harris, Dr. Ana Baptista
Not Pictured: Cynthia Mellon, Jerell Blakeley, Bryana DeVeraux*



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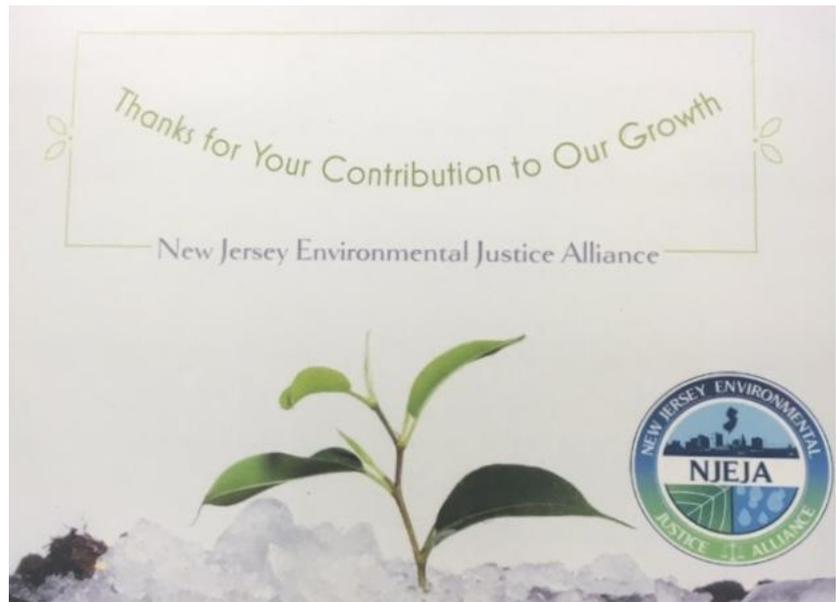
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