

## 5. Best Practices for Community Engagement

- ▶ CDPHE should create guidance and training on how to implement the best practices for community engagement.
- ▶ The legislature should provide funding to agencies for outreach, engagement, and education.
- ▶ Agencies should compensate community members for their time providing feedback and input.
- ▶ All agencies should respect Colorado's Tribal nations by engaging in formal government-to-government relationships with Tribal governments about relevant decisions.

## 6. Supplemental Environmental Projects

- ▶ These projects help the environment and people's health. The projects are funded through environmental enforcement penalty revenue.
- ▶ CDPHE should educate people about these projects and ways to propose projects for funding through the idea library.
- ▶ CDPHE should simplify the process for community-based supplemental environmental project selection processes.

## 7. Just Transition

- ▶ The legislature should evaluate additional opportunities for workers and communities that rely on the fossil fuel industry to transition to cleaner and greener jobs that will help combat climate change, advance sustainability, and keep pace with a changing economy.

## What happens next?

On March 1, 2023, Governor Polis sent a letter to CDPHE with instructions to implement the Task Force recommendations. CDPHE and other state agencies are currently working to implement many of the recommendations. Other recommendations require legislative action to change laws and provide agencies with more resources.



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# Environmental Justice Action Task Force Recommendations Summary



## What is Environmental Justice?

Environmental justice refers to the fair treatment and involvement of all people, regardless of race or income. It allows everyone to participate in shaping environmental laws, regulations, and policies equitably.

In advancing environmental justice, we try to ensure every community has a healthy environment so all people can breathe clean air and drink clean water.

## Environmental Justice in Colorado

Pollution and other environmental factors impact some communities in Colorado more than others. These disproportionately impacted communities located near industrial areas, highways, and other pollution sources face greater environmental health risks. As a result, Coloradans living in these areas may experience poorer health outcomes.



# Environmental Justice Action Task Force:

## What is it? Why was it created?

In 2021, Governor Polis signed the Colorado Environmental Justice Act into law. It established the Environmental Justice Action Task Force. The Task Force was responsible for developing recommendations on how to reduce disparities among disproportionately impacted communities across Colorado.

- The Task Force held a total of 7 public meetings. The in-person components of hybrid meetings were in Commerce City, Grand Junction, Greeley, and Pueblo.
- The Task Force also had 6 subcommittees that met 33 times.
- All Task Force meetings were open to the public, offered Spanish interpretation, and allowed public comment.
- The Task Force officially submitted its final 50-page Report of Recommendations to the Governor, legislature, and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment on November 14, 2022. The Task Force reached a consensus on nearly all of the final recommendations.



### 3. Data and Reducing Environmental Health Disparities

- ▶ CDPHE should set measurable goals for eliminating environmental health disparities
- ▶ Continue to improve Colorado EnviroScreen and use the tool as one factor in prioritizing funding and other resources for the communities that need them most.
- ▶ Transparently collect and share data on environmental justice feedback from the community.
- ▶ Support participatory science projects to help communities gather data on various environmental topics.

## What did the Task Force recommend?



### 1. Environmental Justice Coordination

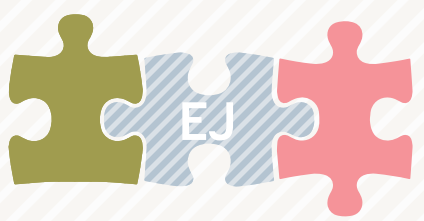
- ▶ CDPHE should share information with other agencies about implementing environmental justice policies and best practices for community engagement.
- ▶ CDPHE should collaborate with local government initiatives to ensure every community has a healthy environment.

### 2. Environmental Equity and Cumulative Impacts Analyses

- ▶ CDPHE's Environmental Justice Program should oversee an Environmental Equity and Cumulative Impacts Analyses program.
- ▶ The analyses would be developed by third-party consultants and/or academic institutions and informed by experts and the community.
- ▶ The analyses would measure cumulative impacts from air, water, soil, and radiation pollution, along with socioeconomic factors and other data for specific areas.
- ▶ Individual state agencies could use the analyses to guide their decisions.

### 4. Definition of Disproportionately Impacted Community

- ▶ The definition of disproportionately impacted community guides where agencies prioritize resources through funding and grants as well as regulatory actions like creating new rules and taking enforcement action.
- ▶ The Task Force recommended changing the definition of disproportionately impacted community in several ways, including adopting a single definition that applies to all state agencies.
- ▶ The legislature adopted these recommendations in a 2023 law.



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**Governors Recommendation**