Breakthrough Communities

Leslie Fields, Director
National Environmental Justice
and Community Partnerships
Sierra Club
Reminder: What is environmental justice?

The fair treatment & meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, natural origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, & enforcement of environmental laws, regulations & policies.

Fair treatment means that no groups of people, including racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic groups should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of Federal, state, local, & tribal programs & policies.

- Environmental Justice as defined by the US Environmental Protection Agency
The Sierra Club’s EJ Program:

- Launch National EJ Grassroots Organizing Program in 2000

- Through this program, the Sierra Club provides:
  - Organizing assistance
  - Activist empowerment training
  - Leverages technical assistance

- Supports the efforts of People of Color & low-income communities:
  - Fight corporate & government polluters
  - Ensure government enforcement of environmental regulations
  - Serves as a “think tank” for new directions & solutions
Sierra Club EJ Protocols:

- Only when invited to do so by the community
- Respect the right of the community to define its agenda
- Link activists with the citizens of the community
- Act as a supporting collaborator with the community
- Encourage & nurture the empowerment of the community
- Respect the comfort level of the community
- Foster community self-reliance
“EJ is the vanguard of the environmental movement. It is inclusive and requires no membership; just a desire to ensure the best possible world to all its inhabitants”.

-Leslie Fields,

National Director/Environmental Justice & Community Partnerships,
Sierra Club
Let’s look at some breakthrough communities…
“Our goal is to build an inclusive green economy, strong enough to lift people out of poverty.”

- Green for All
Building alliances & community capacity through diversity
Contact Info.:  

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Go to the People;
Live among them;
Love them; Learn from them;
Start from where they are;
Work with them; Build on what they have.

But of the best leaders,
When the task is accomplished,
The work completed,
The people all remark:

“We have done this ourselves“

... Lao Tse
Udall Alumni – Join the Fight

Environmental Justice NOW!