

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

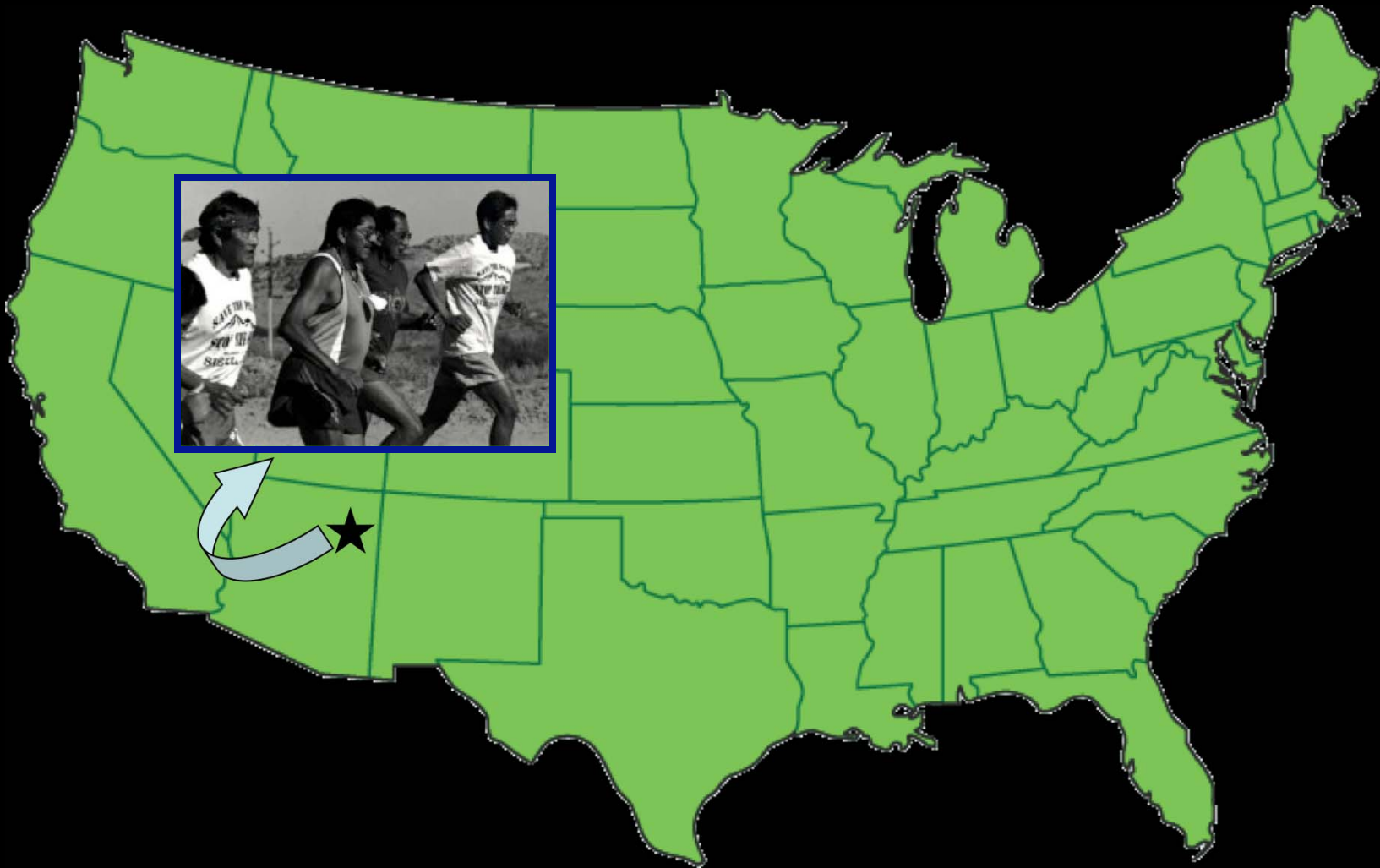


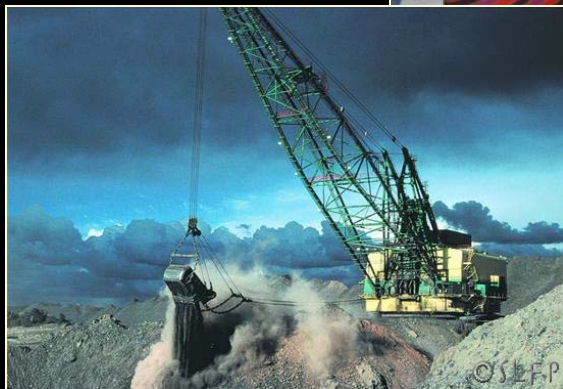
“EJ is the vanguard of the environmental movement. It is inclusive and requires no membership; just a desire to ensure the best possible world to all its inhabitants”.

-Leslie Fields,

***National Director/Environmental Justice & Community Partnerships,
Sierra Club***

Let's look at some breakthrough communities...





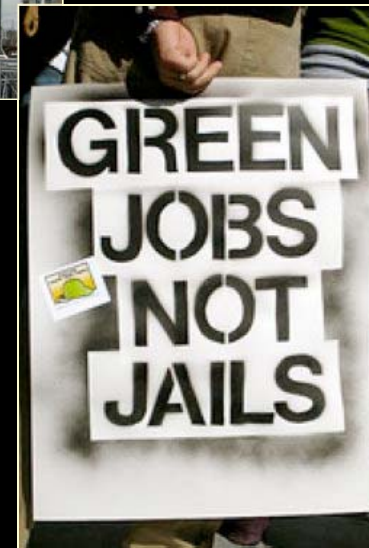
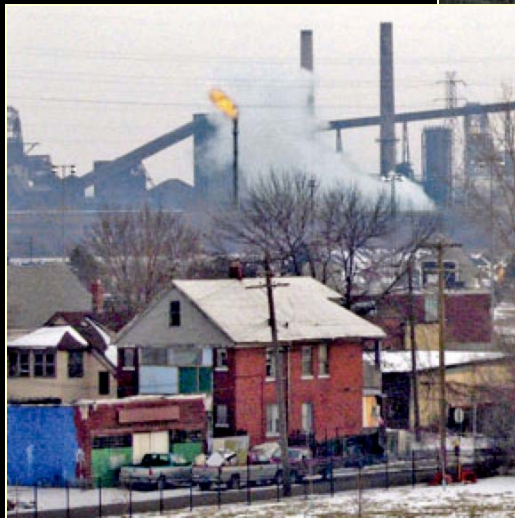










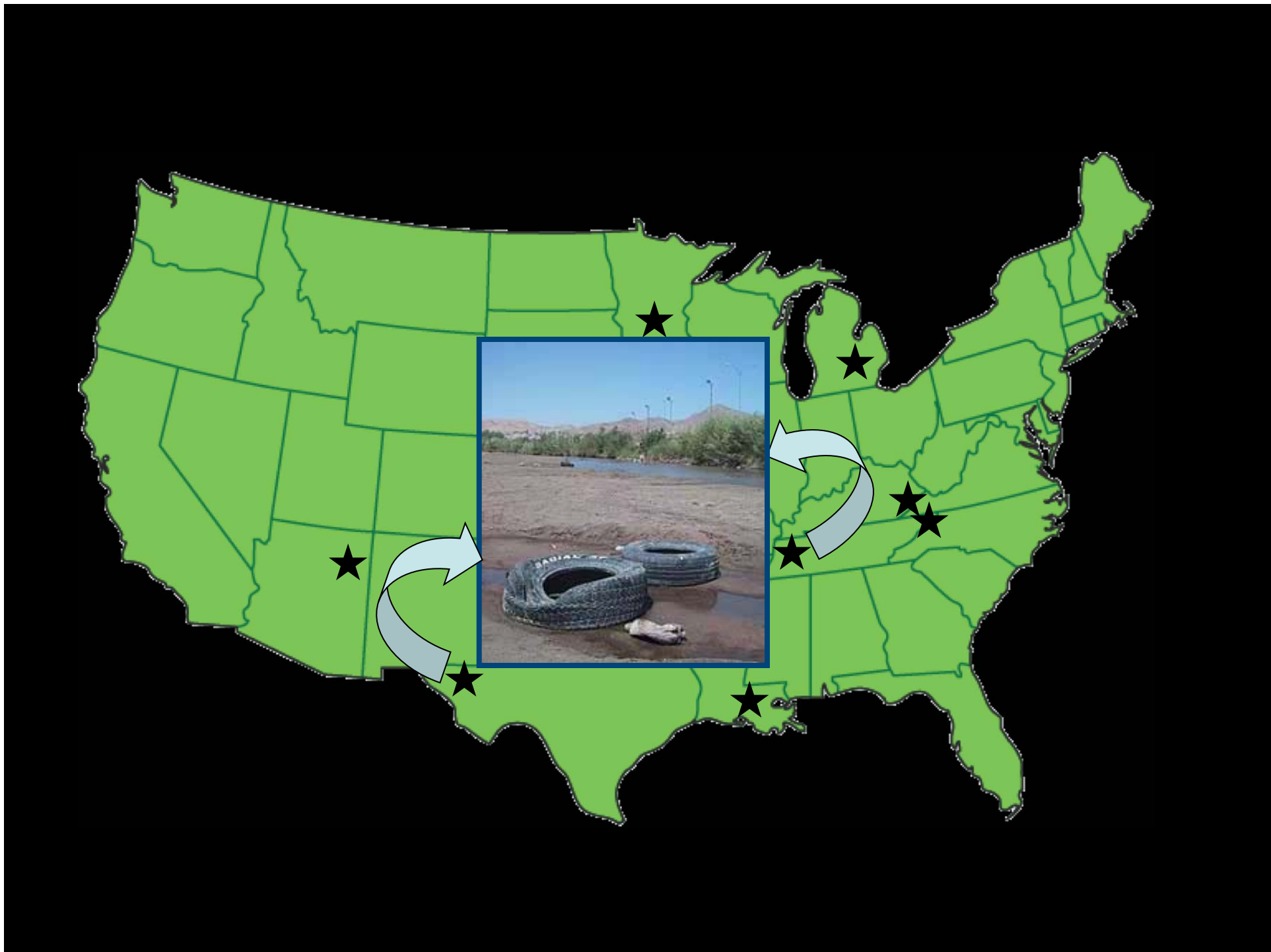
















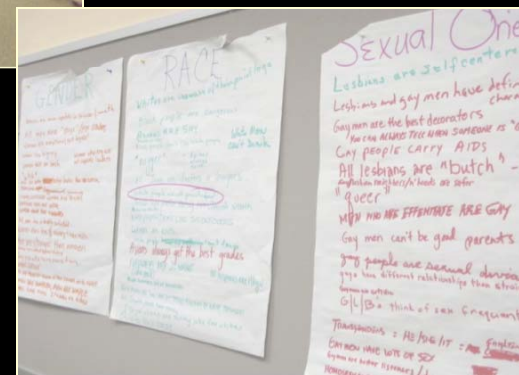


“Our goal is to build an inclusive green economy, strong enough to lift people out of poverty.”

- Green for All



Building alliances & community capacity through diversity







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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!