

Environmental Justice in Virginia

Charting the Way Forward

Strategic Policy & Community Empowerment Plan
2026 - 2029

Executive Summary:

This strategic plan charts the path forward for advancing Environmental Justice (EJ) in Virginia from 2026 to 2029. It was developed by environmental justice advocates from across the Commonwealth through a collaborative process that included a statewide kick-off meeting, regular working sessions, and multiple rounds of feedback to ensure community priorities and voices shaped the outcome. Grounded in the vision of a Virginia where everyone can thrive and shape a healthy ecosystem free of environmental, economic, and social injustice, the plan reflects the collective wisdom, leadership, and commitment of communities most directly impacted.

The plan is organized around three core objectives based on the Jemez Principles¹ for democratic organizing. First, we aim to expand the meaningful involvement of communities most impacted by environmental harms, **empowering** them to have real decision-making power in the policies and processes that affect their lives. Second, we commit to **addressing** environmental health disparities by directing resources, protections, and investments to EJ communities, while holding polluters accountable and strengthening state agency transparency. Third, we seek to guarantee **equitable** access to clean air, safe water, resilient energy, and other essential resources that determine health, safety, and quality of life. (Figure 1)

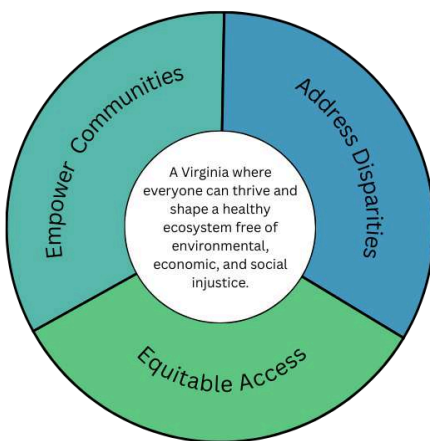


Figure 1 - Vision and Objectives

To ensure clarity and alignment with implementation pathways, each action item in the plan is categorized into one (or more) of three types: Policy or Legislation (PL) for actions requiring new laws or state funding; Regulation (Reg) for actions that involve changes to existing rules or standards; and Community Empowerment (CE) for actions that strengthen the capacity of EJ communities to self-organize and achieve their own goals without requiring legislative or regulatory change.

¹ <https://www.ejnet.org/ej/jemez.pdf>

Across these objectives, the plan outlines concrete goals and action items—from restoring authority to community boards (PL), to strengthening enforcement of existing environmental protections (Reg), to investing in resilience hubs and community clean energy (CE). Together, these strategies provide a roadmap to advance environmental justice, center community leadership, and build a healthier, more equitable Virginia for generations to come. (Table 1)

Type	Description
Policy or Legislation (PL)	Action requiring new laws or state funding
Regulation (Reg)	Actions requiring changes to agency rules/standards
Community Empowerment (CE)	Actions that strengthen EJ Communities' capacity

Table 1 - Action Types

To our EJ in Virginia Coalition Partners:

We are deeply grateful to our coalition partners for the time, energy, and expertise they contributed to co-creating this strategic plan, especially in the midst of already full and demanding commitments. Your unwavering dedication to environmental justice and your willingness to engage in thoughtful, and at times challenging, collective work made this plan stronger and more grounded in lived experience. This effort reflects the power of collaboration and shared purpose, and it would not have been possible without your leadership.

Appalachian Voices	Clean Virginia	Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project	Virginia Council on Environmental Justice
Chesapeake Bay Foundation	Earth Justice	Southern Environmental Law Center	Virginia Interfaith Power & Light
Chesapeake Climate Action Network	Environmental Defense Fund	Southside ReLeaf	Virginia League of Conservation Voters
Climate Equity Working Group	Lynhaven River Now	Virginia Conservation Network	Wetland Watch

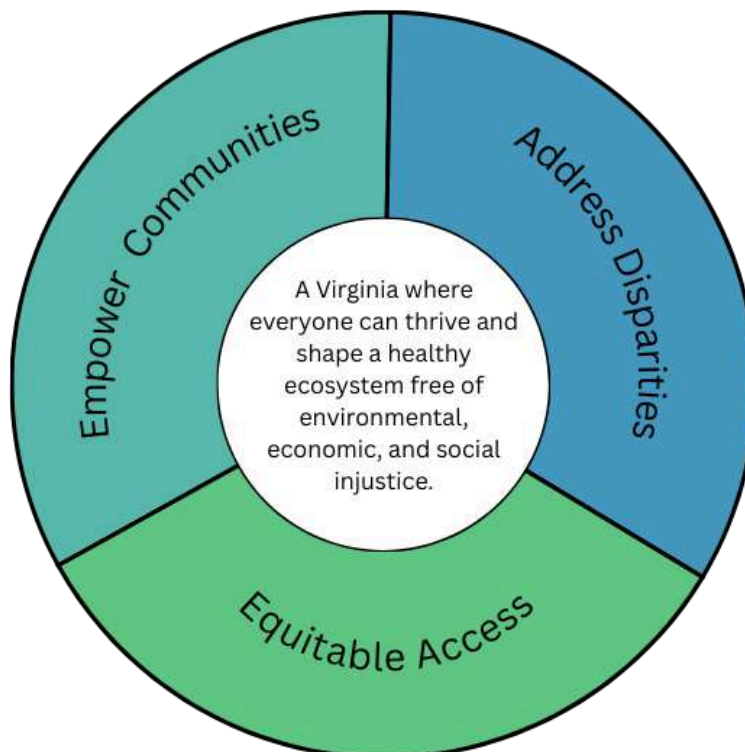
Our Vision: A Virginia where everyone can thrive and shape a healthy ecosystem free of environmental, economic, and social injustice.

Our Objectives

This Environmental Justice Strategic Plan outlines a coordinated policy framework to address longstanding inequities in environmental decision-making, public health, and resource allocation. The three objectives: empowering communities in decision-making, addressing health and environmental disparities, and ensuring equitable access to healthy environments, are designed to work in tandem to strengthen transparency, improve regulatory outcomes, and target investments where they are most needed. The plan advances actionable strategies, including strengthening enforcement of existing laws, integrating cumulative impacts into permitting decisions, directing state funding to overburdened communities, and expanding access to clean energy and resilient infrastructure.

Collectively, these objectives provide a roadmap for aligning state policy with the principles of environmental justice by increasing accountability, improving interagency coordination, and ensuring that the benefits of environmental protection and economic development are equitably distributed. This plan positions the Commonwealth to deliver measurable, community-centered outcomes while meeting its broader public health, climate, and economic goals.

Note: Shaded Action items in the Objective charts below are strategic priorities. (See [Prioritized Action Items](#))



Objective 1: Empower Communities in Decision-Making

This objective focuses on ensuring that communities most impacted by environmental harms have real power in shaping solutions. To achieve this, the plan calls for strengthening the authority of community boards and commissions, expanding representation for directly impacted residents, and providing leadership training, onboarding support, and youth engagement opportunities. It also advances transparency and accountability within state agencies by requiring cumulative impacts legislation, stronger enforcement of the EJ Act, accessible and multilingual public hearings, annual EJ scorecards, and a reinvestment in EJ mapping tools. Finally, the plan addresses energy justice by reducing the energy burden in EJ communities, rejoining RGGI, expanding access to community solar and weatherization, and supporting a just transition for fossil fuel workers through retraining, wage protections, and clean energy apprenticeships.

Objective 1: Promote the meaningful involvement of people most directly impacted by environmental injustice by ensuring they have real decision-making power throughout the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws and policies.		
1.1: Empower community advisory boards, councils and commissions (such as the VEJC, Water and Air boards) with legal authority in transparent decision-making by YEAR. Success Measures: # of directly impacted EJ community members appointments; # of boards, councils and commissions with decision-making authority	Actions	Policy/Legislation = PL Regulation = Reg Community Empowerment = CE
	1.1.1. Host regional or local People’s EJ Assemblies on air, water, etc to get people excited about community decision-making and recruit for boards [<i>Combined with 1.1.5., 1.1.7., 1.1.8</i>]	CE
	1.1.2. Pass law reaffirming decision-making/legal authority for community boards, maybe even expanding the list	PL
	1.1.3. Create a board onboarding and support role to help new EJ members navigate bureaucracy and have their voices heard	CE
	1.1.4. Official near the cabinet tasked with liaising with community boards and	PL

	sharing recommendations, particularly for VEJC (Interagency Taskforce)	
	1.1.5. Provide leadership training for EJ community members interested in joining a board/commission	CE
	1.1.6. Create curriculum/school activities around the decision-making process	CE
	1.1.7. Create an EJ website listing local/state boards that impact air, water, and energy, with open seats, how to apply, meeting info, and plain-language descriptions.	CE
	1.1.8. Training/development program for people to learn about boards, how they can apply, and become effective members	CE
	1.1.9. Restore authority of the Air Pollution Control Board (undo the 2022 bill)	Reg
	1.1.10. Leverage youth voices in the climate space by reaching out to schools (K-12 & universities) to get involved in local climate action.	CE
	1.1.11. Provide regular updates in a multitude of ways, not just email (e.g. in print, including large print).	PL
	1.1.12. Review codified qualifications for all community board memberships and add an EJ representative to each	Reg

	1.1.13. Review codified qualifications for all legislative commission memberships and add an EJ representative to each where applicable	Reg
<p>Goal 1.2: Expand state department regulatory transparency by implementing EJ principles in state agencies' operations by YEAR.</p> <p>Success Measures: Increase public hearing frequency by #; establish community engagement requirements/guidelines for agencies; EJ40/VA policy passage</p>	1.2.1. Pass cumulative impacts legislation	PL
	1.2.2. Governor requests EJ plans for key agencies and departments. Not just regulatory, should also consider agencies like HHS and Transportation	PL
	1.2.3. Add an enforcement provision to the Virginia Environmental Justice Act	PL/Reg
	1.2.4. Mandate accessible, multilingual comment processes for all state agencies, including minimum notice periods, translation, and evening/weekend options.	PL/Reg
	1.2.5. Expand the definition of public access for open spaces	PL
	1.2.6. Require each agency to publish an annual EJ scorecard showing actions taken, communities engaged, and how equity principles were applied.	PL/Reg
	1.2.7. Communicating in ways that aren't just email, especially making updates available in print	Reg
	1.2.8. Hearings must be held in impacted communities (not just Richmond), with hybrid	PL

	virtual options and advance multilingual notice	
	1.2.9. Pass legislation to direct the SCC to fully consider the social cost of carbon	PL
	1.2.10. Develop specific community engagement requirements for projects that will impact EJ and receive state funding	PL
	1.2.11. Fund and expand the EJ office & staff w/in DEQ	Reg
	1.2.12. Re-invest in VA EJ map, encourage active use in agency planning, and update regularly (every 5 years)	Reg/CE
	1.2.13. Add dashboard to agency's website, highlighting recent agency actions	CE
	1.2.14. Change DEQ's public participation regulations requiring 25 individual comments on a pending permit action for a public hearing	PL/Reg
	1.2.15. Require regularly scheduled public hearings (e.g., quarterly or per project milestone) for major permitting and regulatory decisions	PL/Reg
Goal 1.3: Reduce energy burden for EJ communities and support a just transition for Fossil Fuel-dependent communities by x% by YEAR. Success Measure: # homes weatherized, workforce	1.3.1. Offer wage replacement, retraining, and pension protections for fossil fuel workers and contractors as industries shift.	PL

trainings or apprenticeships completed	1.3.2. Re-enter and fully implement RGGI to fund HIEE program	PL
	1.3.3. Create a dedicated funding source for community clean energy projects in EJ communities (Portland, OR example)	PL
	1.3.4. Local workforce or apprenticeship requirements for energy and resilience infrastructure. Make sure community members know how to operate and maintain the infrastructure	PL/Reg/CE
	1.3.5. Continue expanding shared/community solar access	CE
	1.3.6. Home weatherization	CE
	1.3.7. Regional workforce development partnerships with unions, apprenticeship programs, community colleges, and technical institutions, etc [<i>Combine with 1.3.9.</i>]	CE
	1.3.8. Subsidize e-bikes and EVs again	PL
	1.3.9. Fund apprenticeship programs for clean energy trades that prioritize people from EJ communities	PL/CE

Objective 2: Address Health and Environmental Disparities

This objective seeks to address the disproportionate environmental and health burdens borne by EJ communities while ensuring they receive fair access to state investments. Strategies include deploying air and water quality monitoring, expanding public transit and green spaces, prohibiting new polluting projects in already overburdened areas, and improving public health data tracking. To increase investment, the plan calls for dedicating a share of climate and infrastructure funds directly to EJ communities, ending subsidies for polluters, piloting participatory budgeting, and expanding opportunities for workforce development, small business creation, and healthy food access. Strengthened environmental protections are also a priority, including cumulative impacts and anti-dumping laws, creation of EJ Protection Zones with stricter limits, buffer zones around schools and homes, cleanup requirements for polluters, and replacement of lead pipes to safeguard health and safety.

Objective 2: Advance fair and equitable outcomes by working to eliminate health and environmental disparities that disproportionately impact environmental justice communities. Ensure that these communities receive their fair share of environmental and climate investments, and that policies and programs prioritize protections for those most directly and severely affected by environmental harms.		
Goal 2.1: Decrease health and environmental disparities in EJ communities by YEAR. Success Measures: Identify EJ communities; Reduction of disparities	Actions	Policy/Legislation = PL Regulation = Reg Community Empowerment = CE
	2.1.1. Fully fund and implement air quality monitors across the state, prioritizing EJ communities for first deployment	PL
	2.1.2. Pass and implement cumulative impacts policy	PL
	2.1.3. Expand public transit options and bike/ped/micro-mobility programs	PL/CE
	2.1.4. Require VDH to track data by patient home ZIP, not facility address, to reveal EJ health disparities.	PL
	2.1.7. Prohibit new polluting projects in communities	PL/Reg

	already facing high health and environmental burdens.	
	2.1.8. Install real-time air and water quality sensors in EJ communities and make data publicly accessible.	PL/CE
	2.1.9. No more gas plants or diesel generators in EJ communities, work to remove existing ones	PL/Reg
	2.1.11. Increase public health investment in EJ communities so we can track health impacts	PL/CE
	2.1.12. Coal mine reclamation bonding reform	PL/Reg
	2.1.13. Prioritize/fund tree canopy, cooling centers, and flood protections in EJ areas with high asthma or heat illness.	PL
	2.1.14. Reduce food apartheid. Support community gardens, food banks, and incentivize placement of cheaper, healthier grocery stores in communities	PL
Goal 2.2: Increase investments in EJ communities by X% by YEAR. Success Measures: # of EJ communities receiving pollution, resilience, remediation, and support; Increase available funding for EJ communities by X%	2.2.1. Add greenways, trails, and green spaces	CE
	2.2.2. Incentivize and invest in local healthy food options to reduce food apartheid	PL
	2.2.3. Provide support for EJ communities to develop their own comprehensive plans	PL/CE

	2.2.4. End tax subsidies for polluters and shift funds to community solar, clinics, and transit in EJ areas.	PL
	2.2.5. Regional partnerships for apprenticeships, training, and workforce development. Need the workforce to absorb investment	CE
	2.2.6. Clean energy and environmental business development training. Teach people to open and own businesses and take advantage of investment	CE
	2.2.7. Virginia's own version of Justice 40	PL
	2.2.8. Pass a Virginia EJ Investment Act. Dedicate a percentage of state climate or infrastructure funds directly to EJ-designated communities.	PL
	2.2.9. Increase flood resilience with bioswales and decrease impervious ground	PL
	2.2.10. Launch Participatory Budgeting Pilots: Let EJ residents vote on local spending for health, housing, transit, and green space.	CE
	2.2.11. Provide emergency funding for EJ communities to mitigate impacts of SLR	PL
	2.2.12. Hold workshops on how communities can benefit from new projects (basics of community benefits agreements, negotiating, etc.)	CE

Goal 2.3: Implement # of environmental protections for EJ communities by YEAR Success Measures: Implement moratorium on fossil fuels	2.3.1. Cumulative impacts legislation	PL
	2.3.2. Enforce/implement anti-dumping laws	PL/Reg
	2.3.3. Implement a statewide moratorium on new permits for fossil fuel infrastructure (pipelines, gas plants, compressor stations) located in or adjacent to designated EJ communities	PL
	2.3.4. Enforce noise pollution limits near EJ homes, schools, and parks with regular monitoring.	PL
	2.3.5. Create a private right of action for individuals and communities to sue to enforce environmental laws (like VEJA)	PL
	2.3.6. Protect drinking water from coal ash and PFAS etc	PL/Reg
	2.3.7. Create legal EJ Protection Zones in communities with high pollution burdens, where stricter pollution limits, health-based zoning, and increased enforcement apply	PL
	2.3.8. Offer free PFAS blood testing to residents near known contamination sites.	CE
	2.3.9. Remove lead pipes	PL/CE
	2.3.10. Review of water quality and safety measures for EJ communities	CE

	2.3.11. Set minimum distance requirements between polluting facilities and EJ schools, homes, and clinics.	PL
	2.3.12. Require health-protective buffer zones between industrial facilities and homes, schools, hospitals	PL
	2.3.13. Financial penalty and/or mitigation requirements to disincentivize facility placement in EJ communities	PL/Reg
	2.3.14. Stronger remediation requirements to make polluters pay to clean up harms	PL

Objective 3: Ensure Equitable Access to Healthy Environments

The third objective centers on guaranteeing that all communities - especially low-wealth communities and communities of color - have equal access to clean air, safe drinking water, resilient energy, and healthy neighborhoods. Key actions include creating clean air zones near schools and clinics, banning truck idling, and expanding tree canopy, green spaces, and resilience hubs to protect residents from extreme heat and flooding. The plan also emphasizes improving social determinants of health through environmental workforce development, small business support, and community partnerships that address food security and resilience. Finally, it prioritizes stronger protections for housing and health by requiring asthma reporting by zip code, mandating annual safety testing in subsidized housing, and reconnecting neighborhoods divided by highways through caps and walkability improvements.

Objective 3: Ensure that all communities - including low-wealth communities and communities of color - have equitable access to a healthy and sustainable environment. This includes access to clean air, safe drinking water, unpolluted soil, and other essential resources necessary for health, safety, and quality of life.		
Goal 3.1: Increase positive Social Determinants of Health in EJ Communities by YEAR. Success Measures: Reduce unemployment; increase education outcomes; increase voter registration; provide EJ education outreach	Actions	Policy/Legislation = PL Regulation = Reg Community Empowerment = CE
	3.1.1. Create clean air zones near schools and clinics: Ban idling and truck routes near sensitive EJ sites like schools and health centers.	PL
	3.1.2. Training for people to start and own environmental businesses including agriculture, food, health, and resilience.	PL/CE
	3.1.3. Use state resilience funds to open and advertise safe spaces during extreme heat in EJ neighborhoods.	PL
	3.1.4. Increase tree cover/canopy	PL/CE
	3.1.5. Partner with groups working on wider range of issues not specific to the	CE

	environment, such as investing in community food banks, gardens, Green spaces, etc.	
	3.1.6. Climate/environment focused workforce development programs, partner with community colleges and technical institutions, apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs, unions etc.	PL/CE
	3.1.7. Require VDH to report asthma rates by ZIP	PL/CE
	3.1.8. Highway Caps and removal can create more green space, remove air pollution, and increase walkability while reducing traffic inside a city	CE
	3.1.9. Establish resilience hubs	PL/CE
	3.1.10. Mandate annual testing in all state-subsidized housing, with public reporting.	PL/Reg

Turning Goals into Action

The Environmental Justice in Virginia coalition conducted a structured prioritization process during our bi-weekly meetings to identify which environmental justice policy, regulatory, and community empowerment actions should be advanced immediately. From September through November, Coalition partners reviewed all proposed action items and provided feedback, which informed the final ranking.

This process was designed and facilitated by a six-member Implementation Team, who established the evaluation criteria [figure 2] and led several of the prioritization discussions. Using this framework, the Implementation Team synthesized partner input and prioritized the action items that offer the greatest impact, feasibility, and alignment [figure 1] with the coalition’s capacity and urgent community needs. The result is a focused set of actionable priorities to guide the coalition’s work in the coming years.

Through the prioritization process, the coalition identified 17 near-term priorities that advance environmental justice through stronger policy protections, community-driven decision-making, and investments in climate resilience. These priorities reflect the most impactful and feasible actions that can be advanced within the next one to four years.



Figure 2

Prioritized Action Items

Objective 1: Empower Communities in Decision-Making

The coalition prioritized actions that expand community participation and reinforce the authority of community-led environmental decision-making bodies. These include hosting regional or local People’s Environmental Justice Assemblies to deepen public engagement, as well as pursuing legislation to reaffirm and potentially expand the legal authority of community boards. Additional priorities in this area include passing cumulative impacts legislation, adding enforcement mechanisms to the Virginia Environmental Justice Act, expanding the definition of public access for open spaces, and securing the state’s re-entry into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) to fund energy-efficiency programs. Workforce development partnerships with unions, apprenticeship programs, and educational institutions round out this category by building pathways into clean-energy and environmental careers.

	Actions	Policy/Legislation = PL Regulation = Reg Community Empowerment = CE	Notes: Additional info, lead orgs
1.1: Empower community advisory boards, councils and commissions (such as the VEJC, Water and Air boards) with legal authority in transparent decision-making by YEAR. Success Measures: # of directly impacted EJ community members appointments; # of boards, councils and commissions with decision-making authority	1.1.1. Host regional or local People’s EJ Assemblies on air, water, etc to get people excited about community decision-making and recruit for boards	CE	
	1.1.2. Pass law reaffirming decision-making/legal authority for community boards, maybe even expanding the list	PL	

<p>Goal 1.2: Expand state department regulatory transparency by implementing EJ principles in state agencies' operations by YEAR.</p> <p>Success Measures: Increase public hearing frequency by #; establish community engagement requirements/guidelines for agencies; EJ40/VA policy passage</p>	1.2.1. Pass cumulative impacts legislation	PL	
	1.2.3. Add an enforcement provision to the Virginia Environmental Justice Act	PL/Reg	
	1.2.5. Expand the definition of public access for open spaces	PL	
<p>Goal 1.3: Reduce energy burden for EJ communities and support a just transition for Fossil Fuel-dependent communities by x% by YEAR.</p> <p>Success Measure: # homes weatherized, workforce trainings or apprenticeships completed</p>	1.3.2. Re-enter and fully implement RGGI to fund HIEE program	PL	
	1.3.7. Regional workforce development partnerships with unions, apprenticeship programs, community colleges, and technical institutions, etc	CE	

Objective 2: Eliminate Health and Environmental Disparities

Several priorities focus on strengthening environmental safeguards and ensuring fair economic policies in environmental justice communities. These include passing and implementing a cumulative impacts policy, reforming coal mine reclamation bonding, and ending tax subsidies for polluters while redirecting public funds to community solar, clinics, and transit in EJ areas. The coalition also identified the need for emergency funding for sea level rise mitigation, establishing a private right of action for individuals and communities to enforce environmental laws, protecting drinking water from coal ash and PFAS, and advancing statewide efforts to remove lead pipes.

	Actions	Policy/Legislation = PL Regulation = Reg Community Empowerment = CE	Notes: Additional info, lead orgs
Goal 2.1: Decrease health and environmental disparities in EJ communities by YEAR. Success Measures: Identify EJ communities; Reduction of disparities	2.1.2. Pass and implement cumulative impacts policy	PL	
	2.1.12. Coal mine reclamation bonding reform	PL/Reg	
Goal 2.2: Increase investments in EJ communities by X% by YEAR. Success Measures: # of EJ communities receiving pollution, resilience, remediation, and support; Increase available funding for	2.2.4. End tax subsidies for polluters and shift funds to community solar, clinics, and transit in EJ areas.	PL	
	2.2.11. Provide emergency funding for EJ communities to mitigate impacts of SLR	PL	

EJ communities by X%			
Goal 2.3: Implement # of environmental protections for EJ communities by YEAR Success Measures: Implement moratorium on fossil fuels	2.3.5. Create a private right of action for individuals and communities to sue to enforce environmental laws (like VEJA)	PL	
	2.3.6. Protect drinking water from coal ash and PFAS etc	PL/Reg	
	2.3.9. Remove lead pipes	PL/CE	

Objective 3: Ensure Equitable Access to Healthy Environments

To address worsening climate impacts and long-standing health disparities, the coalition prioritized the creation of cooling and safe spaces during extreme heat events using state resilience funds, requiring the Virginia Department of Health to report asthma rates by ZIP code, and establishing Resilience Hubs to support community preparedness, response, and recovery.

	Actions	Policy/Legislation = PL Regulation = Reg Community Empowerment = CE	Notes: Additional info, lead orgs
Goal 3.1: Increase positive Social Determinants of Health in EJ Communities by YEAR. Success Measures: Reduce unemployment; increase education outcomes; increase voter registration; provide EJ education outreach	3.1.3. Use state resilience funds to open and advertise safe spaces during extreme heat in EJ neighborhoods.	PL	
	3.1.7. Require VDH to report asthma rates by ZIP	PL/CE	
	3.1.9. Establish resilience hubs	PL/CE	

Advancing Environmental Justice, Together

This plan represents far more than a policy agenda. It is a testament to what communities across Virginia can achieve when we work together with solidarity, mutuality, and a shared belief in a healthier, equitable future. Grounded in the lived experiences of environmental justice communities and shaped through months of collaboration, this roadmap reflects our collective determination to transform systems, protect public health, and ensure that every person has access to clean air, safe water, and resilient neighborhoods. It is a unified call to action rooted in the understanding that justice is not achieved through isolated efforts but through relationships based on justice, respect, and shared leadership.

We are deeply grateful for the commitment, professionalism, and unwavering passion for environmental justice demonstrated by the members of the EJ in Virginia Coalition. Your expertise, lived experience, and steadfast dedication made this plan possible and continue to strengthen the movement for a more just and resilient Commonwealth. Our coalition has shown extraordinary leadership throughout this process bringing integrity, collaboration, and a fierce commitment to environmental justice to every discussion and decision. We also extend special appreciation to Kim Sudderth of Virginia Interfaith Power & Light for her outstanding leadership in facilitating this planning process and guiding the EJ in VA Workgroup meetings with clarity, purpose, and care.

As we move from planning to implementation, we do so with urgency and optimism. Virginia faces significant environmental and climate challenges, but through the priorities identified here, we also hold powerful opportunities for progress. By strengthening community decision-making, expanding protections for overburdened neighborhoods, and directing investments where they are needed most, we are taking concrete steps toward a future where equity is embedded in every environmental policy and practice. Our coalition is ready to advance these goals by strategically leveraging our strengths, coordinating across sectors, and staying tightly aligned with the communities we serve.

Above all, this plan carries forward a deep sense of hope rooted in solidarity. We know that meaningful change happens when people come together with a shared purpose, and we are energized by the possibility of what we can build over the next several years. With unity, persistence, and the wisdom of the communities and partners who have guided this work, we are prepared to move forward with courage and resolve.

Together, we will continue to chart a path toward an environmentally just Virginia where everyone can thrive and shape a healthy ecosystem free of environmental, economic, and social injustice for generations to come.