

# WHITE HOUSE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL (WHEJAC) WORKGROUPS

The WHEJAC Workgroups were established to develop draft recommendations to assist the WHEJAC in providing independent advice and recommendations to the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and to the White House Interagency Council on Environmental Justice (Interagency Council) on how to increase the Federal Government's efforts to address current and historic environmental injustice. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/27/executive-order-on-tackling-the-climate-crisis-at-home-and-abroad/>

## 1. WHEJAC CLIMATE AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE SCREENING TOOL WORKGROUP

*Established: March 2021*

*Executive Order 14008 Sec. 222 (a)*

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/27/executive-order-on-tackling-the-climate-crisis-at-home-and-abroad/>

**CHARGE:** Provide advice and recommendations to the WHEJAC to inform future versions of the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) and ensure that the tool continues to accurately identify disadvantaged communities. The recommendations and advice should focus on identifying:

- I. Relevant datasets that are publicly available, nationally consistent, and available at the census tract level, which could be considered for incorporation into the tool;
- II. potential improvements to the methodology, including to better reflect cumulative burdens in the tool;
- III. potential approaches for improving linguistic outreach;
- IV. Potential ways to enhance the usability of the tool; and
- V. any other possible strategies that would support updates and further implementation.

**MEMBERS:** Jade Begay - Jerome Foster II - Juan Parras – LaTricea Adams - Michele Roberts - Nicky Sheats, PhD - Rachel Morello-Frosch, PhD - Tom Cormons - Viola Waghiyi

## 2. WHEJAC SCORECARD WORKGROUP

*Established: September 2021*

*Executive Order 14008 Sec. 220 (d)*

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/27/executive-order-on-tackling-the-climate-crisis-at-home-and-abroad/>

**CHARGE:** Provide advice and recommendations to the Interagency Council on performance metrics that will help evaluate and assess progress on the agency's progress in addressing current and historic environmental injustice.

**MEMBERS:** Robert Bullard, PhD - Maria López-Núñez - Richard Moore - Rachel Morello-Frosch, PhD - Peggy Shepard - Michele Roberts - Kyle Whyte, PhD - Beverly Wright, PhD - LaTricea Adams

## 3. WHEJAC INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND TRIBAL NATIONS WORKGROUP

*Established: January 2022*

**CHARGE:** Provide recommendations for improving federal policy regarding environmental justice for Tribal communities and Indigenous peoples including as it relates to addressing disproportionately high and adverse human health, environmental, climate-related, and other cumulative impacts, as well as the accompanying economic challenges of such impacts, and underinvestment in housing, transportation, water and wastewater, infrastructure, and health care. The working group's recommendations will adopt the precautionary principle to first do no harm.

**MEMBERS:** Susana Almanza - Jade Begay - Carletta Tilousi - Kyle Whyte

## 4. WHEJAC CLIMATE PLANNING PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, RECOVERY AND IMPACTS WORKGROUP

*Established: January 2022*

*Biden-Harris Administration Commitments to enhance climate change resilience and disaster management* <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/05/24/fact-sheet-biden-administration-invests-1-billion-to-protect-communities-families-and-businesses-before-disaster-strikes/>

**CHARGE:** Provide advice and recommendations to the Environmental Justice Interagency Council and the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality on a whole-of-government approach to environmental justice, including climate change mitigation, resilience, and disaster management.

**MEMBERS:** Jade Begay - Maria Belen Power - Maria López-Núñez - Richard Moore – Juan Parras - Michele Roberts - Ruth Santiago - Nicky Sheats, PhD - Miya Yoshitani – Viola Waghiyi - Kyle Whyte, PhD - Hli Xyooj

## **5. WHEJAC CARBON MANAGEMENT WORKGROUP**

*Established: December 2022*

**CHARGE:** Under Development

**MEMBERS:** LaTricea Adams - Catherine Coleman Flowers - Angelo Logan - Jerome Foster II - Rachel Morello-Frosch – Kyle Whyte, PhD - Juan Parras - Nicky Sheats, PhD – Peggy Shepard - Beverly Wright