Equitable Civic Engagement

Benjamin Cromie, AICP
CHPlanning, Ltd.
Civic Engagement

- The process of working collaboratively with individuals and groups to achieve specific goals
Inclusion

Why:

- Government processes, practices, and decisions are more responsive to community priorities,
- Avoid many unforeseen consequences,
- Create relationships that hold local governments accountable.
The Bare Minimum

- Public notice
- 1 Community Meeting
- Presentation only
 Builders

翻开了解你的邻居
Builders

- Be persuasive
Who are the people in your neighborhood?

- Civic Association
- Community Development Corporation
  - pacdc.org
- Religious Institutions
- Municipal leadership – Council Members
Community Groups

Define the projects that are good for your community
Community Groups

- Show builders how they can make their projects more harmonious.
Planners

✧ Meet your neighbors so you can learn how to best communicate
  ✧ Media
  ✧ Networks
  ✧ Venue
Social Equity and Environmental Justice

Carlton C. Eley, MSURP
The Eley Group, LLC
June 26, 2019
Making a Visible Difference with Communities

Equitable development is an approach for meeting the needs of underserved communities through policies and programs that reduce disparities while fostering places that are healthy and vibrant. It is increasingly considered an effective placed-based action for creating strong and livable communities.

Equitable Development and Environmental Justice - EPA
https://www.epa.gov/.../equitable-development-and-environmental-justice

sustainable strategies infrastructure
“The best preparation comes from...observing, recording, communicating, and self-educating.”

Randall Arendt, Landscape Planner
Environmental Justice Through Planning
Environmental Justice is Advanced through Varying Strategies

- Waste Management
- Public Involvement
- The Law
- Public Health
- *Community Planning*
#12
“Environmental Justice affirms the need for urban and rural ecological policies to clean up and rebuild our cities and rural areas in balance with nature, honoring the cultural integrity of all our communities, and providing fair access for all to the full range of resources.”

#2
“...public policy be based on mutual respect and justice for all peoples...”

#3
“...responsible uses of land and renewable resources..”

#7
“...participate as equal partners at every level of decision-making, including... planning...”

#17
“...make personal and consumer choices...and reprioritize our lifestyles to ensure the health of the natural world for present and future generations.”
As we look to the 21st Century, what endeavor could be more eminently worthy and necessary; more obviously logical and deserving of our national attention, expertise, and resources; or more meaningful and spiritually nourishing than that of revitalizing America’s urban areas and ensuring healthy and sustainable communities, both urban and rural.

National Environmental Justice Advisory Council
(1996)
Working Together for Environmental Justice
Equitable development is an approach for meeting the needs of underserved communities through projects, programs, and/or policies that reduce disparities while fostering places that are healthy, vibrant, and diverse.

https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice
Equitable Development in Action:
ReGenesis in Spartanburg, SC
Equitable Development – Keys to Success: ReGenesis in Spartanburg, SC

- Project maintains strong focus on collaborative problem-solving and partnership development.
- MOU established between the impacted neighborhoods and the City of Spartanburg.
- Local leaders elected to public office for the city council and South Carolina Legislature.
- Key services put in place – health care and grocery stores – to address long-standing community needs.
- Leveraged $300 million in community reinvestment over 15 years.

April 20, 2015
National Planning Excellence Awards
Seattle, Washington
Equitable Development in Action: Westside Specific Plan in National City, CA

Paradise Creek, Phase 1 and Phase 2 completed
Equitable Development – Keys to Success:
Westside Specific Plan in National City, CA

- Residents worked with intermediaries to encourage ‘community-driven’ planning efforts.
- Westside Specific Plan prepared to correct problem of conflicting land use and introduce a new neighborhood vision.
- Leveraged funding from California’s Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund for community development projects.
- Amortization ordinance grants city council the ability to phase-out non-conforming businesses.
- National City’s model for including an ‘environmental justice element’ in the general plan scaled-up as state policy (Senate Bill 1000).

April 11, 2019
National Planning Excellence Awards
San Francisco, CA
The Narrative of Environmental Justice and Planning
The Eley Group, LLC

Planning and policy solutions

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Topics to be Addressed

- A Place-based Approach to Environmental Justice
- Making a Visible Difference through Equitable Development
- Conclusions
Defining Equity

Equity: Encouraging community parity and sustainable settlements through access to health, education, employment, resources, and services for underserved populations and vulnerable groups, especially populations that bore the disproportionate burdens from urban disinvestment and urban flight.

Footnote from ‘Rebuilding America through Equitable Development’ (2010)
Defining Equity

Informed by three questions

1. Are there deficits?

2. Who experiences the burden of the deficits?

3. How do we make sure well-intentioned interventions do not make deficits worse?

Equity: The condition of parity in quality of life.
SOCIAL EQUITY & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Anne Tyska
AICP, PP, Leed AP
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CONTENTS

- NEPA
- Environmental Justice
- Guidance
- Tools / Specific Steps
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)

- NEPA policy signed into law on January 1, 1970
  - Title I, Declaration of National Environmental Policy,
  - Title II, establishing Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to oversee NEPA implementation
- Established the broad national framework for protecting our environment
- Required federal agencies to prepare detailed statements on how major federal actions affect the environment (EIS, EA)
NEPA PROCESS
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

- Identify Need for Action
- Public Participation / Engagement
- Define Affected Environment
- Impacts Analysis
- Identify Affected Community
- Develop and Select Alternatives
- Disproportionately High & Adverse Impacts?
- Mitigation
- Monitoring
“Environmental justice” refers to the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws.

Fair treatment means that minority and low-income groups should not bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental impacts of government actions.

This goal will be achieved when everyone enjoys:

- The same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards, and
- Equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work.
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
GUIDANCE

NEPA
Council on Environmental Quality
Executive Order #12898
Policy requires federal agencies to assess the environmental and related social and economic effects of their proposed actions prior to making decisions.

• Agencies required to provide opportunities for public review and comment on evaluations.

• Uses CEQ to oversee, provide additional guidance.
EJ GUIDANCE
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

CONSIDER:

1. The composition of the affected area
2. Potential for multiple or cumulative exposure to human health or environmental hazards in the affected population and historical patterns of exposure to environmental hazards
3. The interrelated cultural, social, occupational, historical, or economic factors that may amplify the natural and physical environmental effects
4. Effective public participation strategies that can overcome linguistic, cultural, institutional, geographic, and other barriers to meaningful participation
5. Diverse constituencies within any particular community when they seek community representation and should endeavor to have complete representation of the community as a whole
6. Tribal representation that is consistent with the government-to-government relationship between the United States and tribal government
EJ GUIDANCE
CEQ

MEANINGFUL OUTREACH THROUGH:

- Religious organizations
- Newspapers, radio and other media
- Civic associations
- Minority business associations
- Environmental and environmental justice organizations
- Legal aid providers
- Homeowners’, tenants’, and neighborhood watch groups
- Federal, state, local and tribal governments
- Rural cooperatives
- Business and trade organizations
- Community and social service organizations
- Universities, colleges, vocational and other schools
- Labor organizations
- Civil rights organizations
- Locals schools and libraries
- Senior citizen’s groups
- Public health agencies and clinics and
- The internet and other electronic media
President’s Executive Order #12898, “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations”

Accompanying memorandum states that “each Federal agency shall analyze the environmental effects, including human health, economic and social effects, of Federal actions, including effects on minority communities and low-income communities, when such analysis is required by NEPA.”

Directive emphasizes the importance of NEPA’s public participation process

Executive Order requires the development of agency-specific environmental justice strategies
EJ GUIDANCE
EXECUTIVE ORDER #12898

• “Wherever practicable and appropriate, translate crucial public documents, notices and hearings, relating to human health or the environment for limited English-speaking populations.”

• “Ensure that public documents, notices, and hearings relating to human health or the environment are concise, understandable, and readily accessible to the public.”
ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE & TOOLS

EPA’s Promising Practices for EJ Methodologies
BLM’s Economic Profile System
ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE & TOOLS
PROMISING PRACTICES FOR EJ

- Meaningful Engagement
- Scoping Process
- Defining Affected Environment
- Alternatives
- Minority Populations
- Low-Income Populations
- Impacts Analysis
- Disproportionately High & Adverse Impacts
- Mitigation & Monitoring
CREATE A PROFILE

- Socioeconomic Measures
- Demographics
- Land Use
- Tourism
- Agriculture
- Non-Labor Income
- Mining/Timber
- Government
- Services
- Federal Land Payments
- Amenities
- Wildland Urban Interface
**ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE & TOOLS**

**ECONOMIC PROFILE SYSTEM**

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**Socioeconomic Measures**

**Delaware County, PA**

**Population**

**What do we measure on this page?**

This page describes components of population change and total population growth or decline. Total population growth (or decline) is the sum of natural change (births and deaths) and migration (international and domestic). Data are from the U.S. Census Bureau.

The U.S. Census Bureau makes a minor statistical correction called a “residual.” This is defined by the U.S. Census Bureau as resulting from two parts of the estimates process: 1) the application of national population controls to state and county population estimates, and 2) “the incorporation of accepted challenges and special censuses into the population estimates.” The residual represents change in the population that cannot be attributed to any specific demographic component of population change.

For more detailed information about demographics for a given area, create an EPS Demographics report at [https://headwaterseconomics.org/api](https://headwaterseconomics.org/api).

**Why is it important?**

The components of population change offer insight into the causes of population growth or decline and they help highlight important areas of inquiry. For example, if a large portion of population growth is attributable to immigration, it would be helpful to understand what is driving this trend, such as whether people are moving to the area for jobs, quality of life, or both. Similarly, if a large portion of population decline is attributable to out-migration, it would be important to understand the reasons, such as the loss of employment in specific industries, youth leaving for education or new opportunities, or elderly people leaving for better medical facilities.

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**Earnings Per Job and Per Capita Income**

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average Earnings per Job (2018 $)</td>
<td>$50,744</td>
<td>$62,840</td>
<td>$64,270</td>
<td>$1,430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per Capita Income (2018 $)</td>
<td>$30,547</td>
<td>$54,538</td>
<td>$61,969</td>
<td>$9,442</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Percent Change**

- Average Earnings per Job: 2.3%
- Per Capita Income: 17.2%

* From 1970 to 2017, average earnings per job grew from $50,744 to $64,270 (in real terms), a 27% increase.
* From 1970 to 2017, per capita income grew from $30,547 to $61,969 (in real terms), a 109% increase.