

Subject: Environmental Justice Council – Virtual Meeting Invitation – March 17

Dear Environmental Justice Stakeholder,

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) is convening the Environmental Justice Council (EJC) for its next meeting on **Friday, March 17th, 2023, at 11:30 am**. The primary purpose of this meeting is to make final a set of advisory comments and edits on EEA's draft Environmental Justice Strategy, to be submitted to EEA on behalf of the EJC. In addition, the EJC will discuss the schedule and locations of its future meetings for this year. There is also time allotted for general comments from the public. This meeting will be hosted virtually on Zoom and is estimated to last 1.5 hours. Interpretation will be provided in Spanish, Portuguese, Mandarin, Haitian Creole, Vietnamese, and Cape Verdean Creole.

The EJ Council operates under the Open Meeting Law [<https://www.mass.gov/the-open-meeting-law>] and welcomes members of the public who wish to observe its formal meetings. During the meeting, an observer may address a comment or question to the EJ Council with permission of the Chair. If you require interpretation in a language not stated above, or any additional accommodations, please include that request in an email to meetings@erg.com. Requests must be submitted 48 hours prior to meeting start time.

Please register for the meeting using this link:

https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_1THSyADfT96HpZCcTDMJ7g

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE EJ COUNCIL:

The EJC is appointed by the Governor to advise and provide recommendations to the Secretary of EEA on relevant policies and standards to achieve environmental justice principles. Such principles are defined by state law as “principles that support protection from environmental pollution and the ability to live in and enjoy a clean and healthy environment, regardless of race, color, income, class, handicap, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, ethnicity or ancestry, religious belief or English language proficiency, which include: (i) the meaningful involvement of all people with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies, including climate change policies; and (ii) the equitable distribution of energy and environmental benefits and environmental burdens.” The law is stated at Section 62L at this link:

[\[https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2021/Chapter8\]](https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2021/Chapter8).

Currently, the EJC is reviewing comments on the draft EEA EJ Strategy [see link here:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/eeas-draft-environmental-justice-ej-strategy>].

Additional information about the EJC, future meeting agendas, and past meeting recordings can be found here: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/environmental-justice-council>. Please click “Select Language” on the top right of the webpage to translate the page.

Thank you,