



THE TOMORROW PROJECT X HELP AND LEAD

Environmental Racism Resource Guide



For Youth, By Youth



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THE TOMORROW PROJECT

The Tomorrow Project is a for-youth, by-youth, environmental education nonprofit that focuses on teaching the younger generations about the importance of being sustainable. Volunteers from our nine chapters go into elementary schools across the country and lead workshops, classroom visits, and school-wide activities to get kids familiar with what it means to be environmentally friendly, and why it is so important to care for our planet.

Our hope is that as these kids grow up and become politicians, doctors, business executives, - the 'leaders of tomorrow' - they have already developed environmentally conscious habits, and caring for the environment will come to them as second nature.

About Us

HELP AND LEAD

Help & Lead match teens to nonprofit opportunities by the teens' profiles (such as interests and location), with matches sent to teens' inboxes every two weeks. Help & Lead is currently serving teens and nonprofits within WA, CA, MA, and NY. We refer to opportunities as really anything that is by nonprofits and open to teens; while it includes volunteering, it also includes youth councils, paid internships, events, workshops, and so much more. For more information, please visit

<http://helpandlead.com/>

Must Know Terms

REDLINING

A term used to refer to how lenders identified and singled out "higher risk" neighborhoods using red ink which were often predominantly Black and Latinx populated. This led to a systemic refusal of mortgages, loans, and insurance in neighborhoods of color

URBAN BLIGHT

Deterioration of a part of a city due to neglect and lack of financial support/maintenance. This is a common practice in inner-city neighborhoods and other predominantly POC spaces which enables environmental racist policies.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Fair treatment of all people without regard to race, nationality, income, sexuality etc. in relation to the development and implementation of environmental laws, policies, and regulations.

MINORITY GROUP NEIGHBORHOODS

Neighborhoods that are comprised of a majority non-white population. These communities tend to be disproportionately impacted by policies that enable environmental racism.

TITLE VI

Part of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which states that "no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." This essentially means that all recipients of federal funds must ensure their programs are nondiscriminatory. This clause has been the center of many cases against the EPA and federal regulations relating to environmental racism.

ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM

Institutional rules, regulations, and policies that specifically target certain communities resulting in minority groups being disproportionately burdened with hazards like toxic waste facilities, garbage dumps, and other sources of environmental pollution

GENTRIFICATION

The process of renovating lower income neighborhoods/communities so they appeal more to a white, middle class population. This often results in the displacement of original residents who are often POC.

INSTITUTIONALIZED RACISM

The systemic distribution of resources, power, and opportunity in a way that benefits white people and excludes/negatively impacts people of color. This is often seen in laws, policies, etc. and are enabled by the government.

EPA

Environmental Protection Agency meant to advise the US federal government on policies for environmental protection but has enabled environmentally racist policies

TOXIC WASTE

Exposure to toxic waste plants that emit nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide and other irritants can lead to shorter lifespan, cognitive delays, low birth weight, and many more health problems. These facilities tend to be disproportionately located near low income communities of color.

History of Environmental Racism

1916

City planners start land use zoning (classifying cities into residential vs. industrial) which served as the basis of environmental racism

1977

Supreme court ruling that any break of the equal protection clause must be the result of discriminatory intent and have led to discrepant outcomes

1990

800 acres of majority Black neighborhoods in Louisiana rezoned for industrial use

1992

EPA establishes the Office of Environmental Equity

1987

Dr. Benjamin Chavis coins the phrase "Environmental Racism" and finds correlation between race and hazardous waste sites in communities

1991

First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit is held and a constitution of environmental justice is outlined

1994

President Clinton issues Executive order to address environmental racism within existing federal laws for minority and low-income populations



2005

Hurricane Katrina leaves residents in predominantly Black areas of New Orleans stranded without aid for months

2014

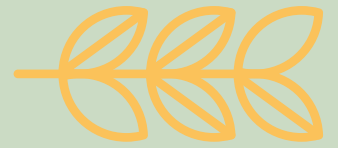
Flint, Michigan changes its water source, which leads to high levels of lead in the water, poisoning the predominantly BIPOC and lower-class population of the city

2015

CDC publishes a study showing that black children are twice as likely to have asthma than white children, due to environmental injustices

2017

The Trump Administration's 2018 budget proposes deep budget cuts for the EPA and the cutting of the Office of Environmental Justice



2007

Robert Bullard publishes studies that show that neighborhoods that host commercial hazardous waste facilities are 56% POC compared to 30% in non-host neighborhoods.

2014

The 1,200-mile Dakota Access oil pipeline, which would cross under and endanger a sacred reservoir of the Standing Rock Sioux tribe is approved to be built

2016

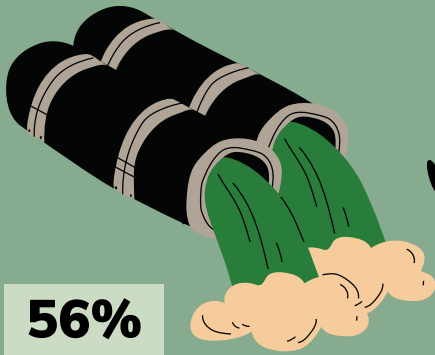
The National Hispanic Medical Association reports that Hispanic people are 51% more likely to live in counties with unhealthy levels of ozone

2020

Nearly 70 environmental rules and regulations have been officially reversed, revoked, or rolled back under President Trump and 30+ rollbacks are still in progress



The Hard Facts



56%

of people living near toxic waste sites are POC



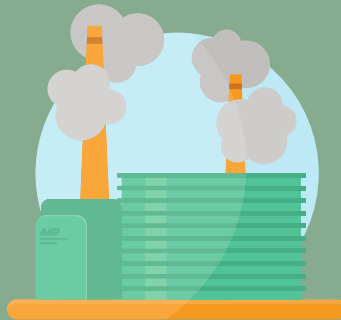
are **2x** more likely to live without safe water and access to modern sanitation



Non-whites had **28%** and Black Americans specifically had a **54%** higher burden from particulate matter emissions than the overall population



POC (esp Black and LatinX communities) have seen **95%** of their lawsuits against polluters denied/ignored by the EPA



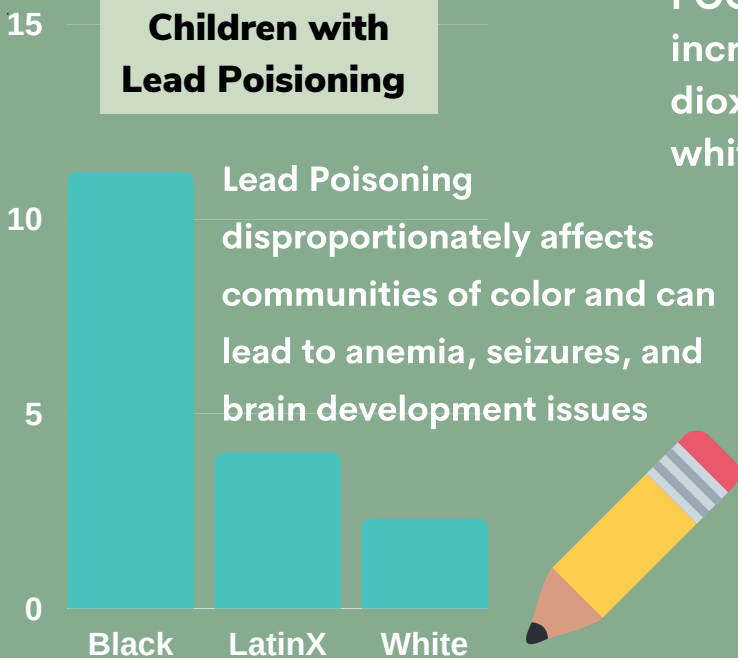
POC have **38%** increased nitrogen-dioxide exposure than white communities



Inner-city (predominantly Black and LatinX) communities are often selected as **dumping grounds** for urban pollution

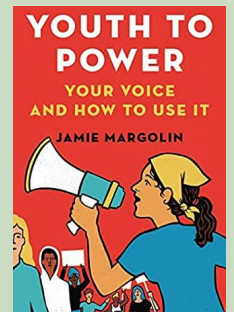
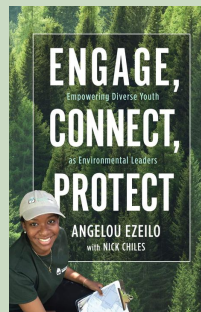
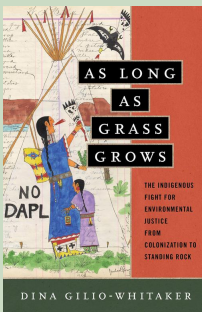
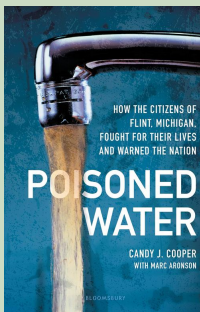
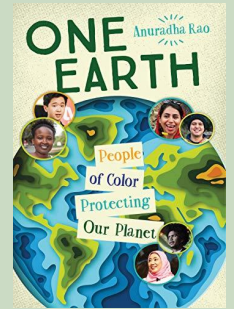
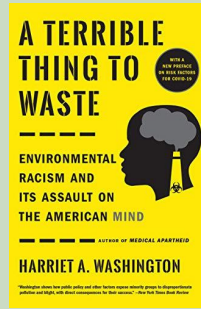
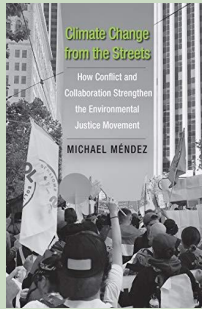
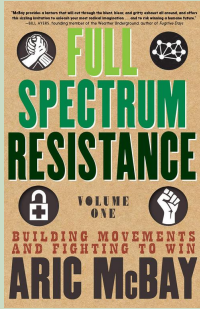
Percentage of Children with Lead Poisoning

Lead Poisoning disproportionately affects communities of color and can lead to anemia, seizures, and brain development issues

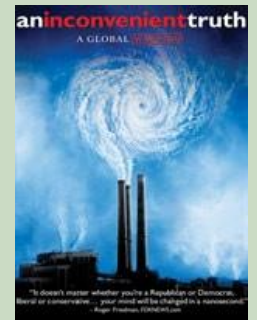
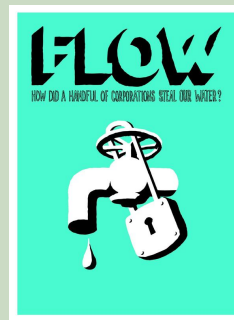
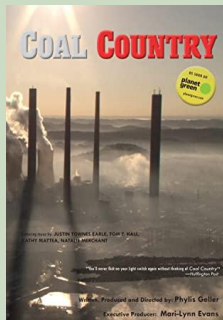


Educate Yourself

BOOKS



FILMS



PODCASTS



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