

Environmental Justice and Equity for Federal Green Buildings Task Group

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Green Building Advisory Committee

April 18, 2022

Agenda

I. Task Group: Mission	3
II. Task Group: Engagement	4
III. Task Group: Discovery	5
IV. Framework: Guiding Principles	7
V. Framework: Cross-Cutting Themes	10
VI. Framework: Community-Focused Collaboration	11
VII. Example EJ&E Initiatives	13
VIII. Recommendations	14
IX. Alternative Recommendations	17
X. Participants and Resources	18

I. Task Group: Mission

To **identify and propose effective approaches**
to intentionally improve environmental justice and equity in federal
building processes,
thereby **eliminating persistent inequities** found in the local
community and
enhancing engagement with diverse local communities and key
partners throughout the building lifecycle
that is **responsive to the true needs of the local community.**

II. Task Group: Engagement

Task Group Meetings

- 15 Task Group meetings
- Meeting time period: 4/06/21 to 11/02/21
- 83 invitees to each public meeting

Advice Letter

- Composition time period: 7/27/21 to 1/31/22
- 6 rounds of revision with Task Group contributions

III. Task Group: Discovery

- GBAC EJ&E Task Group Survey (March-April 2021) – Top Priorities and Top Actions to Advance Environmental Justice and Equity in Federal Buildings
- Dr. Cecilia Martinez, Senior Director for Environmental Justice at the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)
- Elizabeth Fahey, GSA OGP - Federal Real Property Program
- Kristen Smith and Maria Torres, GSA Public Building Services (PBS) - GSA Portfolio
- Steven Lewis, FAIA, AIA Architects Foundation Board President – Environmental Justice and Equity
- Evelyn Britton, GSA Office of Civil Rights - NEPA for Environmental Justice and Equity
- Frank Giblin, GSA PBS Office of the Chief Architect - GSA Urban Development and Good Neighbor Programs
- NAACP Townhall (August 19, 2021)

III. Task Group: Discovery (cont'd)

- Alex Gamble, Architect/Sustainability Coordinator, Indian Health Service (IHS) Division of Engineering Services – IHS Leading Examples
- Chris Castro, Director of Sustainability and Resilience, City of Orlando, FL – Orlando Leading Examples
- Nori Catabay, Green Building Team Program Manager, King County, WA – King County Leading Examples
- Frank Giblin, GSA PBS Office of the Chief Architect – GSA PBS Capital Leasing Project Processes
- Kenneth Schelbert, GSA Leasing – GSA Leasing Process Overview
- Don Kottl, GSA – GSA Small Project Processes
- Mandy Lee, Program Manager, NAACP Centering Equity in the Sustainable Building Sector (CESBS) Initiative – Summary of NAACP Townhall on August 19, 2021

IV. Framework: Guiding Principles

These **Guiding Principles** are intended to assist Federal agencies in assessing progress towards environmental justice and equity associated with their buildings and related real property assets.

These principles were developed based on foundational environmental justice and equity work, including:

- *Principles of Environmental Justice, First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit, 1991;*
- *Equity and Buildings: A Practical Framework for Local Government Decision Makers, Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN), June 2021.*

IV. Framework: Guiding Principles (cont'd)

- Provide direct, long-lasting, and **significant benefits** to the diverse local communities.
- Respect, reflect, and **champion the culture, identity, and traditions** of the diverse local communities.
- Incorporate the **rights of diverse local communities to participate as equal partners** at every level of decision-making, including needs assessment, planning, implementation, enforcement, and evaluation.
- Develop and report **transparent accountability measures** of environmental justice and equity for building processes and operational performance, working with the diverse local communities, particularly those with the greatest need.

IV. Framework: Guiding Principles (cont'd)

- Accessibly, transparently, and **openly share data and information** about building processes and ongoing operations performance so it can be leveraged to develop local capabilities and leadership.
- Ensure **easy, affordable, and direct access** for the diverse local communities, building occupants, and visitors traveling by foot, bicycle, wheelchair, public transportation, or other means.
- Work with diverse local communities, particularly those most impacted and those with the greatest need, to **rapidly reduce and/or eliminate the existing or potential environmental, economic, or social harms and risks.**
- Provide **inclusive, on-going access to services and amenities** that result from completed projects.

V. Framework: Cross-Cutting Themes

Economic Opportunity and Economic Development: support economic opportunities and economic development for diverse local communities.



Health, Safety, and Well-being: enhance health, safety, and well-being for diverse local communities, building occupants, and visitors.

Resilience to Disruptions and Disasters: address resilience to disruptions and disaster for diverse local communities, building occupants, and visitors.

VI. Framework: Community-Focused Collaboration

- Support **inclusive environments**,
- **Provide access** to services and amenities for diverse local community groups,
- **Match diverse local community needs with project needs**, and
- Identify **opportunities for healthy interdependence** of meeting the needs of diverse local community groups and the federal agency

VI. Framework: Community-Focused Collaboration (cont'd)

Objective 1: Enable Federal agencies to **apply and implement the Guiding Principles for Environmental Justice and Equity in Federal Buildings**. The process is a means for accomplishing strategic planning for environmental justice and equity decisions for Federal real property management and operation.

Objective 2: **Engage and maintain collaborative dialogue** among diverse groups of local communities and stakeholders throughout the life cycle of a Federal facility. The process is a systematic framework for developing and sharing information, and establishing an on-going dialogue and communication system.

Objective 3: **Correlate and align project needs with community needs** for every project, and identify and document positive and other impacts with the diverse local community groups and other stakeholders. The process is a means to support collaborative decision-making.

VII. Examples Federal, State, and Local EJ&E Initiatives

<i>Focus Area</i>	<i>Example Initiative</i>
Program Management	The Indian Health Service (IHS) and the Indian Self-Determination Construction Contract agreement: transfers control of healthcare-related construction projects to Indian tribes to facilitate effective and meaningful participation by the Tribe, and so that the construction project is responsive to the true needs of the Indian community.
Procurement	City of Orlando, FL procurement requirements: any major city investment must procure 18% from minority-owned businesses and 6% from women-owned businesses .
Prioritization	King County, WA prioritization: uses an Equity and Social Justice project rating system .
Governance	Chief Equity Official (City of Orlando) meets with community-based organizations (CBOs) to provide more ownership to communities .

VIII. Task Group Recommendations

- 1. Apply the Guiding Principles for Environmental Justice and Equity** in Federal Buildings to all Federal projects (see Section 1 Framework).

 - 2. Engage effectively with a diverse group of local communities** throughout planning, design, construction, leasing, operation, renovation, occupancy, and de-acquisition, leading to increased equity, justice, access, opportunities, and green jobs (see Section 2 Process for Collaboration).
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VIII. Task Group Recommendations (cont'd)

3. **Leverage existing regional, state and local public agency programs**, including the examples identified by this EJ&E Task Group, to advance Federal government programs that address EJ&E in public buildings. (see Section 3 Leading Examples).

4. **Conduct Community and EJ&E Impact Review early** in project development.

5. **Maximize shared use of Federal facilities** with a diverse group of local communities.

VIII. Task Group Recommendations (cont'd)

6. **Increase support for diverse groups** of local business owners, particularly minority and women-owned business enterprises (MWBE), to successfully compete for and participate in Federal vendor and construction contracts,
 - (a) **Establish specific targets** for MWBE and other local companies' participation in procurement contracts (goods and services), and
 - (b) **Regularly report progress** on achieving those specific targets to local diverse groups of local communities and other stakeholders.

7. **Restructure GBAC membership** to better reflect the diverse groups of communities that GSA and other Federal agencies serve.

IX. Alternative Recommendations

- **Attachment 1** provides an **alternate set of recommendations** for the GSA on environmental justice and equity.
- Attachment 1 was developed independently by a **NAACP Centering Equity in the Sustainable Buildings Sector (CESBS) Initiative team**, which it sent to the EJ&E Task Group on November 5, 2021 following the last meeting of the Task Group on November 2, 2021.
 - The CESBS team included a subset of professionals listed in the Task Group “Additional Participants” as well as unnamed participants.
- Mandy Lee, CESBS Program Manager, **presented the CESBS recommendations at the GBAC Meeting on November 16, 2021.**

X. Participants & Resources

GBAC Members or Designees

Reena Agarwall, Center for Active Design
Gopinath Boray, RA HHS Program Support Center (PSC)
Kevin Bates, Sharp Development Company
Chris Castro, City of Orlando
Projjal Dutta (Co-Chair), New York State Metropolitan
Transportation Authority
Ralph DiNola, New Buildings Institute (NBI)
David Kaneda, IDEAs Consulting
Sara Karerat, Center for Active Design (CfAD)
Jane Rohde, JSR Associates, Inc.
Andrew Persily, National Institute of Standards and Technology
Sarah Slaughter (Co-Chair), Built Environment Coalition
LaToria Whitehead, HHS Office of Assistant Secretary for Health
(OASH)

SME Additional Participants

Valerie J. Amor, Assoc. AIA, LEED AP BD+C, Drawing
Conclusions LLC
Nori Catabay, King County Green Building Team
Alex Gamble, AIA, LEED AP® BD+C, Indian Health Service
CDR Leo Angelo Gumapas, PE, HHS Program Support Center
(PSC)
Mandy Lee, Centering Equity in the Sustainable Buildings Sector,
NAACP
R. Steven Lewis, FAIA, and current AIA Architects Foundation
board president
Dr. Cecilia Martinez, Senior Director for Environmental Justice at
the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)
Jacqui Patterson, Founder and Executive Director at The
Chisholm Legacy Project: A Resource Hub for Black Frontline
Climate Justice Leadership
Alice Sung, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, SEA, Greenbank Associates
Joel Todd, USGBC
Kimi Wei, CKO/CEO of The Wei, LLC
Lakisha Woods, National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS)
Meesh Zucker, Urban Planner and Designer at Superpedestrian

X. Participants & Resources (cont'd)

GSA Participants

Nazmi Ahmed, GSA OFHPGB

Ajmal Behsudi, GSA OFHPGB

Michael Bloom, GSA OFHPGB (Designated Federal Official)

Evelyn Britton, GSA Office of Civil Rights

Krystal Brumfield, Associate Administrator, Office of Government-wide Policy

Amy Chiou, GSA Director of Public Engagement

Aluanda Drain, Associate Administrator, GSA Office of Civil Rights

Elizabeth Fahay, GSA, OGP

Seyi Gbadegesin, GSA, PBS, Portfolio

Frank Giblin, GSA PBS Office of the Chief Architect

Kate Gill, GSA PBS Portfolio

Loaela Hammons, GSA Public Buildings Service (PBS) Portfolio

Karen Handsfield, GSA PBS Urban Development

Charles Hardy, GSA PBS Office of the Chief Architect

Don Horn, GSA OFHPGB

Alex Intermaggio, GSA PBS Portfolio

Drew Jack, GSA Office of Strategic Communications (OSC)

Kevin Kampschroer, Federal Director, GSA OFHPGB

Don Kottl, GSA PBS Small Projects

Sonal Larsen, Senior Advisor to the GSA Administrator on Climate

Andrea O'Neal, Senior Advisor to the GSA Administrator on Equity

Kenneth Schelbert, GSA OFHPGB

Kristen Smith, GSA PBS Portfolio

Anna Soyka, OFHPGB (support)

Bryan Steverson, OFHPGB (Alternate Designated Federal Official)

Maria Torres, GSA PBS Portfolio

Chris Wisner, GSA PBS Portfolio

Vanessa Zahora, GSA PBS Portfolio

X. Participants & Resources (cont'd)

Public Building Resources

- [Federal Real Property Profile \(FRPP\) public data set](#): Federal government's database of its real property inventory
- [NBI Releases Zero Energy Performance Targets for New Construction Projects](#)
- [Guiding Principles for Sustainable Federal Buildings](#): Federal criteria for sustainable buildings
- [Comprehensive Annual Energy Data and Sustainability Performance](#): DOE FEMP resource for sustainability data, sortable by agency
- [Federal Sustainability Progress, Plans, and Performance](#): (Office of Sustainability, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)) Individual agency performance graphics and OMB Scorecards for Efficient Federal Operations/Management. Includes annual performance data on facility energy use, water use, renewable electricity, facility efficiency investments, high performance sustainable buildings, fleet petroleum and alternative fuel, greenhouse gas emissions.

Non-Federal EJ&E Resources

- [MTA Business Services Center overall resource page](#)
- [Voluntary Land Taxes](#): From the Native Governance Center. GSA should consider the idea of paying voluntary land taxes where Indigenous communities have those systems in place and there is overlap with federal property.
- [Social Economic Environmental Design \(SEED\) Network](#): The SEED Network connects similarly-minded members of the general public with designers from the fields of Architecture, Communication Design, Industrial Design, Landscape Architecture, Urban Design, and Urban Planning, who have an interest in community-based design practice.
- [Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion Webinar](#): Monthly calls about projects that are exemplary in terms of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion; hosted by the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA), National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and Social Economic Environmental Design (SEED) Network.
- [EcoDistricts](#): EcoDistricts aims to mobilize, empower and accelerate sustainable and equitable urban development leadership throughout North America and beyond.

Thank You