

# EMERGING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE STORIES

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Extreme weather, water access, air pollution, hazardous waste sites and other polluters have had a disproportionate impact on communities of color, tribal communities and other vulnerable populations often located near toxic industries or in flood or wildfires prone areas. Current examples of environmental justice issues include:

## **Expansion of gas export terminals is an environmental justice issue**

Building new gas export terminals in the US to reduce Europe's dependence on Russian fossil fuels is set to increase production of liquid natural gas (LNG) in several communities including locations across the Gulf South, including Lake Charles, Louisiana and Port Arthur, Texas. These are communities already adversely impacted by environmental, economic, and health harms imposed by the fossil fuel industry. This map from FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) shows both the existing and proposed LNG terminals.

## **Mining, environmental justice and impacts on Native Tribes**

The overwhelming majority of domestic critical mineral deposits are located near Indigenous communities, who have historically suffered at the hands of the mining industry and fear new mining efforts will irrevocably harm their lands in the name of clean energy. Several tribal nations are leading grassroots campaigns opposing new mining projects on their historic lands.

## President Biden and Justice40 commitments

President Biden made advancing environmental justice one of his priorities, but key members of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council say that the Biden administration hasn't been following through on the Justice40 initiative, a promise to deliver at least 40 percent of all benefits from federal investments in climate and clean energy to disadvantaged communities.

The Biden administration's proposed environmental justice screening tool is also being criticized for excluding thousands of majority Black and brown Census tracts that otherwise qualify based on environmental and climate vulnerabilities because they don't meet specific socioeconomic indicators.

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE EXPERTS:

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**DR. ROBERT BULLARD**

PROFESSOR  
PH.D. , IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

**Bio:** Distinguished Professor of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy at Texas Southern University. He has been described as the father of environmental justice.



**DR. ROBIN SAHA**

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**Bio:** Dr. Robin Saha is Associate Professor of Environmental Studies at the University of Montana and its Climate Change Studies Program. He is among the leading scholar-activists conducting quantitative studies of environmental inequality for a wide range of industrial facilities using Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

**PEGGY SHEPARD**

CO-FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
WE ACT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

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**Bio:** Peggy Shepard is co-founder and executive director of WE ACT for Environmental Justice and has a long history of organizing and engaging Northern Manhattan residents in community-based planning and campaigns to address environmental protection and environmental health policy locally and nationally.

**DR. SACOBY WILSON**

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND PROGRAM DIRECTOR  
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND-COLLEGE PARK

**Bio:** Dr. Sacoby Wilson, Associate Professor at University of Maryland-College Park. Dr. Wilson has over 20 years of experience as environmental health scientist in the areas of exposure science, environmental justice, environmental health disparities, community-based participatory research, water quality analysis, air pollution studies, built environment, industrial animal production, climate change, community resiliency, and sustainability.

**BEVERLY WRIGHT, PH.D.**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
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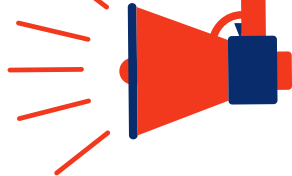
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**Bio:** Dr. Beverly L. Wright is an environmental justice scholar and advocate, author, civic leader and professor of Sociology, is the founder and executive director of the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice.

**ELIZABETH YEAMPIERRE**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
UPROSE

**Bio:** Elizabeth Yeampierre is a Puerto Rican Attorney and environmental leader. She is the Executive Director of UPROSE, one of the oldest environmental justice organizations in the US founded in 1966.



# SOURCES AND OTHER BACKGROUND

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Interested in interviewing an expert? Contact us!



**Marlene Peralta**

Senior Broadcast Manager



Marlene Peralta leads Climate Nexus' Broadcast work. She was a former journalist with a master's in Broadcast Journalism from CUNY Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism. She has worked for CBS Radio, Newsday, El Diario, HITN TV, and others. Read her full bio [here](#).