

# »» NEWSLETTER ««

NASA Equity & Environmental Justice

# EEJ NEWS

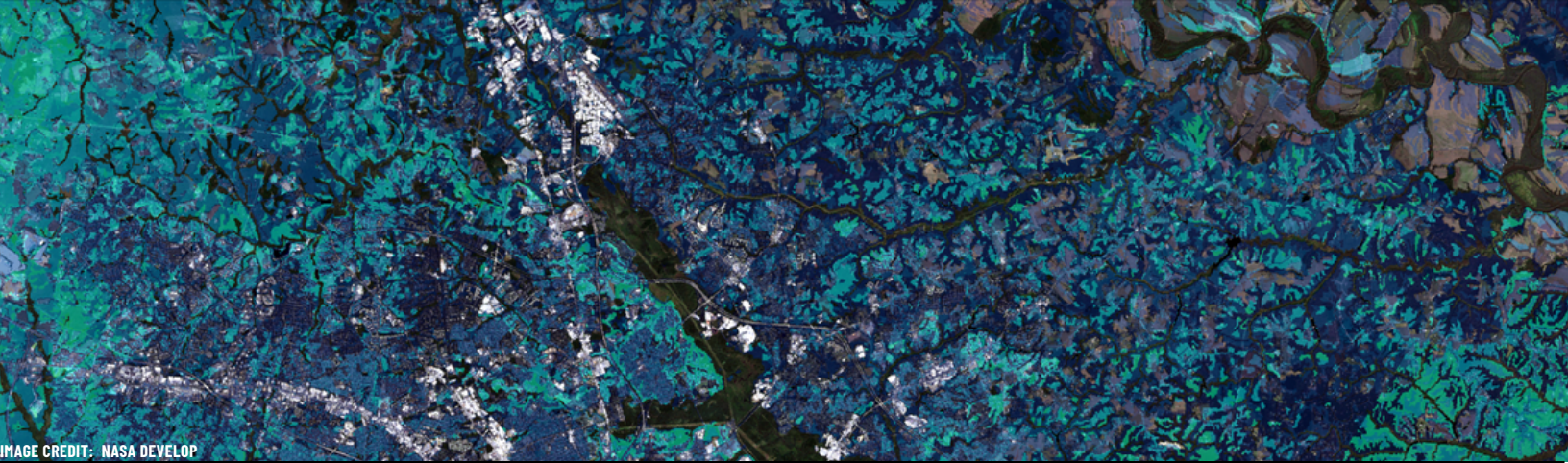


IMAGE CREDIT: NASA DEVELOP

## »» EEJ PROGRAM NEWS ««

Dear NASA EEJ Community Members,

I am pleased to serve as the newly appointed Program Manager for Climate Resilience and Community Action at NASA. First and foremost, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to Owen Hooks, who served as EEJ program manager on detail from Wallops Flight Facility since late 2021. Owen's remarkable dedication to the program and the team set a strong foundation for this young program. As I step into this role, I am excited to continue the impactful work that Owen and the team have initiated. It is with great enthusiasm that I join this incredible team and I am eager to contribute to our collective mission to address environmental justice through the use of NASA Earth observations.

Before coming to NASA, I oversaw the integration of climate and sustainability priorities in operations as a Senior Advisor in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration at the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Prior to this position, I held a fellowship in the White House Leadership Development Program, serving as Director for Strategic Initiatives for the White House Council on Environmental Quality. There, in the Office of the Federal Chief Sustainability Officer, I led efforts to advance EJ and Federal climate and sustainability engagement. Between 2007 and 2021, I have held various roles at NOAA, leading efforts on weather and climate services. In every position, I have been committed to making a difference for underserved communities. I am genuinely thrilled to bring that same heartfelt dedication to achieving the goals of the EEJ program and to drive positive change within our communities.

I will foster an environment of open communication and collaboration, which means I want to hear from you! Your ideas, feedback, and contributions are invaluable as we work together to advance equity and environmental justice. I am excited to embark on this journey with such a dedicated and passionate team. Thank you all for welcoming me and I am looking forward to collaborating with you all.

### Dr. Michelle Hawkins

Climate Resilience and Community  
Action Program Manager



Warm Regards,  
Michelle

# NASA FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

On December 14, Earth Action, part of NASA's Earth Science Division, announced two new funding opportunities as a part of Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Science (ROSES-23).

## A.47: Community Action for Equity and Environmental Justice

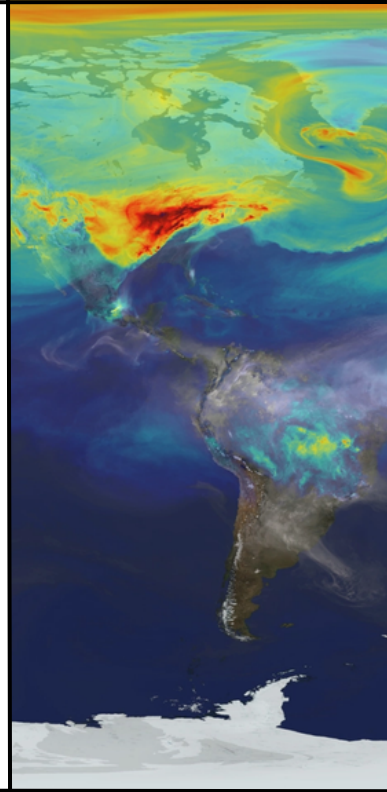
NASA seeks to advance EEJ through the creation of geospatial tools that integrate Earth science and socio-economic information, expand the communities of practice that use Earth observations to address environmental justice issues, and inform action. NASA is especially interested in proposals from or partnered with domestic non-Federal organizations from community-based non-profit institutions, Tribal governments and academic institutions, Indigenous-supporting organizations, local governments, and academic institutions active in addressing EEJ issues. NASA requests proposals developed in collaboration with underserved and overburdened communities, that involve a co-design process to address community interests to use Earth science information in decisions, actions, and policies. Each proposal should address three components: 1) Assessment and Consultation, 2) Tool Design, Test, and Implementation, and 3) Evaluation and Capacity Building.

NOIs are requested by January 16, 2024 and proposals are due by March 14, 2024. Learn more [here](#).

## A.67: Supporting Climate Resilient Communities

This call for proposals to increase the use of NASA Earth observations to support community resilience, expand the communities of practice who use NASA Earth observations to develop climate-informed community resilience decisions, demonstrate the value of using NASA Earth observations to prepare for and respond to climate change, and inform NASA's future strategic engagement and activities on climate resilience. Proposals must engage communities in advancing climate-informed decisions that enhance their resilience to the impacts of climate change and involve organizations that assist in knowledge sharing between scientists and decision makers.

NOIs are requested by February 23, 2024 and proposals are due by May 3, 2024. Learn more [here](#).



## UPCOMING EVENTS

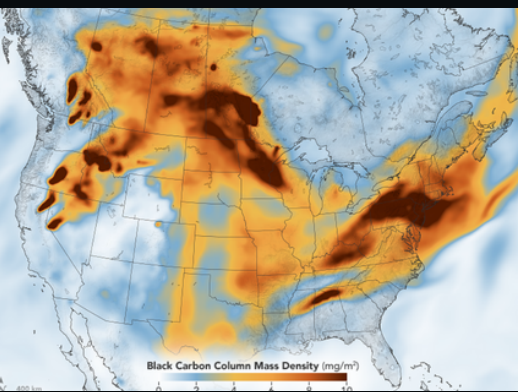
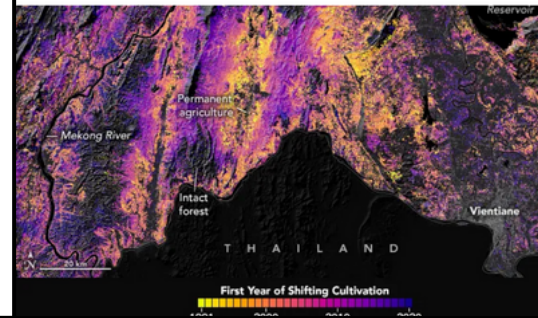


### EJ EVENT CHALLENGE

#### Pale Blue Dot: Visualization Challenge

Our world is facing many urgent challenges, such as climate change, water insecurity, and food insecurity. Maintaining and improving quality of life around the world requires bringing together innovators across disciplines and countries to find creative solutions. One critical tool for understanding and improving the urgent challenges facing our world is Earth observation data. Earth observation data provides accurate and publicly accessible information on our atmosphere, oceans, ecosystems, land cover, and built environment. This competition does not require advanced technical or coding skills. That makes it a great place to dive into the world of data visualization and Earth data! Participants at all skill levels are welcome. The goal in this challenge is to create a visualization using Earth observation data that advances at least one of the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): 2: Zero Hunger, 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, 13: Climate Action. The close date for the competition is January 26, 2024. Learn More [HERE](#).

#### Pale Blue Dot: Visualization Challenge



### EJ EVENT CHALLENGE

#### MSI Wildfire Incubator Competition

NASA MSI Incubator Wildfire Climate Tech Challenge is now live! NASA invites students and employees of Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) to tackle the increasing problems caused by wildfires linked to climate change by participating in the Wildfire Climate Tech Challenge. The challenge encourages utilizing NASA's tools, applications, and research (such as remote sensing, artificial intelligence, machine learning, and other novel approaches) and applying them to a new idea. We are looking for ideas that turn into practical solutions and startup businesses that help gain a deeper understanding of wildfires throughout their lifecycle. Marginalized communities bear a disproportionate burden of the impacts of climate change, including wildfires, due to heightened exposure and decreased adaptive capacity. This initiative serves to promote employees and students of Minority-Serving Institutions with the opportunity to pitch their ideas to venture capitalists and NASA specialists, while also advancing wildfire and climate change technology for a better and more inclusive future. Submission requirements include: a 5-page white paper (including a cover page) and a 2-3 minute video. Deadline: February 2, 2024 at 5 PM PST (8 PM EST). Learn More [HERE](#).

### WEBINAR SERIES 2023 WRAP UP

#### NASA Equity and Environmental Justice Webinar Series

The EEJ team would like to thank participants for their involvement in the EEJ webinar series! We thank the PIs and speakers who presented during the various webinar series sessions who have shared with us their knowledge, perspectives, and expertise. We would also like to give a big thank you to Owen Hooks for his excellent leadership and management of the EEJ program. Join us for the next session of our webinar series for the new year on February 6, 2024! This session will focus on topics related to EJ for Indigenous communities and will include speakers from our PIs and Indigenous Peoples Initiative. Register [HERE](#).



### NASA Equity and Environmental Justice Webinar Series

Join us for a monthly casual opportunity to learn about EJ at NASA!



# UPCOMING CONFERENCES



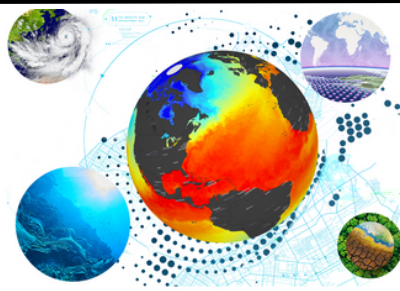
## THE AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY'S 104TH ANNUAL MEETING

Dates: January 28 - February 1, 2024. Baltimore, MD & Online.

The theme for the 2024 AMS Annual Meeting is "Living in a Changing Environment." An important aspect of this meeting will be to draw global attention to the multi-faceted issues surrounding climate science and services. The meeting will bring together the spectrum of stakeholders needed to advance climate science and the services required to expand public understanding of the issues and promote sound, science-based solutions. NASA's EEJ team and the Health & Air Quality program are hosting a session on Wednesday, 1/31 at 8:30AM: "From Low-Cost Sensors to Satellite Instruments: Data and Perspectives for Air Quality Equity and Environmental Justice." Register [HERE](#).



AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY  
**104TH ANNUAL MEETING**  
28 JANUARY-1 FEBRUARY 2024  
BALTIMORE, MD & ONLINE



## OCEAN, WEATHER, AND CLIMATE GIS SUMMIT

Dates: February 12-14, 2024. Washington D.C.

Join a dynamic community of experts in oceanography, maritime studies, meteorology, and climatology to discover innovations in data collection, analysis, and our understanding of oceanic and atmospheric interactions. Expand your knowledge and broaden your horizons with a wealth of information, including enlightening talks by industry leaders, technical demonstrations, and user spotlights highlighting the innovative applications of ArcGIS. Build meaningful connections and expand your professional network through engaging with peers across government agencies and with educators, industry leaders, and GIS professionals in finding solutions to today's challenges and creating new opportunities. Learn more [HERE](#).

## ESRI FEDERAL GIS CONFERENCE

Dates: February 13-14, 2024. Washington D.C.

Join Esri in Washington, D.C to learn how the federal government is using GIS to promote a deeper understanding of complex issues for effective solutions. Attend professional development workshops, learn from Esri staff, and connect with your peers. The conference will allow you the chance to explore the Esri Expo to discover how Esri partners are using GIS in new and exciting ways. Engage with Esri experts as well as sponsors and exhibitors to get your questions answered. Find insights and inspiration at the Plenary Session from Esri president Jack Dangermond and accomplished federal government thought leaders. Be inspired by innovative ideas and practical actions that are driving positive impacts across national government and society. Learn more and register [HERE](#).



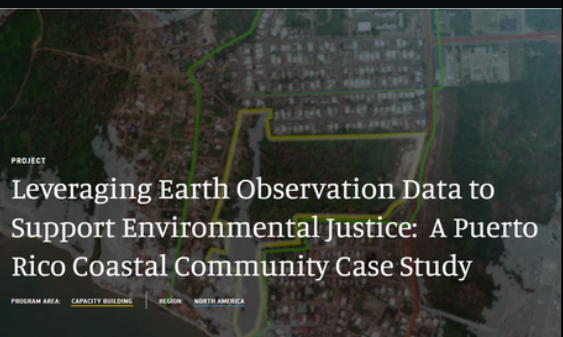
## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



### Leveraging Earth Observations Data to Support Environmental Justice: A Puerto Rico Coastal Community Case Study

Team: Dr. Stephen Flynn (GRI), Fernando Pabón Rico (PRSTRT), Dr Kristin Raub (GRI/CUAHSI), Dr. Josh Laufer (GRI), Angie Valencia (GRI), Shemie Daniels (GRI), Fernando Pabón Rico (PRSTRT), Dr. Omayra Rivera (PRSTRT), Gilberto Guevara (PRSTRT), María G Méndez Guijaro (PRSTRT), and Dr. Carissa Cabán (PRSTRT)

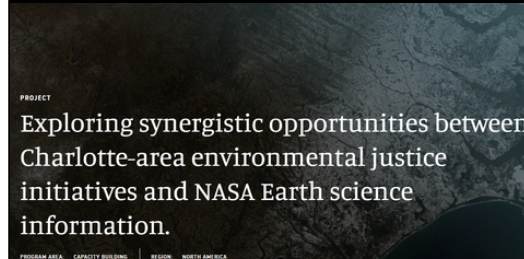
This landscape analysis project involved partnering with elderly communities within Puerto Rico who reside in the La Margarita neighborhood in the coastal community of Salinas to gather qualitative data regarding the impacts faced during Hurricanes Maria (2017) and Fiona (2022). This project consists of three phases: (1) interviewing to understand the EJ landscape of their community and their experience with NASA data, (2) engagement and co-learning with the community, and (3) reporting and project wrap-up that provides the community with agency over the outcomes. The project aims to provide a pathway for future community engagement that supports calibrating federal resources to more effectively support communities facing environmental injustices. Read more [HERE](#).



### Exploring synergistic opportunities between Charlotte-area environmental justice initiatives and NASA Earth science information

Team: Dr. Jacelyn Rice Boayue (North Carolina State University), Dr. Laurie Garo (Lifting Inspirations), graduate research assistant - Zed Bates-Norris (University of North Carolina Charlotte), and undergraduate research assistant - Yoniah Johnon (University of North Carolina Charlotte)

The goals of this landscape project is to further our understanding of the potential of NASA datasets to advance EJ initiatives local to Charlotte, NC. This central research goal will be accomplished through the following objectives: (1) identify and summarize opportunities for utilizing geospatial data science to advance understanding of environmental health concerns and inequities; (2) conduct a needs assessment to elucidate the needs, priorities, and challenges of Charlotte EJ Stakeholders; and (3) conduct a gap analysis to develop a strategy and recommendations for Charlotte EJ stakeholder's use of NASA Earth Observation Data to advance current initiatives. The lessons learned through this study can aid EJ initiatives at the national level, as we expect environmental issues and EJ movement obstacles to be common to several EJ communities across the U.S. Read more [HERE](#).



## CALL FOR PAPERS

Special Issue: Make it Matter: Action research, community science, and participatory approaches that change the status quo

**Manuscript Submission Deadline: March 15th, 2024**

The editors encourage submissions of original research articles, reviews, policy briefs, practice briefs, case studies (national and international), and perspectives. Manuscripts written by academics, community representatives, joint community and academic collaborators, governmental staff, and those that center action research, community science, and other participatory research approaches are particularly desired. Student perspectives as well as international perspectives are also welcomed and encouraged. The deadline to submit a manuscript within the topic of community science is March 15, 2024. Learn more [HERE](#).



## EJ COMMUNITY NEWS

### Student Airborne Research Program at NASA

**Application Deadline January 31, 2024**

The Student Airborne Research Program (SARP) is an eight-week summer internship program for rising-senior undergraduates. With access to one or more NASA Airborne Science Program flying science laboratories, students acquire hands-on research experience in all aspects of a scientific campaign. Participants will be awarded a stipend as well as funding to cover their travel. Housing and transportation will also be provided during the eight-week program. Research areas include atmospheric chemistry, air quality, forest ecology, and ocean biology. Along with airborne data collection, students will participate in taking measurements at field sites. The program culminates with students presenting results of their research conclusions. Learn more [HERE](#).

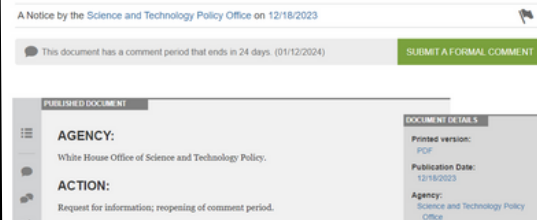
## REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

### EJ Research Plan RFI Reopened for Comment

**Comments due January 12, 2024**

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy recently reopened the RFI "to Support the Development of a Federal Environmental Justice Science, Data, and Research Plan," which invites comments in support of developing a coordinated Federal strategy to identify and address gaps in science, data, and research related to environmental justice. Information received through this RFI will inform the biennial Environmental Justice Science, Data, and Research Plan. Learn more [here](#).

### Request for Information To Support the Development of a Federal Environmental Justice Science, Data, and Research Plan; Reopening of Comment Period



➤➤➤ **INTRODUCTION TO EEJ** ⬅️⬅️⬅️

## The Equity and Environmental Justice Program (EEJ)

The EEJ program aims to advance progress on equity and environmental justice. One part of this effort is to help build the community of practice around the application of Earth science information to inform action in EJ communities by monitoring and measuring environmental factors. This newsletter is one of the program's strategic communication efforts for engaging those working in the space. It will continue to evolve, so please share your thoughts for what information is useful to you!

Learn more about the EEJ Program and access our previous newsletters by visiting our website [HERE](#).

### CONTACT US:

Contact us with "EEJ newsletter" in the subject line with any comments, questions, or feedback!

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