

»»» NEWSLETTER «««

NASA Equity & Environmental Justice

EEJ NEWS

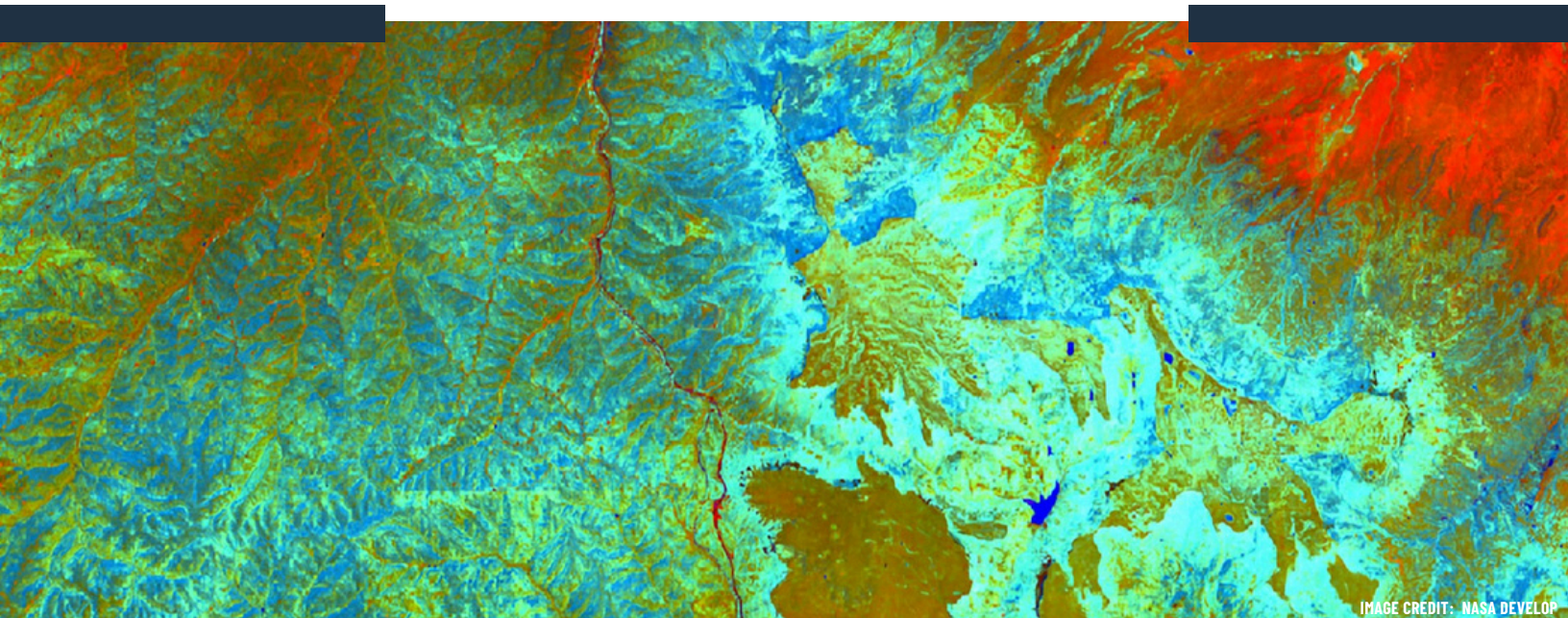
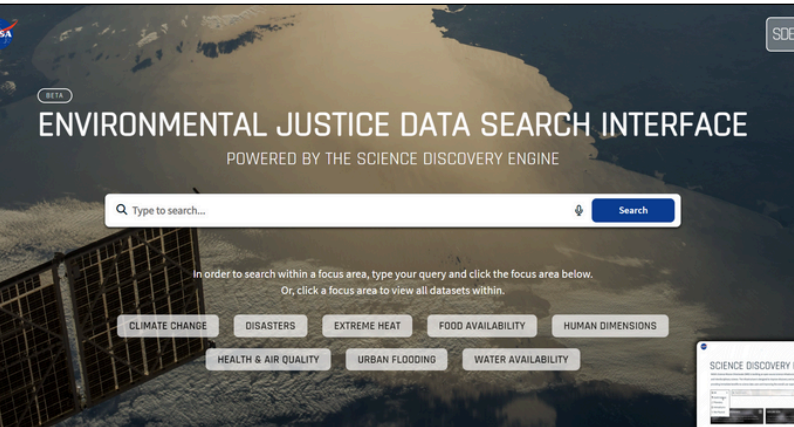


IMAGE CREDIT: NASA DEVELOP

»»» ANNOUNCEMENTS «««

NASA EARTH DAY CELEBRATIONS

NASA celebrated Earth Day in the Earth Information Center (EIC), an exhibit space that transforms science into art. This event, open to the public, included more than a dozen hands-on Earth science activities, instructions for creating animated GIFs using NASA Earth Science Imagery, opportunities to engage with the Earth Information Center, as well as two new stories screening on the EIC Hyperwall. One highlighted how local African communities use NASA Earth science data in partnership with the Jane Goodall Institute to monitor forest habitat for chimpanzees and agricultural land use over time. The other explored how the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency monitors methane emissions from landfills with NASA remote-sensing data. Beyond D.C., NASA also provided resources to allow those around the country to celebrate the holiday as well in the Earth Day Everywhere Toolkit. This toolkit provided participants with videos, demos, activities, galleries and posters, handouts, a list of speakers, as well as citizen science opportunities. Learn more [HERE](#).



NASA LAUNCHES EJ DATA SEARCH INTERFACE

Powered by the Science Discovery Engine, NASA's new Environmental Justice Data Search Interface enables users to discover NASA data, documentation, and code related to environmental justice in one comprehensive interface. The Science Discovery Engine is a unified search experience that enables discovery of NASA's open science information, including metadata about science data, code documentation, images, tutorials, and information about missions and instruments. The user experience has been tailored for EJ data users, and includes 90 datasets covering topics such as human dimensions, health and air quality, climate change, food and water availability, disasters, extreme heat, and urban flooding. Access the EJ Data Search Interface [HERE](#).

NASA RELEASES EARTH SCIENCE TO ACTION STRATEGIC PLAN

NASA recently released an Earth Science to Action Strategic Plan, to align our assets to provide actionable information for a wide range of actors and decision-makers, and to do so for a variety of impactful areas identified for their strategic importance to national and international priorities. The plan outlines how NASA will work ever more closely with our partners to further understand the Earth system and transform this knowledge into actionable information to respond to challenges in a changing climate. The strategy is built around two main objectives for the next ten years: (1) integrating and advancing our scientific knowledge and (2) delivering trusted information based on that knowledge. Learn more [HERE](#).



UPCOMING CONFERENCES



NATIONAL DISASTER RESILIENCE CONFERENCE

Dates: November 20-22, 2024. Clearwater Beach, FL

NDRC24, presented by the nonprofit Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH), where the nation's foremost voices in the disaster safety and resilience movement come together. NDRC24 will feature keynote presentations, discussion panels, spotlight topics, and stories of resilience that will help create more resilient buildings and disaster-resilient communities in the face of earthquakes, floods, hail, hurricanes, lightning, tornadoes, wildfires, and other natural hazards. Learn more [HERE](#).



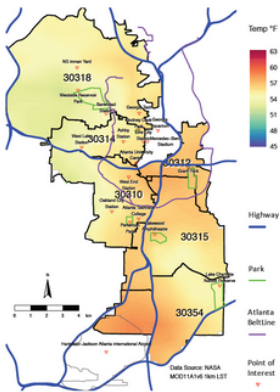
AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Dates: October 27-30, 2024. Minneapolis, MN

This annual APHA meeting is where public health professionals convene, learn, network, and engage with peers. The meeting serves to strengthen the profession of public health, share the latest research and information, promote best practices and advocate for public health issues and policies grounded in research. This year's meeting theme is rebuilding trust in public health and science. Submit abstracts by March 29 [HERE](#) and learn more [HERE](#).



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



Using NASA Earth Observations to Support Environmental Justice Communities in Atlanta, Georgia

Team: Yun Hang, Melanie Pearson, Christine Ekenga, Yang Liu, Ethan Li, Erin Lebow-Skelley, Alina Merceron, Howard Chang, Garry Harris

Low-income and minority communities have been facing a much higher health risk resulting from disproportionately distributed environmental exposure and increased vulnerability to climate change. In Atlanta, Georgia, many communities face serious environmental justice issues such as having higher levels of exposure to extreme heat, air pollution, and lack of green space. Exposure assessment is often the first step to promote public health facing those environmental exposures. Lack of ground monitoring sites in EJ communities presents a challenge for decision-makers to assess the health burdens of associated exposures. Satellite observations can effectively extend ground monitoring networks to produce full-coverage exposure estimates that provide required information to advance progress in EJ. This project aims to assess the feasibility of using NASA Earth Observations to support science education and decision-making in Metro Atlanta's EJ communities. Learn more [HERE](#).

Unequal Distributions of Commuter Exposure to Extreme Heat and Air Pollution at Neighborhood Microscales

Team: Peter Ibsen, Priyanka DeSouza, Jay Diffendorfer, Travis Warziniak, Cody Bingham, Logan Steinhardt, Carl Green

The combination of extreme heat and urban air pollution has drastically increased mortality and morbidity rates in cities. While recent studies have explored how to reduce heat and air pollution at a citywide level, finer scale patterns are very important to human well-being. When individuals are exposed to extreme temperatures and harmful airborne pollutants at finer scales, their patterns of activities may shift to avoid negative health impacts. Given the increased risks of extreme urban climates, this team's goal is to explain links between patterns of land cover, heat, air quality, and how this understanding could influence human decision making. In collaboration with Denver RTD, this team will determine relative transit stop usage and ridership data in relation to neighborhood and microscale thermal comfort air quality. Learn more [HERE](#).





Volunteer to be a panel reviewer for Community Action for Equity and Environmental Justice (ROSES A.47). [HERE!](#)

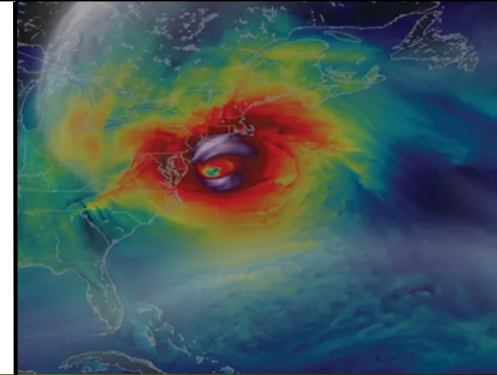


A.50 CITIZEN SCIENCE FOR EARTH SYSTEMS PROGRAMS

NASA is seeking proposals that develop and implement capabilities to augment and enhance NASA scientific data capacity through voluntary observations, interpretations, or other direct participation by members of the general public to advance understanding of the Earth as a system. This program aims to advance the use of citizen science in research about Earth by directly supporting citizen science activities, as well as deploying technology to further citizen science research. Projects must use citizen science or crowdsourcing platforms to advance our scientific knowledge of the Earth system. **Proposals are due by May 14, 2024 . Learn more [HERE.](#)**

A.42 EARTH ACTION: DISASTER RISK REDUCTION, RECOVERY, AND RESILIENCE

NASA seeks proposals for projects that expand the development and application of tools and capacities in the use of Earth science information for supporting decisions related to disaster risk reduction, recovery, or resilience. Proposals are required to address the linkages between natural or human-made hazards, exposure to these hazards, and the vulnerability of communities to these hazards for improved disaster management. These projects must demonstrate tangible benefits to one or more partners, improved outcomes in the actions of the partner from using Earth observations in their decision-making process, and/or measurable improvements in the lives and livelihoods that their decisions affect. **Proposals are due June 14, 2024. Learn more [HERE.](#)**



INTERN SPOTLIGHT



ELISSA FIELDING

Elissa Fielding, a returning second-term Earth Science/Applied Sciences intern for NASA's Capacity Building Program, is a second-year graduate student at The Johns Hopkins University, pursuing a dual-degree: MA with the Advanced Academic Programs, MBA at the Carey Business School. She completed her MA coursework in 2023 and is on track to complete her MBA in 2025. Elissa graduated in 2022 with a BA in Mass Media Communications; a concentration in Media, Policy, & Law; and a minor in Mandarin Chinese. She graduated with "Honors Graduate with Distinction" and was inducted into the academic honors society Phi Beta Kappa. This isn't Elissa's first go-around with NASA. In Fall 2021, she was an Audio/Podcasting Intern with the "Curious Universe" podcast team, where she supported a mini-series in anticipation of the James Webb Space Telescope launch. After her 2021 NASA internship, Elissa interned with the Council on Foreign Relations with their Digital/Multimedia team, followed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as a Management Analysis "Pathways" Student Trainee. As an intern for NASA's Capacity Building Program, Elissa has supported and enabled project management, communications, and outreach initiatives across various NASA departments. Once she graduates in 2025, Elissa intends to seek professional opportunities in research, analysis, strategy, security, project management, and business development. Connect with Elissa [HERE.](#)



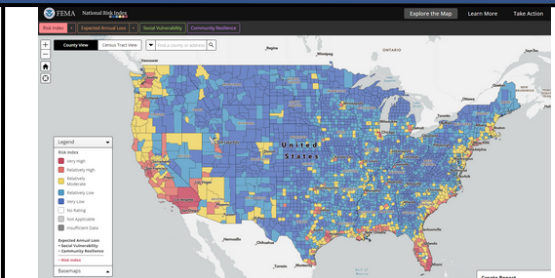
UPCOMING EVENTS



Webinar on FEMA's National Risk Index

May 21, 2024, 1-2pm ET. Online

The ICAMS Working Group on Social Equity presents this webinar on FEMA's National Risk Index! The National Risk Index is a dataset and online tool to help illustrate the United States communities most at risk for 18 natural hazards. It was designed and built by FEMA in close collaboration with various stakeholders and partners in academia; local, state and federal government; and private industry. Register for the free webinar [HERE.](#)



USGS WEBINAR: SUPPORTING AND ENGAGING IN EJ THROUGH RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

May 9, 2024. 3-4PM ET. Online

This webinar is part of the USGS Climate Adaptation Science Centers and US Fish and Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center's webinar series: Incorporating Climate and Environmental Justice into Research and Resource Management. On Friday May 10, (4-5PM ET) they will also host a "coffee hour" where participants can further explore series topics in facilitated breakout group discussions. Learn more and register [HERE.](#)

EPA ANNOUNCES ONLINE COLLECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE RESOURCES

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the Environmental Justice Clearinghouse, a first of its kind online collection of resources related to environmental justice. Directed by President Biden's *Executive Order on Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All*, the Environmental Justice Clearinghouse will help the public access federal and non-federal resources online as part of the Biden-Harris Administration's ambitious environmental justice agenda. The preliminary resources listed on the Environmental Justice Clearinghouse were submitted by agencies across the federal government, including funding opportunities, screening and mapping tools, and technical assistance. The clearinghouse features searchable categories to simplify results for the public to ensure a more efficient and accessible process for accessing information related to environmental justice. Learn more [HERE](#).



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE NEW YORK CITY REPORT

The recently released EJNYC report is the first citywide report on environmental justice. The report comes in response to Local Laws 60 and 64 of 2017. These laws establish foundational requirements to guide the City's efforts to advance environmental justice in NYC, including the development of the EJNYC Report and EJNYC Mapping Tool, and the forthcoming development of the EJNYC Plan. The EJNYC report shows that communities of color and low-income people are the most affected by environmental impacts in the city. The next step is to produce a plan to develop effective and equitable solutions. Read more [HERE](#).

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TRAINING RESOURCES

The DOI offers a list of online resources designed to build the capacity in communities to advance environmental justice (EJ). The resources below give federal employees, EJ professionals and advocates, and members of the public access to a broad range of knowledge on topics relevant to the practice of environmental justice. Learn more [HERE](#).



»»» 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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