NASA Equity & Environmental Justice

EEJ NEWS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JUNE IS NATIONAL OCEAN MONTH

Over 71% of our Blue Marble is covered by ocean. The ocean is one of Earth's largest ecosystems, and plays an important role in moderating Earth's climate. With NASA missions, we're learning more about this precious part of the planet than ever before. NASA's PACE satellite mission is helping us learn more about our ocean, its role in Earth's climate, the creatures that live there, and more. The PACE satellite views our entire planet every day, returning data at a cadence that allows scientists to track and monitor the rapidly changing atmosphere and ocean, including cloud formation, aerosol movement, and differences in microscopic ocean life over time. PACE's OCI instrument views our world with 200+ wavelengths of light. With this level of detail, scientists – for the first time from space – can identify specific communities of phytoplankton in the ocean. PACE's other instruments, two polarimeters, are helping scientists locate and identify aerosols in the atmosphere. HARP2 measures the concentration of aerosols and SPEXone measures aerosol size. Learn more as PACE Celebrates National Ocean Month With Colorful Views of the Planet [HERE].

NASA ARSET TRAINING - EARTH OBSERVATIONS FOR HUMANITARIAN APPLICATIONS

Refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs), and other displaced populations are made more vulnerable to climate change impacts due to their socio-political marginalization. This three-part training presents concrete strategies for mapping localized climate conditions with risks faced by refugee and IDP communities around the world, and is a follow-on to the 2022 Introductory training, Humanitarian Applications Using NASA Earth Observations. By the end of the training, which will take place in June 2024, participants will be able to integrate EO, building footprint and infrastructure data, and population data to quantify climate risk and development trends in specific humanitarian settings, and recognize the value and limitations of specific EO and geospatial datasets. For more info and to register for the training click [HERE].
Embark on a transformative journey in the heart of Rome, Italy, in this convening for the “Global Summit on Climate Change & Environmental Sustainability” from October 28-29, 2024. The theme of the Summit is “Harmony in Diversity: Navigating Climate Challenges for a Sustainable Future.” Join experts, innovators, and visionaries from around the world as they delve into cutting-edge solutions, fostering unity to address the intricate web of climate challenges. The Scientific Sessions include a Climate Justice & Equity session. Learn more HERE.

**PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS**

**Improved monitoring and management of urban tree equity: integrating metrics of tree quality with tree cover**

Team: Kevin Mueller, Brice Grunert, Thomas Hilde, Kaiguang Zhao, Daniel Meaney, Amanda Wood

In the U.S., trees in cities provide ecosystem services valued at $18 billion dollars per year, but the urban forest in our nation is shrinking and stressed. This is evident in Cleveland, OH, where tree canopies are most sparse in the areas with residents who are most in need of the benefits trees provide. The canopy cover and ecosystem services in redlined neighborhoods with high poverty and pollution are often half or even a tenth of those in richer, whiter neighborhoods. Momentum is now building to reverse the decline of the urban forest and to enhance ‘tree equity’ in Cleveland and Cuyahoga County. The effort to regrow Cleveland's urban forest is collaborative and coordinated by the Cleveland Tree Coalition. A primary goal of this coalition is to minimize socioeconomic and demographic disparities in tree equity by focusing efforts to maintain and expand the tree canopy in areas with unjustly lower tree cover and greater environmental burdens. Learn more HERE.

**Mapping Vulnerable Populations in California to Climate-Related Hazards**

Team: Miriam Marlier; Paul English; Michael Jerrett; Joseph Wilkins; Michelle Wong; Jenny Nguyen; Eimy Bonilla

This study will integrate Earth science information and socioeconomic datasets to inform climate vulnerability assessments for environmental justice communities across California. They build on a rich tradition of environmental justice screening tools for California with the inclusion of Earth science information to quantify recent exposures to climate-related hazards and associated health outcomes through a publicly available tool. The proposed study will examine two leading categories of climate-related hazards, namely smoke pollution and extreme heat, which each expose millions of people across California. Learn more HERE.
We are thrilled to welcome Edil Sepúlveda Carlo, the new Program Coordinator for NASA’s Climate Resilience & Community Action (CRCA) Program at NASA Headquarters in Washington DC. In this role, he coordinates the Climate Resilience (CR) Program as well as the Equity & Environmental Justice (EEJ) Program. He champions science to action, and the use of Earth Observations to improve decision-making and societal benefits. Before this role, Edil was a senior research scientist at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD, where he worked as the Applications Coordinator for NASA’s Carbon Monitoring System (CMS) Initiative, as well as the former Co-Chair for the Applied Earth Observations Innovation Partnership (AEOIP) between NASA & USDA Forest Service. He engaged stakeholders from all sectors — federal, state, and local agencies, non-governmental organizations, academia, and the private sector — with NASA-funded carbon scientists to ensure that data products developed were used in diverse applications and decision-making contexts. He has been working in environmental justice and climate science & policy issues for over 10 years.

Edil was also part of NASA’s Black Marble Science Team, which was awarded NASA’s Group Achievement Medal in 2018 for their efforts to support Puerto Rico’s recovery in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. Edil has provided support to the applications efforts of other NASA’s Earth Science Division missions, such as Ice, Cloud, and Land Elevation Satellite-2 (ICESat-2); the Arctic Boreal Vulnerability Experiment (ABoVE); and the Soil Moisture Active Passive (SMAP) mission.

Before working at NASA, Edil was a consultant in climate change and environmental legal issues for the Government of Puerto Rico. He holds a B.S. in Geology from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez, a Juris Doctor from the University of Puerto Rico School of Law, and a Master’s degree in Climate & Society with an Energy & Environmental Policy Concentration from Columbia University in the City of New York.
Shaping Environmental Justice Policies at the Federal Level: An opportunity to share input on the development of U.S. Agency Environmental Justice Strategic Plans

June 17, 2024. 12-1PM ET. Online

Join World Resources Institute on June 17 to learn more about the Environmental Justice Strategic Plans from Christina Bowman, Deputy Director for Environmental Justice Strategic Initiatives at the Council on Environmental Quality and federal agency staff from the Department of Energy, Department of Transportation and the Environmental Protection Agency. The event will gather feedback from audience members through a submission form that WRI will organize and submit as a public comment document to each agency represented during the event. Learn more and register HERE.

Minority Food Producers in the Climate Transition

A webinar examining the role of agricultural producers of color in the development of sustainable solutions for climate change now available to view. This panel discussed the state of minority producers in the climate transition, the alternative pathways created by minority producers for information and resource access as a result of exclusion from past and current government programs, and the role of economists and researchers in developing sustainable agriculture solutions for climate change that reflect the different opportunities and pathways available to producers of color. Read more HERE.

ENVIROMENTAL SOCIAL JUSTICE PODCAST: 22ND CENTURY TRIBAL INFRASTRUCTURE GROUP - BUILD W

22nd Century Tribal Infrastructure Group (https://22ctribal.com) is a Native American and Woman-Owned firm that is dedicated to supporting tribal nations and indigenous peoples across the globe to drive innovation and entrepreneurship in the areas of clean energy, water quality, and human and environmental health. Listen to the podcast HERE.

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.

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