

The Environmental Justice Promise

A simple promise: No community will be sacrificed to pollution or neglect. Clean air, safe water, and healthy environments are not luxuries — they are rights. Justice demands that frontline and underserved communities, too often burdened by environmental harm, be protected and renewed.

Why It Matters

Communities of color, low-income neighborhoods, and rural areas bear the highest burden of pollution, toxic waste, and unsafe drinking water.

Children and elders suffer asthma, cancer, and chronic illness at higher rates in polluted regions.

Climate change intensifies these harms, with heat, floods, and storms hitting the least protected first.

Environmental injustice is not accidental — it is the legacy of systemic neglect, disinvestment, and exploitation.

Our belief: A just nation does not allow profit or power to poison its people. Clean water, clean air, and safe communities are the birthright of all.

What We're Saying

This is not symbolic language. It is a promise: that every American will live free from environmental harm, and every community will be made whole from past injustice.

What It Guarantees

- **Clean Water Access:** Safe, affordable drinking water in every household, school, and community.
- **Clean Air Standards:** Strict limits on industrial emissions, transportation pollution, and toxins.
- **Community Remediation:** Cleanup of toxic sites, landfills, and brownfields in frontline communities.
- **Climate Resilience:** Investments in infrastructure to protect against floods, storms, and extreme heat.

- **Environmental Equity:** Resources prioritized for underserved and historically neglected communities.

Programs You'll See

- **National Clean Water Guarantee:** Federal–state partnership to eliminate unsafe water in homes and schools.
- **Air for All Act:** Stronger national air quality standards, with real enforcement in high-burden areas.
- **Community Remediation Fund:** Resources to clean up toxic sites and restore safe land and housing.
- **Climate Resilience Infrastructure Act:** Funds levees, cooling centers, green spaces, and disaster readiness.
- **Environmental Justice Grants:** Support for local organizations leading cleanup, monitoring, and advocacy.
- **Polluter Accountability Standards:** Strict liability and penalties for corporations that harm communities.

How We'll Make It Real

0–100 Days

- Launch a national audit of water quality, air pollution, and toxic sites in frontline communities.
- Establish the Environmental Justice Council with community voices at the table.

Year 1

- Pass the National Clean Water Guarantee and Air for All Act.
- Begin funding Community Remediation projects in the highest-risk areas.

Years 2–3

- Scale Climate Resilience Infrastructure investments across coastal and flood-prone regions.

- Expand Environmental Justice Grants to grassroots organizations nationwide.

Years 4–5

- Achieve measurable reductions in unsafe water, toxic sites, and air pollution in frontline communities.
- Embed polluter accountability into permanent law and practice.

Accountability & Measures

- **Water:** % of households with safe, affordable drinking water.
- **Air:** Reduction in asthma, cancer, and respiratory illness linked to pollution.
- **Cleanup:** # of toxic sites remediated and restored.
- **Resilience:** # of communities protected by new climate-ready infrastructure.
- **Equity:** Share of resources directed to underserved communities.

Guardrails & Values

- **Equity First:** Prioritize those long denied clean environments.
- **Prevention & Repair:** Stop new harms while cleaning up old ones.
- **Community Power:** Local residents lead decisions about their land and health.
- **Transparency:** Public dashboards on water, air, and remediation progress.
- **Accountability:** Polluters pay, not the public.

Who This Helps (Snapshots)

- **Jayden (8):** Breathes freely after air quality improves in his city.
- **Monica (35):** No longer buys bottled water after her tap water is made safe.
- **Elder Ruth (70):** Protected from extreme heat thanks to community cooling centers.
- **David (42):** Lives on land restored from toxic contamination.
- **The Hollow Creek Neighborhood:** Organizes with federal support to secure environmental justice grants and rebuild safe housing.

What Success Looks Like

In 24 Months

- Unsafe water eliminated in schools and childcare centers.
- First wave of toxic site cleanups completed.

In 5 Years

- Major reductions in asthma and pollution-related illness in frontline areas.
- Resilient infrastructure built in flood, storm, and heat-prone regions.

In 10 Years

- Environmental justice realized as a national standard: every community safe, every environment clean, every life valued.

The Commitment

The Environmental Justice Promise is a national vow: that health and safety will never again be traded away for profit or neglect. Clean air, clean water, and safe communities will be guaranteed — the measure of justice written into the very ground we live on.

Historical Reference & Value

From the Cuyahoga River fire of 1969 to the Love Canal disaster of the 1970s, from the birth of the Environmental Protection Agency to the passage of the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act, Americans have fought to secure safe environments. Yet injustice persists: the poisoned water of Flint, Michigan; cancer clusters along “Cancer Alley” in Louisiana; and toxic dumps disproportionately located in Black, Brown, and poor communities. Grassroots movements — from Warren County protests in 1982 that birthed the environmental justice movement, to Standing Rock water protectors in 2016 — have shown that communities will resist being sacrificed. The Environmental Justice Promise builds on this history: declaring that justice means safety, equity, and repair for every community.

Referenced Acts & Initiatives (Guiding Frameworks)

- **National Clean Water Guarantee Act:** Ensures safe drinking water in every household and school.

- **Air for All Act:** Strengthens and enforces clean air protections.
- **Community Remediation Fund Act:** Resources to clean toxic sites and restore land.
- **Climate Resilience Infrastructure Act:** Builds infrastructure to withstand climate threats.
- **Environmental Justice Grants Program:** Supports grassroots organizations addressing local harms.
- **Polluter Accountability Standards Act:** Holds corporations financially and legally responsible for environmental harm.

Sealing Line

So it is promised: that no American community will be left to bear the weight of pollution or neglect — justice will be measured in clean water, clean air, and safe ground beneath every home.