

ALASKA

How Does Alaska Define Environmental Justice and Environmental Justice Communities?

Environmental Justice Definitions:

Alaska does not have any environmental justice laws or policies, and mainly follows the federal government's definitions and requirements on nondiscrimination in the use of federal funds.

Environmental Justice Mapping Tools:

While not environmental justice specific, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) maintains a searchable database of state landfills, solid waste treatment facilities, and solid waste storage facilities with status, location, authorizations (permits), and contacts for each site.¹

How Does Alaska Consider Environmental Justice in its Substantive Actions²?

Environmental Justice as a Policy of the Environmental Agency or Across All Agencies:

N/A.

Consideration of Environmental Justice in Permitting:

N/A.

Consideration of Environmental Justice in Enforcement:

N/A.

Consideration of Environmental Justice in Land Use:

DEC oversees the cleanup of brownfields and assists community organizations in the cleanup projects, although there is no specific environmental justice nexus in the discharge of this responsibility. As DEC notes, “[b]rownfields are abandoned, unused, or underused properties that are hindered from desired reuse or redevelopment by real or perceived environmental contamination.”³ The brownfields program strives to “work[] with local governments, tribes, and community stakeholders by providing information, funding, technical assistance, and other resources to facilitate the assessment, cleanup, and reuse of brownfields.”⁴ Partnership with local entities - city and borough governments, tribal councils, Native

¹ Alaska Dept. of Env't Conservation, SWIMS Solid Waste Information Mgmt. System, <https://dec.alaska.gov/Applications/EH/SWIMS/Default.aspx> (last visited June 28, 2022).

² Substantive is defined as governing the original rights and obligations of individuals. Cornell L. Sch., LII, *Wex Legal Encyclopedia*, https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/substantive_law (last visited June 29, 2022).

³ Alaska Dept. of Env't Conservation, “Frequently Asked Questions About Brownfields.” <https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/csp/brownfields/faq/> (last visited June 28, 2022).

⁴ *Id.*

corporations, and community development organizations - is furthered through DEC Brownfield Assessments and Cleanups (DBACs).⁵ DBACs identify “contamination at a property, evaluate how the contamination could be managed to facilitate future use, and provide an estimate of cleanup costs.”⁶

State Environmental Policy Act “Mini-NEPA”:

N/A.

Dedicated Funding to Environmental Justice Communities:

N/A.

Consideration of Cumulative Impacts:

N/A.

Prohibitions on Disparate Impact Discrimination:

N/A.

Established Environmental Rights:

N/A.

How Does Alaska Address Environmental Justice in its Procedures⁷?

Environmental Justice as Part of Environmental Agency’s Mission:

N/A.

Environmental Justice as Part of Other Agency’s Mission:

N/A.

Processes and Procedures (including Title VI):

- Non-Discrimination Policy:

The Alaska Department of Transportation (ADOT) and Public Facilities maintains a Title VI website, laying out its commitment to federal nondiscrimination law and setting out an annual review of its efforts to foster outreach and manage LEP issues.⁸

⁵ Alaska Dept. of Env’t Conservation, “DEC BROWNFIELD ASSESSMENT AND CLEANUP PROJECTS,” <https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/csp/brownfields/projects/> (last visited June 28, 2022).

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Procedural is defined as rules and the methods used to ensure the rights of individuals. Cornell L. Sch., LII, *Wex Legal Encyclopedia*, https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/procedural_law (last visited June 28, 2022).

⁸ Alaska Dept. of Transportation and Pub. Facilities, “Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 & Environmental Justice,” <https://dot.alaska.gov/cvlrts/titlevi.shtml> (last visited June 28, 2022); Alaska Dept. of Transportation and

- Grievance Procedures:

N/A.

- Enhanced Public Participation and Information Access:

N/A.

- Language Access:

Discrimination complaints may be filed with ADOT's Civil Rights Office; translations are available in Spanish, Tagalog, and Korean.⁹

- Consultation with Indigenous Communities and Tribal Nations:

N/A.

Governmental Environmental Justice Bodies, Positions, and Funding Streams:

- Environmental Justice Coordinating Agency:

N/A.

- Environmental Justice Coordinator:

N/A.

- Environmental Justice Advisory Board:

N/A.

- Funding for Environmental Justice:

N/A.

Additional Alaska Environmental Justice Provisions?

N/A.

Alaska Environmental Justice Contacts?

Public Facilities
Alaska Department of Transportation
PO Box 112500 (mailing)
3132 Channel Drive

Pub. Facilities, *TITLE VI PROGRAM ANNUAL GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT*, <https://dot.alaska.gov/cvlrts/docs/TitleVI-goals-accomplishments-2019.pdf> (last visited June 28, 2022).

⁹ Alaska Dept. of Transportation and Pub. Facilities, *How to File a Discrimination Complaint*, <https://dot.alaska.gov/cvlrts/complaint.shtml> (last visited June 28, 2022).

Juneau, Alaska 99811-2500

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
2200 E. 42nd Avenue
PO Box 196900
Anchorage, AK 99519-6900
Telephone: (907) 465-5061

Where to Find Alaska Environmental Justice Laws, Policies, and Tools?

Constitutional Provisions:

N/A.

Executive Orders:

N/A.

Legislation and Statutes:

N/A.

Regulations:

N/A.

Policies/Guidance:

N/A.

Mapping Tools:

N/A.

Other:

N/A.