Youth Engagement in Environmental Justice

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Public Health Specialist, Pegasus Technical Services
NEJAC Youth Perspectives on Climate Justice Work Group
Desire to “make a difference” and “get a job”

Environmentalism and Social Justice
Academic background

My first class in environmental inequalities in college

Environmentalism to know what is happening and what to do about it

Fake it till you make it: Volunteer

You have the time, and you probably can’t get paid to do it yet.

Say Yes! Sleep later

Development relationships and experience

Make your own way

Race and Labor History to learn why and how

Privilege

Make your own way

Undergrad

Volunteering

School Siting Policy & HIA

MEJC

Graduate school

Volunteering

Sitting Policy & HIA

UNFCCC COP21

Whiteness

Mentorship

Right place at the right time

SOPHIA

Education
How I work on Environmental Justice

Heath Impact Assessment

• Evaluate the health impact of a proposed policy, plan, program, or action
• Select methods to minimize negative impact and maximize positive impact
• Integrating Community involvement at every step

National Environmental Justice Advisory Council Youth Perspectives on Climate Justice

• We are 17 young leaders across the country, ranging from 19 to 28
• Working on international environmental justice
• Working on national coalition building
• Community organizing
• Training young people to work on environmental issues
• Studying environmental engineering, public health, environmental studies
Youth have always been at the forefront of social movements

- Civil rights movement
  - Students Nonviolent Coordinating Committee
  - Freedom Riders
- Climate Change movement
  - SustainUS
  - Youth Climate Movement (YouGNO)
  - People’s Climate March
  - University groups and coalitions
Bring Environmental Justice into all the work you do

- Engineering
- Healthcare
- Scientific research
- Law
- Policy

- Academia
- Non-profits
- Business
- Government
  - Local
  - State
  - Federal
  - International

SUSTAINABILITY WITHOUT BORDERS
Why Should Young People be Involved?

Why wait until leaders retire?
Break the mold
Challenge the existing power structure
Utilize our intimate access and knowledge to our communities

IT’S OUR FUTURE
Good morning, thank you for calling XYZ. This is Carl. How may I help you?
Volunteer!
Thank You to the Center for Serve Learn Sustain

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