

# Climate and Environmental Justice Discussion for BOH

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# Why are we here? Level-Setting

- ACHD BOH has indicated an interest in climate and environmental justice issues, which are very prevalent in Adams County.
- BOH & programming being aligned = more political power
- Informal requests from community for Health Dept. to get more involved in EJ



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# A few examples of community messages

- The community identified the need to build better relationships between governments and community to help foster trust and willingness.
- A wish list to address climate impacts and pollution, such as resilient and healthy homes, tree planting, cumulative impact assessment, and transit solutions.
- The community also identified a desire for government partners to give them agency for themselves when it comes to decision-making in their communities.



# Quick Background on Environmental Justice

- "Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies (The EPA). This goal will be achieved when everyone enjoys:
  - The same degree of protection from environmental health hazards, and
  - Equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work."



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# Environmental Justice in Colorado

- Environmental Justice Act passed in 2021 (HB21-1266)
  - Creation of the Environmental Justice Action Task Force and Task Force Recommendations
  - Created Environmental Justice Advisory Board
  - Created initial definition of Disproportionately Impacted Community
  - Created Environmental Justice Ombudsperson within CDPHE
  - Required Environmental Justice Summaries by permit applicants for new and modified sources of emissions
  - *Encourages* additional community engagement with DIC communities
- Colorado EnviroScreen



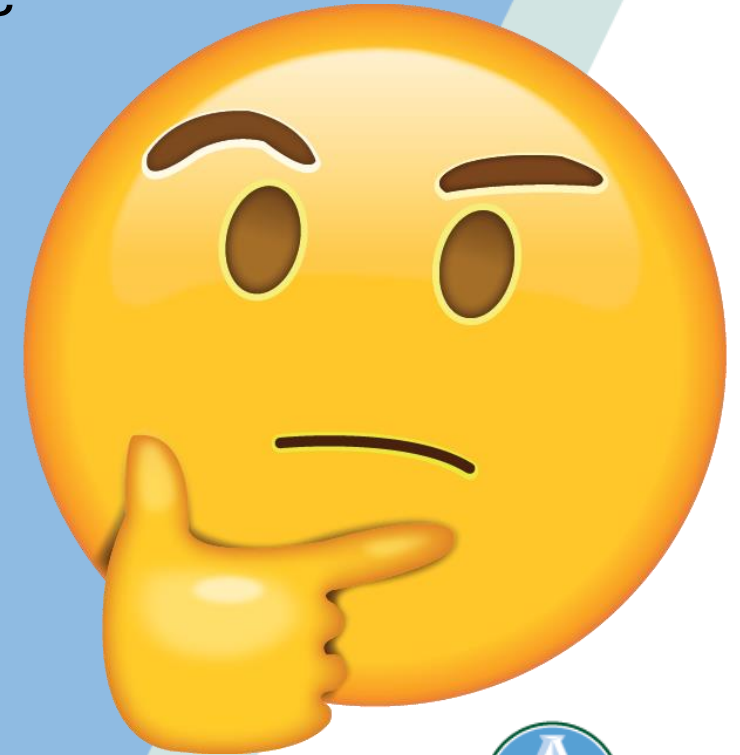
# What's Happening Currently

- Rulemakings
  - Oil & Gas cumulative impact rulemaking (finished Oct. 2024)
  - Landfill Greenhouse Gas monitoring and control requirements (July 2025)
  - Ozone State Implementation Plan (SIP) rulemaking revision (Nov. 2025)
  - Identifying Priority Air Toxics (Jan, 2025), reporting and monitoring priority air toxics, setting health-based values (Jan. 2025-late 2026)
- Suncor
  - Title V Permits under consideration; Plant 2
  - Active lawsuit pending from Earthjustice (on behalf of GreenLatinos, 350 Colorado, Sierra Club)
  - Hiring and onboarding of legislatively required Petroleum Refinery Expert
- Legislative implementation
  - Environmental Equity and Cumulative Impact Analyses (EECIAs)
  - Mobile Home Park Testing Results
  - Enviro-Gov-O&Gas legislative deal on multi-modal funding
- Staff-level
  - Community Change Grant (EPA) grant
  - EJ in ACHD Strategic Plan
  - State EJ Grant – water quality education & filter distribution
  - Commerce City-N. Denver EJ Forum (EPA Led)
  - Metro Denver Partnership for Health (MDPH) Climate Workgroup
  - 2025 Community Townhalls



# Questions to think about (Long-term)

- What should the BOH's role be in relation to climate and EJ?
  - Collaborator? Policy maker? Piggybank? Bully pulpit?
- What are different levers available to the BOH to make a difference on climate and EJ?
  - For Example:
    - Increased community engagement on climate/EJ (townhalls, forums)
    - Proclamations and Resolutions
    - Earned media (op-eds, Letters to Editor)
    - Directing funding, staffing levels
    - Advocacy - legislative testimony, proactive legislation
    - Data

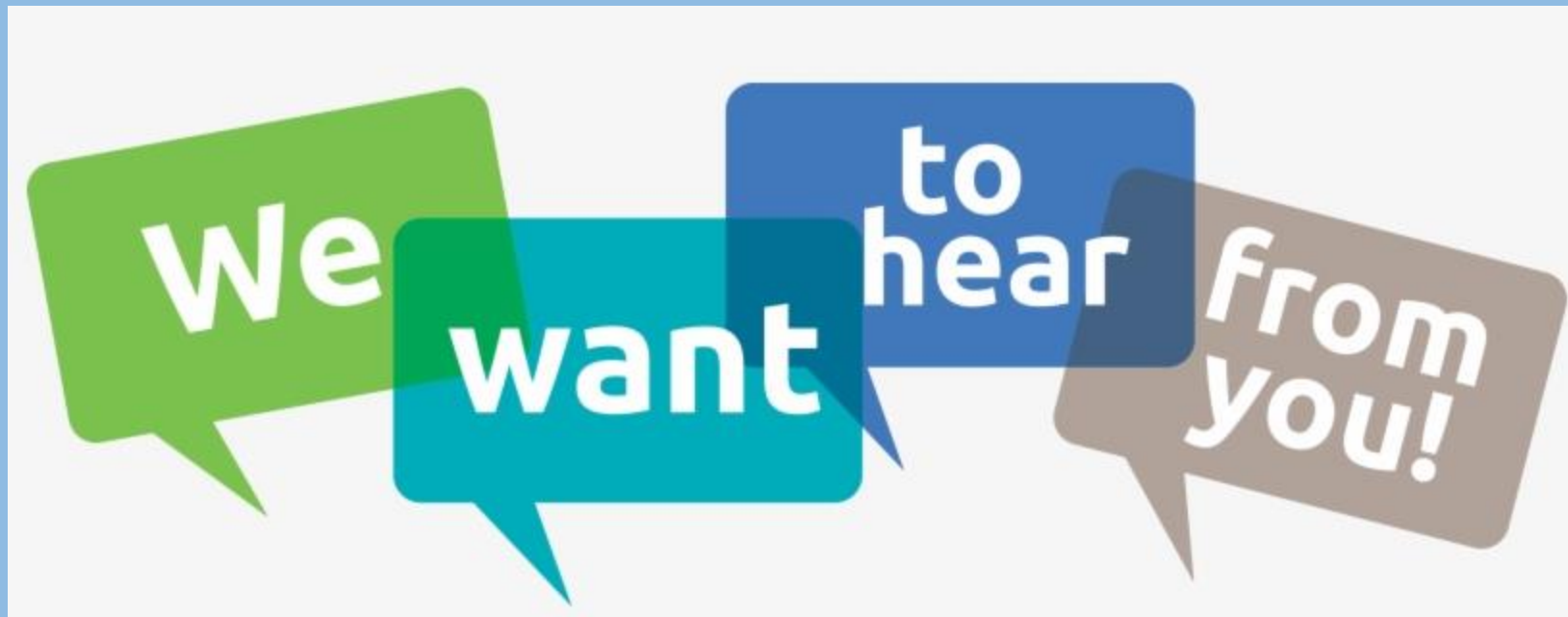


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# What Staff is Asking for today:

Who do you want to hear from that would be beneficial to **learn from and engage with?**



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# Possible Speakers // Community Groups

- Cultivando – non-profit led by Latina and Indigenous women that organize to improve health and climate, primarily in Commerce City, GES
- Groundwork Denver – partners with youth and community to build a healthy, equitable, and sustainable environment
- Environmental Policy Advisory Committee (EPAC) – Commerce City Advisory group on environment and climate issues
- Adelante – nonprofit serving Latino families and entrepreneurs. Have indicated a keen interest in climate/EJ issues and published a list of priorities
- Womxn from the Mountain – work at intersection of social and environmental justice. Involved with EJ Task Force, Suncor advocacy
- Spirit of the Sun – nonprofit that works with Native American communities to increase resilience of Native people, particularly young people.
- Moms Clean Air Force – organized moms working to promote clean air and stable climate. Have a sizeable footprint in Adams County
- Commerce City Youth Commission
- Adams 14 – Teachers Association, Board of Education
- Black Parents United Foundation (BPUF) - nonprofit for parents of black and brown children to empower their children and promote equity, diversity, and inclusion, including environmental justice



# Possible Speakers // Gov't, Regulators

- EPA – creates and enforces environmental regulations, approves major air source pollution permits, determines Colorado ozone status
- Colorado Air Pollution Control Division (APCD) – implement air quality regulations (federal and state), draft and approve permits, enforce regulations
- Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC) – air quality and climate rulemaking body
- Regional Air Quality Council (RACQ) – lead air quality planning entity for the Denver Metro/Front Range region. Lead entity in creating State Implementation Plan (SIP) to address ozone non-attainment
- Adams County Community & Economic Development (CED) Environmental Programs Division
- Environmental Justice Ombudsperson, Marcus Howell
- Environmental Justice Advisory Board (EJAB) – coordinates with EJ Ombudsperson, advises CDPHE on best practices for engaging DIC's, responds to EJ policy referred by Gov's office, creates and oversees an EJ grants program
- Adams County Sustainability Coordinator
- Municipal Sustainability Councils – Westminster & Northglenn; climate action focused



# Possible Speakers // Advocates

- Earthjustice – not-for-profit attorneys working to improve air quality, particularly in disproportionately impacted communities (DICs). Litigant against Suncor for air quality violations in Commerce City/North Denver
- Protegete – Conservation Colorado initiative dedicated to building Latine environmental leadership and power; facilitate Climate Justice Leadership Academy
- GreenLatinos – Hispanic advocacy organization working to improve air/water quality with a big footprint in Adams County
- 350 Colorado – predominantly work on issues related to Oil & Gas
- Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC) – statewide climate/environment group
- Colorado Sierra Club – statewide climate/environment group
- Colorado Communities for Climate Action (CC4CA) – climate action group consisting of local elected officials



# Possible Speakers // Research & Academia

- National Jewish Health – academic research related to impacts of air quality, climate change, environmental data science
- CO School of Public Health
- Colorado Health Institute (CHI) - health-focused consulting group that has researched and recommended climate solutions



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# Thoughts?

- Do you feel this is a good approach to further engagement in EJ/Climate issues?
- What groups/individuals that we just went over really stick out as big priorities to bring in?
- Are there groups, organizations, or individuals that weren't listed that you'd like to address?



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