

What is Environmental Justice?

The environment is “where you live, work,
play, pray or go to school.”

Environmental justice means that everyone has the right
to live in a safe, clean and healthy living environment.

Local steps you can take to support environmental justice:

Learn more about environmental justice and report environmental violations in your community. Join the Environmental Protection Agency District 10 Environmental Justice listserve by calling (503) 325-3269.

Work to increase and diversify student enrollment in environmental health academic programs. *Dial today: (503) 235-6047* Call the Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs who: recruit new colleges and universities that primarily serve students of color; provide mentoring support to these institutions to assist with developing environmental health degree programs; and link students with internship opportunities in the environmental health workforce.

Monitor environmental hazards in your community, such as Brownfields, which are abandoned, idled or under-used industrial or commercial properties where expansion or redevelopment is hindered by perceived contamination. *Visit Organizing People, Activating Leaders at opalpdx.org.*

Support programs that increase awareness about asthma through the Oregon branch of the American Lung Association at (503) 924-4094.

Promote spiritual and social connections in your community. Know and share with your neighbors. Parts of the U.S. where people trust and help one another are healthier than places with less cooperation. Sharing communities with high participation and civic involvement are the healthiest.

Get involved and become a leader for affordable, safe housing. Connect with the Community Alliance of Tenants' Housing Justice Program. Through the HJC, you will help lead CAT's advocacy and issue organizing work-there will be opportunities for giving testimony, designing campaigns, conducting research and more. *Call (503) 460-1960 to get involved-all.*