

Environmental Justice Task Force 2024 Presentation and Action Summary

Presentations in 2024:

March 12, 2024:

- Natural Areas Plan (available [here](#))
- Presentation and discussion of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposed rules (available [here](#))
- Public Involvement and Outreach Update (available [here](#))

June 25, 2024:

- Presentation on Active Transportation Plan 2050 by Wisconsin Department of Transportation staff (available [here](#))
- Presentation on Milwaukee County Complete Communities by Milwaukee County staff (available [here](#))

September 10, 2024:

- Presentation on Environmental Justice Initiatives by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources staff (available [here](#))
- Update on U.S. EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program by Commission staff (available [here](#))
- Public Involvement and Outreach Update by Commission staff (available [here](#))

December 10, 2024:

- Presentation from Office of Environmental Justice staff
- Review of the Community Engagement Plan
- Review of 2025 Primary Organizations

Closed Action Items in 2024:

- Commission staff sent resources in response to an email request from Ms. Alkaff regarding transportation routes used by heavy-duty trucks. (2/14/2024)
- At the request of Ms. Alkaff, the EJTF received a presentation regarding EPA proposed rules. (3/12/2024)
- Commission staff added Ms. Alkaff to a contact list to be notified of future meetings where CPRG information is shared. (3/12/2024)
- At the request of Ms. Brown-Martin, Commission staff presented the Natural Areas Preservation Plan to the Milwaukee County Committee on Parks and Culture. (5/7/2024)
- At the request of Ms. Alkaff, the EJTF received a presentation regarding environmental justice initiatives at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. (9/10/2024)

Environmental Justice Task Force Proposed 2025 Action Items

Action Items Proposed for 2025:

- Commission staff will coordinate with Mr. Nelson regarding his request for a map showing how federal funds are spent in Economically Distressed Areas. (requested 9/10/2024 and 6/13/2023)
- At the request of Ms. Brown-Martin, Commission staff will engage with the Milwaukee County Youth Commission regarding the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program when a draft plan is available. (requested 9/10/2024)
- At the request of Mr. Nelson, Commission staff will consider how to analyze the location of homeless individuals in the Regional Food System Plan. (requested 3/14/2023)
- Commission staff will continue to coordinate with Ms. Brown-Martin on outreach to public schools. (requested 3/14/2023)
- At the request of Ms. Adams, Commission staff will include the housing needs of ex-offenders in future discussions related to the housing needs of marginalized groups.
- Commission staff will work with Ms. Schellinger on how to plan for the housing and transportation needs of seniors, possibly including a session on equal justice for seniors in minority communities and recent work prepared by UWM masters students on behalf of the Commission. (requested 5/21/2019)
- Commission staff will work with Ms. Schellinger to develop a panel of local planners to understand how they use VISION 2050. (requested 5/21/2019)

Responses to questions proposed for removal from the Action Item List:

1. Provide Kenosha Innovation Neighborhood Updates (Ms. Adams)
 - The Kenosha Innovation Neighborhood posts regular updates on the News section of their website [here](#).
2. Do apartments or single-family homes offer better protection from power outages? (Ms. Adams)
 - Power outages that result from utility company issues can occur because of equipment failure, scheduled maintenance to the local supply, or extreme weather conditions causing damage to the supply network. For rental properties, power outages may also occur if the landlord fails to pay the utility bill. The Energy Information Agency tracks

power outages by location (available [here](#)), not housing type. Most recent outages were the result of extreme weather events such as hurricanes and winter storms.

3. Gentrification in Southeastern Wisconsin (Ms. Alkaff)

- A recent University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Innovative Lecture series presentation included a review of local efforts and national best practices to update zoning codes and policies to advance planning goals including equity, affordability, and sustainability. The recording is available [here](#).
 - Note: The EJTF reviewed the Regional Housing Plan (adopted 2013) as it was developed, which addresses topics including affordable housing, fair housing, subsidized housing, and environmentally responsible residential development practices. The plan is available [here](#).
- In 2018, the City of Milwaukee prepared an Anti-Displacement Plan including a review of gentrification indicators, local and national initiatives, and recommendations to address displacement. The plan is available [here](#).

4. Provide Village Green Center Updates (Ms. Adams)

- While there have not been recent announcements for the Village Green Center, the Village of Pleasant Prairie has posted information on this planned development [here](#).

Environmental Justice Task Force Action Item List (Updated 12/4/2024)

Open Action Items

Meeting Date	Member	Request	Status
9/10/2024	Mr. Nelson	As a follow-up to an action item from a presentation on 6/13/2023, a map showing federal funds spent in Economically Distressed Areas was requested	Staff will coordinate with Mr. Nelson to clarify request
9/10/2024	Ms. Brown-Martin	Requested Commission staff engage with the Youth Commission for Milwaukee County regarding the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant	Staff anticipates reaching out to this group once a draft plan is available in 2025
9/12/2023	Ms. Adams	Requested an update on the Kenosha Innovation Neighborhood	Staff will coordinate with City of Kenosha staff to provide updates on this project as appropriate
9/12/2023	Ms. Adams	Asked if apartments offer better protection from power outages during weather events than single-family homes	Staff can research if power outages occur with less frequency in apartment buildings
3/14/2023	Ms. Brown-Martin	Coordinate with Milwaukee County DOT to engage with public schools	Staff are working with Ms. Brown-Martin to assist with outreach to public schools
3/14/2023	Mr. Nelson	Analyze the location of homeless individuals in the Regional Food System Plan	Staff will consider how to include this analysis in the Regional Food System Plan
9/20/2022	Ms. Alkaff	Provide information regarding gentrification in Southeastern Wisconsin	Staff will work with Ms. Alkaff to determine how to best address this request
9/20/2022	Ms. Adams	Requested adding ex-offenders to future discussions related to the housing needs of marginalized groups	Staff will include the housing needs of ex-offenders in future discussions
7/29/2020	Ms. Adams	Provide updates regarding the Village Green Center in the Village of Pleasant Prairie	Staff will provide updates on this development as appropriate
5/21/2019	Ms. Schellinger	Emphasize the housing and transportation needs of seniors, possibly including a session on equal justice for seniors in minority communities	This request was discussed again at the 6/13/2023 meeting and staff will work with Ms. Schellinger to plan this session in 2025
5/21/2019	Ms. Schellinger	Hold a panel of local planners in the Region at an EJTF meeting	This request was discussed again at the 6/13/2023 meeting and staff will work with Ms. Schellinger to plan this panel in 2025

Recently Closed Action Items

Meeting Date	Member	Request	Status
6/25/2024	Ms. Alkaff and Mr. Martin	Requested presentation from the Director, Office of Environmental Justice	This presentation is scheduled for the 12/10/2024 meeting

NOTE: This list includes requests starting with the 12/18/18 Task Force meeting. Prior Task Force member requests and the status of those requests are documented in a report prepared by SEWRPC staff and presented at the 12/18/18 meeting. To make the list more manageable, beginning with the 3/9/21 meeting action items closed prior to each previous meeting are archived and only action items closed since the previous meeting are included in this list.