NAACP Missouri intervenes to provide clean, renewable energy to the state.

On May 15, 2018, the Missouri Public Service Commission granted the applications of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to intervene in Kansas City Power and Light’s (KCP&L) energy plan proceedings now pending before the Missouri Public Service Commission. By intervening, the NAACP will seek agreement with KCP&L to provide clean, affordable, and renewable energy to persons who reside in low income and minority communities within KCP&L’s service territory. Kansas City Power and Light provides energy to much of the western half of Missouri.

Rocky Mountain NAACP President published!

Congratulations to Rosemary Lytle, Rocky Mountain NAACP President, for her recent op-ed published in Green Tech Media: “Energy Has a Diversity Problem. We’re Calling on the Solar Industry to Fix It.”

Great Rivers Files EPA Commens on West Lake Landfull on Behalf of St. Louis County NAACP.

Great Rivers attorney Bob Menees filed comments with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on behalf of the St. Louis County Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) on April 23, 2018. In these comments, we advocate for the maximum removal of radioactive waste possible.

Rocky Mountain NAACP ECJ Chair takes a stand against coal-fired power plant.

On May 7, the CO-MT-WY State Conference ECJ Chair testified on behalf of the NAACP at Colorado’s Air Quality Control Commission hearing, taking a stand against the proposed Title V operating permit renewal for Colorado Springs Utilities’ coal-fired Martin Drake Power Plant. The proposal includes a rolling, 30-day average monitoring for sulfur dioxide pollution, which is insufficient in measuring and controlling spikes in emissions that exceed the EPA’s permissible 75 ppb. The plant is located in downtown Colorado Springs, CO and its harmful emissions affect frontline communities most.

Illinois NAACP asks Environmental Agency to Help Black Communities

The Illinois NAACP has asked the Rauner administration to spend a larger portion of a $109 million settlement from an air emissions scandal on programs that would cut down on pollution that affects children. Teresa Haley, President of the Illinois NAACP, on Wednesday night urged the state Environmental Protection Agency to allocate additional cash won through the legal settlement over Volkswagen’s emissions cheating scandal to fund items that would directly reduce air pollution, such as electric school buses.
Rockford Illinois NAACP Branch on the MOVE!

- The Rockford NAACP branch are participating in the Solar Equity Initiative, hoping to place solar collectors on the roof of Washington Park Community Center which also houses our offices, and we are working with individuals to have solar collectors on their homes.

- The Rockford branch is launching a campaign to get Aldi to place a grocery store in SW Rockford which is a food desert.

- The Rockford Branch co-sponsored a showing of a Climate Reality PowerPoint for three fifth grade classes in a local school, and when we discovered that the auditorium was twenty degrees colder than it should be, and that the school had no ability to turn off the air conditioning, we decided to help the students demonstrate and speak at the school board to encourage environmental responsibility in the way they maintain their buildings. We're also encouraging young people to join our team.

Florida ECJ Chair attends educational trainings.

ECJ Chair Jennings attended a series of united Solar meetings in Florida in May. Jennings is writing for the NAACP ECJ Team on hazardous waste and replacing Florida’s current energy economy with renewable energy sources.

Northern Oakland NAACP Branch invites member in for an ECJ training.

Oday Salim, Executive Director from Great Lakes Environmental Law Center and NAACP member, teaches the Northern Oakland Branch about Procedural, Distributive, Correctional and Interactional Justice in regards to Environmental Justice.

The Greater Grand Rapids NAACP Youth Council starts a community garden!

The Greater Grand Rapids NAACP Youth Council partnered with Thomas Street Garden to start a garden for youth in the community! The Youth Council recognizes tackling environmental and climate justice is Food Justice.

Pencecloa NAACP Branch hosting a workshop.

The Pencecloa NAACP Branch will be hosting an Environmental Science Workshop to further education on alternative energy in their community.

The Alabama NAACP State Conference goes on tour.

The Alabama NAACP State Conference has scheduled a tour of a Smart Home in a “zero-emissions” community in Birmingham this June.
Michigan NAACP Youth Leader appointed to Energy Advisory Committee.

Tavian Moore - NAACP Youth Leader has been appointed to the Grand Rapids Energy Advisory Committee due to the local branch's interest in advancing environmental justice goals of making the city 100% clean renewable energy by 2025.

West Virginia, Jefferson County NAACP Branch making serious strides for ECJ.

Food: exploring partnering with the Jefferson County NAACP Youth Council to work an African American Heritage Garden this spring

Community Clean Up: exploring partnering with the NAACP Youth Council for a trash pick up and cook out event this spring in the Charles Town / Ranson area

Energy: Beginning to plan an energy audit and weatherization effort that's starting with arranging an energy audit for the home of a longtime branch leader in early May. We may arrange more energy audits of black owned homes and are spreading utility energy efficiency programs + a community action agency weatherization program. We are scheduling an energy savings workshop with Energy Efficient WV to show low and no cost steps to prepare to cut energy bills ahead of next winter.

Maryland NAACP State Conference attends EJ Health Disparities Symposium.

The Maryland State Conference of the NAACP attended the 4th Community Engagement, Environmental Justice, and Health (CEEJH) 2018 Environmental Justice and Health Disparities Symposium on Saturday May 12, 2018 at the University of Maryland. The meeting convened many regional legislators, nonprofit organizations, and researchers for a thorough discussion on environmental justice and health disparities affecting the region. The Maryland State Conference of the NAACP shared with attendees the unwavering work that they have been doing along with other groups, to advocate for advancing the clean energy portfolio in the state, investing in clean energy workforce development that provides grants for women- and minority-owned businesses, and addressing poor air quality from Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

Virginia NAACP has a new ECJ Chair!

Karen Campblin has been recently installed as the Environmental and Climate Justice (ECJ) Chair for the Virginia State Conference of the NAACP! Virginia NAACP members, please feel free to contact her at ktc1426@gmail.com if you are interested in addressing environmental and climate justice issues in your community.
PLANTING THE SEEDS OF SOLIDARITY

Your silence will not protect you. - Audre Lorde
Solidarity Events to Honor

Juneteenth
By Deirdre Church, ECJ Regional Organizer, Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States

This month we celebrate Juneteenth, commemorating the end of slavery in the United States and honoring African American freedom and achievement. As we reflect upon the monumental challenges that African Americans faced in fighting for freedom from bondage, we also consider the ways in which the Black community continues to be under threat from polluted air and water, unsafe housing, and disparate access to climate emergency resources. Many diverse groups, including NAACP units throughout the country, are rising up to advocate for policies that ensure that we have access to clean, renewable energy, protection of our health from toxic emissions that poison our air and drinking water, and effective strategies to address the growing impacts of climate change on lower-income residents and communities of color, especially those living in coastal regions.

As we celebrate Black liberation, let us continue to unite and fight together for a safe environment for ourselves and our children.

LGBTQ+ Pride Month
By Marcus Franklin, ECJ Systems and Research Manager

It may not seem obvious, but environmental and climate justice issues are LGBTQIA+ issues. Intersectional identity plays a large role in how communities and individuals are impacted by environment and climate-related events. Climate change and other environmental conditions uniquely impact women and members of the LGBTQIA+ community. During times of climate disruptions, women and members of the LGBTQIA+ communities experience increased risk for sex trafficking and sexual, reproductive, and gender-based violence. This is especially true for LGBTQIA+ individuals of color who face injustice within the broader LGBTQIA+ community.

Learn more about LGBTQIA+ Pride Month here!
Learn more about Black LGBTQIA+ Pride here!
An Interview with Tavian Moore
Tavian Moore, Michigan NAAACP Youth Leader talks with Marnese Jackson, NAACP ECJ Regional Organizer for the Midwest and Plain States

Marnese: Tell us about yourself and why you are interested in Environmental and Food Justice work?

Tavian: My name is Tavian Allen Moore, and I currently serve as President of the Greater Grand Rapids NAACP Youth Council in Grand Rapids, Michigan. I joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People shortly after the United States Presidential Elections in November of 2016. Like the hundreds of thousands of people across our country who joined the NAACP following such a consequential election, I wanted to become more involved with community advocacy and to ‘be the change’ in the city of Grand Rapids, and in the state of Michigan.

Marnese: Why are you passionate about Environmental Justice?

Tavian: Throughout my childhood, I have been very passionate about Social and Environmental Justice. Conversations about food deserts, climate change, health disparities in minority communities, and lack of access to fresh fruits and healthy foods in urban neighborhoods were common topics of discussions in my household growing up. Having these important dialogues with my parents really instilled a sense of acute awareness, and I craved to learn more about bridging the gap and finding real solutions. After I joined the NAACP and realized that we had such an active Environmental & Climate Justice Division, that provided field resources and training’s as “road maps” to bring back to our local communities, I got our Youth Council to jump on board with moving our exciting initiative forward.

Marnese: What does Food and Environmental Sovereignty intersect or how are they interconnected in your viewpoint?

Tavian: To understand food and environmental sovereignty, we must first recognize that almost every decision that we make or interaction that we have will directly or indirectly affect the environment in which we live. Too often, we think that environmental justice is focusing on conservation work, like donating to charities that save endangered animals. Although conservation work is essential, there are many facets to environmental justice which goes hand in hand with food sovereignty. Leading a sustainable lifestyle by growing your own food cuts down on food costs, shipping waste, fuel consumption associated with produce transportation, and many other environmental issues. Not only this, gardening is rewarding and therapeutic for the mind and body.
An Interview with Tavian Moore
Tavian Moore, Michigan NAAACP Youth Leader talks with Marnese Jackson, NAACP ECJ Regional Organizer for the Midwest and Plain States

Top Photo
NAACP Youth Leader, Tavian Moore.

Marnese: What types of projects are you doing now in relation to Food Justice?

Tavian: The Greater Grand Rapids NAACP Youth Council partnered with Thomas Street Garden to start a garden for youth in the city of Grand Rapids. Thomas Street Garden is located in a predominately black and brown neighborhood on the Southeast side of Grand Rapids, Michigan, a neighborhood that has historically been under-resourced and overlooked by community-based initiatives. Not only has the garden provided a green space for youth to interact with the environment in an urban setting; it has started a meaningful conversation about health disparities linked to a poor diet in minority communities. Our goal is to educate the public on these statistics, shed light on the disparities, and actively work to find solutions to these problems!

Marnese: How is food sovereignty a good strategy to help achieve aspects of environmental justice?

Tavian: Food sovereignty is a great strategy to help achieve aspects of environmental justice because it is focused on social and political mobilization of underserved communities across our country. In essence, food sovereignty is a social movement in and of itself, because it focuses on bringing a wide array of community members, organizations, and urban farmers together to focus on combating food insecurities. With a small amount of effort and a strong community collaborative, the results are very rewarding and simple to maintain once the framework has been established.

Marnese: Why is it important for youth to learn how to grow their own food and to examine to food production?

Tavian: Now more than ever, it is very important for youth to get involved in learning how to grow their own food and become less dependent on produce from grocery stores. Growing your own food is fun, and you don’t have to worry about dangerous pesticides being sprayed on your plants if you grow organic fruit and vegetables. Foodborne illness outbreaks are very common in mass-produced fruits and vegetables, including salmonella outbreaks and e-coli (the most recent outbreak linked to store-bought romaine lettuce.) Learning to grow your own food is fun, safe, and very rewarding!
New Jersey

In April, Governor Phillip Murphy of New Jersey signed into law Assembly Bill 3723, one of the progressive environmental policies passed at the state level to lower greenhouse gases and increase clean energy. The bill requires that power plants fuel 50% of their electricity from renewable sources by 2030, provides subsidies for nuclear power plants, and implements a community solar program, becoming the 18th state to do so.

California

On May 9th, the California Energy Commission unanimously voted that all new single-family homes and low-rise multi-family residential projects in California must be powered by rooftop solar panels by 2020. California is the first state to mandate such a policy. Severin Borenstein of UC Berkeley’s Energy Institute opposed the announcement, describing that he, “along with the vast majority of energy economists, believe that residential rooftop solar is a much more expensive way to move toward renewable energy than larger solar and wind installations.”

North Carolina

North Carolina: In May, the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality announced the formation of the Environmental Justice and Equity Advisory Board, a coalition of environmental justice and public health advocates from across the state who will advise the DEQ on issues related to environmental injustice. The board mandates that its 16 members meet four times a year, include community voices, and represent a broad range of professions and ethnicities.

Alaska

Alaska: On May 9th, Alaska’s Climate Action Leadership Team, formed by Governor Bill Walker, submitted a draft for the state’s first comprehensive climate legislation. The plan calls for a 30% decrease in greenhouse gas emissions, a 15% increase in energy efficiency, and a switch to 50% renewable electricity sources by 2025. The plan also calls for carbon pricing, which prices carbon emissions to help lower the risks of greenhouse gases. The bill will likely undergo many edits before it makes it to the congress floor.
ECJ Goes to Iceland!

Members of the ECJ Team, along with 5 NAACP ECJ Youth Leaders, traveled to Iceland this May to inspire, uplift, and build the capacity of youth leadership in coastal states to address impacts of sea level rise by:

* Storytelling
* Awareness raising
* Educating decision makers
* Hosting a Twitter Town Hall, radio interview, photo journal, and documentary

Through experiencing Iceland, which, like the coastal United States, shares lush and beautiful landscapes and wildlife, the delegation will witness the sea level rise continuum.

The ECJ Youth Delegation consisted of Tegan Biliot, Kristen D. Brown, Savannah Ancar, Rodney Woods, Jr., and Antonio Green. All of whom have created change in their communities around issues of environmental and climate injustice and who will be taking back lessons learned to create more of an impact. For more about the youth see the link below.

To learn more about the ECJ Iceland Youth Delegation, please visit our webpage:

Linkages Across the Sea Level Rise Continuum

Learn More:

- NAACP ECJ Iceland Youth Delegation Overview
- NAACP ECJ Iceland Youth Delegation Bios
- NAACP ECJ Iceland Youth Delegation Reading/Watch List
ECJ Resource

Youth and College Organizing Toolkit for Environmental and Climate Justice

Newly released!

The NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice (ECJ) Program’s Youth and College Leadership initiative is built to support youth who are working hard in their neighborhoods and colleges to end environmental and climate injustices.

Our newest resource, Youth and College Organizing Toolkit for Environmental and Climate Justice, is full of tips and plans to help your NAACP Youth and College chapter succeed.

Get ideas on how you can:

- Start a community garden
- Host a Twitter Town Hall on ECJ issues
- Build a carpooling initiative
- Host a talk or teach-in on divesting from fossil fuels
- Write newspaper editorials on local environmental issues that impact the Black community
- Make a video on pollution and post to social media
- Register voters in your area and circulate flyers about ECJ-related legislation
- Create an art installation at your school or campus that portrays how ECJ issues impact the Black community
- Organize a spoken word event
- AND THE LIST GOES ON!

Would you like to talk with us about how you can get started?

Email us at any time: ecjp@naacpnet.org

Download today!
Youth and College Organizing Toolkit for Environmental & Climate Justice

Questions?
Contact us any time! ecjp@naacpnet.org
naacp.org/issues/environmental-justice
Twitter: @ECJP_NAACP