

What is Environmental Justice (EJ)?

EJ is both a field of study & a social movement that:

- ♦ **Recognizes** that social justice issues of racism, classism, & sexism are inherently bound to environmental issues
- ♦ **Examines** how environmental privilege is shaped in order to address the unequal distribution of environmental benefits & harms
- ♦ **Asks** whether procedures & impacts of environmental decision-making are fair to the people they affect
- ♦ **Supports** creative resistance of different communities to environmental hazards
- ♦ **Acknowledges** the right of non-human species & natural ecosystems to exist, persist, maintain, & regenerate



Get Involved!




GEs:

We meet every 3 weeks for about 45 minutes. New faces are always welcome!

Non-GEs:

Come on our service trips! We support a variety of food security, tree planting, & other outdoor initiatives. Email us & we'll be sure to keep you in the loop!

All:

If there is an event or organization that we should support, come to a meeting or email us at ejgtff@gmail.com & let us know! 

Open Positions:

Event Coordinator: We seek to increase our visibility in the community by holding more events for the public. Apply if you would like to advance the understanding of EJ in the community & create a space for thoughtful discussion & solidarity.

Director of Recruitment: Graduate school is a busy time, & a strong base of membership ensures that we can keep running smoothly. Apply if you like to network inspire others about issues you care about.

Director of Research: While we do our utmost to stay abreast of local, statewide, & national issues, it helps to have someone dedicated to researching & helping us decide what to prioritize. Apply if you like to surf news sites, check up on local organizations, or read about EJ issues that we could tackle.

**ENVIRONMENTAL
JUSTICE CAUCUS**

**Part of the Graduate
Teaching Fellows Federation
(GTFF) since 2016**

**Co-chairpersons:
Avni Pravin
Nick Theis**



Prominent Issues in Eugene, Oregon

EJ concerns in Eugene are mostly concentrated in the western portion of the city, especially the **97402** zip code area.

In this area, a large percentage of residents are

- ♦ people with a disability
- ♦ people of color
- ♦ young people
- ♦ people who experience economic vulnerability due to food & housing insecurity or poverty

(Census Bureau, 2010)

more
info

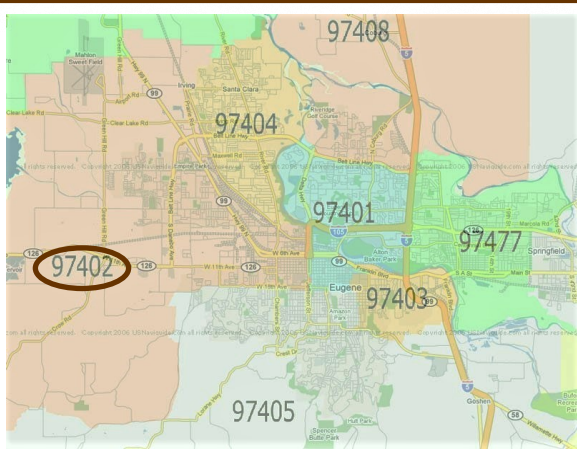


Image credit: PlanetEugene.com

1.) Toxic Emissions:



- ♦ **34 of 35** Eugene industrial facilities are located in the **97402** area
- ♦ **705,168 lbs.** of chemicals were released into the surrounding environment (water, air, & on-site disposal) in 2014
- ♦ **99%** of the city's toxic air emissions originated from these facilities
- ♦ The chemicals released included benzene, formaldehyde, & xylene
- ♦ Schoolchildren in this area have higher than average rates of asthma (Beyond Toxics, 2010):
 - ♦ Bethel students: **14.3%**
 - ♦ 4J students: **8.1%**
 - ♦ Nationwide: **9.5%**

2.) Urban Heat Islands (UHIs):

- ♦ Neighborhoods of economically vulnerable people have fewer trees & green spaces, but more concrete
- ♦ These areas stay hotter than surrounding rural areas
- ♦ The heat & still air of UHIs exacerbates the effect of air pollutants
- ♦ In summer 2017, neighborhoods in & around the **97402** zip code warmed more during the day & remained the hottest in the city (Dr. Vivek Shandas, 2017)



Our Work



We are relatively new, but we are dedicated to making a positive impact in our area. We promote EJ through 3 types of endeavors: **advocacy** efforts, **service** trips, & **conference** participation.

Past Work:

- ♦ **Public Interest Environmental Law Conference (PIELC) of 2017:**
We constructed an informational booth about our organization to spread our mission & meet other environmentally-minded people
- ♦ **Service Trips to Huerto de la Familia (The Family Garden):**
We volunteered with a community garden servicing Eugene's Latino population to clean up after harvest & assist in planting a wildflower patch for native bees
- ♦ **Beyond Toxics' Farm Workers Campaign:** We canvassed on & around campus to collect public comments aimed at extending the buffer zone for pesticide spraying near farm workers' homes

Current Initiatives:

- ♦ Continue to support Beyond Toxics in promoting farm worker rights
- ♦ Continue to support Huerto de la Familia in promoting the economic & social well-being of the Eugene Latino community
- ♦ Return to PIELC in 2018
- ♦ Network with more organizations to spread awareness of EJ issues