



## ORGANIZING FOR AN EJ EO

### 2009–2010

- ▶ ACE convenes the Massachusetts Environmental Justice Alliance, comprised of more than 20 grassroots organizations in the state.
- ▶ Our MA EJ Alliance engages Governor Patrick, urging him to issue an Environmental Justice Executive Order (EJ EO) and fill the vacant state EJ Director position.
- ▶ Our MA EJ Alliance begins drafts of an EJ EO to present to the office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA).

### 2011–2012

- ▶ ACE assists the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in planning five EJ Listening Sessions across the state. The EJ EO is a priority demand at each session.

### 2013

- ▶ ACE submits a revised EJ EO draft to EEA.
- ▶ Our MA EJ Alliance speaks with Governor Patrick, then-EEA Secretary Rick Sullivan and other officials on the need for an EJ EO. The Governor asks his staff to work with our MA EJ Alliance on the EJ EO.
- ▶ MA EJ Alliance discusses the EJ EO with EEA.
- ▶ MA EJ Alliance members begin collecting postcards from residents supporting the EJ EO.

### Winter–Spring 2014

- ▶ MA EJ Alliance meets with EEA to continue EJ EO discussions.
- ▶ EEA and MA EJ Alliance exchange multiple drafts of a framework for the EJ EO.
- ▶ MA EJ Alliance meets with DEP to discuss increasing their attention to EJ populations.

### Summer 2014

- ▶ MA EJ Alliance meets with EEA, MassDOT and Housing and Economic Development (HED) to continue EJ EO discussions.

### Fall 2014

- ▶ MA EJ Alliance exchanges multiple drafts with EEA, HED and MassDOT, and reach agreement on language.

### November 25, 2014

- ▶ Governor Patrick signs the Executive Order on Environmental Justice.

### January 24, 2015

- ▶ EEA releases a state EJ Policy update.
- ▶ The state reviews and updates demographic data used to determine EJ neighborhoods.

### May 24, 2015

- ▶ State agencies implement EJ strategies.

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# Executive Order on Environmental Justice

*Signed by Governor Deval Patrick on November 25, 2014*

**The Executive Order will direct all state agencies** to devote resources to protect the health, safety and environment of the most vulnerable residents of the Commonwealth and encourage public participation in governmental decisions.

**State agencies will craft plans to address environmental justice.** These strategies must protect EJ communities when agencies have authority over development projects, brownfield remediation, industrial operations and commercial facilities, and identify funding programs, environmental benefits and economic development opportunities.

**Agencies will have public participation plans** that use inclusive outreach activities like producing materials in multiple languages and scheduling public meetings at convenient times and places for neighborhood residents.

**Additionally, each agency will have an EJ Coordinator** responsible for carrying out these strategies, and the Commonwealth will also establish an Advisory Council with community stakeholders to oversee implementation of the Executive Order.

### State agencies:

- ▶ Administration and Finance
- ▶ Education
- ▶ Energy and Environmental Affairs
- ▶ Health and Human Services
- ▶ Housing and Economic Development
- ▶ Labor and Workforce Development
- ▶ MassDOT
- ▶ Public Safety and Security

This law ensures that low-income communities, communities of color and communities with limited English-proficiency will have new tools and resources to remedy disproportionate environmental burdens, moving all of us in Massachusetts toward a greener, cleaner, more climate-stable future.

**The Massachusetts EJ Alliance, convened by ACE,** is a network of organizers, health professionals, academic researchers and other residents united in moving an environmental justice policy agenda. We have more than 20 grassroots member groups from across the state. We recognize the contributions by many researchers and environmental organizations who join us in the Alliance.

- ▶ Alliance to Develop Power
- ▶ Alternatives for Community & Environment (ACE)
- ▶ ARISE for Social Justice
- ▶ Cape Cod Environmental Justice Network
- ▶ Chelsea Creek Action Group
- ▶ Chelsea Green Space
- ▶ Chinese Progressive Association
- ▶ Citizens Leading Environmental Action Network
- ▶ Clean Water Action
- ▶ Concerned Citizens of Freetown
- ▶ ECHO for Sustainable Development
- ▶ Greater Four Corners Action Coalition
- ▶ Groundwork Lawrence
- ▶ Groundwork Somerville
- ▶ Hands Across the River Coalition
- ▶ Neighbor to Neighbor
- ▶ Nuestras Raíces
- ▶ Old Bedford Village
- ▶ Regional Environmental Council
- ▶ Salem Alliance for the Environment
- ▶ Westfield Concerned Citizens
- ▶ Worcester Roots Project/Toxic Soil Busters

**5 YEARS**  
of campaigning by the MA EJ Alliance to pass an Executive Order on Environmental Justice

**18 MONTHS**  
of language negotiations with the governor's administration, led by ACE



“ For 20 years we've been working in Chelsea on *some of the most egregious environmental justice issues in the state.* We are thrilled that Governor Patrick is signing an Executive Order on Environmental Justice. The EO recognizes that communities like Chelsea, East Boston and Roxbury bear the brunt of impacts for regional benefits, and the order will require far more comprehensive planning and community involvement in affected communities. ”  
—Roseann Bongiovanni, Chelsea Greenspace

“ The Executive Order provides us with the opportunity to *inform, educate and empower* residents who otherwise feel powerless against the actions of our local officials. ”  
—Mary Ann Babinski, Westfield Concerned Citizens



Communities of color are nearly **4x** more likely to house dirty power plants than white communities in MA

People of color in MA are exposed to **5.7x** the amount of nitrogen dioxide air pollution than whites— Boston has the fourth worst disparity rate in the US

“ This is a **time of excitement** to fairly address those who are unjustly burdened by environmental hazards. **This will give people voices and opportunities.** ”  
—Reverend Curtis Dias, Concerned Citizens of Freetown

“ This will support the work of CLEAN and Hands Across the River Coalition **in moving the EJ agenda forward in New Bedford.** ”  
—Eddie Johnson, Citizens Leading Environmental Action Network



“ The Executive Order will give us a fighting chance to stop things from coming into our community that will hurt us—*and even help us develop projects that will be good for the community.* ”  
—Michaelann Bewsee, Arise for Social Justice, Springfield

Suffolk County has **309x** the risk deemed acceptable by the EPA for average lifetime cancer risk from diesel soot—the highest in the state