

COVID-19 Environmental Justice Roundtable Series

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS



National Wildlife Federation Staff

Team Leads



**DR. MUSTAFA
SANTIAGO ALI**

Vice President of
Environmental Justice,
Climate, and Community
Revitalization



CHANTÉ COLEMAN

Vice President of
Equity and Justice



SIMONE LIGHTFOOT

National Director of
Urban Initiatives and
Environmental Justice



CAMILLA SIMON

Executive Director of
Hispanics Enjoying
Camping, Hunting,
and the Outdoors



**GARRIT
VOGGESSER**

National Director for
Tribal Partnerships

Staff Support



JULIAN BULLOCK

Web Content and
SEO Strategist



ZACH EVANS

Senior Coordinator,
Digital Campaigns



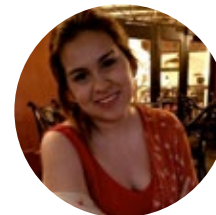
KELLEH JIAN

Operations
Manager



SAMANTHA LOCKHART

Eastern Regional
Field Director



**JESSICA
ORDÓÑEZ-LANCET**

Communications
Coordinator



MIKE SACCONI

Associate Vice
President,
Communications



MARISA SANDOVAL

National Campaigns
Coordinator



REBECA VILLEGAS

Environmental Justice
Program Manager



KEITH WARD

Director of Technology
Solutions, Information
Technology



AILEO WEINMANN

Director of
Communications

The State of the Environment in Black and Brown America

The State of the Environment in Black and Brown America lifts a mirror up to our nation in this time of crisis and takes a hard look at the systemic racism, trauma, unjust policies, and actions that impact our most vulnerable communities across our country.

The coronavirus and the unjust killings of Black men and women have put a spotlight on the disparities that over 40 million African Americans and 60 million Latinxs deal with on a daily basis. From viruses to pollution to the loss of frontline jobs we are often hit first and worst.

We are reminded of the words of the late Robert F. Kennedy when he shared, “It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man or woman stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.”

This compilation is focused on breaking down those walls of oppression by utilizing some of America’s top thought leaders from the grassroots, academia, government, youth-led organizations and others. Each brings a unique perspective, rooted in real world experience on how to create positive systemic change.

This document builds upon the work of our local and national partners who are leaders in environmental justice, climate, public health, child advocacy, voting, and jobs. These are the voices, ideas and solutions of those who have often been unheard and unseen. Together with over 120 participants we highlight a set of recommendations that can be utilized by policy makers to help us navigate this COVID-19 moment and enhance power and positive change in our most vulnerable communities.



-Dr. Mustafa Santiago Ali,

Vice President of Environmental Justice, Climate, and Community Revitalization

THERE IS NO ONE UNIVERSAL DEFINITION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, BUT IT IS ROOTED IN 17 FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES. AS WE MOVE FORWARD AND TACKLE INTERSECTIONAL ISSUES, WE MUST CREATE A 21ST CENTURY DEFINITION THAT ENCOMPASSES THE FULL BREADTH AND UNDERSTANDING OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE.



Our Partners

National Partners

These roundtables would not have come to fruition without the leadership of our national partners and their commitment to advancing environmental justice.



WWW.NAACP.ORG

NAACP



Roundtable Participants & Local Partners

On the following pages are our participants, their organizations, and locations.

Overall, we heard from 124 leaders from 21 states and were joined by 10 members of congress.

"The current pandemic casts a sharp light on the inequities already present in our communities in public health, education, economic opportunity, and access to environmental resources. We ought to do all we can to make America's greatness both accessible and affordable for all Americans."

– U.S. Representative James Clyburn, Representing South Carolina's 6th Congressional District

Participants

Great Lakes Region

ILLINOIS, INDIANA, OHIO, MICHIGAN, MINNESOTA, WISCONSIN



HONORABLE LT.
GOVERNOR MANDELA
BARNES (WI)



HONORABLE
ATTORNEY GENERAL
KEITH ELLISON (MN)



HONORABLE
CONGRESSWOMAN
BRENDA LAWRENCE (MI)



RHONDA ANDERSON



COMMISSIONER
ALISHA BELL



BRENDA COLEY



ERNEST COVERSON



TAMMI DAVIS



MONICA
LEWIS-PATRICK



JUDGE DWANE
MALLORY



JOE MALLORY



SUPERVISOR
SUPREME MOORE
OMOKUNDE



JUSTIN ONWENU



MAYOR JEROME
PRINCE



HONORABLE DR.
PAMELA PUGH



ALDERMAN KHALIF
RAINEY



TAMEKA RAMSEY



DR. TONY REAMES



COUNCILWOMAN
MARY SHEFFIELD



PASTOR JEFFERY L.
SMITH



REGINA STRONG



DR. KAREN WEAVER



ASST. SECRETARY
OF STATE HEASTER
WHEELER



DONELE WILKINS

Great Lakes Region

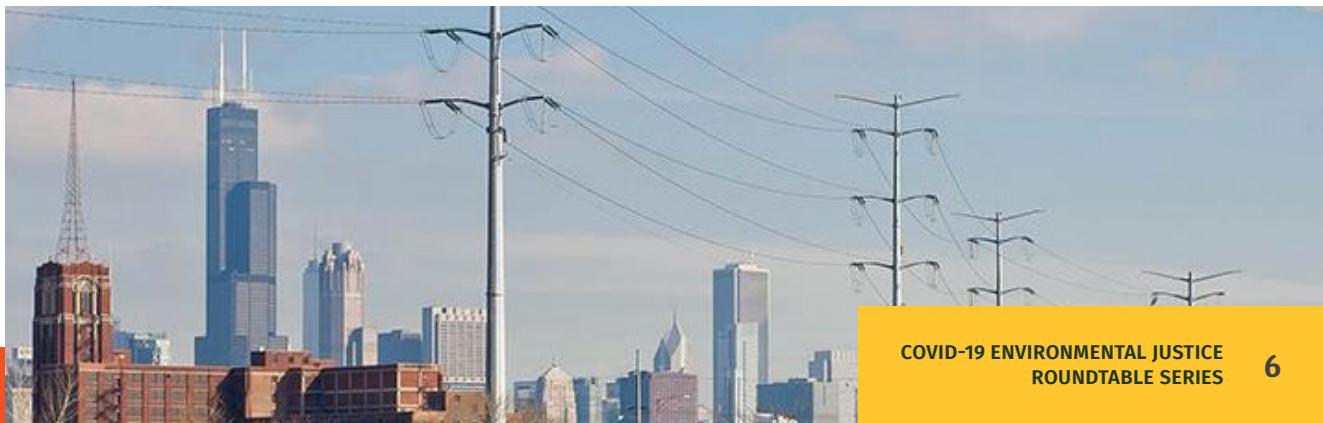
Honorable Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes (WI)

Honorable Attorney General Keith Ellison (MN)

Honorable Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence (MI)

FULL DETAILS

Rhonda Anderson	Sierra Club Detroit	Detroit, MI
Hon. Alisha Bell	Chair, Wayne County Commission	Detroit, MI
Brenda Coley	Milwaukee Water Commons	Milwaukee, WI
Ernest Coverson	Amnesty International	Chicago, IL
Tammi Davis	Gary Sanitary District	Gary, IN
Monica Lewis-Patrick	We The People of Detroit	Detroit, MI
Judge Dwane Mallory	Hamilton County Municipal Court	Cincinnati, OH
Joe Mallory	Cincinnati National Association for the Advancement of Colored People	Cincinnati, OH
Supreme Moore Omokunde	Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors	Milwaukee, WI
Justin Onwenu	Sierra Club Detroit	Detroit, MI
Mayor Jerome Prince	City of Gary	Gary, IN
Hon. Dr. Pamela Pugh	Michigan State Board of Education, Michigan National Association for the Advancement of Colored People	Flint, MI
Alderman Khalif Rainey	Milwaukee Common Council	Milwaukee, MI
Tameka Ramsey	Black Women's Roundtable	Eastern MI
Dr. Tony Reames	University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability	Ann Arbor, MI
Hon. Mary Sheffield	Detroit City Council	Detroit, MI
Pastor Jeffery L. Smith	Bethlehem Temple Missionary Baptist Church	Harvey, IL
Regina Strong	Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy	Lansing, MI
Dr. Karen Weaver	Clinical Psychologist & Former Flint Mayor	Flint, MI
Heaster Wheeler	Michigan Secretary of State	Lansing, MI
Donele Wilkins	Green Door Initiative	Detroit, MI



Southeastern Region

GEORGIA, NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTH CAROLINA



HONORABLE
CONGRESSMAN JAMES
CLYBURN (SC)



HONORABLE
CONGRESSMAN HANK
JOHNSON OFFICE (GA)



HONORABLE
SECRETARY MICHAEL
S. REGAN (NC)



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
GILDA COBB HUNTER
(SC)



DR. LATECIA
ABRAHAM-HILLAIRE



VERONICA BITTING



BARRETT BROWN



CRYSTAL A.
CAVALIER-KECK



ERNEST COVERSON



FELICIA DAVIS



KERRI L.
FORREST



DR. BAMBI W.
GADDIST



AL GEORGE



NAKISA GLOVER



BRANDON HUNTER



DR. NA'TAKI
OSBOURNE JELKS



CRYSTAL
JENNINGS



DR. KEITH JENNINGS



DR. VALERIE A.
JOHNSON



ANDREA MANNING



HAROLD
MITCHELL



STATE REP. JA MOORE



NAEEMA
MUHAMMAD



MAKEDA M. OKOLO



REVEREND NELSON
B. RIVERS III



CAMIL WILLIAMS



OMEGA & BRENDA
WILSON



REVEREND LEO
WOODBERRY

Southeastern Region

Honorable Congressman James Clyburn (SC)

Honorable Congressman Hank Johnson (GA)

Honorable Secretary Michael S. Regan (NC)

State Representative Gilda Cobb Hunter (SC) -President, National Caucus of State Legislators

FULL DETAILS

Dr. Latecia Abraham-Hillaire	Medical University of South Carolina	Charleston, SC
Veronica Bitting	Neighbors For Better Neighborhoods	Salem, NC
Barrett Brown	Alamance County National Association for the Advancement of Colored People	Burlington, NC
Crystal A. Cavalier-Keck	Eastern Woodland Association Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation	Alamance County, NC
Ernest Coverson	Amnesty International	Chicago, IL
Felicia Davis	National Coalition on Black Civic Participation	Atlanta, GA
Kerri L. Forrest	Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley Foundation	Charleston, SC
Dr. Bambi W. Gaddist	Wright Wellness Center	Columbia, SC
Al George	South Carolina Aquarium	Charleston, SC
Nakisa Glover	Sol Nation	Charlotte, NC
Brandon Hunter	Duke University	Durham, NC
Dr. Na'Taki Osbourne Jelks	West Atlanta Watershed Alliance, Spelman College	Atlanta, GA
Crystal Jennings	National Wildlife Federation	Atlanta, GA
Dr. Keith Jennings	Clark-Atlanta University, African American Human Rights Institute	Atlanta, GA
Dr. Valerie A. Johnson	Shaw University School of Arts, Sciences & Humanities	Raleigh, NC
Andrea Manning	Zero Hour, National Children's Campaign	Atlanta, GA
Harold Mitchell	ReGenesis Environmental Justice Partnership	Columbia, SC
State Rep. JA Moore	South Carolina House of Representatives	Charleston, SC
Naeema Muhammad	North Carolina Environmental Justice Network	Rocky Mount, NC
Makeda M. Okolo	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office for Coastal Management	Charleston, SC
Reverend Nelson B. Rivers III	Charity Missionary Baptist Church National Action Network	North Charleston, NC
Camil Williams	Acclaimed Artist & Barber	Atlanta, GA
Omega & Brenda Wilson	West End Revitalization Association	Mebane, NC
Reverend Leo Woodberry	New Alpha Community Development Center	Florence, SC

LOCAL PARTNERS

» New Alpha Development
» ReGenesis Inc.
» Sol Nation

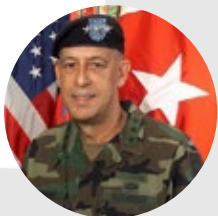
» West Atlanta Watershed Association
» West End Revitalization Association

Southcentral Region

LOUISIANA, TEXAS



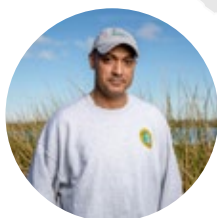
HONORABLE
CONGRESSWOMAN
SHEILA JACKSON LEE
(TX)



LT. GENERAL RUSSEL L.
HONORE' (LA)



DR. BEVERLY L.
WRIGHT (LA)



CHARLES ALLEN



MAYOR SHARON
WESTON BROOME



ERNEST COVERSON



DR. WANEENE
DORSEY



TAMARA FOSTER-
MONTGOMERY



LA REP. EDWARD
"TED" JAMES, II



ARTHUR JOHNSON



JANIE JONES



HILTON KELLEY



ATTORNEY
FAYE MATTHEWS



YOLIAN OGBU



JUAN PARRAS



ISIDRO QUIROZ

Southcentral Region

Honorable Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (TX)

Lt. General Russel L. Honore' (LA)– US Army (Ret.) & Commander of Joint Task Force Katrina

Dr. Beverly L. Wright (LA)– Deep South Center for Environmental Justice

FULL DETAILS

Charles Allen	National Audubon Society	New Orleans, LA
Mayor Sharon Weston Broome	City of Baton Rouge	Baton Rouge, LA
Ernest Coverson	Amnesty International	Chicago, IL
Dr. Waneene Dorsey	Grambling State University	Grambling, LA
Tamara Foster-Montgomery	Southern University and A&M College	Baton Rouge, LA
State Rep. Edward “Ted” James II	Louisiana House of Representatives	Baton Rouge, LA
Arthur Johnson	Lower 9th Ward, Center for Sustainable Engagement	New Orleans, LA
Janie Jones	Rural Water Advocate	Water Proof, LA
Hilton Kelley	Community In-Power and Development Association	Port Arthur, TX
Attorney Faye Matthews	National Wildlife Federation Mississippi River Delta Restoration Program	New Orleans, LA
Yolian Ogbu	National Children’s Campaign	Denton, TX
Juan Parras	Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services	Houston, TX
Isidro Quiroz	Migrant Farm Worker	Elsa, TX

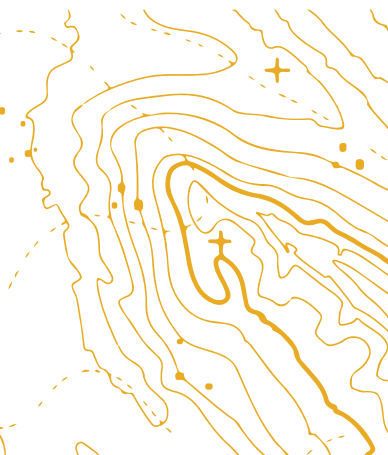
LOCAL PARTNERS

» Center for Sustainable Engagement & Development

» Community In-Power and Development Association Inc.

» Deep South Center for Environmental Justice

» Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services



Gulf Coast Region

ALABAMA, FLORIDA, MISSISSIPPI



HONORABLE U.S. SENATOR
DOUG JONES OFFICE (AL)



DERRICK
JOHNSON



SALANDRA BENTON



ERNEST
COVERSON



HON. WILL CULVER



DIANA FERNANDEZ



DR. RICHARD GRAGG



HON. JOHN
HILLIARD



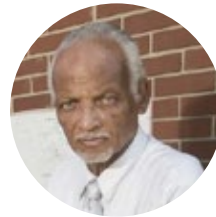
LETETIA DANIELS
JACKSON



DR. CHARLOTTE
KEYS



CAROLINE LEWIS



TONY MCCRAY



PROF. JACQUELINE
GRAY MILLER



ALICE SAMS



LAFANETTE
SOLES-WOOD



HON. DE'KEITHER
STAMPS



REV. LEOTIS STRONG



HON. SHEILA
TYSON



CASSANDRA OVERTON
WELCHLIN



DR. SACOBY
WILSON



JOE WOMACK



WYNETTA WRIGHT

Gulf Coast Region

Honorable U.S. Senator Doug Jones Office (AL)

Derrick Johnson, President, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

FULL DETAILS

Salandra Benton	Florida Black Women's Roundtable	Titusville, FL
Ernest Coverson	Amnesty International	Chicago, IL
Hon. Will Culver	Huntsville City Council	Huntsville, AL
Diana Fernandez	National Children's Campaign	Miami, FL
Dr. Richard Gragg	Florida A&M University	Tallahassee, FL
Hon. John Hilliard	Birmingham City Council	Birmingham, AL
Letetia Daniels Jackson	Black Women's Roundtable	Dothan, AL
Dr. Charlotte Keys	Jesus People Against Pollution	Columbia, MS
Caroline Lewis	The Climate Leadership Engagement Opportunities Institute	Miami, FL
Tony McCray	Ibis Community Development Corporation	Pensacola, FL
Prof. Jacqueline Gray Miller	Miles College	Birmingham, AL
Alice Sams	Project Focus	Huntsville, AL
LaFayette Soles-Wood	Wedgewood Community	Pensacola, FL
Hon. De'Keither Stamps	Jackson City Council	Jackson, MS
Rev. Leotis Strong	Brown Chapel A.M.E.	Selma, AL
Hon. Sheila Tyson	Jefferson County Commission	Birmingham, AL
Cassandra Overton Welchlin	Mississippi Black Women's Roundtable	Jackson, MS
Dr. Sacoby Wilson	University of Maryland – College Park	College Park, MD
Joe Womack	Bridge The Gulf	Africatown, AL
Wynetta Wright	Eastside Environmental Council	Jacksonville, FL

LOCAL PARTNERS

» Clean, Healthy, Educated,
Safe & Sustainable Communities

» Wedgewood Community

Southwest Region

ARIZONA, COLORADO, NEVADA, NEW MEXICO, UTAH

LED BY HISPANICS ENJOYING CAMPING, HUNTING, AND THE OUTDOORS (HECHO)
AND NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL CENTER



HONORABLE
CONGRESSWOMAN
DEB HAALAND (NM)



HONORABLE
CONGRESSMAN
RUBEN GALLEGO (AZ)



HONORABLE
CONGRESSMAN
RAÚL MANUEL GRIJALVA
OFFICE (AZ)



HONORABLE
STEPHANIE GARCIA
RICHARD (NM)



TAISHYA ADAMS



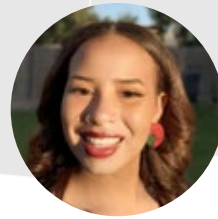
TARA BENALLY



PARKER MCMULLEN
BUSHMAN



OLIVIA DIAZ



NIZHOONI HURD



CHRIS MADRID



JOSHUA MAHAN



DR. DANIEL
MENDOZA



COLLINUS NEWSOME



HENRY ROYBAL



ARTURO SANDOVAL



SELENA TORRES



MAX TRUJILLO



STATE REP.
MARK WHEATLEY



PRES. DUANE
"CHILI" YAZZIE

Southwest Region

Honorable Congresswoman Deb Haaland (NM)

Honorable Congressman Ruben Gallego (AZ)

Honorable Congressman Raúl Manuel Grijalva Office (AZ)

Honorable Stephanie Garcia Richard – Commissioner of Public Lands (NM)

FULL DETAILS

Taishya Adams	Colorado Parks and Wildlife	Denver, CO
Tara Benally	Rural Utah Project	Navajo Nation
Parker McMullen Bushman	Colorado State University, Ecoinclusive	Denver, CO
Olivia Diaz	Las Vegas City Council	Las Vegas, NV
Nizhooni Hurd	Environmental Learning for Kids	Aurora, CO
Chris Madrid	Rio Arriba County Economic Development	Santa Fe, NM
Joshua Mahan	U.S. Committee on Indian Affairs	Washington, DC
Dr. Daniel Mendoza	University of Utah	Salt Lake City, UT
Collinus Newsome	The Colorado Health Foundation	Denver, CO
Henry Roybal	Santa Fe County Commissioner	Santa Fe, NM
Arturo Sandoval	Center for Southwest Culture, Inc.	Santa Fe, NM
Selena Torres	Nevada State Assembly	Las Vegas, NV
Max Trujillo	San Miguel County Commissioner	Santa Fe, NM
State Rep. Mark Wheatley	Utah House of Representatives	Salt Lake City, UT
Pres. Duane “Chili” Yazzie	Shiprock Chapter of Navajo Nation	Navajo Nation

LOCAL PARTNERS

» Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting, and the Outdoors



National Youth

LED BY NATIONAL CHILDREN'S CAMPAIGN



DR. BEVERLY
L. WRIGHT (LA)



KHAMARI
ANDERSON



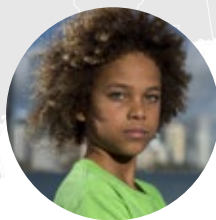
NATAKI CLOSE



KIKI D



YASSY DENPRAPA



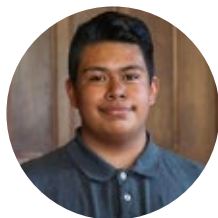
LEVI DRAHEIM



DIANA FERNANDEZ



WANJIKU GATHERU



GIOVANNI
HERNANDEZ



JAKAYLA LIPSEY



ELSA MENGISTU



VICTORY NWABUFO



YOLIAN OGBU



KEVIN J. PATEL



KAYLA SHANNON



AYISHA SIDDIQA

National Youth

Dr. Beverly L. Wright – Deep South Center for Environmental Justice (LA)

FULL DETAILS

Khamari Anderson	Encourage Me I'm Young!, Inc.	Detroit, MI
Nataki Close	Take A Stand Tally	Tallahassee, FL
Kiki D	Artist and Activist	Boston, MA
Yassy Denprapa	National Wildlife Federation Resilient Schools Consortium Program	New York City, NY
Levi Draheim	Our Children's Trust	Satellite Beach, FL
Diana Fernandez	National Children's Campaign	Miami, FL
Wanjiku Gatheru	Black Girl Environmentalist, Generation Green	Hartford, CT
Giovanni Hernandez	National Children's Campaign	Oakland, CA
Jakayla Lipsey	Black Youth Vote!, National Coalition on Black Civic Participation	Kalamazoo, MI
Elsa Mengistu	Zero Hour	High Point, NC
Victory Nwabuo	National Children's Campaign	Denton, TX
Yolian Ogbu	National Children's Campaign, Your Workers My Family	Denton, TX
Kevin J. Patel	One Up Action	Los Angeles, CA
Kayla Shannon	Flint Community Water Lab	Flint, MI
Ayisha Siddiq	Polluters Out	New York City, NY

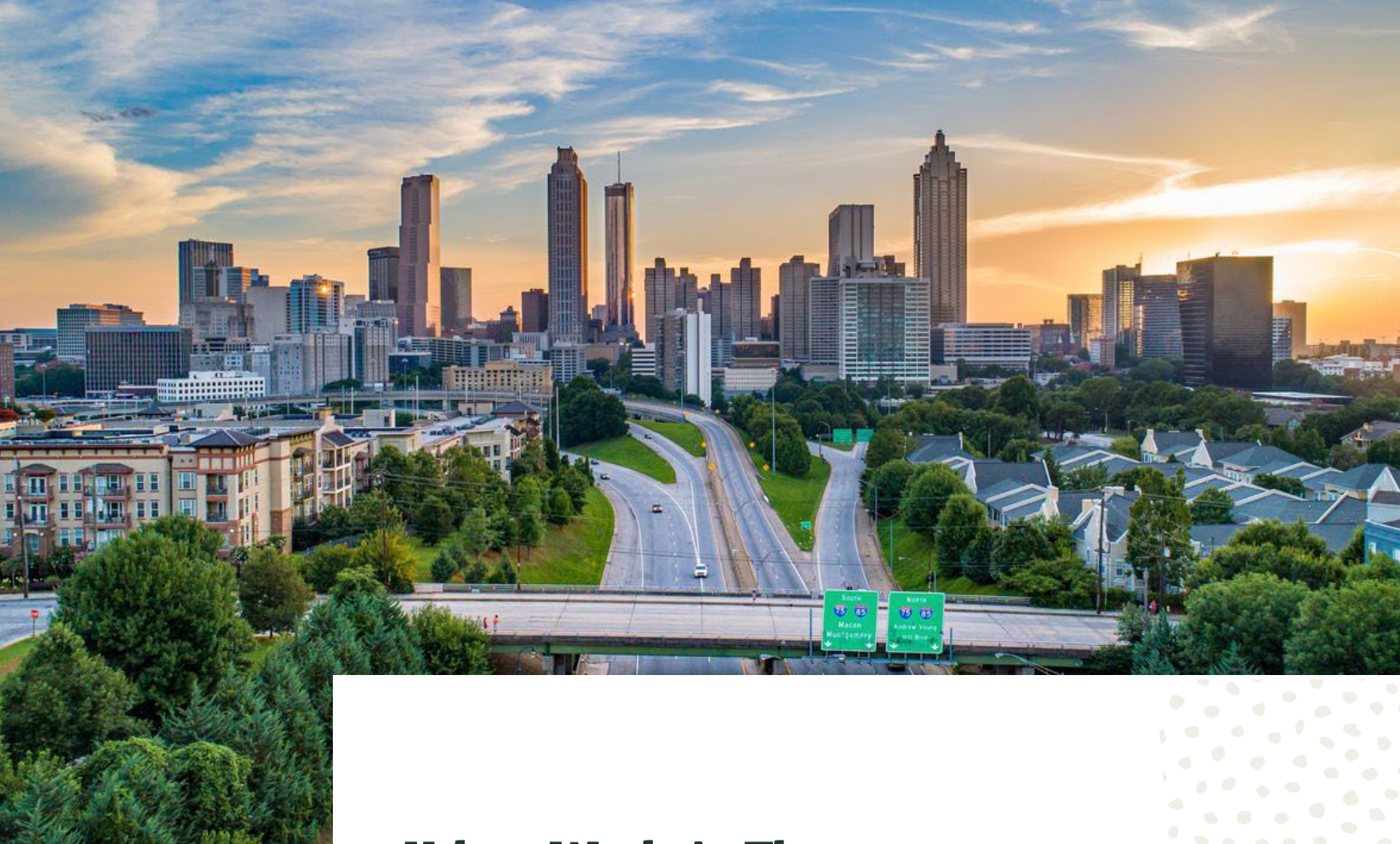
LOCAL PARTNERS

- » Encourage Me I'm Young!, Inc.
- » Flint Community Water Lab
- » Take A Stand Tally



In this era of combating systemic racism, we must not ignore environmental racism that is choking Black children and adults who die disproportionately from respiratory diseases linked to toxic air pollution. We need philanthropic allies who understand that Black lives matter.

— Dr. Beverly L. Wright, Deep South Center for Environmental Justice



Urban Work At The National Wildlife Federation

Our work touches from Los Angeles, Denver, Detroit, Des Moines to Milwaukee, Flint, Michigan and Jackson, Mississippi. From Tunica, Mississippi, Toledo, Ohio, New York and New Orleans to Newark, New Jersey, Boston, Massachusetts, Birmingham, Alabama and Baton Rouge. From Memphis, Tennessee, Houston, Texas, Huntsville, Alabama and Cleveland to Canada, California, Chicago, Charlotte, North Carolina and beyond.

Welcome and thank you for taking the time to review this summary of our important findings compiled by our team at the National Wildlife Federation.

Since 2009, it has been my pleasure to design and lead the urban initiatives and environmental justice work of the nation's largest and most trusted conservation organization. It has meant building a new body of work in new places, spaces, and communities while ushering in an expanded base of outreach, engagement and influence, among diverse experts, allies, institutions, and partners. Rooted in race and social justice by design, our conservation approach to urban and environmental justice work is steeped in a philosophy of listening before talking, giving before asking, making friends before we need them, sharing resources, and community capacity building.

Our urban and environmental justice work intentionally prioritizes, amplifies, and includes the policy solutions, views, and voices of Black people, communities of color, low-income, Indigenous, and tribal community members in a way that highlights the important, environmental justice voices that they are.

From the streets to the suites, we invest the time, cultural respect, and the regard required to build authentic relationships and connect our policy and advocacy efforts to those communities challenged by climate change, cumulative impacts, damaging projects, and inequitable distribution of burdens and amenities.

Our urban and environmental justice program is a model that provides for both advanced planning and rapid responsiveness to the conservation urgencies associated with water, land, air, health, and habitats in urban centers. In fact, much of our work comes from the intersection of opportunity and crisis.

From pipelines, PFAS, and public health to Heirs property, wetlands, and water (affordability, shutoffs, access, protection, contamination), our environmental justice efforts connect with issues like climate induced flooding, infrastructure, poverty, weatherization, food insecurity, fuel emission standards, fishing, broadband, land use, hurricanes, coastal and shoreline impacts, and building a new green economy.

We effectively bridge distinctions and long-standing assumptions, that often pose barriers to connecting ecological restoration, wildlife, and habitat protection to where people live, learn, work, worship, and play.

Our environmental justice work connects local conservation concerns and stakeholders with the Congressional Black Caucus, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, National Urban League, African American Mayors Association, National Association of Black County Officials, American Association for Blacks in Energy, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, National Council of Negro Women, Historically Black Colleges & Universities, National Action Network, the Black press, Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting, and the Outdoors, and many others.

Although we focus on wildlife conservation at National Wildlife Federation, with COVID-19, we are first and foremost, facing a human tragedy. One that has disrupted lives and killed far too many people. In this moment, we have a rich opportunity to make sure that our nation responds to these realities in ways that create a smarter, more resilient, and more nature-based future through equitable and just recovery policies, programs, and relief packages. This roundtable series shapes and informs that work.



Simone Lightfoot

National Director of Urban Initiatives and Environmental Justice

lightfoots@nwf.org





Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting, And The Outdoors

From advocacy including protecting the Grand Canyon from uranium mining, pushing for comprehensive legislation like the Great American Outdoors Act, and supporting wildlife habitat connectivity corridors, Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting, and the Outdoors (HECHO) connects a love for the land to opportunities to advocate for all the things the land gives us – clean water, clean air, wildlife, and landscapes to enjoy.

Nature based practices run deep in our cultural history, from collecting pinyon nuts, wood gathering, fishing, hunting, or camping – when we have the opportunity to connect to the outdoors, we practice traditions that have been passed down from generation to generation.

Our connection to the outdoors informs our advocacy for public lands, and using our platform to ensure Hispanic voices are heard so that we have a seat at the table is more critical than ever.

According to [a recent report](#) released by the Hispanic Access Foundation and Center for American Progress, nature destruction has had the largest impact on low-income communities of color, reporting that communities of color are three times more likely to live in nature deprivation zones. During a time where racist legacies are being challenged, we must confront the environmental racism our communities experience, by centering justice and equity work.

Historically, Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) have been excluded from participating in the U.S. conservation movement.

Poll after poll tells us that Latinx and Hispanic communities are concerned about environmental issues and support policies that protect the environment. Yet, we are not well represented in the public debate about environmental and conservation concerns. HECHO's work in bridging the gap between the concern and awareness our community has about conservation issues, and the gap in participation and leadership in the conservation movement, makes us unique.

As we continue to celebrate, learn, engage, and make space for ourselves in this work, we want to ensure that decision makers know that conservation is central to our values, grounded in our traditions, and a priority for the benefit of future generations.



Camilla Simon, Executive Director of HECHO

Passionate about elevating Latino voices in local, state and national conservation efforts, especially when it comes to accessing public lands, Camilla joined HECHO in November 2014. She has worked to broaden the definition of a conservationist, and elevate the importance of Hispanic/Latino generational ties to the land and what that knowledge can add to public policy debates around access to the outdoors. To support this, she has led many advocacy efforts that brought Hispanic/Latino perspectives to the forefront of national conservation campaigns.

Our conservation areas of focus have included:

- Addressing the dangerous impacts of uranium mining in the Grand Canyon
- The Great American Outdoors Act, and permanent, full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Habitat Connectivity Corridors

To participate with HECHO, join our [Digital Advocacy Network](#), follow our social media channels, and subscribe to our [newsletter](#).

About These Roundtables

CONVERSATIONS AMIDST CRISIS.

Over the spring and summer of 2020, the National Wildlife Federation worked in collaboration with our national and local partners to hold a series of six private roundtable conversations.

These roundtables gathered over 124 frontline community leaders, elected officials, and other key experts and environmental justice stakeholders to discuss the impacts of the coronavirus on communities. In addition to gaining valuable insights to help guide National Wildlife Federation involvement and policy advocacy, the roundtables served as a key platform for participants to build relationships and share resources.

Through these roundtables, we were able to gain a better understanding of the underlying issues that low-income communities and communities of color face and how the pandemic has made issues much more severe. Several intersectional themes arose through conversations, including recommendations on how to tackle issues, and policies to further consider. We attempted to highlight and summarize themes, which in no way encompasses the full breadth of issues raised and ideas.

National Wildlife Federation is committed to building upon this summary of learnings to work innovatively with partners to address and advocate for several of the issues raised. In the coming months, our organization and national partners will be authoring a comprehensive report to dive deeper on the issues raised and to outline a plan of action for policy advocacy and programming to address the needs of frontline communities.

*The National Wildlife Federation
IS COMMITTED
to building upon this
summary of learnings
to work innovatively
with partners to
address and advocate
for several of the issues
raised.*



Climate Change & Air Pollution

Climate change and COVID-19 are twin pandemics operating simultaneously and impacting Black and Brown communities at a disproportionate rate. While climate change is causing climate refugees, COVID-19 is leaving folks with nowhere to safely shelter. While COVID-19 is contributing to food insecurity or a damaged economy, climate change will conspire to make these problems even worse. According to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, communities of color breathe in 40% more polluted air than White communities across the United States and this has been linked to significantly higher asthma rates in Black and Brown communities. The result is a huge disparity in COVID-19 infections and death resulting from communities left vulnerable by decades of air pollution. Similarly, the impacts of heat waves, flooding, and hurricanes are disproportionately falling on communities of color here in the United States and across the globe.



When you're breathing polluted air, it would make sense that when a respiratory illness comes your way that you would be more susceptible to it...There is no greater challenge facing our country and our world than climate change, we all know that.

— U.S. Representative Deb Haaland, Representing New Mexico's 1st Congressional District

According to our roundtable participants

- Black and Brown communities are disproportionately impacted by climate change impacts, including heat waves and hurricanes.
- After Hurricane Katrina, largely non-White climate refugees were forced from their homes and businesses – many of these communities have still not recovered.
- Hurricane season was supposed to start in June, but it began in May, further showcasing climate change effects.
- Cumulative impacts from air pollution from industry, emissions from highways, and a lack of regulatory oversight further hinder frontline communities.

Participants recommended

- If during a global pandemic, people are forced to leave their homes due to extreme weather events, there need to be community-driven strategies for safe, socially distant places for families to shelter.
- Mapping tools to locate hazards and inform policy, permitting decisions, and enforcement.
- Putting an end to toxic air pollution that plagues frontline communities, which will also reduce the greenhouse gas pollution that is causing climate change.
- Provide tools and training for the Office for Coastal Management to build better resilience plans and to incorporate equity and justice into the resources they offer.
- Engaging more artists and community leaders to act as translators, explaining climate crisis and building power at the local level to help shift policies.
- Preserving land from development can be a climate solution.



Water Security

According to the Thurgood Marshall Institute at the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Legal Defense and Education Fund, because we have taken water for granted, it has informed how water law and policy developed in our courts. Because water resources have historically been plentiful in this country (particularly on the East Coast), access to water has not traditionally been considered a fundamental right in the United States and has even been called a “deeply foreign” concept in American jurisprudence. As the price of water has greatly increased in recent decades, scores of communities across the nation cannot afford to pay drastically higher rates. Residents of these communities have been plagued by service shutoffs and lien sales, leading to home foreclosures and evictions, which have exacerbated due to the global pandemic. These practices have been shown to disproportionately impact people of color and this form of discrimination is rooted in our nation’s history. For as long as our cities have been rigidly segregated by race, local officials have found ways to deprive communities of color from access to essential water services. Municipal discrimination in the provision of water services runs deep.



15 million Americans are struggling to have access to clean, safe, and affordable water...Water rates have tripled in Chicago, doubled in Toledo, doubled in Flint... For Black and Brown folks this is a major shift in ability to keep our homes because water debt will be weaponized and used in ways to place liens on our property. “

– Monica Lewis-Patrick, We the People of Detroit

According to our roundtable participants

- Water rates continue to increase and pose further strain on frontline communities already paying high rates due to distance from facilities, privatization, and disinvestment.
- Those unable to pay high rates are faced with water shut offs and evictions.
- The continuously increasing cost of water rates is already driving people out of their homes.
- Insufficient water and sanitation services are most prevalent among the same populations with the highest infection and fatality rates from the virus.
- There is a significant lack of water infrastructure and sanitation in Native communities, with more than 40% of Navajo nation homes lacking proper water access, contributing to high rates of infection.
- Aging water infrastructure across the country is failing and not up to current regulatory standards, which increases the risk for COVID-19 exposure through wastewater.

Participants recommended

- Declare water shutoffs a public health crisis.
- Highlighting the need for water affordability policies that link the creation of local jobs, contracts, and training to water infrastructure investment outcomes.
- Supporting an income-based rate structure capped at 3.5-4% of income.
- Investing in water infrastructure that addresses wastewater systems, stormwater management, lead service line replacements, and more to ensure people have access to clean and safe water.
- Dedicating annual support to fund the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, including funding for public schools to test and replace water infrastructure.
- Expand the United States Department of Agriculture wastewater grants and create new grants to help rural residents connect to existing systems and to provide funding for rural municipalities to upgrade their wastewater treatment facilities.



Land Use And Natural Spaces

Public health officials have recommended that individuals embrace nature and take walks for mental and physical health purposes amid COVID-19, but frontline communities and Black, Indigenous, people of color face unique safety and health challenges as it pertains to public spaces. In addition to communities of color having a higher risk of experiencing discrimination, harassment, and in many cases, acts of violence, parks and open spaces in frontline communities may not be best suited for recreation due to surrounding toxic industries. According to the Center for American Progress, American society distributes nature's benefits—and the effects of its destruction and decline—unequally by race, income, and age. Black, Indigenous, people of color and low-income communities are more than twice as likely to be deprived access to natural spaces.



Having gone through the schooling process and having been in the conservation science and conservation biology realm...[I've felt] extremely unsafe doing field work, having to go into rural Connecticut and collect specimens in nature and having to also be worried about if someone is going to be driving by and wondering why this Black girl is in this White neighborhood.

– Wanjiku Gatheru, Black Girl Environmentalist

According to our roundtable participants

- Black, Indigenous, people of color don't experience the same freedom and liberty of being in nature as their White counterparts (i.e., safety, welcoming).
- Waste and landfill issues have been exacerbated by COVID-19-related hazardous and medical waste.
- Polluting industries, including unlined landfills, have contaminated water, air, and soil, and regulatory procedures to restore land have not yet taken place in many frontline communities.
- Long-time residents are being driven out of communities through gentrification, including climate gentrification.
- Communities endure the environmental burdens from oil and gas drilling on leased land, but they don't reap the monetary benefits.

Participants recommended

- Increased access to public lands, especially among underserved youth.
- A congressional investigation and oversight on COVID-19 hazardous and medical waste.
- Support for better zoning practices to address residential-industrial interfaces.
- Mapping tools, such as state-level EJSCREENs, to inform land use policies.
- Using government funds effectively to protect natural resources.
- Address homelessness to ensure people aren't forced to reside in public parks.
- Less reliance on volunteerism for natural resource work—people should be paid for their efforts.
- Revive the Civilian Conservation Corps. Provide training for frontline/fenceline communities to expand on-the-ground technical expertise and land stewardship.



Civic Engagement

There is nothing more fundamental to the American democracy than the ability of citizens to participate and engage actively with the political process at every level. This means ensuring that the 2020 Census truly counts every single person living in the country – a process critical to determining Congressional representation and how resources are allocated to communities. This also means ensuring that elections are free of barriers to vote. Unfortunately, the dual threats of systemic racism and COVID-19 present major obstacles to the integrity of our democratic process. As the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation notes, racist voter suppression tactics date back to the Reconstruction Era and continue today in the form of racial gerrymandering, voter identification laws, and canceling legitimate voter registrations. These threats are amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic, where health concerns are cited in some communities as an excuse to reduce voting machines and polling places, and making absentee voting and vote-by-mail remains difficult to access.



When the pandemic happened, we knew that it was going to create an additional barrier to be people being counted in the census... We know that Black and Brown people are disadvantaged and we need to make sure that we are using civic engagement to lift up their voices... This pandemic is showing a lot of people that if they are not civically engaged, their communities could go away.

– Tameka Ramsey, Black Women’s Roundtable

According to our roundtable participants

- The 2020 Census is vitally important, particularly with the next several years focused on redistricting – the process that determines representation in Congress – but Black and Brown communities have been consistently undercounted in the census.
- There is an added challenge to the accurate completion of the census with COVID-19 making it harder to go door-to-door.
- The Trump Administration shortened the timeline for census responses by a month, a move that will disproportionately impact Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and Asian-American populations.
- Pandemic resources for small business owners are being dictated by a Census that happened 10 years ago, and money is not getting where it needs to go.
- Ballots are thrown out because of a lack of clarity from the Secretary of State.
- There are significant obstacles to voting, particularly with the threat of COVID-19, and 8 states still do not consider a global pandemic to be an “excuse” for requesting an absentee ballot.

Participants recommended

- Using civic engagement platforms to do COVID-19 wellness checks.
- Significantly expand vote-by-mail. There should be “no excuse” absentee voting in every state.
- End racist and partisan gerrymandering through redistricting commissions.
- Making absentee ballots available throughout the year with an opt-out request system, similar to what is available to overseas voters.
- Postmark date should be election day and not any earlier.



Education

Throughout all of the roundtables, access to a quality education and the burden that COVID-19 poses on the education system was a recurring concern among frontline leaders. For decades, our public education system has relied on local property taxes and state taxes to subsidize education. Communities suffer from state policies that have placed property tax ceilings and budget cuts on public education, which results in fewer resources and deteriorating school infrastructure. According to the National Children's Campaign, 67% of 8th grade public school students can't read at grade level, and predominately low-income students of color suffer from the educational achievement gap. As COVID-19 poses an even larger financial threat to local and state entities, all academic institutions are fearful of their ability to keep their doors open. In particular, minority-serving institutions, such as Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), are under an even greater threat because they don't receive the same level of state support as predominately-White institutions. As a result, minority-serving institutions are grappling with ways to stay open and continue to support the communities they serve.



When it comes to COVID-19, climate change, and Black Lives Matter, the one investment that can be made in the magnitude and scale that the current moment demands is investment in the sustainability of HBCUs to strengthen their ability to combat racism, craft criminal justice solutions, and educate the next generation of social justice advocates.

– Felicia Davis, National Coalition on Black Civic Participation

According to our roundtable participants

- Deteriorating infrastructure has resulted in student and teacher exposure to asbestos, mold, flaking lead paint, lead pipes, and overall poor air circulation and air quality.
- We need to bridge the digital divide, the social and economic inequity between those who have access to computers and stable internet and those who do not, to ensure everyone is able to engage in educational online platforms amid the pandemic.
- Many students do not have computers at home and one school in Georgia reported that 40% of students never logged on for their online learning – this is contributing to the achievement gap.
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities receive 3% of federal funding, yet are asked to compete for grants with universities with huge endowments like Harvard and Yale.
- Minority-serving institutions and the communities that they serve are particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts.

Participants recommended

- Education reform to ensure that students are learning history, not just White history.
- Teaching civics in our schools.
- Making literacy a constitutional right.
- Work with internet providers to create a network for rural households to ensure resources are provided to those who most need broadband access.
- Provide a home computer to every student to enable them to access online resources for learning during this pandemic and beyond.
- Provide reparations to Historically Black Colleges and Universities for additional support.
- Upgrade infrastructure to help minority-serving institutions transition to renewable energy.
- Partner with Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and other minority-serving institutions, to install solar energy in communities and train for a 21st century clean energy economy.



Food Apartheid

According to the American Public Health Association, hunger, poverty, and disease are interlinked. In the United States, one in four people are worried about having enough money to put food on the table. Food insecurity disproportionately impacts communities of color. African American and Latinx households are twice as likely to suffer from food insecurity when compared to White households. Access to healthy foods is not always an option in low-income communities which are more likely to be surrounded by fast food restaurants and stores with lower-quality foods. Inadequate public transportation systems also make it difficult for community members to travel to stores with higher-quality, nutritious food. As a result, low-income communities and communities of color are more likely to suffer from underlying health conditions, such as diabetes, obesity, and hypertension—factors that exacerbate COVID-19 related health complications.



We want to encourage other churches, particularly in the South and rural areas that have large tracts of land to turn them into large community gardens, which will give us an opportunity to do away with food deserts and food swamps. And create entrepreneurial and business opportunities by partnering with farmers and community gardens to transport fresh produce into our communities.

– Reverend Leo Woodberry, New Alpha Community Development Center

According to our roundtable participants

- There are more fast food restaurants and liquor stores when compared to grocery stores with quality foods in low-income and communities of color.
- More resources, in addition to food banks, are needed to ensure quality food is distributed to residents, including senior citizens.
- Low-income students rely on free or reduced lunches from school for sustenance.
- Increased unemployment has led to further food insecurity among households.

Participants recommended

- Increase the number of pop-up farmer markets and community gardens.
- Educate younger generations about the importance of agriculture.
- Provide communities with tools and resources to empower them to grow their own food in their homes and backyards.
- Repurpose vacant lots into gardens that provide healthy foods for community members.
- Local governments can facilitate the distribution of donated food to communities by collaborating with neighborhood associations.
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other minority-serving institutions can be key partners in reimagining and restructuring our food systems to ensure communities have access to resources.
- A COVID-19 grocery distribution program with a diverse set of food selections to accommodate cultural differences and ensure people can stay at home.



Infrastructure

COVID-19 has uncovered the severity of our aging infrastructure, from water systems to broadband, highlighting the inability of communities to maintain public services. In the 2017 Report Card for America's Infrastructure, the American Society of Civil Engineers assigned the United States a D+ rating. These infrastructural inadequacies are further burdened by extreme weather events that stem from climate change, such as severe hurricanes and sea level rise. As the BlueGreen Alliance notes, infrastructure investments and plans must address all sectors of infrastructure, including the electric grid, methane leaks in the natural gas distribution sector, surface transportation, industrial infrastructure and advanced manufacturing, water infrastructure, schools, housing, commercial buildings, broadband, and natural infrastructure. According to the BlueGreen Alliance, investing approximately \$2.2 trillion in these sectors could support or create an additional 14.5 million job-years across the United States economy, add a cumulative \$1.66 trillion to Gross Domestic Product over 10 years, and reduce greenhouse gas pollution. As COVID-19 further strains our existing infrastructure and hinders job security, equitable investments across all sectors are in dire need.



Rural areas are not being served [with broadband access] equitably...don't want the tragedy of COVID-19 to be education, especially our children of color. We must do everything we can to keep that opportunity in front of our babies. Our doctors, our scientists are in these communities and they are waiting to be discovered.

– Max Trujillo, San Miguel County Commissioner, District 3

According to our roundtable participants

- Stormwater and wastewater retention systems, septic tanks, private wells, and lead service lines need to be updated.
- There is a lack of water infrastructure and sanitation in Indigenous communities.
- Social and economic disparities among broadband infrastructure and access, especially among rural and low-income communities, has led to a digital divide.
- Public-private partnership investments to expand broadband access are not reaching households and instead, large companies are primarily benefiting from subsidies.
- More sidewalks are needed to facilitate alternative forms of transportation.

Participants recommended

- Empower local communities to repurpose abandoned buildings into community centers that provide internet access in addition to other services.
- Organize local level leaders to create a network to build support systems to help communities move forward.
- Increase investments in green and climate resilient infrastructure.
- Track infrastructure investment dollars to ensure funds are going to the right places.
- Increase federal funding for community development corporations.
- Invest in mass transit for all.



Housing

Racial and economic disparities in access to safe and affordable housing existed long before the COVID-19 pandemic. We are now seeing that the pandemic and its economic fallout is only increasing these divides. People of color and low-income families were already facing crushing housing cost burdens and housing instability, stemming in large part from structural racism and discriminatory housing and lending practices. From the 1930s through the 1960s, the federal government practice of “redlining” limited or denied mortgage insurance to buyers in neighborhoods with high rates of Black households and people of color. This exacerbated racial segregation in private home mortgage lending. According to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the ongoing housing crisis in America has effectively barred most minorities, and especially African American families, from the wealth building power of homeownership. The COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbates the affordable housing crisis and contributes to rising housing insecurity and homelessness. Prior to the pandemic, 10-15% of households reported being housing insecure. Now, with more than 40 million unemployed, the country’s housing crisis is getting worse as low- and moderate-income households, who represent roughly 60% of overall United States population, face increased housing hardships.



The fragility of the society we live in is a result of an attack on our government in favor of a narrow number of people who benefit for private gain and we need a massive reinvestment in the commons, starting with housing policy. With the pandemic, people who were unsafely housed before are now facing the street. You can hardly shelter in place if you’ve got no place.

– Attorney General Keith Ellison, Minnesota

According to our roundtable participants

- Many frontline communities lack accessible, quality and environmentally sound housing.
- During the crisis, lost wages and wealth inequality make it more difficult for households to pay necessary rent and bills.
- Experiences with evictions, foreclosures, and utility shut-offs are increasing as moratoriums end across the country, and people do not have the resources they need to challenge their eviction.
- Inadequate housing is increasing mental health distress during the pandemic.
- Current affordable housing programs attract big entrepreneurs to get tax credits to build housing for the poor. There is no longer term investment in their quality or success.

Participants recommended

- Reinvestment in affordable housing.
- Massive mobilization to build millions of homes.
- Create better protections for renters and champion the idea of guaranteed housing.
- Implement rent relief. Eviction and rent moratoriums helped keep families in their homes during the crisis, but do not ensure housing security once the crisis is over.
- Ensure moratoriums on utility and water bill disconnections during the pandemic and throughout recovery in areas most impacted.
- Reform the housing market to make it a fair and affordable source of credit for both home purchase lending and the construction of affordable multi-family properties.
- Improve affordable housing living conditions, particularly in federal programs and housing provided to migrant farm workers.



Gun Violence

According to Amnesty International, gun-related violence threatens our most fundamental human right, the right to life. It disproportionately impacts communities of color, women, and other marginalized groups in society. In particular, firearm homicide disproportionately impacts African American communities. In 2017, approximately 14,542 people in the United States lost their lives in gun homicides. African Americans accounted for 58.5% of these losses nationwide, despite making up only 13% of the United States population. Firearm homicide was the leading cause of death for Black men and boys aged 15-34 in 2017, and they were more than 10 times more likely to die from firearm homicide than White men and boys of the same age group. On average, more than 360 people in the United States are shot every day and survive – at least long enough to get to a hospital. As our healthcare system is overburdened with COVID-19 patients, gun-related victims are at a greater risk of not receiving the care they need to survive.



Before the pandemic, we were already in a pandemic, in our communities and the Black communities. Gun violence was in continuous up rise... As we go through COVID and the challenges of COVID, it just exacerbates the issues that were already happening with gun violence... If hospital rooms are full of COVID patients, and someone is still getting shot in our streets, where do they have to go? How are they going to get that help?

– Ernest Coverson, Amnesty International U.S.A.

According to our roundtable participants

- Our society has failed at keeping firearms out of the hands of those most likely to misuse them.
- Investments for gun violence prevention programs are continuously undercut and underfunded.
- The current system in obtaining a firearm has gaps and loopholes that have to be updated to meet the needs and realities of today.
- Mass shootings have taken place in schools, religious institutions, concerts, and throughout social gatherings.

Participants recommended

- Advocate for legislation to achieve a comprehensive approach to end gun violence.
- Expand universal background checks to all gun sales, including gun shows, internet purchases, and gun transfers.
- Ensure that universal background checks are extended to existing gun owners.



Health Inequities

The COVID-19 crisis calls attention to long-standing inequities that pervade the healthcare system. While the pandemic has impacted every community in our country, it has revealed striking healthcare inequities that disproportionately impact African Americans, Latinxs and Native Americans, in addition to underserved people such as individuals in correctional facilities, rural and immigrant populations, people with disabilities, and individuals experiencing homelessness. Unfortunately, many people in these communities don't have access to quality healthcare. According to the American Public Health Association, people of color and low-income populations have historically been restricted from obtaining resources that are needed in order to be healthy. These healthcare access issues extend further to mental care. These communities are disproportionately exposed to a combination of health risks such as poverty, violence, poor neighborhood conditions, and environmental health hazards. They have been hit the hardest by the pandemic due to widespread chronic health conditions found in communities which make them susceptible to COVID-19 health complications.



When they told us we were in a pandemic, I said we've been in a state of emergency for the last 30 years. They've been closing down our health facilities, grocery stores, polluting communities, soil, water, and air and closing down factories. If that's not a pandemic then I don't want to know what a pandemic is.

– Sheila Tyson, Jefferson County Commissioner, District 2

According to our roundtable participants

- COVID-19 has exacerbated underlying health conditions, such as asthma and diabetes, which low-income and communities of color experience at higher rates due to poor air and water quality.
- Many people lack access to health coverage, mental health services and services like Medicaid, and even healthcare facilities that are in close proximity to their communities.
- Implicit bias in healthcare contributes to the denial of COVID-19 testing among Black Americans, deepening the lack of trust in the healthcare system and raising concerns that vaccines will not be available for all who need it.
- Black Americans have been dying at about 2.4 times the rate of White Americans.
- Everyone should have a right to healthcare, especially in a pandemic.

Participants recommended

- Support a focus on healing through coping mechanisms such as healthy relationships, grief support, memorializing and commemorating the disproportionate deaths of friends and family.
- Emphasize data on racial disparities as it pertains to COVID-19 deaths to inform policy and resource distribution.
- Ensure that vaccines and drug distributions are accessible to everyone.
- Expand the eligibility for affordable healthcare options. Invest in long-term healthcare access and healthcare education in the areas where people live, including mental health services.
- Empower residents to be part of the decision-making process on public health infrastructure and addressing health disparities in our healthcare system.
- Support community outreach healthcare workers who help navigate the healthcare system. Emphasize supporting seniors and multi-language households.
- Invest in mental health access, de-stigmatization, and early identification to prevent and/or intervene for those at risk, especially within our youth.
- Ensure stimulus funding goes to frontline communities with increased federal funding for more qualified healthcare centers and increased reimbursements for testing sites.



Policy Considerations

Throughout the roundtables, participants introduced and discussed several policies that could address issues raised, require more attention, and/or could serve as exemplary policy frameworks. The policies proposed during the roundtables include:

100% Clean Economy Act

Break the Silence for Violence Act

CARES Act

Clean Air Act

Climate Conservation Corps

Climate Stewardship Act

**Commission to Study and Develop Reparation
Proposals for African-Americans Act**

**Congressional Resolution Recognizing Children's
Fundamental Rights and Climate Recovery**

Environmental Justice for All Act

Every Kid Outdoors Act

**Executive Order 142: Assisting North Carolinians by
Placing Temporary Prohibitions on Evictions and
Extending the Prohibition on Utility Shut-Offs**

**Executive Order 80: North Carolina's Commitment
to Address Climate Change and Transition to a
clean Energy Economy**

**Executive Order regarding Mayor's Commission
on Racial Equity and Inclusion [City of Baton
Rouge, LA]**

George Floyd Justice in Policing Act

Green New Deal

H-2A Programs for Temporary Agricultural Workers

**Hazard and Medical Waste U.S. Congressional
Oversight**

HEROES Act

**Michigan Proposal 2, Independent Redistricting
Commission Initiative**

**Michigan Proposal 3, Voting Policies in State Con-
stitution Initiative**

Moving Forward Act

National Environmental Policy Act

New Mexico's Outdoor Equity Fund

RESTORE Act

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

Tribal Wildlife Corridors Act of 2019

**Udall-Bennet Thirty
by Thirty Resolution to Save Nature**

WATER Act



Resources

Associations, Networks, and Organizations

[17 for Peace and Justice](#)

[Alternative ROOTS: Artis, Community, and Activism](#)

[American Public Health Association: Racism and Health](#)

[Bethlehem Temple Missionary Baptist Church](#)
[Center for Southwest Culture](#)

[Ecoinclusive](#)

[Historically Black Colleges and Universities \(HBCU\) -Community Based Organizations \(CBO\)](#)
[Gulf Equity Consortium](#)

[Inclusive Journeys](#)

[Intersectional Environmentalist](#)

[Lowcountry Alliance for Model Communities](#)

[Morehouse School of Medicine - Tuskegee University - O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at University of Alabama: Bioethics](#)

[Moving Forward Network](#)

[National Black Caucus of State Legislators](#)

[National Black Environmental Justice Network](#)

[National Technical Association Hampton Roads Chapter](#)

[North Carolina League of Conservation Voters Foundation: PowerUp NC](#)

[One Up Action](#)

[Polluters Out](#)

[South Carolina Environmental Justice Advisory Committee](#)

[TakeAStandTally](#)

[The William Averette Anderson Fund](#)

Blogs, Papers, and Podcasts

["Assessing Differential Impacts of COVID-19 on Black Communities"](#)

["Environmental Justice and Infectious Disease: Gaps, Issues, and Research Needs"](#)

["The West End Revitalization Association's Community-Owned and -Managed Research Model: Development, Implementation, and Action"](#)

[A Vision for an America that Works for Everybody](#)

[African Americans are Disproportionately Exposed to Extreme Heat](#)

[Black Female Voters Say they Want what they're Owed: Power](#)

[Catch 22 of Coronavirus for Seniors Most at Risk and the Importance of Up-To-Date Information](#)

[Five Ways the Census Impacts Environmental Justice](#)

[Generation Green: Black and Breathless](#)

[Going Local: How a Resilient Approach to Wastewater Could Help Communities Prosper Our Future Now!](#)

[Past Disasters Showed Us the Massive Impact COVID-19 Would Have on Black Communities: We Didn't Listen](#)

[Researchers Find Deadliest Aspect of COVID-19 for People of Color - Racism](#)

[The Crisis Within the Crisis: COVID-19 is Ravaging African Americans](#)

[We Need a New Normal Post-COVID-19 That's Not a Death Sentence to Black People.](#)

[Why Congress Must Invest in Environmental Justice and Equity in the Next Recovery Package](#)

[While You Were Focused on COVID-19, EPA Gave Polluters Free Rein, Threatening At-Risk Communities](#)





Conferences, Campaigns, and Summits

[#Congress4Juliana](#)

[#YourWorkersMyFamily](#)

[13th National Conference on Health Disparities](#)

[2020 National Environmental Justice Conference](#)

[Community Engagement, Environmental Justice, and Health Symposium](#)

[Summit for Action](#)

COVID-19 Related Resources

[Doctors on Call: Calming Fear with Facts](#)

[Feed Utah: Food Drive](#)

[Safe Job Checklist](#)

[The Wright-Wellness Center](#)

Interactive Tools

[iCommunity](#)

[Killer Heat Interactive Tool](#)

[Maryland Park Equity Mapper](#)

[Michigan Voter Information Center](#)

[Plus Codes](#)

Reports and Documentaries

[2019 Outdoor Participation Report](#)

[2019 Roadmap of Need](#)

[A Roadmap for a 21st Century Outdoor Recreation Economy](#)

[Closing the Water Access Gap in the United States](#)

[Legal Pathways to Income-Based Drinking Water Rates in Michigan](#)

[Nature Gap: Confronting Racial and Economic Disparities in the Destruction and Protection of Nature in America](#)

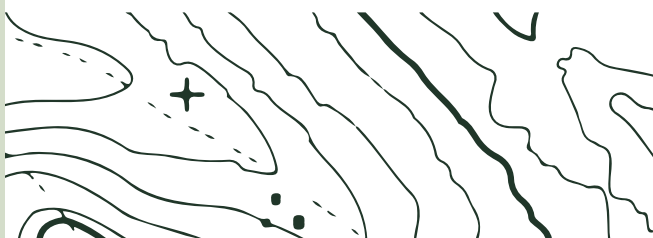
[Sea Change](#)

[The Nature Gap](#)

[The Heat is On: With Temperatures Rising and Quality Parks too Few and Far Between, Communities of Color Face a Dangerous Disparity](#)

[Water Works: The Job Creation Potential of Repairing America's Water Infrastructure](#)

[UCS Killer Heat Report](#) and Accompanying Blog: [Top Ten Heat-Related Terms You Need to Pay Attention to While Reading UCS's Killer Heat Report](#)





Thank You to Our National Partners



For more information on environmental justice efforts at the National Wildlife Federation, please contact Rebeca Villegas at VillegasR@nwf.org

To support our efforts in making our communities more equitable, visit:

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