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2010 National Achievements in Environmental Justice Awards

Recognizing Successful Partnerships Achieving Public Health and Environmental Justice Goals

Oregon Environmental Justice Task Force

Oregon Senator Avel Gordly explains to Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski the importance of addressing environmental justice issues during a ceremony celebrating passage of Oregon Senate Bill 420, which created the state's Environmental Justice Task Force.

OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon empowers and mobilizes low-income bus riders to address critical public transit needs at the local, regional and state level.

Robin Morris Collin, Task Force member and Professor of Law at Willamette University College of Law speaks about environmental justice and sustainability.

EPA is pleased to recognize the Oregon Environmental Justice Task Force for effective implementation of the State's environmental justice legislation and its ability to incorporate environmental justice considerations into State agencies' programs.

The Oregon Environmental Justice Task Force has achieved several significant milestones, including unprecedented cooperation and relationship-building between Task Force members and Oregon state agency representatives; the creation of a "Your Voice for Environmental Justice" document outlining citizens' rights to be involved in decisions that affect their quality of life; organizing a community event to introduce the Task Force and its work to the public; and partnership with community-based groups to develop demographic maps of statewide environmental justice communities. The Task Force's role is to advise the Governor about environmental justice issues, and to help the Governor's office and state natural resource agencies identify and address environmental justice throughout the State. As part of this effort, each natural resource agency has designated a citizen advocate who works closely with the Task Force. Through interagency partnerships, each advocate works to identify ways that agencies can incorporate and address environmental justice issues related to their specific statutory authority as an agency, and better educate and engage both State staff and environmental justice communities.

Partners

The Commission on Asian Affairs
The Commission on Black Affairs
The Commission on Hispanic Affairs
The Commission on Indian Services
Multnomah County Health Department
Oregon Environmental Council
Oregon Law Center Farmworker Program
Oregonians for Food and Shelter
Organizing People-Activating Leaders
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