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Fast Facts About the Vermont Environmental Justice Law

What is the Vermont Environmental Justice Law?

This law makes sure every person in Vermont – no matter their race, income, language, or background – gets a fair chance to speak up about environmental decisions and is protected from environmental harm. The Vermont Environmental Justice Law (VT EJ Law) is the state's first law focused on fixing environmental health gaps.

What Is Environmental Justice?

Environmental justice means all people – especially those who've been excluded in the past – should benefit from a healthy environment. These benefits, called Environmental Benefits, include things like clean air, clean water, healthy food, and public transportation.

Who This Law Is For?

- ▶ All Vermonters benefit from this law.
- ▶ It centers Environmental Justice Focus Populations – communities facing more environmental burdens and fewer benefits.

Who's Involved in Making the Law Work?

- ▶ **The Public:** Shares perspectives to inform VT EJ Law projects and decisions
- ▶ **Advisory Council (AC) and Interagency Committee (IAC):** Advises on actions and priorities set by the covered agencies
- ▶ **Covered Agencies:** Follows the VT EJ Law and consistently reports their progress
- ▶ **Agency of Natural Resources (ANR):** Develops tools to support the covered agencies, AC, IAC and the public. Coordinates EJ Law projects
- ▶ **Vermont Legislature:** Writes and revises the VT EJ Law based on input from the AC and the IAC

How Does the Law Work?

- ▶ Identifies communities with the greatest environmental needs
- ▶ Creates tools and guidance to help agencies act more fairly
- ▶ Requires public reporting
- ▶ Involves the public at key points

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